

Disabled access

by John Watson

The U of A campus is one of the most accessible parts of the city for disabled people.

Almost every building has entrances that are useful for people with mobility problems. The people on campus are also helpful.

Louise Lockhart, a representative of the Handicapped Students' Association (HSA), told of being helped by a staff member after her scooter had broken down.

The HSA acts as a resource office for handicapped students. It also brings handicapped students together in a social atmosphere.

The HSA is not limited to disabled students though, it involves a lot of volunteers.

According to Lockhart the university is great. "The university, for me, is excellent," she said. "Every building is accessible except St. Joe's."

The university is helpful in other areas as well. The Disabled students Services office is a resource centre for students.

The office supplies services and equipment for the use of handicapped students on campus.

About 150 volunteers were assisting the office last year.

The office provides a reading service for blind students. Volunteers read textbooks and handouts and tape them for the use of students who cannot read the texts for themselves.

Marion Nicely, director of disabled student services, says the volunteers are free to do what they want.

"Volunteers choose what kind of activity they would like to be involved with," she said.

In addition to reading, people are needed to assist students with note-taking in class, and reading and writing of exams for visually impaired students.

The office, located in 300 Athabasca Hall, has a lot of equipment available for students.

This includes a Versabril system — essentially a computer with braille functions. The system does a print-out in braille so blind students can read what they have typed.

Four scooters and one power wheelchair are also available for on-campus mobility.

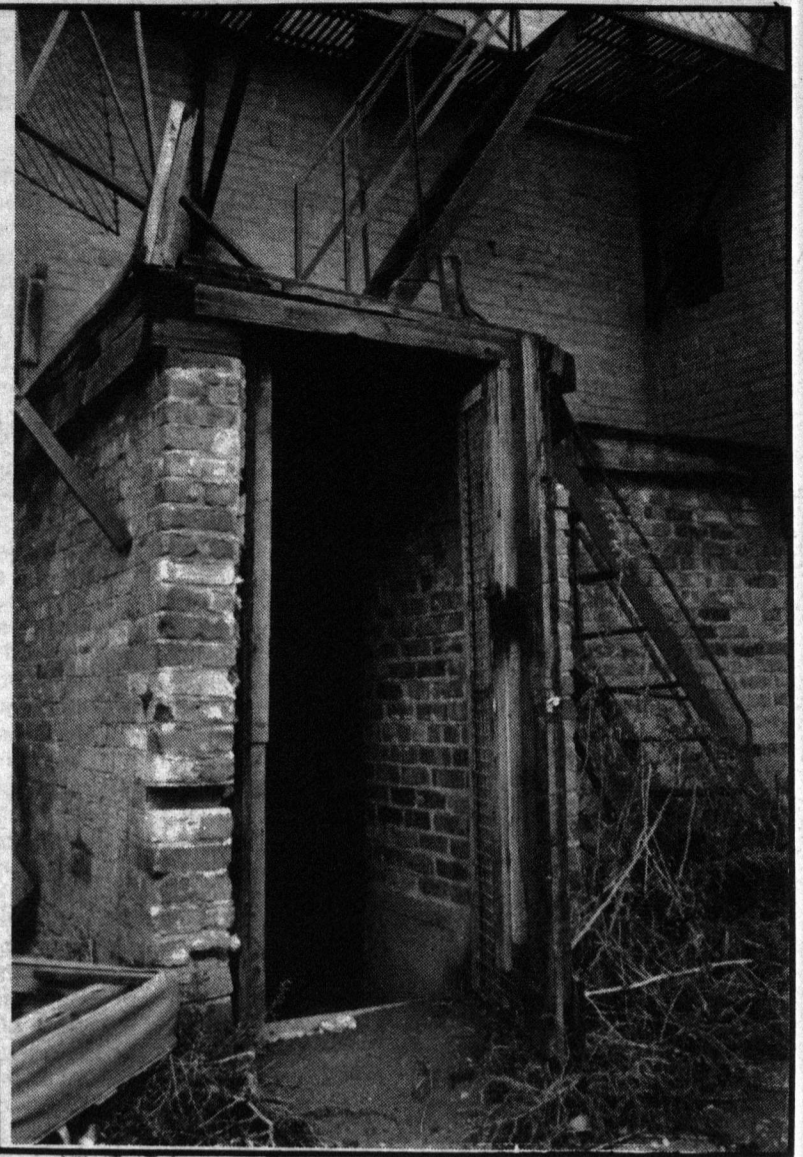
"We are a contact point for anybody who has questions," said Nicely. Both students and instructors use the office for assistance.

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- b) a pathorium developed by theorem?
- c) not worth remembering?
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For more information watch for posters, contact the Women's Center at 432-2057, or ask at the HUB Info Desk 9 - 12 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday.

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