Public Misconceptions About English Department Cleared Up

Thursday by U of A English Professor R. G. Baldwin.

Addressing the monthly meeting of the Humanities Association, Dr. Baldwin denied public misconceptions about research in the English depart-

He said he did not spend his summers reading slim volumes of French poems over a glass of absinthe, nor did he wear a Tam (headgear) at a rakish tilt.

Research involves investigation and organization of contemporary, historical, and foreign literature, as well as interpretative scholarship.

A plug for research in the Dr. Baldwin was presenting a re-humanities was delivered last search paper to Humanities on "A Chaucer Puzzle—The Canon's Yeo-man's Tale." He said this minor tale of The Canterbury Tales was subject to general misunderstanding in its interpretation, and offered an alternative suggestion.

> The tale is divided into two sections following a prologue. In the prologue, a Canon and his Yeoman gallop madly up to the pilgrims who are taking turns telling stories on their way to Canterbury. This interruption at once provides a digression and another tale for the poem's elaborate framework.

The Yeoman begins to "con" the pilgrims, say most interpre-tors, but when the Host begins to needle him, he breaks suddenly into an emotional tirade against alchemy and alchemists. The Canon tries to shut him up, and when this doesn't work, rides

off quickly.
At this point the Yeoman changes his tirade and begins telling a story about a Canon who is an alchemist -he says it isn't his matter-who goes around generally rooking the public to support his alchemic ob-

Traditional scholarship interprets this at face value, implying that there are two Canons—the one who rides up with the Yeoman, and the one in the Yeoman's tale after the first one has galloped off.

Dr. Baldwin, applying some psychological study of motivation and probable situation, suggested that instead there is only one Canon—that the Canon the Yeo-man begins to abuse in his tale is actually the Canon he works for-and by whom he has just been abandoned because he appeared to be threatening the Canon with exposure as a con

Chaucer had bungled, while his own

rationalization tied up loose ends.
In a question period which followed, it was suggested that alternatives to this theory could be (a) Chaucer didn't write the entire tale himself, or (b) it was suggested by a tale in man and charlatan.

Dr. Baldwin said the traditional

Boccaccio's Decameron, or (c)

Chaucer was fascinated by the interpretation made the poem appear psychology of the con man in the incomplete and less coherent—as if same way as other modern writers.

GARNEAU

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Minister: REV, BLAKE M. PRITCHARD

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1960

11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.

7:30 p.m.—Service for Students and Nurses. Coffeetime and YPU after the service.

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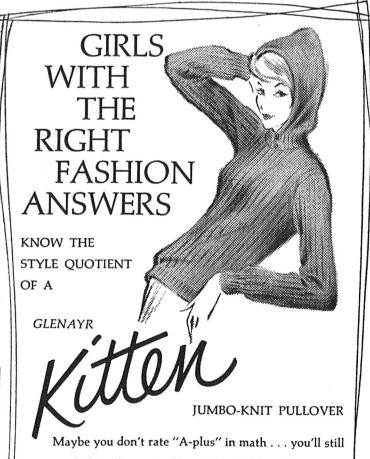
Campus Socred President Elected Provincial Veep

Ray Speaker, president of the B.Ed. the Alberta Young Credit League at the provincial convention day, November 19.

Socred group attended the all-day convention in the Macdonald Hotel. Other delegations represented Edmonton City, Calgary, Holden, and Medicine Hat. Education Minister, A. O. Aalberg was guest speaker.

Mr. Speaker is a third year education student from Enchant, Alberta. He took one year of University at Calgary, then taught four years at student exemption from unemploy-Taber High School before coming to ment insurance fund contributions the University of Alberta for his Another called for revision of adop-

campus Social Credit Club, was Six delegates from the U of A child's parents shall not bind the



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