

Youth is showing dangerous tendencies...

The Gateway

Youth must be put to the test.
Mao Tse-Tung
born 1893, died 1976

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Gov't freeze leaves students out in cold

by Shawn McCarthy

Alberta's austerity program will delay construction of three university buildings for at least another year, the provincial government has announced.

University officials say at least three new buildings must be put up on campus to relieve over-crowding of existing facilities. Business Administration and Commerce, Agriculture and Forestry and Home Economics buildings are scheduled for construction.

However, Bert Hohol, advanced education minister, said last week the freeze on building capital to post-secondary institutions, which came into effect last year, will continue at least one more year.

Ron Phillips, vice president (plan-

ning and development) for the university says detailed plans for the three buildings are being completed.

But, he added, the tight money policies of the government have left the university with no alternative but to continue with present, inadequate facilities.

Phillips said basic operational funds will be forthcoming but the coming year will be a "no growth" period for the university.

The faculty of Agriculture is badly in need of new facilities, say university officials, and a \$12,000,000 Agriculture and Forestry center is planned.

John Bowland, Agriculture dean, described existing facilities as "scattered and completely inadequate." Eight departments in the faculty are

spread around the campus.

This situation causes a breakdown in the faculty's cohesiveness and a time-consuming run-around for the students, says Dr. Bowland.

Quotas have been considered to alleviate the over-crowding in the agriculture faculty. However, Dean Bowland pointed out that as the sole degree-granting institution in Agriculture in the province and the sole degree-granting institution in Forestry in the three prairie provinces, the University of Alberta has a major responsibility in these fields.

Dr. Peter Winters, commerce faculty associate dean, also complained of over-crowding in his faculty. The staff of the faculty has been working for five years to obtain new facilities to ease the over-

crowding, he said.

Despite protests by students concerning the location of the new building in the Arts Court, plans have been approved by university administration for a \$6,000,000 building to go up in front of Tory.

Although the university submitted a request for building capital in its 1977-78 budget, Dr. Hohol has stated that only minor, "reasonable" renovations would be allowed in 1977.

He stated, "practically every post-secondary institution in this province needs an addition to it" and said the government had to draw the line somewhere.

Hohol would not say when capital funding would again be made available.

Student guide may help professors

Students have already sunk \$8,000 into the first part of a course guide they may never see.

And even if they spend another \$7,000 to complete the guide, (which is intended as an honest evaluation of professors) professors may be the only ones to read it.

The Students' Union is asking the Board of Governors for \$10,000, which would only be used to offset the \$15,000 total (\$8,000 plus \$7,000). This money, however, would still not be enough to print copies of the guide for distribution to the student body.

Preparations for the 1976-77 guide began last spring, using student response to evaluate professors and courses at the U of A. Questionnaires were distributed to students at the end of the last university term to provide data for the guide. The additional \$7,000 would be used to collect data on first-term courses.

"Even then," Students' Union president Len Zoeteman says, "the guide would consist only of raw data on the professors' performances. If we wanted to bind the guide, and print enough copies for all students, it would cost another \$11,000."

But Zoeteman says his executive can't recommend such a move because SU finances this year are critically low. Administration costs alone within the Students' Union are \$220,000.

"Even with the \$10,000 grant from the Board of Governors, we would end up \$5,000 in debt," says Zoeteman, "but it's better than \$15,000 or \$26,000 in the hole."

The Students' Union hopes to produce any future course guides in cooperation - both financially and administratively - with the university.

Survey won't move gov't unless...

Only 800 questionnaires for a housing survey have been returned to the Students' Union Housing Registry and the SU housing director says he's worried the response will not be enough to get any action from the provincial government.

The Alberta government released a housing study this summer saying no provincial housing policy could be formed until further information about student housing preferences was provided.

Student officials at the U of A decided that a survey, distributed with this year's registration, would collect enough information on student preferences to move the government into action.

But the poor response thus far, has negated any effect the survey might have had, says housing director Harald Kuckertz.

And he adds, unless another three or four thousand questionnaires are returned, the SU will not make a presentation to the provincial government.

Kuckertz asked anyone who has not filled out a questionnaire to pick one up from the information desk in SUB or the Housing Registry office, room 280 SUB. The forms can be returned at any campus library, Lister Hall, or the registry office.

Frosh literacy doesn't improve with age

by Lindsay Brown

This year the university's English dept. is determined to "have words" with freshman students before it's too late.

Increasing student illiteracy has led the department's Writing Workshop to offer a series of in-class lectures designed to help students before they fail their first essay or their first class.

Co-ordinator Kay Stewart says she hopes the lectures, provided only at the individual professor's request, will offer

aid to students with mild writing difficulties.

Those students needing further instruction are eligible for free, individual tutoring from the Workshop's part-time staff of seven.

"Many students seem to be coming to university inadequately equipped to do the kind of writing expected of them," Dr. Stewart said in an interview.

There are a number of reasons for this weakness, she said, but one fact speaks for itself. "According to a province-wide survey, seventy per cent

of language arts teachers in the public school system have had no more than a first-year course in English.

"School boards must recognize that a person is not qualified to teach English simply because he can speak it," she said.

The lectures and tutoring will be offered only to students in first-year English classes, and only to those students for whom English is a first language.

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\$733,000 170-foot addition to the university power plant.

In 1973, the university was ordered by the provincial government's department of environment to change its power plant smokestack because of the high concentrations of nitrogen oxides being emitted. This summer, the university put this 170-foot stack into position at the plant, south of the Jubilee Auditorium, at a cost of \$733,000. Work is expected to be completed by Sept. 30.