

# The Gateway

The University of Alberta Students' Newspaper Since 1910

## INSIDE:

The return of Robo Ralph — back page

Frisbee comes to the U of A — pp 2, 14

## Fifteen million intended for Faculte

by Randal Smathers

The Faculte St. Jean may finally receive the funding they have been seeking to renovate their campus. Negotiations are currently underway between the federal and provincial governments on a cost-sharing program which would result in the Faculte receiving up to 15 million dollars in aid.

The money would be part of a joint initiative between Alberta Advanced Education and the Federal Secretary of State's committee for official languages in education.

According to Wade Deisman, SU vice-president external, the Edmonton caucus of Conservative M.P.s indicated to him at a recent meeting that funding in the 15 million dollar range is imminent.

The process began last year, with a request from Advanced Education to Alberta's universities for an outline of the costs of increasing the number of French teachers in the province. The Faculte, along with the faculties of education at the U of A, Calgary, and Lethbridge, submitted a proposal which would have doubled the capacity for French-language education graduates at the Faculte, from 60 to 120. Calgary was also to have doubled its graduate output to 70, while Lethbridge and the U of Alberta education faculties would hold steady at 16 and 24 places, respectively. The Faculte also unveiled, in December 1988, a "Long Range Development Plan" for the Faculte.

The development plan, while not quoting dollar figures, is very similar to an Advanced Education working paper which mentioned a figure of 16 million dollars to completely renovate the Faculte.

Any renovations would almost certainly include a complete renewal of the main building and the residence, and the working paper on the Faculte also lists a student centre, theatre and sports facilities, the Pavilion Daridon, and parking as renovation items included in the 16 million dollars. However, Dr. Brent Pickard, director of the Special Programs Branch of the Ministry of Advanced Education, said that in

any list of priorities, "it is more important to build new chemistry labs" than new recreational facilities.

Dr. Jean-Antoine Bour, Dean of the Faculte St. Jean, said that the proposal which resulted from the development plan did not, to the best of his knowledge, make it as far as the Minister of Advanced Education, who at that time was David Russell, but instead was stalled in the bureaucracy, below ministerial level.

It is unclear how the process was re-started, but talks are once again underway between the two levels of government. Pickard was in Ottawa earlier this month to meet with Laurencelle Ubald, of the Secretary of State department. A federal spokesman would neither confirm nor deny that the Faculte was on the agenda, but she did say that such a funding request would fall under the auspices of Ubald's office, and she did confirm that the Secretariate was aware of a proposal to increase French-language teacher training capability in the province of Alberta.

Dr. Pickard, while refusing to comment on specifics, did confirm that "preliminary" talks are underway for funding the Faculte. He also said that until such time as the Faculte becomes one of the University's top priorities, any government funding was unlikely. "It is

