

Controversy continues

Varsity Guest Weekend responsibility debated

After a storm of controversy about usefulness and attendance figures last year, Varsity Guest Weekend (VGW) has been changed.

The U of A Board of Governors has agreed to take over control and responsibility for the event, effective this year.

However, the controversy which has surrounded VGW since its reintroduction continues. Dean Baldwin (Arts) has asked to have the matter brought before Deans' Council, delaying the submission of next year's VGW budget.

The Faculty of Arts feels that the allocation of responsibility for organizing VGW should be examined. If the faculties are to play a role in the event, a clear understanding of the roles of the various components of the university is needed, says Baldwin.

He also sees a need to more adequately determine where the focus of VGW should lie. It is unclear whether the open-house is designed to cater to prospective students, or if it is intended to serve as a vehicle of understanding for the general public, he says.

In a letter to the Secretary of Deans Council, Baldwin writes: "There is no substantial body of opinion in arts that VGW is meeting a genuine interest and need, but it may be that the larger community takes a different view."

"Opinion in arts is that the university ought to decide whether it wants something of the sort, and then if it does, see to it that the undertaking is ably promoted and organized - or not undertake it at all."

The letter also notes that an authoritative report should be written to gauge the success or failure of the project.

The controversy surrounding VGW has a long history.

As far back as 1971 Bill Avison, then director of Varsity Guest Weekend, recommended cancelling the event for the following year, or until the concept could be re-evaluated and restructured.

Blame for the failure of the 1971 version was placed on lack of student enthusiasm, budget cuts and a general inability to secure the much needed manpower and materials. Avison felt that a new format should be found for presenting the university to the public.

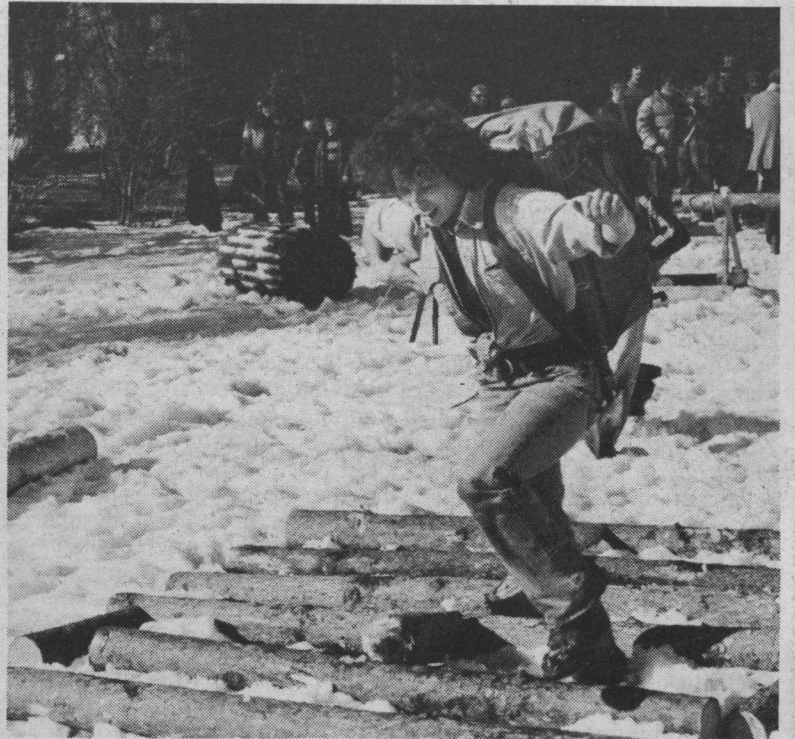
After a six-year absence VGW was reintroduced in 1978. Once again the Students' Union acted as chief co-ordinating body for the event.

Both the 1978 and 1979 versions of VGW say few, if any, changes in the structuring of the open-house, and both years saw the undertaking suffer from many of the same ills that plagued the 1971 version.

Attendance figures for both 1978 and 1979 were low, resulting in wide-spread feelings that the event was again in need of revamping.

Hoping to revitalize the concept of an open-house, the SU executive committee recommended in its report on the 1979 VGW that the university assume responsibility for the undertaking.

The B of G's acceptance of the SU proposal means the university's community relations department will be in charge of organizing the project.



VGW guest in happier times

Car pools to the rescue

Are you looking for a way to save money, meet new friends and conserve energy?

The Students' Union is again sponsoring a car pool this year. This free service has been arranged so that students from

similar areas in and around Edmonton can contact each other to arrange mutual transportation.

"The car pool program has been organized by the SU to meet the problem of parking

shortages at the university said SU vp internal Sharon Bell.

Car pool information desks are located on the main floor of SUB, in HUB underneath the record store, and in CAB underneath the campus assistance sign. Prospective car-poolers must register before the end of September.

To join the pool, students register their names and telephone numbers. Various schedules have been arranged corresponding to common areas of the city. Car pool organizers will then print lists of participants in each zone and make them available to those involved.

