

Satellite scoops Soviets

by C. Monika Kornhauzer

A satellite link up allows the Slavic and East European Studies department to tune into Soviet television.

The program, first introduced in December, 1987, is only the second of its kind in Canada. Doctor Robert Busch, former chair of Slavic and East European Studies, who now holds an appointment with the department and is the associate vice president of research, said the program was initiated on the basis of \$50,000 given by different units at the U of A.

It took several years to raise the money but the system was finally put in to coincide with the

extensive renovations of the Arts building.

The satellite dish sits on top of the Arts building and a computer teaches itself to track down four different Soviet satellites.

The program serves to enhance the study of the Russian language culture. "It is an invaluable pedagogical tool because it provides a strong visual component to the sound," said Busch.

It is quite easy for students to have access to cultural materials and information in the mainstream languages, such as French, German, and Italian, but for students of Russian, access is severely limited.

The U of A receives one broad-

casting channel intended for the Eastern Soviet Union with the programming originating in Moscow.

By our standards, it would probably be called an educational channel, and though it does not compare with Canadian or American networks in content, it does offer an amazingly wide variety of programming. These programs run the gamut from traditional evening news to an historical review of the life of Pushkin.

Although all programming is government controlled, under the beneficial influence of glasnost and perestroika, Soviet television seems to be enjoying a new freedom in programming never attempted before.

One of the main complaints against Soviet television and Soviet media is that it keeps an overly critical eye on the political and social trends in Western society. Now, however, their cultural eye has begun to turn in on itself and the USSR's own society.



Rob Galbraith

Dr. Busch proudly displays the satellite dish that pulls down Russian T.V. programs.

For example, on a recent news program, a Soviet reporter was exposing some of the shabby construction work undertaken in recent years. Along with film footage of crumbling foundations and flooded basements, the opinions of tenants and other people involved were also aired.

Programs featuring Christian art work, soviet rock groups, and Russian scholars arguing for the historical recognition of the works of Boris Pasternak, Vasili Zhu-

kovsky, and other such writers, can also be viewed.

The integration of all this information into the daily classroom work is in progress. "Right now our main concern is to classify the various materials," said Busch, adding, "If there is something of specific interest to a student or staff member, they are encouraged to use the facility or watch the program of their choosing."

editor-in-chief at the campus newspaper *The Athenaeum*, a tentative agreement had been worked out between both sides.

"They are not likely to strike," Langille said. "They went back to the bargaining table after the vote and reached a tentative agreement. It's being drawn up now and will probably be passed by the faculty."

Langille noted however, the new contract comes up again next June, "so we could be in for the same thing next year."

Acadia strike avoided

by Kevin Law

The 283 professors at Nova Scotia's Acadia University threatened strike action during negotiations for a new contract.

On September 15, Acadia faculty association members cast ballots rejecting the final offer from the university's board of governors.

Professors at the university supported strike action after months of unsuccessful bids to get raises that would see their paychecks

come in line with counterparts at other Maritime universities.

A seven percent wage increase was the Administration's final offer, but the faculty was looking for a 5.8 percent across the board hike with an additional 1.5 percent for "full professors".

Professors voted yes for strike action on September 15, but, according to Jackie Langille,

LISE WATTS

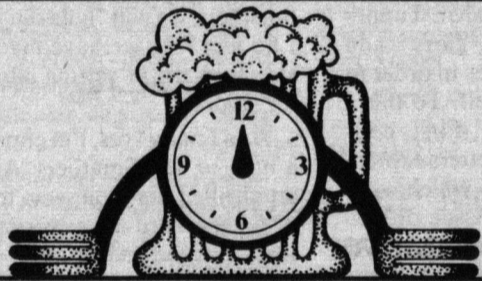
CONSULTANT

STUDENT LOAN SERVICES

APPLICATIONS • APPEALS • BUDGETING

TELEPHONE
(403) 484-7584

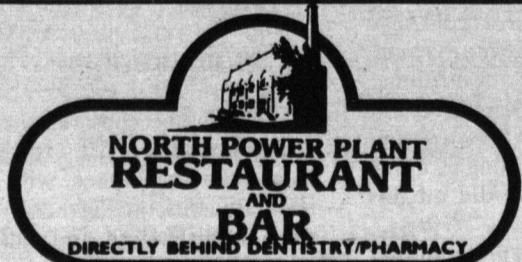
9507 - 180A ST.
EDMONTON, ALBERTA
T5T 2Z4



BAR SERVICE STARTS AT NOON*

Discounts on Draught and Wine
From 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

* With Minimum Food Purchase



"Quality Food at Casual Prices"

EVERYBODY WELCOME
NO MEMBERSHIP REQUIRED

Beach on Whyte

SUN TAN SALON
431-1595

FALL SPECIAL

16 12 Thirty Minute Sessions

\$39.95



STAY TANNED!

