

Dragos Ruiu

Education students Bob Morter and Susan Ghali took turns wheeling each other around campus Friday afternoon in the Education Wheelchair Rally. Racing from station to station, four teams of students made their way through snow, slush and crowded corridors to put themselves to skilltesting tasks such as finding wheel access to HUB Mall to raise awareness to the day to day problems that confront disabled students on campus.

Students going underground

by Kisa Mortenson

Faster than a speeding bullet, Light Rail Transit (LRT) is coming to the University of Alberta.

The LRT will reach the U of A in 1992, said Aruna D'Souza, Housing and Transport Commissioner.

The LRT will travel on a bridge across the North Saskatchewan River, go under the U of A, and have depot entrances at HUB and the Education Building. It will link the LRT from across the river to the south side and connect with major LRT routes.

The LRT U of A connection is a city funded project in which the U of A helps in planning and design. The Students' Union does studies and provides a "fair amount of input" into the project, says D'Souza.

D'Souza is proposing a discount pass for students during off-peak hours. The proposal will be into city council by April 1.

The LRT schedule is unknown at this time but D'Souza said "students can count on a lot more time effective travelling."

Interpreters strengthen links for deaf

by Mario Trono

The world of a hearing impaired person is one of silence and solitude, but well-trained interpreters can do much towards improving a deaf person's situation.

Dr. Jerome Schein, an internationally known scholar of deafness research, plans to develop a program to train interpreters for the deaf at the University of Alberta.

Schein conducted the first independent study of the deaf population in the United States and established the National Interpretive Training Consortium, a body that increased the number of interpreters in the U.S. from 500 to over 3,000.

"Typically you find someone who is an expert in the field and simply ask them to teach others what they know," said Schein. "This has worked all right in the past, but for the long term a program containing the collective

wisdom of deaf research would be better."

Besides becoming fluent in sign language and developing an intrinsic understanding of the problems deaf persons face, an interpreter must be well-grounded in ethics.

"Most people tend to think of interpreters in the most visible, public sense such as those who interpret in court or on the shows of some fundamentalist ministers. But an interpreter may have to relay results of medical examinations, tax information and so on. This can be sensitive information."

Cynthia Pearson, an educational interpreter at the Disabled Student Services Office, also emphasizes proper training of those who would be intermediaries for the deaf.

"The main problem for hearing impaired persons goes beyond the actual physical disability. The deaf can miss out on tremendous

amounts of social information. This is where the role of the interpreter becomes so important and the necessity for good training becomes obvious."

Schein will also be conducting demographic research to find out more information about the deaf throughout Canada such as their age and gender.

"I would like to learn as much as I can about what goes on in Canada in regards to interpreting and hopefully I can leave something of use behind."

Fifteen approved interpreters at the U of A are enough to insure that the deaf on campus have strong links to the world around them.

There are twelve full and part-time deaf students at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels, five in evening extension courses, and five University staff who require interpreters.

Anglo student chats in Chinese

by Wanda SzeTo

Andrew and Frances sit and hold hands at the corner of the business building at the University of Alberta.

They will surprise you because the naturally blond-haired Andrew "always speaks Cantonese" with his pretty Chinese girl friend.

Andrew Dawrant, 17, is a native English Canadian speaker. He has spoken Chinese for two and a half years. He also is the first English Canadian to sit in the classes of Chinese 311 and 321 (the senior Chinese courses offered only to native Chinese speakers at the University.)

With such a spectacular ability to speak Chinese, Andrew is asked what he wants to be in the future.

"I want to be happy," he says. "Do you want to work for the government as a Canadian-Chinese ambassador?" the reporter asks. "No," he says, "I am not a very diplomatic person at all. Believe me!" He says he may want to be a translator.

Andrew's interest in Chinese began in September of 1986. "I got a part-time job in the Bilingual Montessori Learning Centre," he recalls. In the centre, there were a lot of Chinese kids.

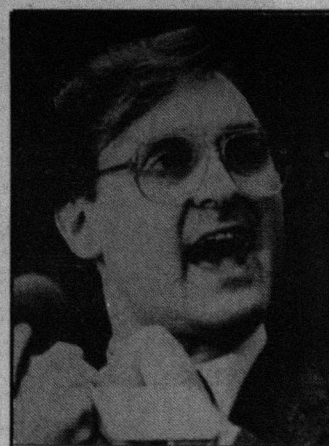
"The kids taught me how to speak Chinese," he says. "After I had worked there for one year... then I said 'hey! it was fun. Why don't I go to see what Hong Kong looks like?' So, I did buy a plane

ticket (to Hong Kong)," he says.

Frances, Andrew's Chinese girlfriend, occasionally gets into the conversation with a nice smile on her face. She gives Andrew a spoonful of rice. Andrew opens his mouth and tells Frances that "the rice is hot."

Andrew sang for the Edmonton Chinese television stations three times. "My favourite singer is me," he smiles and says. He reads Chinese magazines, books and newspapers. He says, "I read Tom Sawyer in Chinese."

Now, Andrew puts Chinese as his major at university, and he also works on the executive of the Chinese Student Drama Association at the university.



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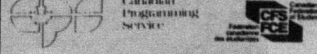
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