

# The Gateway

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TWELVE PAGES

## SUB HOUSING STARTED

Construction on a 6.3 million dollar Students' Union Housing Building (HUB) began Tuesday Sept. 21, when Students' Union president Don McKenzie and Jim Humphries, Housing Commission Chairman broke the ground with a plow and a team of horses.

The official sod-turning, attended by members of the Board of Governors and General Faculty Council, lasted less than ten minutes. Dr. Max Wyman, President of the U of A commented at the ceremony on the effort that has been put into the planning of the building.

The actual planning of the HUB was started in only 1968, *cont'd on page 3*

## NEW ENGLISH COURSES DON'T ATTRACT STUDENTS

by dave mcCurdy

A bold attempt by the English department to offer first-year students something with a little more bite than the traditional 200 or 210 has met with almost no success.

The scheme consisted of offering six half-credit courses in first year, of which students could, if they so desired, take any two instead of the usual 200 (a general survey course) or 210 (a terminal course entitled "English Literary Forms"), both of which are full-credit. It was hoped that the majority of first-year students (nearly all of whom are required to take an English course) would register for some of these courses; however, actual enrolment in the

courses was only about 20% of what had been expected. 265 (Studies in the Later English Literary Tradition), 270 (Readings in Poetry), 275 (Readings in Prose), 284 (Canadian Literature in Process) and 290 (The Craft of Writing). The department was particularly enthusiastic about 284, which deals mainly with Canadian literature, written mainly during the last five years, which has not as yet received much public attention; however, in this course, as in all the others, enrolment fell far short of projected figures.

Probably the most serious result of the shortage of students registering for the courses is the amount of work which was, in

effect, wasted. A great deal of time was spent by members of the department preparing these courses, and then many were forced to switch to 200 or 210 (of which 47 extra sections had to be scheduled) at the last minute, having made no preparation whatsoever.

According to Dr. Ben Giorgio, one of the English department members responsible for the half-credit courses, this switching courses at the last minute was particularly hard on graduate students and teaching assistants, "most of whom just don't have the resources at their disposal to prepare a new course in a few days."

Dr. Giorgio said the whole

concept of these half-credit courses will have to be thoroughly rediscussed and re-evaluated before it is decided whether or not to offer them again next year.

What are the reasons for the low enrolment in the courses? About this, Dr. Giorgio seemed quite perplexed. "There are many possible reasons," he said. "For one thing, when we told students at registration that they could do two half-credit courses instead of one credit, many of them said, 'And write two final exams? Are you crazy?' Also, half-credit courses involve more work generally than full-credit courses, and this may have been a factor.

"Don't forget, too, that the half-credit courses require a lot more thought than the old 200 and 210, and it's possible that many students were discouraged by this. Fourthly, a lot of first-years have friends or older brothers and sisters who did 200 or 210, so they know something about these courses, and they'd rather tackle a known evil than an unknown one. Fifthly, some departments, for instance Commerce, still prefer that their students do 210, so they kept 210 as a required course. Finally, I don't think the six new courses got enough publicity. This is partly our fault, but I think it's due in part to an error in the Arts & Science calendar," said Giorgio.

### TIME & ENERGY WASTED

"Under the section entitled 'The Degree of B.A. in the General Program' (section 43.1.2 of the Arts & Science calendar), it lists English 200 as a required course in the first year. This, of course, is not the case. I think that perhaps some students looked at this, were given the impression that they had to take 200, and so signed up for it."

Dr. Alan Patterson, Faculty of Arts Secretary, who seemed indignant at the suggestion that the low registration could be partly the fault of the calendar. Finally he produced a form sent out in June to all prospective Arts students by the Faculty of Arts, which listed course options in first year. Included among these options was the option of taking any two of the six half-credit English courses instead of 200 or 210. "This shows that it wasn't the fault of the Faculty of Arts," he said triumphantly. And so it seems.

So the question of why so few students registered for the courses remains a tough one to answer. "We're doing our best to find the reasons and correct them for next year," said Dr. Giorgio. "Meanwhile, a lot of time and energy has been wasted, and a lot of lecturers are inadequately prepared to teach the 200 and 210 classes they now must teach. It's all very frustrating."

## ANOTHER RED TAPE P T

As I slid behind the steering wheel of my '66 Chevy, I noticed a windshield wiper had been clogged with some pale yellow paper. Being a curious person I decided to investigate. My heart thumped as soon as I saw it was a pretty legal sort of looking paper. A parking ticket! Well what is two bucks anyway? But looking at the ticket I noticed that the five dollar mark had been circled.

Not being an average run of the mill student, I decided to appeal the case rather than to rip it up and let the wind take care of it. Besides, all final marks are held back till all fines are paid.

My first step was putting myself at the mercy of the parking office, and maybe they would cancel the fine just until I got my precious sticker. I headed towards Printing Services.

After fighting the crowd for fifteen minutes, I reached out and could actually touch a section of countertop. My plea was answered. A person asked me if I needed help. After telling the person that I WAS THERE TO APPEAL A TRAFFIC VIOLATION I was abruptly told to fill out a form and leave it along with the ticket at the desk.

My ego deflated, I tried my best. I told them I was poor, that I had submitted a parking application back on Sept. 7 (today's date was already Sept. 20; date of appeal), that I was a good boy and that I had no bus service. Well, I do have bus service, but I told them, the nearest bus stop was 6 blocks from my house. Upon checking this I found that I lied; the distance was 8 blocks.

I am a lucky boy, because I can force myself to get up at 6:00 a.m. so I can find a spot along Saskatchewan Drive. I

notice this year a lot of no parking signs have taken up a good lot of parking space. Some colleagues of mine say that they get up at 7:00 a.m. and can still find parking along Windsor Drive (with only a nine block walk to classes). The rest of the surrounding zones are two hour zones and they are manned by the city police. They are on the ball.

Every two hours the city police pass by and chalk the car tires. If after two hours, the second chalk mark coincides with the first, you have won an instant ticket. Hint: Move your car every so often so the marks don't coincide and you can park all day.

The parking situation started to bother me so much, that I decided to see someone about it and get an inside story (besides I need my sleep).

I went to the Parking Office

in Printing Services and asked to see someone who could give me answers. The officer sent me to General Services, fourth floor. Here a receptionist, after much thought, decided to let me see Mr. Phillips. Mr Phillips' personal secretary told me that I could get fact and figures from him, but unfortunately Mr. Phillips told me that he had to attend a meeting at that time. So, he introduced me to Mr. Gordon Bulat, from the outplant operations.

Mr. Bulat said that there were about 5200 stalls available right now, but this number would be decreasing in the future.

Although buildings have been taking up campus space, Mr. Bulat says that provisions are constantly being made to keep the number of stalls relatively constant. For example: two large car parks have been built with the student

as the major occupant". Mr. Bulat also added that the land in the Garneau area (up to 110 St.) has been purchased by the University and all the old homes are being rented to the students. In the future, this land will make way for more parking and for student housing, which in Mr. Bulat's opinion will help ease the present burden.

Also in the future no cars may be needed at all.

The Household Economics building has provisions to run a subway under it (if the city ever gets going), with a station situated on the corner where Campus Towers is now.

well so much for the future, my problem is now. If it takes them as long to process my traffic violation appeal as it does to process my parking permit, I should have ample time to raise the five dollars.

