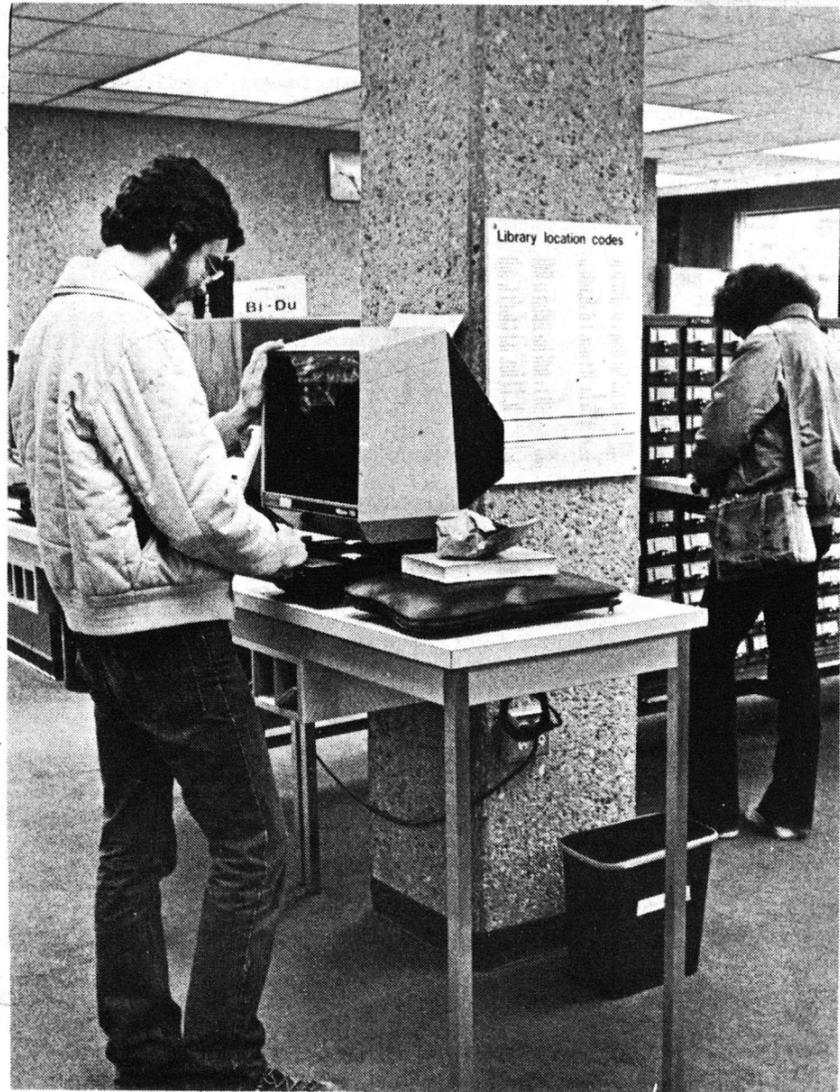


Celibacy...

the Gateway

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1981

...is not hereditary.



The old and the new: the microfiche reader will become a familiar sight, but we haven't seen the last of the card catalog yet.

Library computerizes Fiching for tomes

by Pat Just

Students will be forced to look in two places to find a book in the U of A library for some time to come.

The conversion to total computerization, which is costing over \$250,000 per year, began last week. The new system, known as COMCAT (computer output microfilm catalog), is also currently in use in the Edmonton Public Library system.

Listings of all books purchased since December 1980, have been placed on color-coded, alphabetically-ordered sheets of film known as microfiche. Each sheet is 4 x 6 inches and can accommodate listings for up to 6,000 books.

The system is designed to be used ultimately as a separate system of reference, probably with computer terminals as well. However, undergrad library employee Jeanette Buckingham says, "we don't know when 'ultimately' is at this point."

The present COMCAT films only list books bought since December, though, and only 8,000 of the Library's 2 million books will be listed by next fall. So users must refer to the old card catalog first and then to the COMCAT.

Eventually, the files back to 1974, when computerization began, will be converted to microfiche. But there are no plans thus far for the remaining 1,892,000 books.

The COMCAT system has its pluses, though. Scanners for the system will be placed in strategic places all over campus.

The microfiche will be updated monthly and the old microfiche destroyed.

Calvin Evans, Assistant Librarian for Public Services, says "students in most Canadian universities have to look in two or more places as their libraries automate."

But what is not mentioned is that it is foreseeable that U of A students may have to check three sources in the future. The final phase of the program, which has already begun, involves the complete computerization of all aspects of the Library's operation, including circulation and user records.

But the Library has only prepared books bought after 1974 for computerization, and the card file will still exist by the time the computers are functioning. No plans have been made for the inclusion of these books into either microfiche or the computer system. Unlike the public library, the University will phase them in slowly rather than code them all at once.

Meanwhile the microfiche plans forge on ahead. The grant for the program is tentatively five years long, and the libraries are currently funneling fines paid to them into the development of the system.

