

# Campus problems change

Student Help, a volunteer student organization on campus since 1970, is noting a change in students' problems.

There used to be a lot of trouble a few years ago with drugs and people freaking out on acid and such, but all that seems to be over, explained Dennis Kunimoto, Student Help director.

Kunimoto said most of the problems brought to the crisis centre dealt with inter-personal relationships and loneliness.

"This is a big campus," he said, "And I think the only way to get around disorientation is to have a lot of small areas for students to meet instead of the large areas for everybody we have now."

He added the campuses of the United States and large campuses in Canada have many small areas like coffee shops and pubs throughout them but in the U of A there were just areas like CAB which are like giant pits containing too many students.

"Loneliness is really the biggest problem and second would be family hang-ups and things like my boyfriend or girlfriend and I had a fight. We get a lot of that," he said.

The small two-room office on the second floor of SUB acts as a crisis centre, an intervention centre dealing with anything from academic matters to suicide



Just rapping: Irene, Collete and Theresa man the Student Help office on the second floor of the Students' Union Building.

prevention, a referral centre, acts as an ear to student interests and can present ideas to official bodies on campus.

"We're often asked for input, like a fall break planned for 1978. We were asked to comment on student stress during that time of year," said Kunimoto.

The Help office only acts on short term solutions to problems,

referring students needing long term solutions to other situations or people; for counselling or any other ways someone can be helped.

In November, 400 students used Help and Kunimoto said it seemed that all the problems came in at once.

"We had one counsellor last year," he said, "who holds the

record. All of us do three hour shifts and we're open to 11 pm; anyway, he had 12 people to deal with in three hours.

"Many of them just wanted

information but a lot were things requiring time, like an hour or half an hour or so, dealing with some of the problems."

## Wheelchair

A campus group of disabled students and staff have scheduled a meeting to discuss mobility problems on campus and possible future planning around such problems, for Jan. 27 at 7 p.m.

The meeting was scheduled at the request of Walter Hiller, executive director of Campus Development, who wishes to discuss the physical set-up of the university with the people most affected by it.

The meeting will be held in T2-58; access for people in wheelchairs can be gained through the west freight elevator of Tory. Those attending the meeting are asked to park in the north parking lot off Saskatchewan Drive and to leave a note on the car explaining which meeting one is attending.



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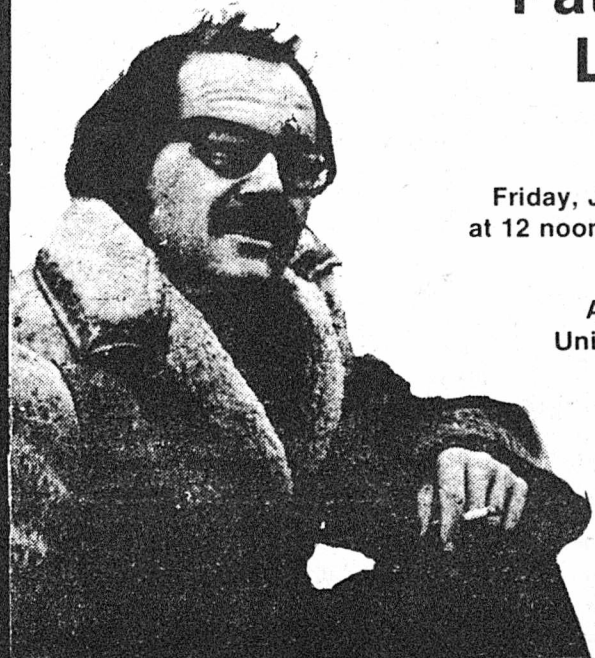
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by  
**Patrick Lane**

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