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Surplus of science grads over Job market better

by Portia Priegert

The demand for science graduates in the employment market is increasing, according to the chairmen of a number of U of A science departments.

Job opportunities are improving strongly in the physical sciences — computing science, geology, physics and chemistry.

According to the chairman of the physics department, Dr. John MacDonald, the demand for scientists has improved because of recent increases in industrial activity and federal government funding.

The chairman of the Department of Chemistry, Dr.

Crawford, agrees that as increasing complexity is introduced into society, more and more analytical data, and consequently scientists, will be needed.

"The surplus of graduates of the early seventies has disappeared," he says.

In addition to a five-year shortage of analytical chemists, Crawford cites a stronger demand for graduates in problem-solving areas of physical and organic chemistry and mass spectrometry.

Dr. Richard Lambert, chairman of the Department of Geology, says the job demand for geologists "is easily the best it has ever been."

"There are far more job openings than students," he says.

"There is a serious shortage of good post-graduates in petroleum and mining geology and undergraduates and post-graduates in geophysics."

Lambert predicts that the demand for science graduates will be saturated by 1982, but there will then be a serious shortage in middle management because of the influx.

The chairman of the physics department says that the demand for physics students has "in-

creased enormously in all areas."

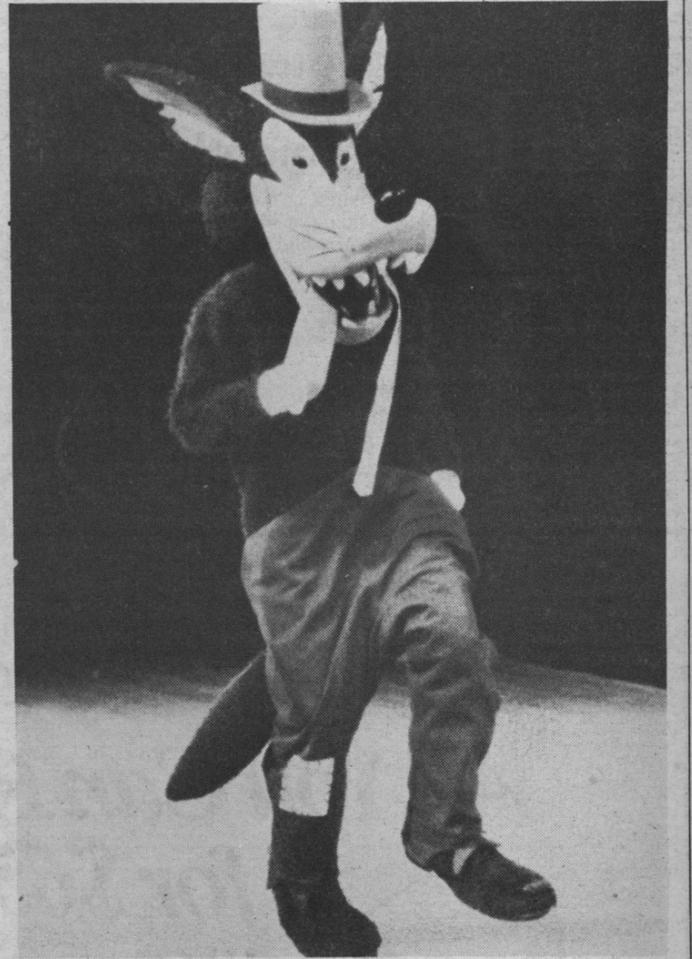
"Most physics graduates are finding jobs," says MacDonald, "and even undergraduates are in strong demand for summer jobs."

He says the shortage of graduates has occurred over the past year, particularly in solid state and nuclear physics. Theoretical physics has the fewest opportunities he says, though "it has improved a great deal."

Perhaps the strongest job opportunities exist in computing science. Department chairman, Dr. John Tarter reports that the field of computing science has "zero unemployment" and four to ten times more job opportunities than applicants.

Tarter says the computing science department is increasing enrolment by ten per cent a year, but that job opportunities are

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Who's afraid of the big bad wolf? Not me, not me cried children at a Disneyland 25th anniversary celebration in SUB Theatre Wednesday.

Students illiterate, says report

Over 50 per cent of the students entering the U of A have an inadequate knowledge of written English.

A General Faculties Council (GFC) study found that university students have serious difficulties with grammar, spelling, idiom and diction.

The GFC Writing Competence Committee (WCC) states that 53.5 per cent of the 406 students tested had satisfactory exam results. Only 5 per cent of the students tested wrote completely satisfactory exams.

