



THE WORK BEGINS—Participants at the 1965 International WUS Workcamp at Seoul, Korea, begin clearing the site of the proposed student centre. Workcamp is one of many World University Service projects, and part of the funds to support them comes from the SHARE campaign to be held on this campus from Feb. 7-11.

U of A plans 'Education Corps' to promote post-secondary education

By LORRAINE MINICH

An "Education Corps" from the U of A is expected to go into action in May.

The plan is a high school visitation program designed to convince high school students of the values of continuing their education.

The executive council of the students' council and a CUS representative met last week with school superintendents from rural areas. Fifteen school superintendents and the president of NAIT gave tentative approval to the program.

The superintendents will discuss the plans with high school principals. Also, an attempt will be made to find out exactly what high school students are interested in. The program will be much more suc-

cessful if the concerns and questions of the high school students are made known to the students' union of the university.

In approaching the problems affecting students in their decision regarding post-secondary education, the education corps will attempt to present a realistic approach to university life.

With the aid of professors, the program will present the academic and financial aspects of university and the problem of adjustment from high school to university life.

The actual program is expected to be as varied as time permits. A sample program would include: speeches, panels, films about university and vocational life, and informal conversations between

smaller groups of students and parents.

The pilot project which will go into effect in May will involve four northern school divisions and four southern divisions. The education corps team will likely consist of two university students, a university professor, and one vocational student.

U of A plans international studies centre

The University of Alberta is the proposed site for a research center for international studies.

The idea originated in the international relations section of the department of political science which recommended its establishment to the Academic Planning Commission for study.

Prof. King Gordon, head of the department of political science, told The Gateway the study at the center would involve interdisciplinary research.

A number of other departments such as economics, history, sociology, and agriculture are also interested in the center.

Prof. Gordon said an example of a problem which could be studied at the center is the population problem. As well as involvement by the department of political science, there would be economic, agricultural, and sociological aspects of this problem. Other possible areas for study are arms control and conflict studies.

It is hoped the center will attract many scholars of international studies. The visiting professors and students would be available to grad students in the fields of research.

"Right now we have the beginnings of a very good international relations section in our department," said Prof. Gordon.

The Academic Planning Commission has submitted a recommendation for immediate establishment of the center. The program will have to have the approval of the General Faculty Council and the Board of Governors before establishment can begin.

"I'm greatly interested in the plan; it will be a tremendous thing for this university," said Prof. Gordon.

Political clubs less important - Portigal

Address to PC convention gives blast and suggests alterations

CALGARY—The political science clubs on campus are becoming less and less important each year, a U of A student said Friday.

Lawrence Portigal, past president of the Progressive Conservative Student Federation, was speaking to the Annual PC Convention in Calgary.

Languages converging -- linguist

People tend to hang on to their languages with the same attachment that we show for cowboy suits even after these have become obsolete.

This view was expressed by Dr. Swadesh, a world-famous linguist who specializes in the study of the origin of language.

Dr. Swadesh, a professor of linguistics and anthropology at the University of Mexico, spoke at a guest lecture here Thursday, on "The Origin and Diversification of Language".

In his lecture he covered time depths ranging from 5,000 to two million years.

Even at that time humans had flat teeth as opposed to the sharp, canine teeth of animals, he said.

This, together with other linguistically oriented data, helps to disprove certain theories about the evolutionary development of man from the ape. They are cousins at best, he said.

Animals are incapable of forming consonants, he found. The familiar "miau" of cats is actually an "iaaou" with some nasalization, but without lip closure.

He mentioned also the case of a chimp that had been house-trained after only a few trials. But 'Vicky' could only communicate her private needs by waving a diaper.

Man, however, was able to use consonants at a point in his history when his language consisted of a mere handful of pointing words.

Dr. Swadesh compared this language stage to the experience of a person who suddenly noticed a car backing up against him. In such a situation any sound would do, he said.

Demonstrative roots that can still be traced today have a consonant-vowel sequence. Our word "so" belongs into this group.

This hard core of pointing words and maybe 100 reconstructable association words served Dr. Swadesh as an ancestral language for languages as far apart as America, Asia, and Africa.

He showed the relationship of such divergent languages to each other by proving their relationship to their next-door neighbor, traveling and recording phonetic field data from one Indian community to the next.

Thus he discovered a series of dialectal variations which he spanned over three continents with hardly a cognate link missing in his chain of relationships. He called this a wave theory.

Dr. Swadesh said languages are converging through the use of identical technical vocabularies.

He will teach a course in linguistics on American Indian languages this summer at U of A.

Political clubs have failed to change with the change in the type of student on campus, said Portigal. The party political clubs don't mean or stand for anything, and there is no communion of beliefs, ideas, or aims among members of the organization.

Portigal said political party clubs must drastically alter their approach so they can attract both the academic and activist type of student.

He stressed the need for groups to examine social problems, not just political problems.

Portigal questioned the merit of campus Model Parliament.

If the tradition is to be retained, the structure needs to be altered. Model Parliament should select a single theme to deal with each year, said Portigal.

This way, meaningful research would be done by each party into the various aspects of the problem.

Such changes could lead to a revitalization of the campus political clubs. Members have to feel their views are important, or the club will slowly fade away, said Portigal.

"The future of the Progressive Conservative party lies in attracting and holding young people capable of filling the positions of leadership," said Portigal.

"The University campus is the source of future leaders, and the party should always keep this in mind."

Professors welcome complaints

U of A professors would prefer students take complaints directly to them before seeing faculty deans.

The Gateway sought professors' reactions to the suggestion of Dr. D. E. Smith, Dean of the Faculty of Arts that students who are dissatisfied with their professors report to the dean of their faculty.

Instructors expressed a desire to have students approach them first if lectures are not progressing satisfactorily. If the situation does not improve students are justified in going to the dean in groups and laying complaints.

Dr. H. A. Kennedy, assistant professor of business administration and commerce says "a student cannot come and say, 'Sir, you are a lousy professor.' This gets the conversation off to a bad start.

"A student can come to a prof if he thinks the course can be improved by it. If one student is having trouble that suggests others might be having trouble too."

Professors stressed students must be objective in laying complaints. "Students have a responsibility, both positive and negative, to help assess a professor's ability," said Dr. W. B. D. Heeney, assistant professor of history.

Dr. John Kuspira, associate professor of genetics likes students to see him directly. He thinks a complaint made to the dean often is distorted as it is passed down. In the end the lecturer concerned isn't quite sure what the complaint is.

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