

Improved English

by Lisa Hall

Interested in improving your English? Then *The Creating Word* may be for you.

The *Creating Word* is a conference to be held this weekend as part of the International Conference on the Learning and Teaching of English.

The conference will be held at the Westin Hotel and includes a program of speakers, workshops, discussions, meals, and even wine-sipping. The purpose of the conference is to offer a program of information in a wide range of areas for those interested in English.

Among the speakers at the conference will be Josef Skvorecky, David Daiches, and Robert James Merrett.

Czechoslovakian-born Skvorecky is one of Canada's most distinguished authors and has won several literary awards.

Daiches has taught at Cornell University, Cambridge University, the University of Edinburgh, and has written over 30 books.

A U of A English professor, Merrett will speak at the closing reception. He will be discussing the significance of Port and Claret in *The Barsetshire Novels*. This prompted organizers to arrange for the two wines to be available to the guests during Merrett's lecture.

Several other speakers from the U of A and from around the world will lecture or give workshops on various aspects of teaching and learning English.

The opening reception for the conference is in the evening of Thursday Oct. 29 and the conference continues until Saturday.

The fee for the conference is \$100 dollars, which includes all the lectures, plus the reception, a luncheon and a banquet.

Those planning on attending the conference are mostly area teachers, professors, plus some grad and undergrad students, said Dr. Ted Bishop of the Department of English. In order to encourage more students to attend, less expensive registration fees were arranged for those wishing to attend only part of the conference.

"We would really like more students to attend," said Bishop, "in order to get a variety of questions during the discussions."

A \$50 fee includes the opening reception and either the Friday or Saturday sessions. For \$35, a student can attend the entire conference, but will miss out on the meals (and wine). The banquet, where Skvorecky will be speaking, is \$25, and the luncheon, where Daiches will be speaking, is \$12.

The *Creating Word* is sponsored by the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Extension. Registration information can be obtained by calling 432-5042 or 5047.

Students another day

"Student for a Day", a Students' Union event which gives prominent people a taste of student life, has been postponed.

Originally planned for October 28th, the event has been rescheduled for January 20, 1987.

"That the project has deteriorated is my fault," said SU VP External Paul LaGrange. "I overestimated the time I could devote to the project."

Another factor was the number of invitees who could attend the forum. Most people, including Advanced Education Minister Dave Russell, required up to two months

advance notice.

"The reaction from most guests contacted was positive," said LaGrange. "Most wanted to participate." However, the invitations were not issued soon enough, and few invitees could schedule the event in.

LaGrange feels it was better to postpone the event rather than "damage the reputation and credibility of the Students' Union."

"A large amount of preliminary work has already been completed," noted LaGrange. He says this will "ensure a success" when the event takes place in January.



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SU cartoon concern

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Tupper, however, denied that the move was censorship of the contents of the paper.

"We aren't asking them to retract their opinion," he said in debate. "We aren't censoring what they said," he continued, but rather "how they said it."

Tupper was concerned that students would not have time to write letters to the paper expressing their feelings, so he made the motion to council as "one way for people to get their opinion noted."

Bowers agreed, saying, "If an individual student on campus can write a letter complaining and requesting an apology, I think Students' Council should have the same right. That's what this was... a letter to the editor."

Campbell, however, disagreed.

"I'm glad SU Council didn't force us to apologize," he said. "To me that would have amounted to censorship."

"We exercise very little control over what the Gateway does," argued Dale Nagel, VP Academic. "I don't think a little bit of guidance now and then is censorship."

Bowers, however, felt the motion failed because "the majority of

councilors felt it would put undue pressure on the Gateway... it was too similar to outright censorship. We have to be careful that we don't put pressure on the Gateway that is strong enough to intimidate the Gateway into less thorough media coverage."

Questions were also raised as to whether some councilors may have objected to the anti-free-trade message of the cartoon.

"It's my suspicion that people were opposed to the political content," said Law rep Don Davies.

LaGrange, however, denied this. "It wouldn't make sense for anybody to complain about it."

Said Bowers, "That [the political content] is the only thing I liked about the cartoon."

Councilors may be writing individual letters to the Gateway for publication. Ritchie encourages students to do the same, whether they liked or disliked the cartoon. Letters to the editor, she noted, "are the best way for students to express their concerns."

The artist of the cartoon, Colin Green, is "pleased" with the debate the cartoon has caused.

"I hoped it would make people think, and I'm glad it did."

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