Students who did un-

satisfactory work on the exam "will have serious problems in meeting the writing requirements of first year university level work," says the report.

"The problems are of sufficient magnitude to merit universal testing of entering students," said Professor Pat Hayes, chairman of the WCC.

The one-and-a-half hour test, written by first-year student volunteers, consisted of an objective multiple-choice section and an essay question testing composition skills.

Students from all faculties

were tested though the science, arts, engineering and education faculties were heavily represented.

The tests were the first part of a three-phase program to improve reading and writing skills among students entering university. Phases two and three involve exams administered to all matriculating students, with the eventual goal being entrance exams with minimum requirements for all faculties.

The report must first be

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SU Vietnamese family arrives

Gusting winds and minus 30 degree temperatures greeted the three Students' Union Vietnamese boat people as they took up temporary residence in Lister Hall Monday.

But the cold weather didn't slow the family as they energetically carried their worldly possessions — contained in several suitcases and cardboard boxes — to begin a new life in Edmonton.

Tran Thien Lac, 24, and his sisters, Thien Di, 21, and Thien Dinh, 16, all of Hanoi, arrived in Edmonton January 2 after en-

during a 500-mile journey across the South China Sea and a year in refugee camps in Hong Kong.

The three says they sold their belongings so they could pay the Vietnamese government five ounces of gold for places on a fishing boat, rather than join other Vietnamese of Chinese extraction in mining work in remote areas of Vietnam.

By the time they reached Hong Kong, they had lost their few remaining possessions and their clothes were ripped. But they say they were very fortunate because there were no deaths on their boat during the dangerous

journey and conditions in the three refugee camps they stayed at in Hong Kong were "pretty good."

The eldest brother was a sewing machine repairman in Vietnam, and his two younger sisters were students, the elder in Grade 12, the younger in Grade 8.

The three have another sister, Tran Thien Huont, 28, who has lived in Edmonton with her child for several months.

Thien Lac says he finds the people here very friendly and straight-forward and is very happy he and his sisters could come to Canada. He says they hope they can get jobs and learn English.

The Students' Union, the family's official sponsor, collected \$5,600 from student donations and SU benefits to help support the family during their first year in Edmonton.

SU vp external Tema Frank, says that though she wasn't expecting the family so soon, she is "very excited" about their arrival and the opportunity to re-unite the family.

Students wishing to help the family or make donations of furniture and other household items can contact Tema Frank at 432-4236 or leave donations at the Students' Union Executive Offices.

Students may lose vote

Many students living in U of A residences or HUB will not be able to vote in the university area constituency in the upcoming federal election.

According to the Federal Elections Act, students whose regular homes are not within the constituency boundaries are required to vote in their home ridings. This includes students from out of town who reside at their homes during the summer, as well as students who are considered dependents of their parents, regardless of whether they live at home.

Married students who live in a university residence are considered independent, and therefore may vote in the local riding. Single students who are independent of their parents may also do so.

If students are unable to return home on election day to vote, they can authorize a proxy

to vote for them.

A proxy must be someone on the voters' list in the home riding, and must be authorized by the voter by completing a proxy form available from any returning officer. To use the proxy system, a person must be "away from home for the main reason of attending full-time at a recognized educational institution."

All students are eligible to vote in the same riding where they voted in the last federal election, unless their place of permanent residence has changed since then.

The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer will be publishing a complete explanation of voting procedures for students in all campus newspapers. As well, they are providing a booklet outlining their policy at all universities and colleges.

Applications from Iranian students up at U of A

Increasing numbers of Iranian students are inquiring about registration at the University of Alberta.

"The total is now up to about 388," said Doug Burns, assistant registrar. "Prior to this I doubt if we had more than 30 or 40 inquiries per year."

About 50 per cent of the inquiries are from Iran, the rest from the United States and other countries.

"The students are mainly interested in professional and pre-professional fields — and graduate work," said Burns. "Because most of these fields have quotas, the chances of being selected are remote."

"I would be surprised if more than half a dozen students were admitted," he added.

There are presently 14 students, seven of them in graduate studies, of Iranian origin at the U of A.

As well, one Iranian student has been admitted to begin a program this January.

"It's possible those students that meet the English language requirement may be admitted in September," said Burns, "but the great bulk of inquiries will not materialize into applications."

He also pointed out that the number of requests has levelled off somewhat, and he expects the rush to be over.



photo Portia Priegert

Tran Thien Lac, and his sisters Thien Dinh and Thien Di