

The Gateway



The Golden Bears beat the Czechs to win the Viking Cup.

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CUSEC restructuring

by Ken Bosman

The two year old Canadian Universities Student Executive Council, co-founded by the U of A, will finally have an organized structure if the U of A Students' Union gets its way.

"We need a mechanism for nominating people to federal committees, we need some way for the

federal government to get a hold of us," said Paul LaGrange, SU VP External.

LaGrange, along with SU President Tim Boston, will be attending the CUSEC conference January 9 at the University of Western Ontario.

"The Secretary of State (the office of Federal Cabinet minister David Crombie) has indicated that they would be delighted to consider us for membership on advisory boards if we tighten up our structure," said LaGrange.

"At some point we're going to have to set up an office," said Boston. "We need a formal structure."

A major problem with CUSEC has been its informal structure, where membership changed from meeting to meeting of the organization, said LaGrange.

Opposition to a formal structure for CUSEC is expected to come from Western.

"They are afraid of the costs," said LaGrange. "They are worried that this thing might grow and cost them tens of thousands a year."

Schools expected to attend the CUSEC conference include UBC, Toronto, Calgary, McGill, Carleton, McMaster and Queen's.

"We're hoping for a lot more big Ontario schools," said LaGrange.



VP External Paul LaGrange



photo by Bob Gibbons

Lynda Somerville leads her Harry Ainlay high school class through an English lesson.

Schools fail in English?

by Rod Campbell

Basic writing skills are not being adequately taught in the province's school system, says Dr. Linda Woodbridge, chairman of the English department at the U of A.

"There are a lot of people out there, like the gym teacher, who are asked to teach English. They are not very prepared. They don't know anything about the teaching of writing," says Woodbridge.

"One thing that frustrates us is we are not able to do as much University level work as we should because an enormous amount of time is taken up straightening out things that should have been done before students got here."

Canada, unlike the US, does not

have a teacher subject certification. Schools can employ teachers to teach any subject regardless of their specialization.

Woodbridge feels that the quality of English taught in schools is partially responsible for the high number of students failing the Writing Competence Test.

Since 1983, forty per cent of those tested have failed the WCT on their first attempt.

The WCT is used to evaluate the writing skills of students so that remedial work can be recommended if necessary.

Dr. Mary Jo Williams, a professional development coordinator with the Alberta Teachers Association, does not share Woodbridge's views.

"The [English] curriculum as it is laid down by the Department of Education is very adequately taught," says Williams.

"[It] is designed for all students not just those who are University bound."

"Does she [Woodbridge] want every kid coming out of grade twelve to be able to write a first year university paper? I disagree with

that concept. The schools cater to everyone, whereas the university has what could be considered an elite group."

Despite criticizing the calibre of English taught in schools, Woodbridge concedes that definite improvements have been made in the last few years.

She also feels that the blame does not lie entirely with the teachers. The University could accept some of the responsibility, she says.

"The least we can do here is for more departments to get involved to teach their own students how to write."

"The Faculty of Education could introduce courses to teach teachers how to teach writing."

Up until last year Education students at the U of A could receive their degree without taking a single English course. Now they must take at least one.

Dale Nagel, Students' Union VP Academic, also feels the University has a part to play: "These kids are coming here in first year with the lack of ability to write. Why can't

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Pipes, glass mark building

by Heather Richardson

Anyone making the journey across campus to the Health Sciences Centre will have noticed a new building taking shape. This new and unusual structure will meet the need of the Heritage Medical Research Foundation for a single unit to house their various research projects.

There are two buildings in this project. The one nearing completion is the Heritage Medical Research Building, and its twin beside it will be the Heritage Clinical Research Building.

The two were designed by the Woolfenden Group and there is a purpose for the strange structure. A. Palmer of Planning & Development explained that since the buildings will contain laboratories, the service conduits for plumbing, electricity, and communications are in the perimeter, between the inner wall and the glass outer wall. This facilitates easy access for maintenance and allows easy changes. Having the services around the labs will reduce interruptions in the labor-

atory proper while work is being done.

The construction costs of the Heritage Medical Research Building will be about \$22 million. This cost includes the passageway to the Health Sciences Centre, but does not include any plans for parking. The funds for the building come from the Heritage Medical Research Foundation.

There are already three groups booked to move in: a lipid and lipoprotein research group, a cardiovascular disease group and a rehabilitative neuroscience group. The building will be finished in the new year but not ready for occupation until September of 1988. The second building's projected completion date will be in 1989.



photo by Keith Zukowski

The Heritage Medical Research Building... the pipes are there for a reason

Campus Xmas robberies

by Roberta Franchuk

Two Students' Union businesses were robbed over the Christmas holidays.

Dewey's in HUB Mall and L'Express in SUB both had deposits removed from their safes. Dewey's lost \$1300 and L'Express lost \$6500, according to SU Business Manager Tom Wright.

The Dewey's theft took place on Dec. 17 or 18, said Wright. The theft at L'Express could have occurred any time between Dec. 11, when the business closed for renovations, and Dec. 22.

"The safes were opened with keys," said Wright. "They weren't pried open." There is only one key

to each safe, he said, but a number of people were in charge of closing the restaurant and knew where the key was.

The thief or thieves took the deposits, said Wright, but left the "float" — the small bills and coins used to make change.

Campus Security has turned over the case to city police, who are investigating. Wright is hopeful that an arrest will be made.

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. That is the principle difference between a dog and a man.

Mark Twain