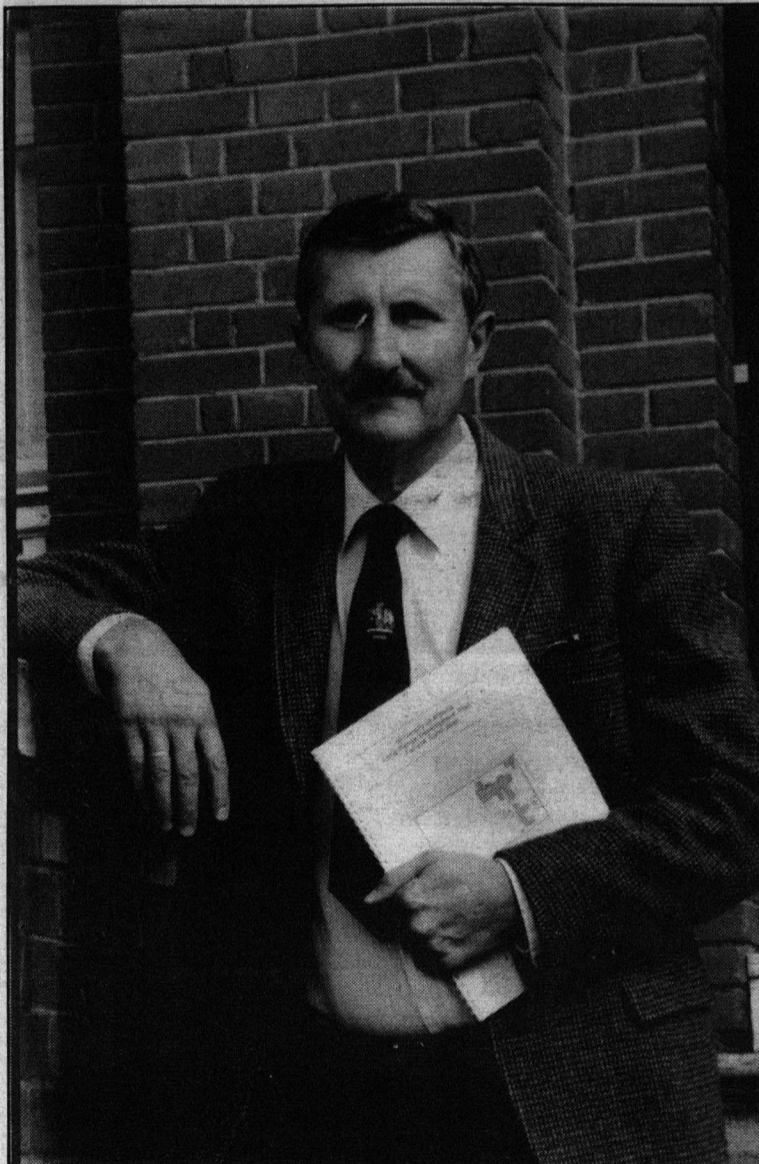
somewhere between one and 99," he said, "but closer to one."

Dr. Allan Rennie, Associate Vice-President Finance of the University, confirmed that libraries are the number one priority for the University, but that this policy, four or five years old, is due for re-examination this fall. The capital requests policy is determined by a sub-committee of the Planning and Priorities Committee (PPC) of the University.

Students' Union president David Tupper is the SU representative on PPC, and he said that while there have been delays in the process, they have been "pretty typical" of any item working through a bureaucracy. "Any lobby takes years," he said, adding that the changeover from Russell to current minister John Gogo probably slowed the process as well.

From a University standpoint, the Faculte proposal has been tied to the overall residence situation, which may have also slowed its recognition as a priority. "There are some faculty who are dubious of the value of residences," said Deisman, but he feels that the "grass roots" support for the residences is strong enough to ensure they will become an Administration priority.

Once that happens, the way will be opened for the Faculte funding proposal to go through.



Ron Sears

Dr. Jean-Antoine Bour, Dean of the Faculte St. Jean, with a copy of the \$16 million development plan. The plan is the blueprint for current talks on the Faculte St. Jean.

## A step to cheap buses

by Dawn Lerohl

The Students' Union took a large step towards a reduced monthly student bus pass on Wednesday.

The Intercampus Lobby Committee, established this summer to implement a discounted monthly student bus pass, met on Wednesday with the general manager of Edmonton Transit, Greg Latham, to discuss the implementation of the proposed bus pass.

"We have a commitment from Edmonton Transit and Edmonton Caucus of Post Secondary Institutes to implement a monthly students bus pass," said Wade Deisman, Students' Union V.P. external.

"Nothing is final, but I have a good feeling that it (the monthly

bus pass) is quite feasible," said Latham. "However, we want to do research on student transit use first."

Presently, the only reduced pass for post-secondary students is the Student Saver Pass for \$137 valid for four months. This amounts to a discount of 10 per cent.

The proposed bus pass would cost \$32 per month, which amounts to a reduction of 15 per cent. This is a joint effort involving all post-secondary campuses in Edmonton.

"We all agree that the current student pack isn't doing what it was intended to do," said Latham.

