

Racing senior gives to U of A

by Jennifer Hyndman

Martha Johnson is a vital statistic. At 72 she has mastered her own disabilities and now makes regular contributions to the improved mobility of students at the U of A.

A provincial government employee for thirty-five years, thirty of which she spent in vital statistics, Martha (as she prefers to be called) is now retired and living happily on her pension.

Over the past three years Ms. Johnson has donated 'wheels' for students who are temporarily or permanently mobility-impaired. Scooter models range from the rudimentary 'Portascoot' to the rugged, snow-crunching 'Fortress' seen most frequently on campus.

Because of her generosity, she also enjoys membership in the exclusive President's Club at U of A.

Never married, Martha has always been on the go. In 1953 she bought her first car, an Austin, and joined the Edmonton Light Car Club where an illustrious career as a car rally participant, both as driver and organizer, ensued. Martha cherishes her engraved beer mug, one of a number of awards she received from the club along with her honorary lifetime membership.

Says Wilder Wall of Disabled Student Services, "Martha is vibrant and alive." Standing close to five feet tall, she's short and cute - what can we say?

Peter Miller, Dean of Student Services, describes Martha as a "unique individual, articulate and determined." Most importantly, adds the Dean, Martha provides an example to others. "She knows what she wants."

Her contributions have been more beneficial, both for students and for the institution, than others because her generosity focuses on a specific need, said Miller.

Having promised matching grants, Dean Miller says that the provincial government hasn't been able to



Martha Johnson test drives her donated 'wheels.'

keep up with Martha's donations. "The office hasn't seen any of these matching funds in three or four years. We're still waiting."

Martha identifies with disabled students: "I know what it's like." Martha didn't walk until she was five. At that time, corrective surgery in Chicago enabled her to be "just like the other kids."

"All my life, nothing ever phased

me. If they can do it, I can too. As a small child, Martha's leg braces weighed more than she did, but she never cried, at least not during the day: "I was too tough."

While Dean Miller patiently anticipates matching provincial funding, Martha doesn't wait. She recently assisted in purchasing a late model scooter scheduled to arrive at the office this week.

Calgary limitations for 88

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together to force the government's hand on funding. "There is the suggestion that just maybe this is some kind of game to squeeze some extra dollars from the Government. Government's won't, and shouldn't, give in to that kind of blackmail."

"There is nothing the Govern-

ment can do to change our plans.... short of giving us the enormous allocations to start a new campus," said Horowitz. "It's not just a problem of a few more dollars for a few more students."

The new U of C admissions process will be multi step. As courses fill up, enrollment will be limited. Borderline students will be put on waiting lists.

Wagner stresses that the policy

Mathew Maclure
Edmonton Journal Reporter
will give a workshop
for all Gateway Volunteers
"Beyond the Obvious"
Thursday, Nov. 26 at 4:00 p.m.
Room 270A SUB

CUSEC wants Waterloo

by Ken Bosman

The U of A Students' Union will be actively encouraging the University of Waterloo Students' Association to join the national student organization the U of A SU supports.

"They'll be getting a letter from me this week," said U of A SU VP External Paul LaGrange.

The move was prompted by a recent Waterloo students' decision not to join the Canadian Federation of Students.

On November 9 and 10 Waterloo students' voted 1349 to 745 against CFS membership.

The organization LaGrange would like Waterloo to join is The Canadian University Student Executive Council which has attracted membership from many of the large universities who have declined membership in CFS.

LaGrange feels that CUSEC addresses many of the concerns that Waterloo had with CFS.

"The no side [against CFS membership] really capitalized on non-voting," said Waterloo Student President Ted Carlton, who campaigned in favor of membership.

CFS, mainly composed of smaller colleges and technical schools has a one institution, one vote policy. "Representation by population is a nice idea. It's hard to argue against," said Carlton.

CUSEC by contrast "has a two thirds plus two thirds policy" said LaGrange. Two thirds of CUSEC members, representing two thirds of the memberships total student population, must vote in favor of policy before it is ratified.

Another major concern of Waterloo's was "Non-educational policies by CFS" said Carlton.

LaGrange feels that CUSEC, which sticks to issues of direct concern to students, might thus be attractive to Waterloo.

Waterloo joins Queens and Western Ontario University is withdrawing from CFS this year.

The U of A withdrew from CFS in 1985, and went on to co-found CUSEC in 1986.

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