

The Gateway

U of A student Daniel Aaron's personal account of South Africa. Pages 8-9



Russell gives grants

by Roberta Franchuk

The University of Alberta will be receiving an extra \$750,000 in funding from the provincial government next year due to increased enrollment, said Advanced Education Minister Dave Russell.

This was one of the results of a meeting held January 15 in Calgary with Russell and representatives of the Students' Unions from the universities of Alberta, Calgary and Lethbridge. Funding student loans, a provincial forum on education, and lobbying were among the topics discussed.

Both Calgary and Alberta received an enrollment funding increase. Calgary was given \$800,000 "because we're growing faster," said U of C Students' Union President Bob Petryk. The money will be added to

the base budgets of the two institutions, and the new base budget will then be used to calculate the 1.5 per cent funding increase that the universities will receive next year.

With the \$750,000 for the U of A, this "comes out to be about a 2.2 per cent increase," said Students' Union President Tim Boston. "It's not much, but it's better than we had expected."

Lethbridge did not have an enrollment increase, so it did not receive an enrollment adjustment, said U of L SU President Jason Slemko.

Provisions were also made at the meeting to look at the Student Finance Board guidelines regarding loan remission. The remission formula, governing the amount of money that had to be repayed, was altered last year. Concerns have been raised that the new formula "penalizes students who take a loan in their later years," said Petryk, because the new formula means that students who wait until later years to get a loan are faced with repaying a greater amount than they would have, had they taken a loan out in their first year. Boston is concerned that this would discourage students who want to come out of school with a smaller debt load.

Petryk noted that "we were debating whether or not we should advance the case too far because then we run the risk of opening the question of remission. As the minister asked, 'Why do we have remission?'"

Russell was presented with some complaints from students about the remission formula, and the matter is being investigated.

Preliminary steps have also been taken to set up a provincial forum on education, similar to the national forum that took place in Saskatoon in October.

"The forum would look at the future of education in this province," said Boston. "It would reaffirm education as a priority, and look at

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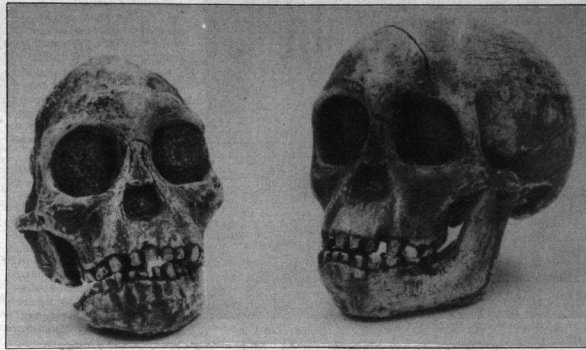
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David Wilcox demonstrates further his down-to-earth talent P11

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The Golden Bears can further their chances of a playoff berth against the UBC T-Birds this weekend P12



Casts of *Australopithecus* — the Taung child, original and reconstructed skulls. See story, p.3

"Anti-porn" bill debated

by Lanise Hayes

The moral rights and wrongs of Bill C-54, the proposed federal anti-pornography bill, were debated at a well-attended forum last Tuesday.

Sylvia Bough of the Writer's Guild of Alberta, organizers of the forum, acted as moderator of the five-person panel, which included Michael Rutter as the neutral legal expert. Supporting the bill were Kathleen Higgins, a lawyer associated with the Alberta Federation of Women United for Families, and

Kathy Vandergrift of Citizens for Social Justice. Dr. Ferrell Christensen, U of A Professor of Philosophy, and Edmonton writer and feminist Myrna Kostash argued against Bill C-54.

Most of the arguments for the bill focused on female degradation and domination. Stating "incest and rape are sold at the corner store," Kathy Vandergrift expressed concern about the rising amounts of readily available pornography, and

the increased use of violence in porn. She also felt that pornography was "dehumanizing," as it separates the person from their sex organs, and this separation was detrimental to the development of loving relationships based upon mutual respect.

Kathleen Higgins stated that there is no difference between pornography and erotica, and both should be made illegal, as they "incite lust and disorder." Pornography, Higgins claimed, "contributed to a harmful society," and was responsible for "a low birth rate, infertility, increased cervical cancer in women, increased divorce rate, breakdown of the family unit... organized crime... murder... sexual and physical abuse of children, and many other social ills." Although admitting that laws do not always stop crimes from occurring, she felt that when enforced, Bill C-54 "will change the way people think... we want to make the use of pornography shameful."

Both Higgins and Vandergrift believed that a causative relationship existed between violent crimes against women and pornography, because the women are shown naked and usually in the weaker role. As well, they agreed that amendments were necessary before Bill C-54 becomes a law. Vandergrift wanted a clearer definition of obscenity, and Higgins said that "because it is subjective... the artistic merit clause should be dropped."

"Sex is dirty," Dr. Christensen said in describing the sexual attitudes of our culture, as he expressed concern that legislation of the bill would cause further regression of these attitudes. He felt that society has been "conditioned" and "indoctrinated" against healthy sexual attitudes. Sexually explicit material is viewed by many as disgusting and immoral, he said, and these people also believe sex in itself is perverse. "Sex belongs only in marriage... and is proper to family," was the attitude expressed by Higgins.

Dr. Christensen also believed that there has been a great deal of

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DENNISTON'S LAW: Virtue is its own punishment.



Vandergrift (left) and Higgins supporting Bill C-54

Women's studies program begins

by Jenny Brundin

For the first time, beginning in September 1988, U of A students will be able to take a B.A. degree with either major or minor concentrations in Women's Studies.

With this program, to be admini-

stered by the Faculty of Arts, the U of A joins Simon Fraser, York, Carleton, and Queen's Universities, among others, in the provision of a women's studies program.

A degree in Women's Studies will consist of a series of core courses to be supplemented by a

wide variety of courses from other disciplines which contain women's studies content. Students can choose courses from departments as diverse as anthropology, political science, business, English, and Japanese studies, among others.

Professor Shirley Neuman, chair of the program, feels there is a rationalization for a separate women's program similar to that of the reasons offered for the institution of ethnic studies programs in the 1960's.

Given that nineteenth century women entered a university system designed and controlled by men, stated Neuman, the university climate since has been one where "women have traditionally been viewed as inferior intellectually, even spiritually," a climate where their "cultural products have not been taken seriously."

Neuman feels the present curriculum doesn't recognize the history or contributions of women. The

formation of a separate program based on the achievements of women, aims to supplement the traditional curriculum, and ideally, "affect that curriculum."

She added that a separate program also provides a "safe space" for women, an academic environment where the course material pertains to their own gender, "in a way that says it is important, to be taken seriously."

Professor Dallas Cullen, an instructor involved with the program in the Faculty of Business, hopes the institution of a Women's Studies program will challenge some of the traditional disciplines and will look at the way in which gender becomes involved in such studies.

Neuman anticipates a good enrollment in the program by students from diverse backgrounds. Interested students can inquire about the Women's Studies program by calling the University switchboard and asking for Women's Studies.



Studying the contributions of women

Photo: Bruce Gardave