

"When I pray..."

The Gateway

"I get answers." — Pat Robertson

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The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

University opens doors to WCT drop-outs

by Lisa Hall

The University of Alberta's Registrar's office yesterday sent 3,900 letters to former students who are eligible to return to the U of A because of the discontinuation of the writing competence requirement.

Students previously had an allotted time to pass the writing competence test or they were not allowed to continue their University studies. They could not come back to the U of A until the requirement was met.

Now, however, students will be allowed to return without passing the WCT, as the requirement was waived at a General Faculties Council meeting on March 20.

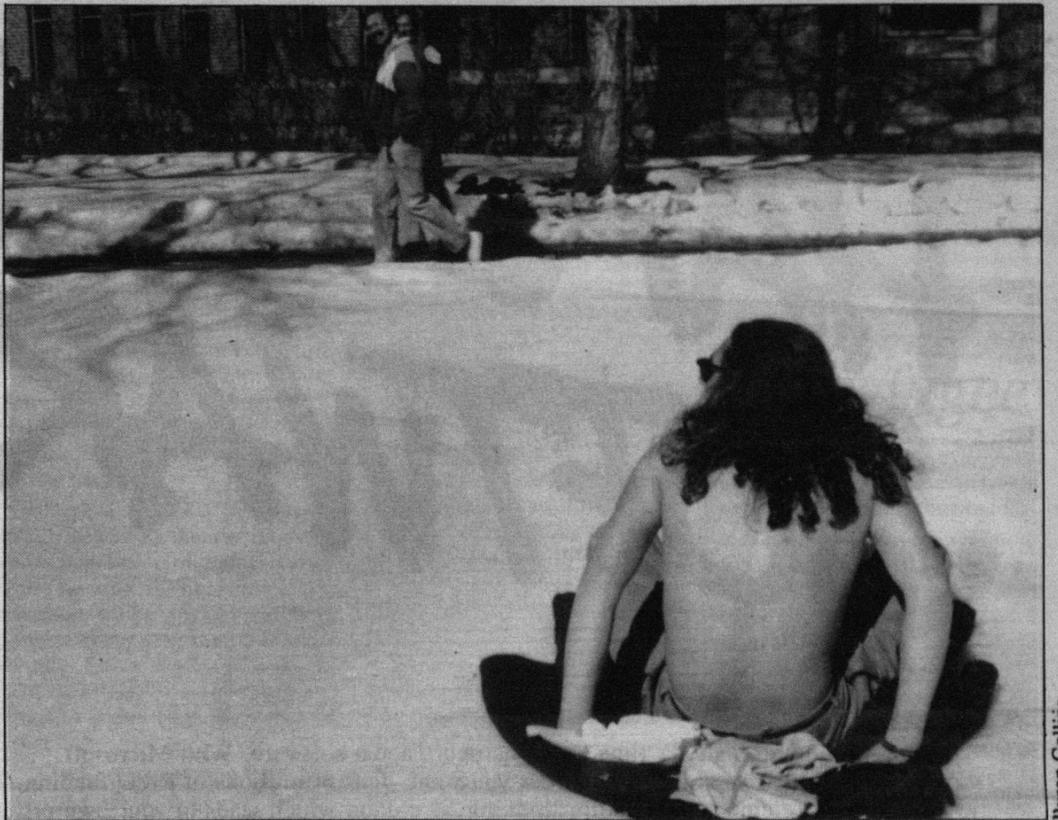
The number of potential returnees may seem staggering, said Registrar Brian Silzer, but he doubts that a large percentage of the 3,900 students eligible will come back.

"Some will definitely return," said Silzer. "But many of the students were required to withdraw for other reasons as well, such as having academic problems." Other students may have simply left the University before passing the WCT and have gone on to other things.

The students who are most likely to return are those who recently left the University, and haven't had a change in education plans.

The letters state that the University is not continuing with its writing competence requirement and explains how students can re-register if they so desire.

"The letter assumes that the students don't have any other problems to prevent them from returning," said Silzer. Students could also be on academic probation, and unable to continue their studies until after the probation period.



Byron Collins

Tan time

Spring has sprung for this brave student who wanted to get a head start on his summer tan. It's not spring yet however, judging by the recent spate of cold weather we've experienced lately.

Student refugee to make new start at U of A

by Mario Trono

Yohannes Mersha Nega, a student refugee from Sudan, has finally arrived at the University of Alberta.

Both the World University Service (WUSC) and the SU executive have eagerly awaited his arrival since U of A students agreed last year to contribute 50 cents from their students' union fees to support a refugee student.

This 27-year old student of engineering will find that his turbulent past differs significantly from most of his fellow students.

He has some tales to tell.

In his native Gondar, Ethiopia, Nega's politically aware family suffered through the passing of the old feudal society, and the rise of an autocratic regime. His brother was killed in anti-government activities.

When the opportunity arose for a number of Ethiopians to be trained as engineers in India, Nega applied and got his chance to leave.

Upon graduating in India with a Bachelor of Engineering, he returned to Ethiopia, unlike many

of his friends.

"I had such a great desire to serve my country, but my job upon returning was too politically sensitive and I was being misinterpreted. I had to resign after a year and a half."

The situation in Ethiopia became intolerable for Nega and he was forced to leave Gondar and live in the Sudan. It was there that he applied to the WUSC program.

"My first priority at the time was to save my life," recalls Nega.

"But my decision on where to go was affected by the knowledge that I must be able to contribute something upon my return to Ethiopia. If I cannot work there, perhaps then a neighbouring country like the Sudan."

But at first it appeared Nega's chances of leaving the Sudan for Canada were slim to none. In October of 1988, the Sudanese government issued directives that no refugees would be allowed to leave the Sudan, but Nega was extremely fortunate.

"If you are a high-up official in that government, you can take your own stand on things. After months of visiting an official's office each day, one (such) official saw no trouble with my obtaining

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Colin Northcott

Rob Kassian, fine art grad, tries to make a judgement in the Fine Art Gallery. It's all in the eye of the beholder.

Amnesty speaks out for human rights

by Brian Crowley

Over 200 people filed into SUB Theatre last Wednesday for a presentation on the work of Amnesty International.

Roger Clark, the Secretary-General for the English-Canadian section of Amnesty, combined a matter-of-fact speech on the role of Amnesty in human rights abuses, with an illuminating film on world-wide abuses of human rights.

Clark was very positive about Amnesty's campaign to fight human rights abuses, and cited the "Human Rights Now!" tour as a windfall in the area of

awareness. The tour, which included performers Peter Gabriel, Bruce Springsteen, Sting, Youssouf N'Dour, and Tracy Chapman, broke new ground in a number of areas, including South America and Budapest, Hungary.

"Amnesty's name is better known around the world (because of the tour)," said Clark. "You rarely have to explain Amnesty to anyone any longer. The fact that I was asked to come and talk here is a reflection of that."

Clark pointed out some of the enormous sacrifices that are being made by many people around the

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