Students involved are responsible for contacting each other and arranging all details of class times and fees. Students who do not own a car, but wish

to participate in the pool may also be accepted.

There is one slight hitch in the car pool scheme. All parking spots have been allocated as of September 8. Car pools have a priority over other parkers, though. Re-applications and appeals from groups will probably be given precedence for future allocations.

Any group applying for a parking permit as a car pool must include the names and license numbers of all involved.

Last year's car pool program was not as well organized and publicized. This resulted in only a small turn-out, according to Bell.

Any students interested in joining a car pool this year should register before the end of September.

University safe work place

The U of A's Students' Union has been awarded the maximum allowable rebate from the Workers' Compensation Board of Alberta (WCB).

The 1978 rebate, totaling over \$3,100, is the full 33.3% given to organizations with superior safety records. Best says the rebate reflects the SU's "high safety record and minimum

claims."

SU general manager Bert Best says the achievement is the result of the "safety consciousness" of area managers and staff. For instance, food services and building operations hold meetings where area managers discuss safety concerns.

The SU achievement is at

odds with current trends in industry. The August issue of the WCB publication *Info* shows increases in claims reported (9% over last year), fatal accidents (11.1%) and compensation days paid (6.3%). The SU however has managed a decrease in all areas.

"I hope the current trend will continue," says Best.

Oxford bursary for Hume

Cheryl Hume, last year's SU president, left Edmonton yesterday for Oxford.

The reason? A United Kingdom Commonwealth scholarship for tuition, room and board, an allowance and travel expenses to Oxford. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic merit.

Although Hume says she is pleased that she won the scholarship, she is concerned that many students miss scholarships from ignorance of their existence and limited availability.

"If I could have my druthers

and the world was my oyster, tuition would be free," says Hume.

"It really irks me having to depend on scholarships to get through school," she says. "That an education is the luck of the draw is a crime and a setback for the individual and society in general."

Hume says she is putting studies ahead of politics as she is expecting a rigorous course load. However, she still intends to maintain an interest in student politics. "It isn't something one can drop completely."

She advises the present student's council "to continue to

take initiative on tuition fees, student loans and differential fees. She explains that it "damages the credibility of the SU when their stands on issues see-saw each year."

Issues such as accessibility, tuition fees, the Grantham Task Force Report and student loans should be brought into the foreground, says Hume.

She stresses that preparations should be made now to confront the Grantham report. She warns that "the Board of Governors will bulldoze over the SU if the SU executive makes preparations the night before."

Hume also says SU services should be beefed up. For example, she says the photocopy room needs expansion. The new coffee shop in SUB pleased her, but she adds that she was disappointed that plans to renovate Fridays weren't carried out this summer.

Hume says she is looking forward to attending Oxford because of the opportunity to study under renowned sociologist Stephen Lukes.

After completing her program at Oxford, she says she may apply for entry into the medical program at McMaster University.

It's difficult to get accepted there. But who says Cheryl Hume aims low?

Campbell named writer-in-residence

Maria Campbell, best known for the autobiographical work *Halfbreed*, was recently appointed writer-in-residence at the University of Alberta.

The term of appointment is September 1, 1979, to May 31, 1980.

Campbell was born in northern Saskatchewan in 1940 and, primarily due to the influence exerted by her great-grandmother, grew up with a strong sense of pride in her halfbreed cultural heritage.

After moving to Edmonton in 1963, Campbell became active in the human rights movement in Alberta and developed a strong interest in native organizations which were becoming more vocal and politically active in the province.

Her involvement in these groups and her growing awareness of the Canadian public's lack of understanding about the lives and struggles of native people spurred the publishing of *Halfbreed* in 1973.

The book was also published in the United States and has been excerpted there for school texts and teachers' guides. It is also in use in Mexico and Japan as part of university curricula.

In Canada, it is in use in several universities either as course material or as recommended reading. Campbell is a regular speaker and lecturer at Canadian univer-

sities and high schools.

She has written a number of radio plays for Alberta School Broadcasts on Native People and the North as well as a weekly column in native newspapers.

Campbell's articles have appeared in national magazines and she has written two scripts for the National Film Board, *The Red Dress* and *Delivery*.

She is the author of the Children's books *People of the Buffalo* and *Little Badger and the Fire Spirit*.

The position of writer-in-residence is funded by the Alma Mater Fund of the university's Alumni Association, Alberta Culture, the Canada Council, the university's Department of English, and the university president's fund.

Dr. Roland Anderson, chairman of the department of English, describes the position as one of patronage whereby the writer is freed from having to write strictly to produce a living.

Although there are no formal teaching duties involved, the writer-in-residence, in addition to concentrating on his/her own writing, is expected to take an interest in the writing courses offered for credit by the department and to be available to discuss and offer advice on writing to both students and people from the wider community who are seriously interested in it.



Scholarship winner Cheryl Hume