

WPC, an educational, informative service for women

One of the services that is provided on campus free for students is the Women's Program Centre.

The WPC is an organization which attempts to provide an educational and informational service regarding the role, status, history and struggle of women in society.

The Centre has been in operation since 1972 and is based on the University of Alberta campus. There is an office in room 276, Students' Union Building where people are welcome to drop in for information, conversation or to use the small library which consists of books, newspapers, magazines and tapes.

The Centre will also provide speakers upon request. At least once or twice a year the WPC organizes a series of discussions and presentations on topics relevant to women's status which are open to all members of the public either free or at a minimal charge.



Karen Rowswell, a member of WPC, talks to Gateway staffer.

photo by Ken Turner

Unfortunately, it is not possible to have consistent office hours due to the voluntary nature of the membership but

office hours are posted periodically.

Membership in the Centre is open to any woman; there is no

membership fee. In order to comply with Student Union regulations there are two signing officers who must be students at

the University of Alberta but there are no other official positions. These two persons have no authority or power over other members of the organization.

Decisions and plans are made by consensus and attempts are made to be as democratic as possible. At present half the membership are students and the other half are women who work either outside the home for a wage or inside the home without one. New members are always welcome. The address of the WPC is: Women's Programme Centre, Room 276, Students' Union Building, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta. Telephone: 432-1190.

Due to late arrival, the National Film Theatre/Edmonton has re-scheduled the showing of Antonioni's *IL DESERTO ROSSO/RED DESERT* for Wednesday, September 25 at 8 p.m.

The film will be shown at the Central Edmonton Public Library Theatre.

After 5 years Students' Help still basically the same

Among the many services that are available on campus, one of the most active is Students Help. However, one of the major problems now facing Student Help is the enabling of a greater number of students to become aware of its existing services.

Students Help was created in 1970 by a group of students at the University of Alberta to meet the needs of the students in a project that was preceded by only one other Canadian university.

Now in its fifth year of operation, the basic functions and goals have changed little. It is an information and crisis centre that deals with approximately 3000 individuals per year.

Assistance offered may include help with emotional, academic or financial problems, information on city and campus services, clubs and events, or people who simply want to talk for awhile.

Students Help is not a professional organization and hence does not offer professional counselling or advice, but instead focuses on a joint exploration of a problem and subsequently on a joint exploration of the possible alternatives, placing the onus upon the caller to help himself.

However, the maintenance of an extensive resource network of city and campus services enables immediate referrals and information to be provided when necessary.

There is no charge for any of these services and all calls are kept confidential. A casual non-threatening atmosphere is fostered and anonymity is preserved if the caller does not wish to identify himself.

The Student Help office is situated on the second floor of the Students Union Building on the University of Alberta campus and has three telephones through which most of the contact is initiated with an adjoining drop-in center shared with Legal Aid.

A 'Flying Squad' has also been recently formed which consists of two staff members available on call who are willing to go out to those callers who require the immediate presence of another, but who are unable to or refuse to come to the Students Help office. Drug calls have been included among these.

Although funded by University grants, there is no formal liaison between Students

Help and any other organization that offers similar services. The staff consist of a director, an assistant director, and thirty-five additional volunteers, primarily University student from a diverse number of faculties (psychology, sociology, and education predominate) and from all levels of study.

At present, Students Help operates only from September through April and the hours are from 1 p.m. to midnight during the week and from 7 p.m. to midnight on weekends.

Each volunteer works one four to five hour shift per week and each shift is staffed by two people, one male and one female.

Maintaining two people on each shift provides support and aid for both members, allows two individuals to be dealt with simultaneously, and occasionally a caller will specify one particular sex that they wish to speak with.

Before becoming a member of Students Help, each volunteer is interviewed by three designated staff members and evaluated for such qualities as empathy, maturity and tolerance

of other values and beliefs that differ from their own. If deemed suitable they are then placed with experienced staff in their beginning shifts until becoming familiar with the office resources and experiencing a number of calls.

In addition, ongoing training sessions are implemented which include office orientation,

role-playing, sensitivity training and telephone techniques. Seminars on relevant topics are also held and both of these areas utilize professional people for guidance and evaluation. Regular staff meetings enable opportunity for discussion, grievances to be voiced and function to facilitate cohesiveness.



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FEES DUE

by September 30

The last day for payment of fees is September 30th. If a student is paying by instalments (terms), the last date for payment of First Term fees is September 30 and of Second Term fees January 15.

A penalty of \$15 will be charged on any payment made or postmarked after these dates. If payment has not been made by October 15 for First Term fees and by January 31 for Second Term fees, registration will be subject to cancellation and the student to exclusion from classes.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section G of the Registration Procedures booklet.

Students in the faculty of Graduate Studies and Research are reminded that their fees are to be paid by the date indicated on their fee assessment notice which is to be mailed to them after confirmation of registration.

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