

No French classes needed at U of C?

CALGARY (CUP) — Low demand has led to a temporary cancellation of humanities courses taught in French at the University of Calgary. Mathematics and economics first-year courses that were offered in the French language this fall failed to attract "a viable number of students," according to a report from the General Faculties Council Standing Committee on Bilingualism at the U of C.

Pierre Tu, who taught the economics course, said the university does not put any money into the bilingual program, which is provincially funded. He said only three students enrolled in his class last year.

"It would be embarrassing to turn to the government for three students," he said.

However, Tu believes scrapping the program would be premature.

"Calgary is not ready for it," he said of bilingual education at the U of C. "It will be ready in a couple of years when the majority of immersion students, who are in grades nine and ten right now, come to university."

"There is a gap in bilingual education at senior high because students who want to continue to university feel they will get poorer grades if they study in a language other than their mother tongue," says Cyril Challice, chair of the bilingualism committee and a physics professor.

He said there is also a lack of high

school teachers confident enough to teach their subjects in French.

Challice said the University of Alberta has an exemplary bilingual education system.

The Faculte St. Jean at the U of A provides French language instruc-

tion in a number of courses and certificates, and degrees for students who undertake a part or whole of their education in the French language.

"These students get financial support (from the provincial gov-

ernment) for studying French elsewhere in Alberta," said Challice.

"The Francophone communities surrounding Edmonton add to the demand for bilingual education at the U of A," he added. The Faculte is located off main campus and in a

Francophone community in Edmonton.

Challice, like Tu, believes a bilingual program at the U of C will be viable in a few years.

"We should temper our enthusiasm, but not so much that we lose the program," he said.



Smatterings

They call it news?!

by Randal Smathers

In a Joseph Wambaugh novel of a few years ago, a character named the Mad Czech wandered the streets of L.A., wondering what was "really real".

Read yesterday's newspapers, and you start to see his point.

Both Edmonton dailies ran front page stories featuring a fight in a hockey game as the *most important news story of the day*. The Big Paper That Bored also saw fit to cover, complete with photo, a story on Rick Hansen, and a humorous piece on a slow car chase. As for the Tabloid, well, it was hard to see anything besides all that red and white on the cover.

I can sympathize with the editor's problems; after all, yesterday was a slow day for news. Mondays usually are. On the other hand,

there was the result from the inquiry on the San Juan fire, the largest crash in Amtrak history, and a South African government minister violating an apartheid law.

Not enough local interest? There was also the funeral of the four Alberta hockey players who died on last week's bus crash, and the start of the campaign to prevent tuition increases next year.

Even the supposedly-dependable CBC got into the act. The CBC-stereo/Radio Canada lead story on the 7 a.m. news was the hockey fight. This is the day after jock-talker Brian Williams said that the only reason they would show the start of the fight in slow-motion was because it would be good journalism. Right, Brian.

The second story on the radio Monday morning was about 10

Turkish "refugees" who refused to stay in a Montreal men's hostel because it didn't meet their standards. Only the two Africans on the same flight accepted the generous offer from the Montreal relief group, for people who have not even been verified as refugees yet, although they claim the status.

In other news, Ronnie R., that champion of the balanced budget, has come up with a trillion-dollar annual tab to run the States. The Conservative government of Canada is talking about more funding for the national TV network, while abandoning the Westerners who always vote for them. In Alberta, while an awful strike was ongoing, the Labour Minister went on a junket, as part of a restraint-minded government in operation.

Conservatives overspending? Refugees with high minimum standards for help? Hockey fights as headlines? How long before some dusty Sahara archeologist finds Atlantis, hard by Timbuktu?

Maybe we should all try and find the Mad Czech. After all, he's had a few years to think it over and decide what's really real.



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A north Edmonton nursing home needs a volunteer librarian to help organize a library that someone else began to organize, but couldn't finish. A volunteer library aide is also in demand at a neighbourhoods association in West Edmonton where resource material needs evaluating and reorganizing. For more information about volunteer library work, call the Volunteer Action Centre at 482-6431.

The Edmonton Zoo needs volunteers to talk to school children about the zoo and the animals who live there. Volunteers are also in demand to lead children's tours of the zoo, so if you've got a soft spot for both children and animals, try volunteering at the zoo. Call the Volunteer Action Centre at 482-6431 for more information.

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