

Museums Association protests closure

by Pat Kiernan

With the cancellation of the Timms Collection Centre project, the University has passed up "a prime opportunity," according to the executive director of the Alberta Museums Association.

Adriana Davies said the centre would have "allowed specialists at the University to demonstrate the quality of the work that they're doing to the whole of the community."

The Timms Centre was intended both as a museum and as a facility to do research about the extensive university archives. Particularly disappointed with the cancellation was the faculty of Home Economics. Professor Anne Lambert, curator of the clothing and textiles collection, said the centre was supposed to replace quarters "that have been temporary for several decades."

The president of the association has written to university President Paul Davenport, asking to meet to discuss the surprise cancellation of the centre.

Davies believes the University has a duty to provide public access

to many of its archives. She said, "many of the collections are held in trust for the people of Alberta." The Timms Centre, she said, would allow the University to properly care for its collections, while at the same time accommodate public display.

The Timms project was cancelled because bids for the design came in \$4.5 million higher than the amount budgeted. Davies is surprised that the project was dropped without exploring other funding options.

"I don't know about the politics of the decision," said Davies, "but in a project where the majority of funding was in place, it seems very strange indeed to cancel it when they could have obtained other funds."

Davies isn't sure what — if anything — can be done to save the collections centre. "All we can do is let President Davenport know that the decision has a very negative impact he may not have been aware of."

The Museum Association had looked forward to the completion of the Timms Centre as the first step

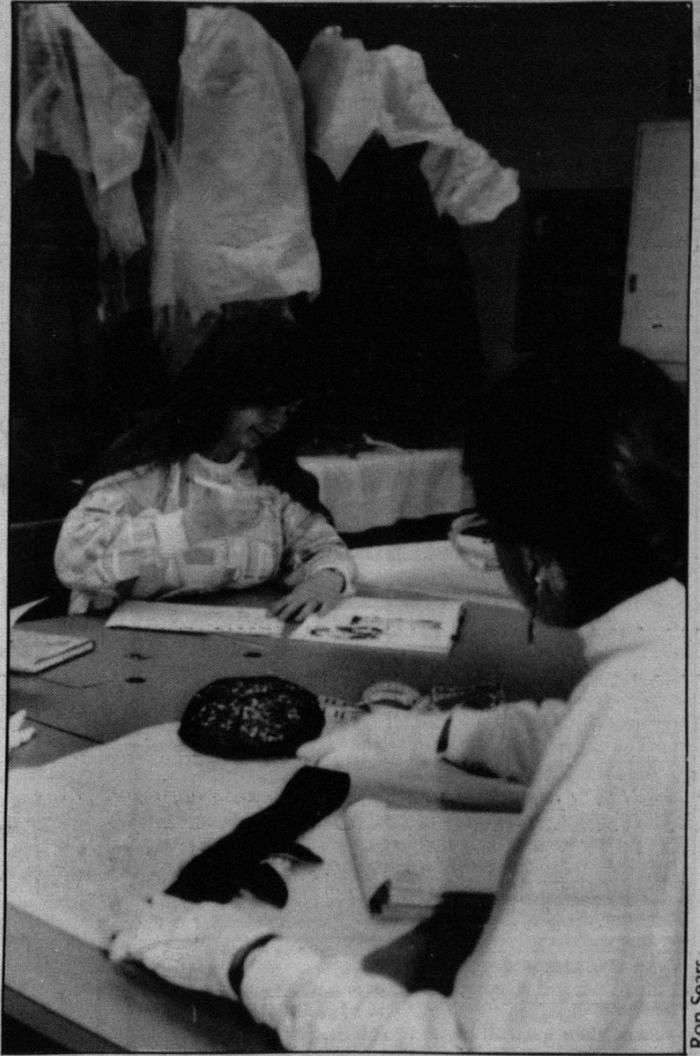
toward establishing an undergraduate program in museology. Davies says the museum community in Alberta is rapidly growing, yet the only training in Canada is offered through the University of Toronto.

Davies said the University has "lost out on an opportunity to advance learning" through the facilities of the Timms Centre. "We had been counting on it."

