

God can't change the past...

The Gateway

Thursday, October 25, 1984

...but historians can.

Resources strained

Services grow

by Suzette C. Chan

Increased enrollments, decreased budgets and expansion of services have placed increased workloads on the various Student Services units at the U of A.

This conclusion was made in the annual report to the Dean of Student Services released last week.

"We've had a very good year," says Dean of Students Peter Miller. "We have re-ordered our priorities and have had to cut a lot of things."

The office of the Dean of Student Services co-ordinates the various Student Services units.

Miller says because of two successive operating budget cuts of four per cent per annum, ODSS had to make drastic cuts.

"Almost all of the cuts have come out of services to Lister Hall," he said. "We had a lot of money there and we've really pulled out."

As an example of residence service cutbacks, Miller cites the termination of a 24-hour nursing service at Lister Hall.

But he gives much credit to the Lister Hall Students Association for their sacrifices "in the interest of the university community."

He said services have had to "do creative things with their budgets" as well as looking outside the university for funds as much as possible.

As a result, Student Services retained enough money to help expand some of its other services, including the creation of the International Briefing Centre, the establishment of the International Students Centre, the implementation of a Counselling Psychology Graduate Internship Program and increased services and space for the Office of Native Affairs.

Miller says his office will also oversee the co-ordination of student health services. Until last summer, student health was supervised by the Facilities and Services department.

But services have also had to cope with strained resources.

"My impression is that the stresses on students are the same this year as last, but greatly increased from past years," said Miller.

He believes the stress level results from overcrowding.

"The stresses are not just on students. They're also felt by the professorial staff, especially support staff," said Miller. "It's stressful to be in a class of 400, but it is also stressful to teach it."

Miller says one symptom of the stressful situation is the record number of personal problems cases taken on by Student Counselling.

"The number of students with personal problems have gone up drastically in recent years."

Student Counselling reported 1870 personal cases in 1983-84 compared to 1538 the year before and only 1220 in 1978, the height of the economic boom in Alberta.

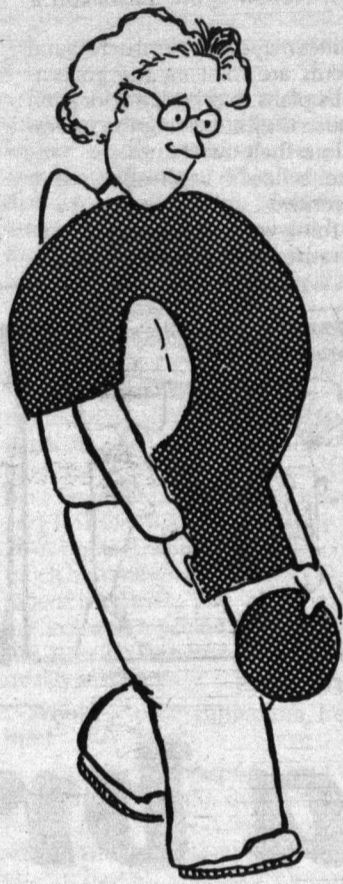
Because Student Services and services provided by the Students' Union may duplicate themselves, Miller says he would like to see more co-operation between the ODSS and SU.

"I've been impressed with Robert Greenhill (SU president in '82-83 and '83-84) and Floyd Hodgins (the present president)," he said. "I don't actually meet with the president (of the SU) formally, he is an ex-officio member of the Council of Student Services (COSS), which I chair."

Miller said he would like students to be more aware of Student Services, but knows Student Services have limited resources.

"We have to strike a line between being aggressive - which is a dis-service since we are not selling a product - and being so low-key that people with genuine problems don't find out about it."

Next week, a summary of the Student Services reports.



Graphic: Doug Bird

CarPark reopens in February

Repairs begin on CarPark

by Don Teplyske

Repairs to Stadium CarPark will begin Oct. 29. The repairs to the support design of the carpark should be completed by Feb. 15, 1985.

Recently the Board of Governors placed a \$1,595,000 budget on the project.

The carpark closed in late August when structural problems became apparent.

Tim Minor, director of Design and Construction, explained why the support was inadequate.

"Originally the carpark was designed using post-tension construction: the beams and slabs are reinforced with cables which are tightened after construction.

"The cables in the slabs have deteriorated because of exposure to salts through the concrete. We have decided to abandon this type of reinforcement and to implement steel joists which will run from beam to beam, providing adequate support. Forever.

"The cables in the beams are protected by a conduit which has pre-

vented them from being weakened."

"At the time of its construction (1969), Stadium CarPark was at the forefront of design," Minor said.

Post-tension structure was just in vogue and all of its shortcomings were not known. They have now become obvious."

There are no immediate plans for construction of additional parking facilities on campus, but Brian McQuitty, associate vice-president of Facilities and Services, says there is a possibility of future expansion of parking services.

