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The Gateway

Criminology's 10th birthday

by Anthony Pizarro

The Centre for Criminological Research here at the U of A, presently celebrating its tenth anniversary, is helping to prove that crime is not invincible, by providing the anti-crime community with substantial and useful research.

"The Centre exists entirely within the Department of Sociology," explained Dr. Jim Hackler, the Centre's coordinator. About forty professors conduct criminological research for the Centre, with four or five often concentrating on a specific area.

Studies done by the Centre have found that, for example, police killings are on the decline; rates for specific crimes are inflated or deflated according to the priorities of the province concerned; and there has been a drop in crime rates since the abolition of capital punishment.

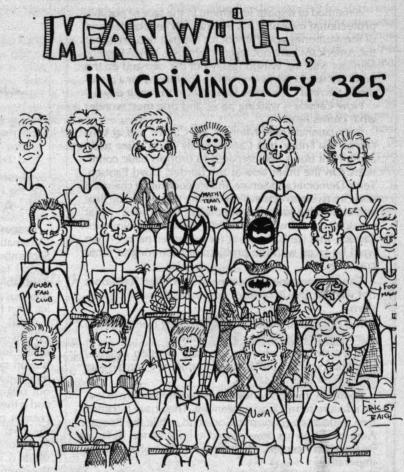
The Centre is also breaking new grounds. It has proposed a unique study in which researchers would work closely with a police officer. This proposal is contingent upon whether or not the government will grant the necessary funds. The Centre operates on a fixed budget and such a study would be in addition to its usual research.

The Centre's research is valuable to those in the BA (Criminology) program at the U of A.

"The Centre helps the University to produce graduates," Jim Hackler says, although the Centre itself does not actually do so. Such graduates are, among other things, currently teaching criminology at other

universities.

Besides these things, the Centre allows professors who are researching criminology to be organized into an effective body. Their findings are shared with other similar centres across Canada and at the occasional continent-wide meeting. This November, the Centre members will meet with other Canadian researchers from across the country, in Montreal



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confronted with the difficult task of arranging the distribution of funds to the various faculties. When asked how this diffusion occurred, Dr. Peter J. Meekinson, Vice-President (Academic), responded that "Money is alloted to the faculties, and the Deans in the faculties then distribute funds to the departments". Meekinson added that of the current operating budgets of the varying faculties, approximately 80 per cent is consumed through salaries of faculty and staff. The remaining 20 per cent is budgeted for various areas, the least of which is office materials, phone bills, and operating costs. It has been with these expenses that departments have started the process of budget cuts.

J.H. Waterhouse, Chairman of the Department of Accounting (Business), said that they are "very sorry" about the extra costs but, "it's either that or they (the students), will not receive the handouts."



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