Group helps learning disabled

by Jeff Mcdonald

One out of every ten people has some type of learning disability, and recently a self-help group for learning-disabled students was formed on campus, in conjunction with Disabled Services.

"One purpose of the group is to make learning-disabled students aware that there are other students with similar problems," said Disabled Services coordinator Marion Nicely. "This group provides an opportunity for students to get together."

There is a wide range of disabilities consisting of different types of reading and writing disorders, and learning-disabled students may sometimes require assistance with their studies. The university does not have an official organization that can respond to their needs.

The self-help group can assist students with techniques on how to study for examinations, how to write papers, ways to deal with pressure at examination time, and how to have their professors become aware of any difficulties that the student may have in class.

But the main purpose of the group is to bring students together, says one founder of the organization, student Bruce Gardave.

"It's for the students themselves — not to identify them, just to help them. Learning-disabled students learn in a different way. The group may be able to help the student find the way that's best for him or her," said Gardave.

"It's an invisible handicap, and people are usually unaware that it exists," he said.

"The group meets once every second week. The gatherings are informal; those who may want to attend can do so without feeling uncomfortable," said Gardave.

The next group meeting is on Monday, January 20, at 4 p.m. in the Heritage Lounge in Athabasca Hall.

Hodgins ousted

by Bill Doskoch

Floyd Hodgins, ex-Students' Union president and ex-editor of the ex- students' newspaper *The Grind* became an ex-Students' Council representative on Tuesday.

Hodgins lost his seat as an Education rep after it was brought to the attention of council by VP Finance Rob Splane that Hodgins had transferred into the faculty of Arts and could no longer sit as an Education rep.

Hodgins protested, but acting speaker Ken Bosman ruled against him.

Council also received a rare visit from a member of the University administration as VP Academic Dr. Peter Meekison spoke on the nature of his job.

Meekison was questioned on the issues of sexual harassment and writing competency, two issues that have occupied a great deal of his time over the past six months.

When asked why the name of the professor convicted and disciplined in the sexual harassment case would not be released, Meekison said one had to look at the general principle.

"Do we also release the names of students disciplined for academic dishonesty?" he asked and expressed amazement that no one had clamored for the name of a professor dismissed this summer from the faculty of Arts.

In other news, council ratified the appointment of academic commissioner Connie Uzwyshyn to the office of VP Academic and her replacement, Scott Day, who edited the student handbook this year.

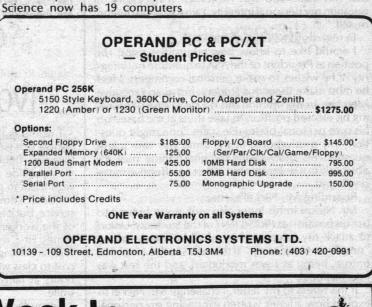Uzwyshyn replaces former VP Academic Caroline Nevin, who resigned for health reasons.

Chatty Cathy recorded its 100,000 hrs on Jan. 14, 1986, at 2:53 p.m.
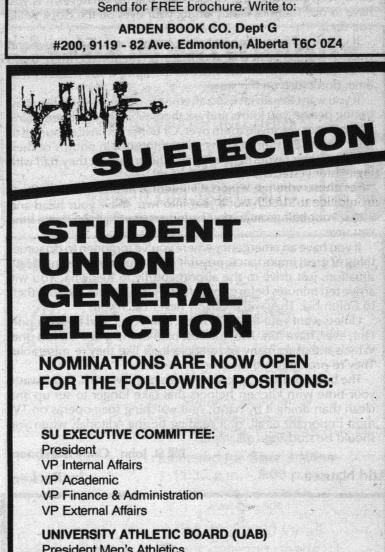
Computer logs 100,000 hrs

Chatty Cathy, the first UNIX computer in Canada at the University of Alberta, turned over its 100,000th hour at 2:53 p.m. on January 14, 1986.

The DEC PDP 11/45 computer is named Chatty Cathy because it had an early Votrax voice synthesizer.

The Department of Computer Science now has 19 computers running the UNIX operation system. UNIX is used in both the information service at West Edmonton Mall and the Canadian Post Office.

The UNIX operating system was shipped from AT&T Bell Laboratories to the University of Alberta in 1973.