The collections centre was to have been built using money donated to the University by wealthy farmer Alfred Timms. A new building will still be named in his honor, but it may not be intended to house the university archives.

Faculties like Home Economics are still hoping that some type of scaled down collections centre will be built on the 87th Avenue site. But other groups, like the Drama department, are hoping to use the Timms donation to get new facilities for themselves.

Davies said it's a shame to see one group pitted against another. "It's a shame if the University allows those kind of politics to prevail."



The 25,000 costumes stored in the basement of the Home Economics building won't be making the move into a new collections centre.

Ron Sears

Chaplains focus on El Salvador

by Lisa Hall

Members from the U of A chaplains' association have joined forces with a local campaign to bring awareness to the problems of the people of El Salvador.

The Project Exodus campaign was launched to obtain support for the 10,000 Salvadorans who left their country, fleeing from political violence. These refugees have lived outside El Salvador, in Honduras, for many years now, while the civil war which has already killed 70,000 continues.

Project Exodus' priority was to help these people return safely to their country. But the group's focus has changed somewhat because of recent developments in El Salvador, and this is also where the U of A's Lutheran ministry has become involved.

In an attack last week on a Catholic university in San Salvador, six Jesuit priests were brutally killed, while several Lutheran church workers were taken from the mission where they were working, jailed, but then later released.

"We want to make people aware of the current situation," said Gustavo Zayos, the coordinator of Project Exodus. He wants people to realize that extremists armed with heavy artillery "are going through populated neighbourhoods killing many civilians."

David Lee-Thompson of the campus Lutheran ministry strongly objected to the killing and also to the harassment of the church workers who are trying to help the country.

Lee-Thompson and Zayos had a display in SUB on Friday, where

they were handing out literature and encouraging people "to write a letter to an MP or to External Affairs minister Joe Clark expressing concern for the situation." They said that they would likely have more displays as well.

Both wanted to bring attention to the incidents at the University to show students and administration how the people of the learning institution in El Salvador are mistreated. "One rector that was killed there was the highest university official," said Zayos.

Zayos believes that the Salvadoran government, trying to eliminate those who are fighting against it, has been responsible for the brutal actions. "The people they kill are people working and expressing opinions about how to solve the problems."

SU concerned about newspaper

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Tupper felt the concern was unanimous around the University for the paper's content. He said that even though there was a disclaimer in the paper saying it was only for the use of engineering students, "The paper has the name of the University on the front page and it

reflects badly on the U of A."

Tupper could not speculate what action, if any, could be taken against the ESS, but said that this decision would be tempered by the fact that the organization has been cooperative in agreeing to make sure incidents such as this do not happen again.

Any action by the SU would be

separate of that from the results of the university hearing. Dean Miller said that the hearing could be held quite soon, with both the complainants and defendants involved. He said if it was decided that situation warranted some sort of penalty against the ESS, this could include "reprimand, fines, or deregistration of the club."

Spring vote on awards

by Greg Pommen

The next student referendum question, to be posed this spring, will revolve around a proposal to increase student fees by fifty cents a semester. The increase would go to creating a fund for Students' Union scholarships. Currently, all scholarships must be covered by money diverted from the SU budget.

Students' Union V.P. academic Suresh Mustapha explains that all scholarships are currently at the whim of budget constraints. The new fund would be able to provide for all current scholarships plus number of scholarships to students involved in clubs, athletics, volunteerism, and leadership on campus. The scholarships are somewhat unique in that academic achieve-

ment is not a criterion for them. The new fund would allow expansion of these scholarships.

In the past, the SU has attempted some additional ones as the fund grows. The SU hopes to have \$100,000 in the fund within four years, at which time the interest alone will be able to provide the \$14,000 necessary for all scholarships currently offered.

The SU presently offers a limited to drum up corporate sponsorship but the response has not been enthusiastic. It is the hope of the SU that the fund, if approved, would show student commitment to scholarships. Mustapha says, "The proposed question would allow students to decide if the fund is worthwhile to them."

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