

Firestone's Law of Forecasting:

# The Gateway

Chicken Little only has to be right once.

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The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

## University sees enrollment slide

by Roberta Franchuk

Fewer students are attending the University of Alberta.

The latest 1988 enrollment figures show both full-time and part-time enrollment has dropped from 1987 levels, said registrar Brian Silzer.

As of September 14, only 25,153 full-time students had registered. This is a drop of 2.7 percent from last year.

Part-time students numbered 3,614, down 9.2 percent from 1987.

The enrollment decrease follows the imposition of a 70 percent high school average for admission, made by the University's board of governors last year and effective this September. The increased admission standards were expected to lead to an enrollment drop of about 700 students, said Silzer.

The actual full-time decrease was 697 students, so "it seems that the strategy of containing our enrollment has been successful," he said.

He pointed out, however, that the character of the enrollment drop is also significant.

"We've experienced a larger decline in new students (high school and transfer enrollments), and a higher participation rate of returning and continuing students," he said. "There are fewer 'stop-outs,' or students who interrupt their education and con-

tinue at a later time.

The three largest faculties: Arts, Science, and Education, all experienced a significant decrease in enrollment, accounting for almost all of the total difference.

Other faculties showed less significant decreases, but Silzer noted

an "interesting" effect in Engineering. The faculty failed to fill its quota of students, with only 1,987 registrants, compared to 2,148 last year.

This decrease is "tied to the prevailing economic conditions and the cyclical nature of enroll-

ment in Engineering," said Silzer, adding this type of decrease had been seen in the faculty in the past.

The campus-wide enrollment decrease looks "tailor-made" for the University's goal of a total enrollment of 25,000 by 1997,

Silzer said, but he is reluctant to predict whether numbers will continue to drop.

When admission levels were raised from 60 percent to 65 percent in 1984, the University "experienced a small dip, followed by a surge in enrollment," noted Silzer. "A number of indicators point to the possibility of a similar increase next year.

"A lot of things can happen," said Silzer.



Rob Galbraith

Nice legs, uh... Lisa? Business students Lisa and Geoff Badger sun-worship this past week outside Tory.

## Student Help stressed

by Rosa Jackson

The Students' Union Student Help organization anticipates problems this year due to a \$100,000 cut in Student Counselling's budget.

This was only one of many cutbacks made to services at the University of Alberta this year, according to Dr. Peter Meekison, Vice President Academic. "The University was in great financial difficulty," he said. "We had to look at everything across the board, and this was one of the places where we felt money could be cut back without affecting the quality of service."

Staff at Student Counselling, however, are concerned about the reduction in funds. In July, two of its five support staff lost their positions. "It's kind of devastating in terms of morale", said director Allen Vander Well,

He described the cutback as "very significant . . . proportionately, it's outlandish."

"I realize the university is under the gun," said Vander Well. However, he stressed that he has "strong feelings about meeting students' needs."

"The University has returned some of the money in so-called 'soft funds', which means that we can hire back students. But then we have to spend more time

supervising them."

Although at this stage of the year it's difficult to tell what the effects of reduced service will be at Student Counselling, it seems that students with serious, long-term difficulties will suffer. "If it's a major problem, we're not qualified to handle it," said Karly Astley of Student Help. "We use (Student Counselling) a lot for referral. It's always been hard to get into Student Counselling, but now it will be even harder."

"Student Help is a really useful service", said Vander Well. They offer [students] someone to talk to; a friendship, a space where they can go. Student Counselling HELP — p 2



Dragos Ruiu

Student Help volunteer Michelle Fillon prepares for another season. The service expects a hectic year.

## Bicycle corral pending

by Geoff Haynes

A recent outbreak of bicycle thefts on campus has prompted Parking Services to offer secure parking space for bicycles on a trial basis.

A small portion of the Education Car Park has already been enclosed by a chain link fence to accommodate two bicycle racks, for a total capacity of 24 bicycles.

According to Allen Mah, Parking Manager, spaces will be leased for \$5 per month or \$25 per year, beginning next week. Cyclists will be issued a key to the

padlock on the gate to the enclosure. The special padlock will have a special safety feature, making it impossible for anyone to leave it unlocked. However, Mah added that cyclists may wish to bring an additional bicycle lock for double protection.

Although the number of spaces currently available is quite low, more will be made available in different locations across campus if there is enough response. Anyone interested in reserving space can contact Parking Services at 432-3811.

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