

"Education is a peculiar process. You aim at one thing and you hit another. You set out to look for ultimate truth and you don't find it."

The Gateway

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... but incidentally you have acquired a cultivated mind."
Stephen Leacock
(1869-1944)



Young worker dusts Old Arts

photo Bruce Gardave

Classes overly crowded

by Greg Halinda

So, your Psych 260 section has about 498 other students in it. And Eng 200 lectures are so crowded you feel like a mere ball-bearing in some great machine.

These scenes are normal, and haven't changed much over the years. Of course being first year introductory courses, large class sizes are not unusual.

When one looks at student/instructor ratios at the U of A over the past few years however, it becomes evident that on the whole, the situation is not improving.

Last year there were 11.6 students (full- and part-time) vying for each (full- and part-time) instructor's attention (figures for 86-87 will not be available for another year).

This ratio has been getting slowly larger every year for at least the past four years. In 1982-83 it was 10.5, in 83-84, 11.1, in 84-85, 11.4.

Dr. Brian Pinchbeck of the office of Institutional Research and Planning says these figures are compatible with those from other institutions of similar size, like UBC and U of Calgary.

Though enrolment continues to reach new highs each year, last year the university budgeted for the lowest number of full-time teaching positions in four years, at 1394 (not including instructors on leave).

Halloween costume fire trap

by Mark Spector

Halloween at the U of A was "a little quieter than usual," according to head of Campus Security Doug Langevin, but two incidents that did occur were of a very serious nature.

In the most consequential incident, a pair of students who were drinking in Dewey's bar in HUB mall were taken to the University hospital with burns after a lamb costume worn by one of the men was accidentally set on fire by the other.

The incident occurred at around 11:00 p.m. Friday evening when a cigarette ignited a homemade costume made primarily of cotton balls.

According to witnesses the man who was not wearing the costume was burned more severely than his friend, who he tried to aid by patting out the fire with his bare hands.

The Gateway was unable to identify either of the pair.

"In the time that it took me to run from the bar to the third section (where the fire occurred), I couldn't tell what kind of costume the guy had on," said Dewey's manager Greg Holmes. "It burned in three or four seconds."

Holmes said that the bar incurred little damage. "Just one chair might have to be recovered and a few walls were scorched a little bit."

"But the damage to our bar is incidental compared to the injuries," he said.

Other Halloween mischief was minimal, according to Langevin, as only a few photocopiers were moved around in the Rutherford library area but none were damaged.

"With Halloween being on a Friday night I expected it to be a little busier," Langevin admitted.

Another mishap which occurred Thursday night in RATT had the

potential to be even more disastrous.

Two people, a man and a woman, came perilously close to falling through the window of the seventh floor SUB watering hole when they crashed through the first pane of glass at the end of the room near the washrooms.

The second pane received numerous scratches, but held under the force of the two bodies.

The two people, who were part of a group of about ten drinkers,

were obviously intoxicated when the man wrapped his arms around the woman from behind. He lifted her into the air, and began losing his balance as the pair backpedalled towards the ceiling to floor window.

The man struck the glass (after a run of about 15 feet) with his shoulder blades and the first pane shattered on impact. The second pane of approximately 1/3" thick glass held, securing the couple from what would have been a fatal fall.

RATT manager Don Moore will take steps to guard against such an accident in the future. "I think what we'll probably do is put up some kind of shelf to rest your drink on (along the three glass walls in the bar)," said Moore.

RATT workers were unable to finger anyone in the incident, as the occupants of the table cleared the premises quickly.

"That's part of the bar business," said Moore. "It was an accident."

Handbook wins honor

by Alex Shetsen

This year's edition of the U of A's student handbook has been named as one of the three best-produced in North America by the National Orientation Directors Association, an organization of student aid services from universities across North America.

The handbook was edited by Brougham Deegan, who in the past was production editor of the Gateway.

Rick Toogood, director of the Student Union's Student Orientation Services, represented the U of A at NODA's annual conference held in Ft. Worth, Texas, Oct. 23-29. He witnessed the handbook winning the honours from over 100 other entries in the handbook competition.

The contest was won by the Georgia State University students guide. U of A and Kent State University were also named in the top three, in no particular order.

"They hold competitions in a lot of areas — best handbook, best brochure, best poster, best tee shirt, and so on," said Toogood. "About the only thing they don't judge is best content, which is too bad

because I felt ours was right up there in that respect."

The format of this year's handbook was quite different from years past. What had previously been simply a reference book to the university was changed into a practical guide and day planner, a format used widely in the USA but relatively unknown in Canada.

"I really wasn't expecting our

entry to do so well," said Toogood. "In the States, the making of these handbooks is often run as a business. We were competing against people who make money doing this sort of thing."

As for next year, "I really think we can win the competition next year," he says, "especially after we get a copy of Georgia State's entry and see what exactly they did."

Books backed up

MONTREAL (CUP) — A backlog of at least 4,000 books at Concordia University's main downtown library is restricting students from finding books they need.

The Norris library needs and formerly employed six stackers and one supervisor to shelve new and returned books. The university now employs only three stackers and one supervisor.

"The situation in the stacks is getting very critical. It is just going to be difficult for anybody to find anything for a term paper around here," said Diana Brewer of the library union's grievance commit-

tee.

The library is being deluged with search requests. Margaret Sharp, a senior request clerk, must look for requested books that have been returned but not shelved. "My workload is increasing daily," she said.

Student council co-president Karen Takacs said the library's most important books are the ones sitting in carts waiting to be sorted and shelved. "These are the books most used, and now students can't get at them," said Takacs.

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