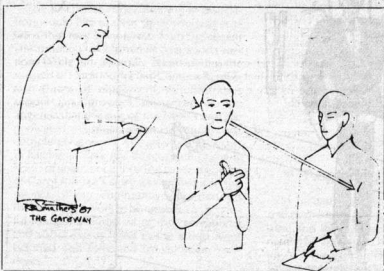


Student life in a silent world

by Heidi Janz

As students, most of us spend a lot of time listening. We sit in classrooms for hours listening to lectures; we listen in horror as profs give us MORE assignments; we listen to friends gripe about how much work they have to do, and we listen to ourselves telling friends how light their workload is compared to ours. Even though listening is such an integral part of a student's life, there are a few students at U of A who will go through university never hearing a sound. There is a silent education.

At the present time, there are approximately seven profoundly deaf students, along with many more hard-of-hearing students, attending U of A. Cathy Kruger, a graduate student in Special Psychology, is one of them.



Kruger, who is profoundly deaf and communicates mainly through a sign language interpreter, received her Bachelor's degree in Home Economics from Gualadat University in 1982 and then went on to graduate school. In 1984, she decided to transfer to U of A.

"The major adjustment that I had to make when I came to U of A was getting used to the hearing culture at this university," said Kruger. "At Gualadat University, I wasn't required to use an interpreter be-

cause the students were deaf and most of the teachers used sign language. Here, at the University of Alberta, they don't."

Kruger said that, in general, the reaction of professors and students to her special needs, such as having an interpreter in class, has been very positive.

According to Debbie Russell of Disabled Student Services, most professors and students are very cooperative when it comes to meeting the needs of deaf students and react positively to having a deaf student with an interpreter in their class.

"In the initial stages, a few professors were, perhaps, a bit nervous about having a sign language interpreter in the classroom—suggesting that it might take away from the attention that students need to pay

ject of the lecture and is then able to interpret that lecture in sign language as well as interpreting sign language into English when the student wishes to participate actively in the class. In this way, the interpreter acts as a neutral bond between the student and the educational environment.

In addition to interpretation services, the University of Alberta provides a variety of services for deaf students through the Office of Disabled Student Services. These services include providing two volunteer note-takers for each class, providing tutorial services when needed and arranging the interpretation of those tutorials, as well as the use of a TDD phone which allows deaf students to relay taped messages over phone lines. Like all other disabled students, deaf students also have access to the computer equipment in the Disabled Student Services office.

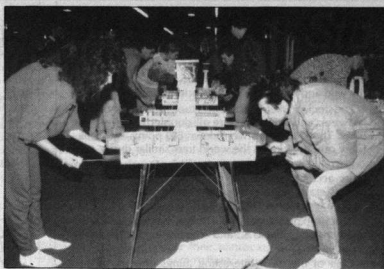
Both Kruger and Russell feel that socialization is one of the most difficult aspects of university life for a deaf student attending a regular university. Like most deaf students, Kruger finds that her social life is mainly centered off campus, within the deaf community.

"Because not very many students know sign language, communication is difficult; and without communication, it's hard to socialize," explained Russell.

Although communication barriers are the greatest problem that deaf students at U of A have to contend with, some very positive steps have been taken toward breaking down these barriers. For the past three semesters, Disabled Student Services has offered a non-credit, twelve-week course in conversational sign language for students who want to learn sign as a second language. What makes this course particularly effective is the fact that all of the instructors are deaf.

"We've had a tremendous demand for the course ever since we've had deaf students with interpreters on campus," Russell stated. "In the past we've only had one class, but the demand has been enough that we have two right now."

Anyone interested in taking the conversational sign language course in January can call Disabled Student Services at 432-3381.



Competitors twist off in Presidents challenge

Charity twist hockey at U of A

The second annual Coleco Twist Hockey Challenge is underway again.

University staff participated in the President's challenge October 23 in CAB, and further challenges will be held before the actual event. The clubs challenge, for all registered U of A clubs, will be held November 3 in the Education building.

The first round of the tourna-

ment will be held November 15 in the Butterdome. Finalists will play off at West Edmonton Mall November 28.

The event is organized by the Young Executives Club. Proceeds will go to the Rick Hansen Centre on campus.

Tickets are \$10 and will be available at BASS and around the university.



This Gateway party is great, isn't it?
Yes, but I'm tired — let's grab a cab.
Gateway staff party November 6
4 pm Room 034 SUB. All welcome

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Mallabar will award a Ghetto Blaster for the best costume of the evening and, in addition, will give a 10% discount on all Halloween products to U of A students with a valid I.D.