



These are not the 104 terminals soon to be installed in Assiniboia Hall

Computing classes jammed

By Ben Yee

Since 1974, course enrollments in computing science have more than doubled.

From 2300 in 1974 to 5400 in 1981, the number of academic staff members has virtually remained constant. As a result the quality of many courses have suffered.

High enrollments in Computing Science combined with shortage of staff have caused section sizes to balloon to an average of 116 students for introductory level courses. According to Computing Science Chairman Dr. Wayne Jackson, the optimum class size is 35 to 40 students per section.

As a result of such large classes, less material is being covered in each course and teaching moves at a much slower pace. The shortage of terminals has forced lab sessions as well as the number of assignments to be cut.

The overloading of computing courses is due to the unforeseen increase in demand for computing courses. As Computing Science is in the Faculty of Science they were not permitted to restrict enrollment into their courses. Jackson said next year however, a provision would be made in the regulations to allow for limiting enrollment in computing courses to a manageable level.

Jackson said that the Dean of Science, John Macdonald, has looked at their situation and has applied to Central administration for more funds. He said that new academic staff positions were forthcoming as they have been given permission to conduct a staff search. This may take some time, since at present there is a severe shortage of qualified personnel in the marketplace.

Jackson thought that if any improvements were to be made the university must offer more competitive salaries and increase funding.

The shortage of terminals have made lineups a common thing for students.

According to Dale Bent, director of Computing Services, the unforeseen increase in demand of computing courses has put a strain on the computing facilities. He said that Computing

Services has grown at a rate of approximately 30% a year, but still could not keep up with demand.

Lineups have occurred earlier in the year, with labs heavily booked.

When asked if he thought that the university does not provide adequate funds for Computing Services, he replied, "Administration has been very supportive of providing good facilities for students."

Dr. Wayne Jackson says that efforts to utilize the system around the clock is unreasonable, stating that, "administration should think of students as being human beings."

Bent said that a major expansion of public terminal facilities is planned for 1982. 104 additional terminals will be installed in the sub-basement of Assiniboia Hall. This would ease the demand, although a shortage will remain.

Students' Union Building slated for major renovations

by Wes Oginski

"As far as I see, this is the most comprehensive renovation ever done in this building," says SU v.p. Internal Brian Bechtel.

Last Tuesday, October 10, Students' Council approved a motion that allows massive renovations in the Students' Union Building (SUB).

"The Building Services Board (BSB) will now be doing a square foot by square foot breakdown," Bechtel says. At its next meeting BSB will set the priorities for allocating space.

SUB's lower floor will become a retail mall. Most of the curling rink will be used as retail space, with part of the present Games Area relocated along the rink's east wall.

"I would like to see fewer pool tables and more ping pong tables, which there have been a few requests for," says Bechtel.

"There will be a central control area to both sides," he adds.

Tentative plans have the Games area occupying the entire east wall of the lower floor, with the control booth underneath the east stairway. Plans also exist for an improved video games area.

The rest of the curling rink area will be divided into four retail areas. Redirection of the main corridor would create another retail space in front of the bookstore. The vacated Games

Area would also become retail space, most likely rented to the University Bookstore.

An *Insta-bank* may be available if the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce increases its space into the south-west corner of the lower floor.

"The survival of this bank branch relies on the additional space, or so they tell us," Bechtel says.

"The head office is talking about closing the facility," he explains. The Commerce branch is always busy, but does not make much money from the student business. An *Insta-bank* may be the branch's only alternative.

On the main floor, major reorganization will create many more offices. Part of the tentative plan also is to create a central information service.

The present Information Desk will be split into an information area and a confectionary area. The confectionary area will operate a copy center, while the information area will run by students as a service. The information area will also coordinate a series of student service offices, such as Student Orientation Services (SORSE), Student Help, and the Student Advocate.

The area would be under the direction of a director who would coordinate the services. A part of

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