"Are you serious? Look at our arms! If anything, I'm twice as tan as you are."

COLLEGE PLAZA

11124 - 82 AVE

Offer Expires October 30/88

Comics collectors convene

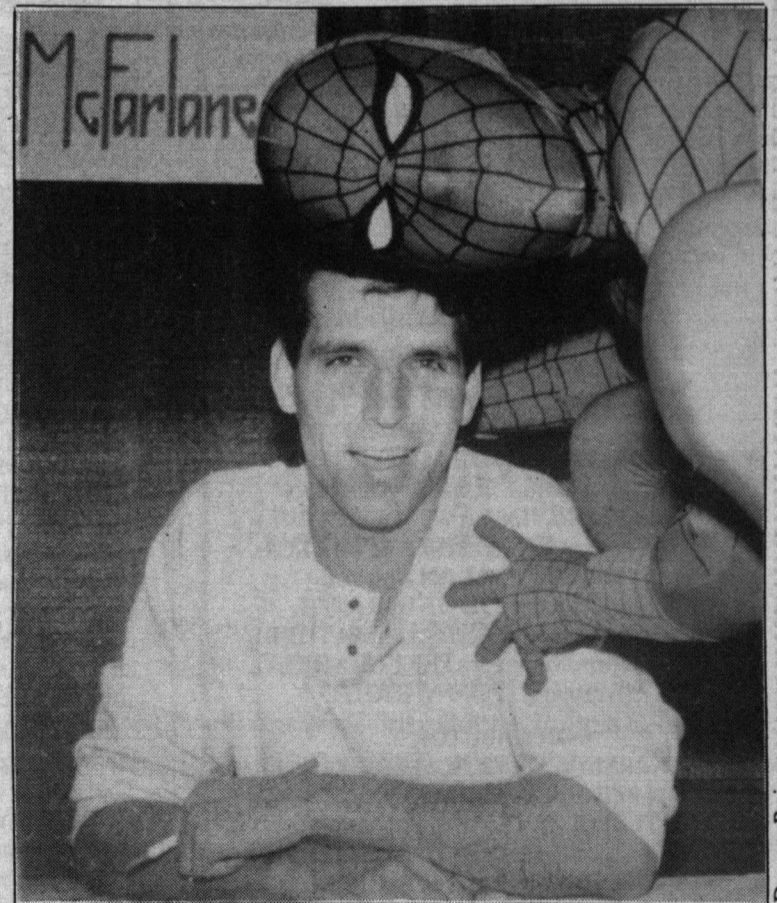
by Dragos Ruiu

Comic book devotees traded heavily in rare graphic novels at the first annual Comic Fair at the Edmonton Convention Centre. This weekend's fair let comic enthusiasts get in touch with all facets of the business.

The gathering was set up by the Comics Castle, an Edmonton store. "Originally we tried to set up a meeting and get all the stores in town to sponsor the occasion, but all of them dropped out. We decided to go it alone. It has been hectic, but it's going well," said Lola Luxford, fair organizer.

Local comic shops had displays set up, and some of the larger distributors from across Canada were represented as well. Several booths were set up by comics collectors with large private collections, and some comics publishers had tables set up. The displays included rare comics, comics for sale, original comics artwork and the "flats" from several titles showing how comic books are put together.

Artists like New York's Todd McFarlane, who draws Spiderman, and Edmonton's own Delaney and Rasmussen were autographing their artwork. "We were glad to be invited, It's about time... we often get lost in the shuffle," said Gary Delaney. A big hit with small children was



Dragos Ruiu

My Spidey senses are tingling. Spiderman dropped in to visit his own artist, at the first annual Comic Fair on the weekend.

Marvel Comics' costumed Spiderman.

Seminars about comics production, cartooning, and comics collecting were held. Also attending and giving seminars were members of the "True North Strong and Free legal defense fund." The fund and charity comic-book was started by industry artists to help pay for the legal fees of "Comic Legends." The Calgary store was shut down by the police last September and is now facing charges for allegedly selling obscene publications. A similar legal

action recently occurred in Lansing, Michigan where the store lost.

This month Customs Canada censored eight pages out of "Heavy Metal" magazine. Last year, one issue of "Heavy Metal" was banned.

A charity art auction was held at the convention. The organizers' plans call for the continuation of this fair on a yearly basis. "We are already planning next year's event. We plan to have more charity functions, and a costume ball," said Luxford.