

New standard affects hundreds of students



by Zané Harker

The University of Alberta's minimum entrance requirement will be raised from an average of sixty per cent to sixty five per cent in high school marks. The measure will go into effect September 1984, and is an attempt to restrict enrollment.

Minimum entrance requirement raised from 60 to 65 per cent.

The restriction was proposed by the University Vice President Academic George Baldwin "as a response to the severe underfunding experienced by the University." It is estimated that this restriction will affect "three to six hundred students who might otherwise have been admitted."

While Baldwin says that "classes are clearly better with

fewer numbers of students," Barbara Donaldson, SU Vice President Academic replies "this change will not increase the quality of education in the least."

Donaldson points out that since the restriction affects only a small number of students, the difference in class size will be negligible. "What difference does it make if a first year class has three hundred students or three hundred twenty five students." Of the restriction, Baldwin says "It's going to make a difference, but in itself will not make much difference."

Baldwin also points to further restrictions, including quotas.

"Nobody wants quotas... but we're certainly looking at them."

He suggests that colleges could be used to relieve some of the overcrowding.

"We might identify a whole range of disciplines where the first

year might be taken somewhere else."

Donaldson replies, "I think what they're doing is shifting the burden to the colleges, who aren't ready to handle it. The colleges are just as underfunded as we are."

Baldwin maintains that "these moves are necessary... we are beyond the point where more money will solve our problems."

Donaldson says that "the students are being asked to pay for the problem." She also fears that this restriction will pave the way for harsher restrictions. "Once the requirement has been raised, it's so easy to raise it again. I wouldn't be surprised if quotas followed."

"I think this problem could even itself out without these drastic steps," Donaldson says, "economic factors are the reason for over-crowding, and when job-hunting becomes more promising, enrolment will go down."

Women get extra funding

by Darrell Squires
for the Muse
For Canadian University Press

The department of Employment and Immigration has announced new measures under the National Training Program "to help women train for the jobs of the future."

The new measures include an increase in the number of seats reserved for women in provincial training centres, and increases in allowances for dependent care and regular training. Also, non-profit organizations may now apply for up to \$50,000 dollars under the Skills Growth Fund, to develop project proposals for the establishment of training programs "to meet the specific needs of women."

The percentage of seats reserved for women by the federal government in provincial training centres will rise from twenty to thirty per cent. According to Axworthy, women will get "priority placement" in non-traditional

courses which often have long waiting lists. "As a result, more women will be trained for high-skill, high-paying occupations."

expenses go into effect September 1 and are reserved for women who cannot get unemployment benefits while on training.

Lloyd Axworthy says women will get priority placement in non-traditional courses in the National Training Program

However, it is only the one-year pre-employment courses at vocational institutions in which the federal government reserves seats and very few of these actually involve training for "high-skill, high-paying occupations."

Howard Kilpatrick, an institutional training coordinator with Canada Employment, attributes this discrepancy to the fact that education and job training are "primarily a provincial responsibility." Women who want to get into technological programs requiring two or three years of study are "on their own," Kilpatrick said.

The higher allowances for living, training and child care

After the increases, women will receive from \$50 to \$130 per week in dependent care allowance, according to the number of children a woman must support.

In regular training allowances which are received in addition to child care allowances, women will receive between \$100 and \$160, depending on the number of children.

The National Training Program is receiving \$90 million in extra funding for 1983-84 and 1984-85, bringing its budget up to \$1.2 billion for this fiscal year. The \$90 million is being channelled into higher training allowances and the Skills Growth Fund.



GENERAL MEETING

Monday Sept. 12, 1983

7 P.M.

Rm. 270A SUB

AGENDA: will include election of Advisory Board for 1983-84 academic term.

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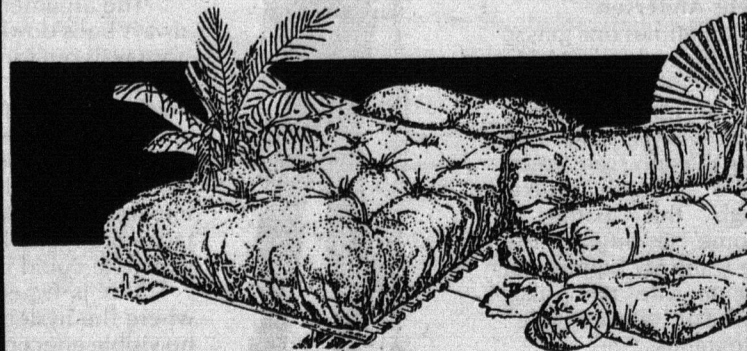
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