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Ed bldg panel only the beginning...

by Wayne Hoyle

A test pattern, a test pattern for what? The panel high up on the north wall of the Education Building is the final test of a process that will eventually see the wall covered in a giant mural.

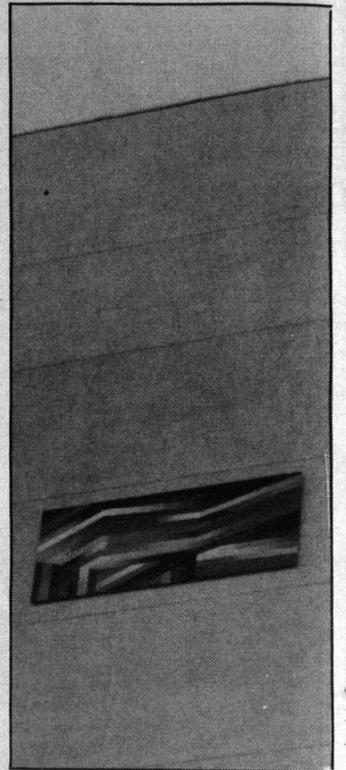
Norman Yates, a professor of art and design, originated the proposal to put the totally featureless wall to use. Yates' concern for space and motion led to a dissatisfaction with the window-like limitations of traditional paintings.

This led him to the paintings of murals, but here too he was limited by the size of his studio and the limits of edges. A McCalla Professorship allowed him to research the creation of large murals that retained the direct touch of the artist. This research led to a process by which a mural no longer had to be a poster of a smaller work, but an original painting on an immense scale.

Yates, along with architect Victor Fast, experimented with 4' x 8' panels on a test surface that duplicated the Education wall, to determine a fastening system that could withstand the rigours of Edmonton's weather. The panel, in place on the wall since December 5th, was the final test of the fastening system, paint, and colour combinations. Yates was very pleased with the way the panels had stood up to the extremes of weather in the last few months.

The mural which was a natural outgrowth of Yates' research, will be started in July, although actual installation will not take place until August 87. The mural will be an abstraction of Yates' feelings about the local landscape and his ideas about space and motion within space.

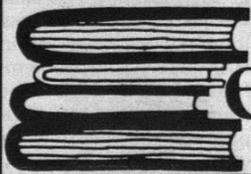
All 205 panels will be painted by



The panel is a test for a mural that will eventually cover the whole Ed building wall.

hand, allowing the direct touch of the artist. Yates feels that this allows for spontaneity and evolution within the mural.

The mural will cost \$45,000 which is being provided by eight different agencies, both on and off campus. Yates, who will be teaching class during part of the mural's painting, will earn no income from the painting.



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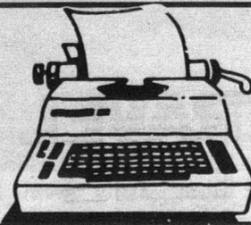
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