

...of campus

Construction was delayed . . .
the one-ton ceremonial
cornerstone was abducted
by engineering students.

into the street as workers tried to fasten them down. Permanent repairs were made in the spring.

The Biological Sciences Building was the center of controversy throughout its planning and into the construction. The provincial government had approved \$18.5 million dollars for its construction, but after five years of planning the submitted bids were in the range of \$24 million. The decision was made to split the project into four phases, each under the supervision of a different general contractor. This allowed the building to be raised for only \$22 million in 1969, making the project the most expensive academic building on any campus in Canada.

The seventies began with a time of destruction. Some of the older "Ring Houses", home to the very first faculty members, were demolished to make room for Windsor Car Park. The Tuck Shop, a student institution for nearly sixty years, was lost to free space for the Fine Arts Building. Houses in North Garneau, which the University had owned for several years, were raised, displacing old students, long time residents, and various fraternities.

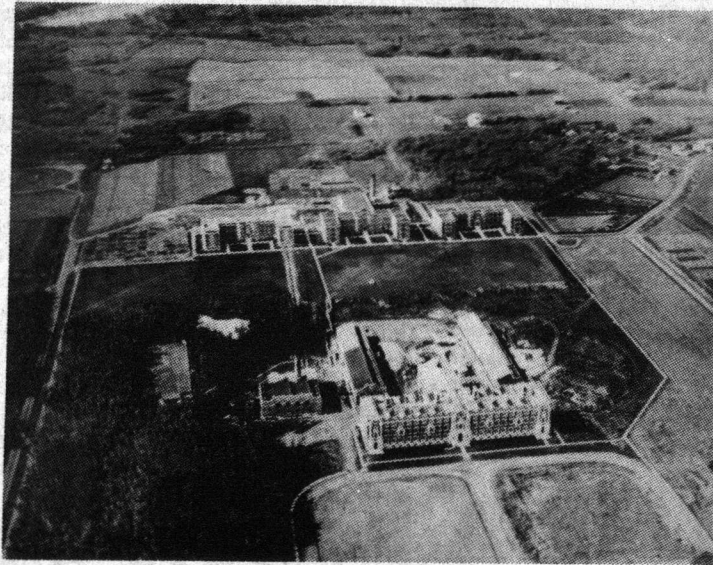
The University had planned to build more student housing, but when the Tory government imposed a freeze on capital expenditures for the University, the plan was scrapped. The SU took up the idea and the initiative in the design and construction of a unique Student Housing Building in 1972, to be called HUB (in parallel with SUB). The seven million dollar building was designed to alleviate the housing shortage, as well as bring in revenue from the merchant tenants on the retail floor. The building was to be managed by the Students' Union.

HUB's "high rise on its side" design garnered much praise for its originality, and the 950-foot skylight was cited as an example of climate control that Edmonton City would do well to emulate. The finished building was not, however, to turn into the smooth running machine the Students' Union had envisioned. Instead, problems were apparent from the time the building opened.

The roof leaked (and still does). The concrete floor was almost impossible to keep clean. No main entranceway had been constructed — entrance was possible only through the narrow side stairwells. Occupancy rates,

though satisfactory in the winter, dropped to almost nothing in the summer. The drop in occupancy forced the SU to allow non-student summer tenants. Retail businesses opened and closed rapidly, but even those that stayed complained loudly about the construction faults.

The building was eating up almost one third of the students' \$34 SU fees, and threatening to bankrupt the once-flush Students' Union. The government wrote off \$1.4 million of its loan to the SU, and more money came from the university, but it wasn't enough. In April of 1976, the SU transferred the entire building, its operations and its debts to the Board of



Governors of the University for one dollar. The financial setback to the SU had repercussions far into the future.

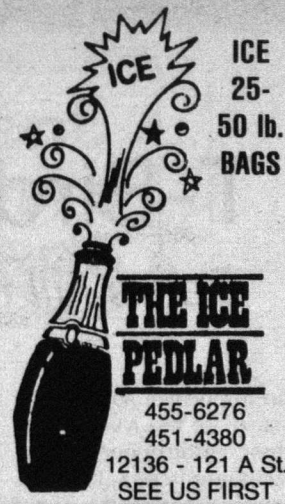
The east side of the campus was being developed rapidly by the university. Between 1972 and 1984 the University saw the development of the Law Building, Humanities, an addition to Rutherford Library, the Health Sciences Centre, the University Pavilion, and the Business and Commerce Building.

The growth of the University has slowed with that of the economy. No new buildings are under construction, but renovations to the old to keep them usable continue.

The University is looking at a five-year plan for the development of the southern part of the campus, but plans have been changed in the past. One thing remains certain, the University will continue to be a vibrant institution, and its buildings will continue to reflect that.

by Roberta Franchuk

Photos courtesy University of Alberta Archives



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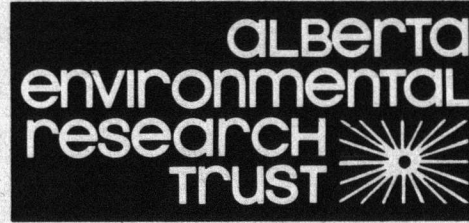
Any person, institution, corporation, or society may request research funds. The Trust will give preference to private sector applicants, including individuals, for environmental research which might otherwise not get done.

Environmental research covers a broad range of issues. Anyone contemplating an A.E.R.T. application should review the list of similar projects which can be done by consulting the A.E.R.T. annual report, or the Library of Alberta Environment. Applications should involve specific objectives with tangible potential benefits for the Environment. The proposed research should reflect an innovative concept or approach. The need for Research must be demonstrated.

Deadline date for submission of application for grants is October 31, 1987. Early submission is advised. All applications are reviewed upon receipt by the Grants Advisory Committee. Applicants will be notified as to the Board of Trustees' decision by February 1, 1988. Research projects should be planned to start after this date.

Please address all inquiries and correspondence to:

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