A few staff who worked on the card catalog have been phased out through attrition. However, this would appear to be more because of university cutbacks in general than from the elimination of jobs because of the microfiche program.

According to the Library Systems head J. Heilik, "the computer is not forcing us to fire people. It is helping us to survive further staff cutbacks."

Protest shook them up Rush policy?

by Mike Walker

The university this week produced a long-range land use plan for North Garneau, after months of discussing the merits of specific plans for the area.

The plan designates about one half the area as permanent housing space, leaving the rest open for future university expansion. It won't become policy until the Board of Governors Building Committee approves it today.

Commuter parking will have to be completely underground to adhere to the new policy and tennis courts do not appear to be compatible with the housing designation at all.

Both above ground parking and tennis courts could, however, be built in the open half of the area. Both were originally included in housing plans for the area.

Student Bryan Achtem, the only member of the Facilities Development Committee to vote against the plan yesterday, said he was unhappy that the basic principle of planning—land use—was addressed after, rather than before, the details.

"This has been going on since January last year, without discussing what alternative uses for that land will be," he said.

"We've discussed details during numerous meetings; and discussed the land use and sealed the fate of North Garneau in 2½ hours."

He said this is a backward approach, since the university's planners have been discussing aspects of specific plans for some time already.

SU president Nolan Astley said it appeared to him that the policy statement, which is only 2½ pages long, was drawn up hastily to pave the way for the specific plans that are already almost completed.

"I'm appalled that they used hand drawn documentation," he said of a map included in the report.

"It looks to me like they thought they should have a policy before they put something in the area," he said. He said student concerns may have had something

to do with the production of the policy statement.

SU president-elect Phil Soper said, "They looked about as far as the end of their noses to develop this long range housing plan."

University vice-president facilities and services Ron Phillips defended the university's plan, though, as a valid planning document.

"Whatever they finally approve will have to be consistent with this long-range plan," he said.

Policy ignores North Garneau

by Peter Michalyszyn

A long-term student housing policy report is going to General Faculties Council, for approval in two weeks, and it doesn't include a word about North Garneau.

GFC, the academic body that advises the Board of Governors on student housing, was ill-served, some say, by its Housing and Food Services (HFS) Committee that forwarded the long-term recommendations.

Jim Russell, a member of GFC executive committee, which saw the report yesterday, was critical of the HFS committee for not including something on the principle of North Garneau redevelopment - the most controversial and long-running housing issue in years at the U of A.

"Why didn't they just come out and say something?" Russell asked. He was echoed by J.A. Creore who said, "How can it not address North Garneau?"

Creore, Russell, and others asked that the report return to committee so HFS members could make clear their views on

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Calgary approves FAS

by Geoff McMaster

Students at Mount Royal College in Calgary voted over 90 percent in favor of the \$2 Federation of Alberta Students (FAS) fee hike.

Melanie Hofer, FAS executive officer, said she was confident the increase would pass but "never expected anything this overwhelming." FAS fees are now \$3.50 per student at Mount Royal.

FAS lobbies the provincial government on issues concerning students, such as cutbacks, tuition fees and student aid. The new fee is part of an expansion program meant to strengthen the lobbying power of the organization, in the face of ever increasing problems created by inflation.

Anne McGrath, FAS fieldworker, expressed her concern over the seriousness of this issue.

"There is a real change in the way education is going," she says. "In the next few years it's going to get even worse. The organization needs to be stronger in order to lobby effectively."

At the U of A only 52 percent of the students who voted in the Students' Union

election this year approved the new fee. Why is this figure so much lower than at Mount Royal?

McGrath says the severe cutbacks Mount Royal has been suffering had a lot to do with the success of the referendum there, simply because students were made more aware of such problems.

"There was a very good anti-cutbacks campaign at Mt. Royal," she says. "A petition was being circulated at the same time as the referendum. It made a lot of sense to them that someone was going to lobby for them."

Another major reason for the lack of success at the U of A, says McGrath, was the poor timing of the referendum; it came at the same time as the Student's Union fee increase referendum.

"It's not good to run two fee increases at the same time," she says, because the one that is less immediate and less local will inevitably suffer.

She also says there will be an anti-cutbacks campaign at the U of A this week. "If the referendum had come after the campaign," she says, "it would most likely have done much better."

Music may die; discs still roll

In Thursday's Gateway we ran a story titled "SU Music may close." The result: 250 less-than-attentive Gateway readers phoned the SU record store to ask if they were still in business. Contrary to their initial impressions, SU Records (that's the big place at the north end of HUB) is NOT

closing. What may be closed is SU Music (that's the smaller place in the middle of HUB), which primarily sells sheet music. So to all those who feared that one of the SU's most popular businesses would close - RELAX!!

Inside Gateway this time

Since you axed, last week the forestry students topped pining away, spruced themselves up, and logged a success with Forestry Week. Timber! See photos, page 7. See also our feature pages: a 2000 year-old custom re-examined on pages 8 and 9, and on 13, something to go with your morning coffee: it'll never quite be the same.