"I would hope it would be in by January," said Latham.

by Dawn Lerohl

Wow. This year's week of welcome dance may break even financially.

We are "budgeted to break even," said Aruna D'Souza, Students' Union V.P. internal, "we are waiting for all the final bills to come in."

"To be very conservative, we're in much better shape this year," said Peter Chu V.P. finance.

Last year, the Freshman Introduction Week lost \$16,492.

"We lost so much money because of the dance. It was only two dollars and we had some really good bands," said Chu. He adds that "this year's \$5 helped out with the expenditures."

"We've learned from past experiences. Beer sales shut down an hour earlier at the dance last year than this year," said Chu.

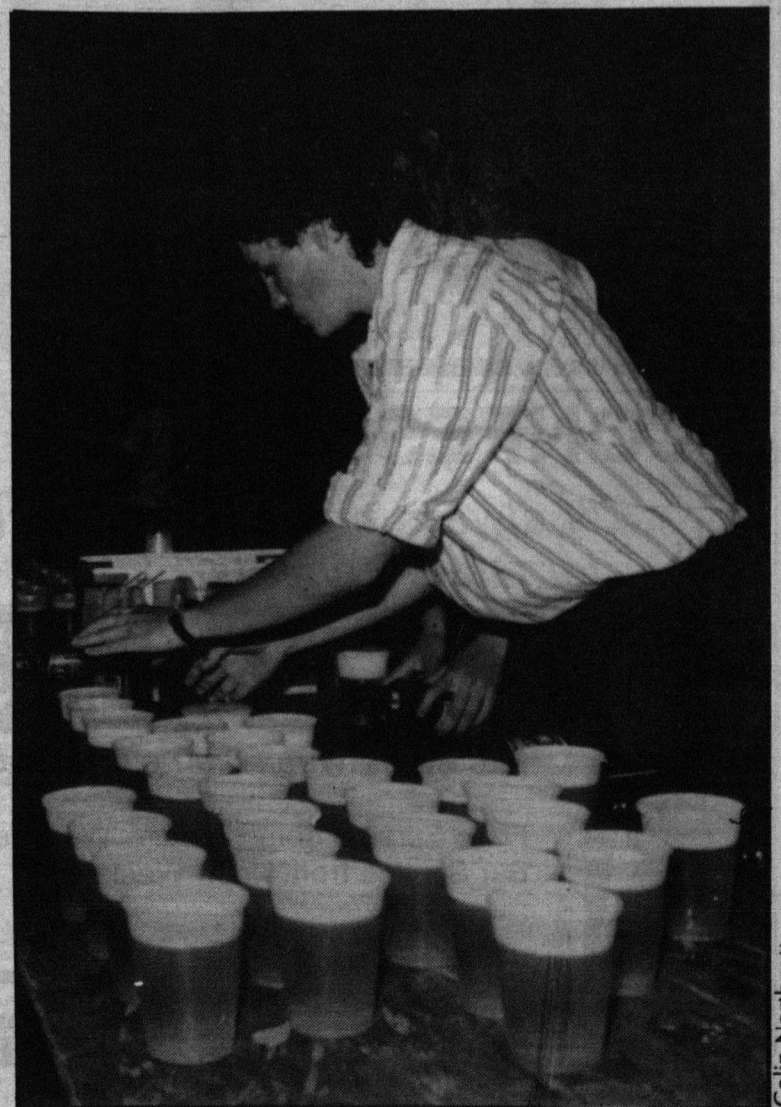
"We make money from other businesses to subsidize things like Week of Welcome," said Chu. He adds that "this year we had events other than beer gardens."

Chu noted that attendance was higher this year and there were many freshman and foreign students at the various events.

"The sleeping bag drive-in had over 800 students in the theatre," said Chu, "and they had the highest attendance in a number of years at the football game on Sunday."

"I see it as a success regardless of what the numbers (dollars) are," said Chu.

## Welcome dance breaks even



Colin Northcott

Extra beer sales helped the WOW dance break even.