

# gateway

Thursday, September 15, 1983

A good mind...

...is one trained to forget the trivial

Clifton Fadiman

Over 23,000 enrolled

## Large numbers surge to Arts and Science

by Mark Roppel

Enrollment at the U of A is expected to increase nine per cent this year, resulting in overcrowding in the faculties of Arts and Sciences.

"We have more students on the campus than ever before," says Students' Union VP Academic Barb Donaldson.

As of Monday, 22,713 full time students had enrolled. But this figure is tentative. "My guess is that it will settle around 23,200," said Secretary to the Registrar Dr. Blanchard. Blanchard says this is "just about what we were prediction" (in the spring).

Since Arts and Sciences are

not restricted, and are the largest faculties, naturally they absorbed most of the increase.

Course registrations in Arts this year were 39,508, up 19 per cent from last year. At 59,178, course registrations in the Faculty of Science have increased 15.5 per cent.

The departments of Statistics

and Computer Science were particularly hard hit with increases of 39 and 36 per cent respectively.

Education, the only other major unrestricted faculty, actually decreased its enrollment from 2200 to 2067.

There has been "no expansion as far as the faculty is concerned," says the Acting Dean Of Arts,

Dr. Qureshi. "It amounts to the same people teaching more classes with more students.

"A number of courses had reached their maximum capacity by the end of advanced registration," says Qureshi. "From our viewpoint this is not the best situation... it lowers morale."

Sciences faces the same problem, says Planning and Finance Officer, Mr. Williams.

"In Geology and Computing in particular... after advanced registration we could not take many general students... many of the classrooms are full and we can't find larger rooms.

"We don't have enough soft funds," says Williams, "we are in some financial difficulty... the major expense is laboratory costs." Soft funds are funds provided by the Provincial Government on a yearly basis.

"We don't have the money for a lot of the sections that are already in," says Barb Donaldson. "We're expecting some soft funds but we don't know how much or when."

But even if adequate funds were forthcoming, that would only provide half of the solution.

"The government has cut down on committed funds and has tried to compensate with soft funds," says Dr. Qureshi. So, in effect, the University is forced to hire professors at the last minute and on a sessional basis.

"The City of Edmonton and the University of Alberta can provide a very finite number of lecturers, and any person from outside would not be willing to come for only one year. We're scraping the bottom of the academic barrel."

Qureshi says more funds must be allocated for creating permanent positions. "The ration of sessional lecturers to full time faculty in certain departments is already too high. We can not provide quality education if we simply hire from year to year.

"One can only assume the government perception is that these increased enrollments are temporary. Our perception is that because of the economic situation, increased enrollment is here to stay."

If increased funding is not made available, Arts and Sciences will be forced to restrict enrollment. Some options are higher entrance requirements, ceilings on high enrollment courses, priority admissions into courses instead of a first come first served basis, and possibly even quotas.



photo Bill Inglee

## Student loan demands on the rise

by Ken Lenz

Applications for student loans are expected to be up about 24 per cent this year.

To date, the Alberta Student Finance Board has received 34,000 applications and expects the number to increase to 38,000 before the year's end.

There has also been an increase in the percentage of students applying for student loans this year.

Finance Board representative Gay Mathieson comments, "historically, 30 -35 per cent of students applied for student aid. Last year the figure went up to 50 per cent and we expect almost 60 per cent of students applying this year.

"This is probably a reflection of the economy, fewer parents can afford to send their children to school and there are definitely less jobs available for students."

She adds, "any student who can document his or her job search will receive aid regardless of their savings.

"We try to ensure that no Alberta resident who wants an education goes without one because of financial difficulties."

There have also been some

changes in the federal student loan system this year.

The limit has been increased from \$56.75 per week to \$108 per week.

The interest free period has been increased from six months to eighteen months. This means if you don't get a job within six

months of the time you get out of school, you still don't have to pay interest on your loan until you get a job, or the 18 month limit expires.

Part time students can now receive aid.

Students' Union VP External Andrew Watts has some

trepidations about the changes.

Says Watts, "The increase in the limit is good, but it also means some students are likely to go further into debt."

"The only really good thing about the changes in the extension on the interest free payback period," says Watts.

## CFS wants important U of A support

by Sandy Vickerson

Students will be asked whether they support the U of A becoming a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). If approved, this move would cost \$94,000 - \$4 a student.

The referendum will be held October 21.

Three quarters of all membership fees go to support the political wing, a national lobby group campaigning for student concessions.

The remainder of the fees are used to maintain a national information centre and to provide student cuts and speakers.

Students' Union President Robert Greenhill said he would like to see the membership approved so the, "CFS can act more effectively on a national level than

we can individually."

SU VP Academic Barb Donaldson feels CFS, Canada's largest youth lobby group, has proven its effectiveness by winning four major concessions over the last year.

She said, "first, the national budget for student job creation rose from 120 to 170 million dollars.

"Second, student loans can be increased from \$56.75 to \$108 a week.

"Third, unemployed students can wait 18 months before starting to repay their loans, compared with the old period of 6 months.

"Last, part-time students are now eligible for student loans."

The referendum campaign will commence on Oct. 17.

A committee has organized a

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