"We will eventually have to provide additional parking facilities in the campus area" he said.

"With the development of the hospital extension and the corresponding problems of parking, Facilities and Services, in association with the University Hospitals and the Cross Cancer Clinic, is conducting a study on the future parking needs on campus."

Dr. McQuitty said it is not known when the study will be completed and could not suggest proposed sites for additional parking.

DTUC: resurrected university survives

by Nancy Shaw
The Peak

Located in hotels, art galleries, community centres and cafes in Vancouver and Nelson, the Kootenay School of Writing is a school in exile.

The liberal and fine arts school is only a remnant of the David Thompson University Centre (DTUC) in Nelson, a unique facility in Canada which offered programs in writing, theatre, music, woodwork and rural education.

DTUC was shut down in May by the B.C. government.

The resurrection of the Kootenay School is an idea that grew out of DTUC's closure. It took shape in the minds of former DTUC students and faculty, who vowed not to allow the government to let their institution die.

Last April, a few DTUC students sitting in one of their instructors' offices began to wonder where they would go after the centre closed.

"When DTUC was first getting shut down, we knew we were not failures and we shouldn't give up," says Jeff Derksen, DTUC graduate

and now one of the school's instructors. "So we had a few meetings and by July 15 we had a place."

The school's organizers are paying for the first semester's operating costs out of their own pockets. They are offering courses on subjects such as poetry, script writing, layout and design, marketing and journalism.

So far, organizers have spent \$2,500, but say the money is only a small price to pay to continue the

school. And they have applied for private and Canada Council grants to help defray costs.

"We're building something from the beginning. We're willing to work without wages because we're committed to this," says Calvin Wharton, DTUC graduate and another instructor. "If we don't get the grants, we will survive...and eventually we hope to be self-supporting."

The Social Credit government locked the centre's doors in May

after announcing in December 1983 that the school was economically unfeasible.

The announcement shocked students, staff and faculty, who had been told only a few months before by the government that DTUC was a success and should continue its current operation. The government had already spent \$1.5 million on renovations and advertising luring students to the school.

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Students get that CFS feeling

OTTAWA (CUP) — During the next two weeks, representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students will conduct a telephone survey on post-secondary education.

A few respondents may hang up, but CFS executive officer Diane Flaherty hopes hundreds will support a high-quality, accessible post-secondary education.

Flaherty says CFS's 70 members — which represent about 450,000 students — will receive polling kits in the next week and will be asked to encourage as many students as possible to poll people living in the same city about post-secondary education.

The students will ask thousands of Canadians if they think the federal government should make adequate university and college funding a priority, ensure that federal transfer payments to education are passed on to universities and colleges and come up with national standards of quality for universities and colleges.

The students will ask, among other questions, if they think all academically qualified Canadians should be able to attend university and college

regardless of financial background and if they think this is now the case.

CFS staff will tabulate the results during the federation's general meeting and along with the organization's members, will present that results to the federal government on National Lobby Day, Nov. 8.

"We want to demonstrate to the three federal parties that the majority of Canadians do support post-secondary education and want it to be funded so that it is accessible and of quality."

Flaherty says she hopes the results will influence the federal government to take into consideration the need for adequately funded universities and colleges when it renegotiates the Federal Post-Secondary Education and Health Contributions Act. The Act, formerly known as the Established Programs Financing Act, expires in March 1985.

A similar telephone poll was done

in Edmonton in late July. About 12 students polled 300 people and the most surprising result was 82.3 per cent of those polled said they think all academically qualified Canadians should be able to attend post-secondary institutions whether they have the money or not.

Another surprising result was 82.7 per cent of those polled said they think the federal government should ensure that federal transfer payments to provinces for education are passed on to universities and colleges.

Barbara Donaldson, Alberta CFS central committee representative, said she is optimistic that the results in Edmonton will be repeated nationally.

"We are encouraged by these results and that so many Canadians will probably support post-secondary education, as well as CFS's goal of guaranteed tied funding."

Quebec fees may rise

MONTREAL (CUP) — Tuition fees at Quebec universities, frozen since 1975, will likely increase next fall, Quebec's education minister has warned.

"It may now be time to ask ourselves about the relevance of the reasons behind our policy of freezing tuition fees," Yves Berube told a parliamentary commission on university financing in Quebec City Oct. 9.

Berube said Quebec education policy since 1978 has "significantly reduced the average cost of educa-

tion a university students," so that Quebec pays less to educate a student than any other Canadian province. The policy has also made Quebec schools much more accessible.

But the policy has also left the province's universities short of cash, Berube said.

Berube said new money is now needed to help graduate studies and undergraduate applied sciences at Quebec schools.

Quebec university students pay \$570 a year in tuition.

IMPORTANT STAFF MEETING

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