

Medicare alive and well at the University of Alberta

by Ken Bosman

Drug prescriptions filled at a flat rate of \$3.00 and "a complete no cost health service" highlight University Health Services (UHS) according to Director Dr. F.B. Cookson.

"Our doctors are paid a salary, but we bill Alberta Health Care for each service we perform. We use the difference between the salaries and the billings to subsidize student services," said Cookson. "The more students who use the service, the more services we can thus provide."

UHS also provides, free of charge, services recently de-insured by Alberta Health Care. "We still

provide birth control counselling, which Health Care has de-insured," said Cookson. "Our pharmacy program also provides birth control pills at cost, usually \$3.50 to \$5.00 versus about \$15 at most drug stores."

UHS will also arrange eye examinations covered by Medicare "if there is a legitimate medical need," said Cookson.

The UHS director also pledges to keep all the services free: "Anything that Alberta Health Care de-insures in the future we will continue to provide for free."

Other services UHS provides to

U of A students include: psychological counselling, minor surgery, and referrals to all types of specialists.

Teeth cleaning and inspection is also available at UHS for a \$10

service charge, the only fee of any kind charged by UHS. "This compares with about \$45 at most dental offices," said Cookson.

Health Services operates on a break-even budget and is also

supported by the Health Services fee all full-time U of A students pay.

Health Services is located at 87th Avenue and 111th Street, just south of the Fine Arts/Law complex.

MUGS Provides veteran support

by Chauncey Featherstone

New in town? Lost in the labyrinth of U of A bureaucracy? Do you spend most of your time lurking in the shadows of ignorance? Yes? Then you, too, can be a MUGger!

M.U.G.S. stands for Mature Undergraduate and Graduate Students. MUGgers are singles, single parents, parents and grandparents from virtually every faculty. Even though MUGS members come from such diverse backgrounds, they do have some common bonds.

Most are over 25, most have been away from formal education

for a while, and most do not wear green mohawks. They have established an informal support group comprised of seasoned veterans of both life and university. If their network of experts can't translate all of the baffle-gab you are faced with you will, at the very least, be offered a cup of hot coffee, sympathetic conversation, and most importantly, a friendly face.

To find out more, drop by the Heritage Lounge, Athabasca Hall, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 11 am. and 2 pm. for a little friendly MUGging. Bring your lunch — the coffee is on the house.



Graphic courtesy MUGS

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