



Just hanging around...

Holding her groceries tightly, an elderly lady was seen leaving the scene of an accident by this tree in front of the Fine Arts Bldg. Rumours are the university has paid over \$10,000 for the art object resulting from her run in with the branches of this towering timber.

When in Rome...

For the eleventh successive year, the University's department of classics is offering a special summer course in Rome, Italy.

The course, Classics 459: Roman Archaeology and Civilization, runs from July 6 to Aug. 10 and is conducted by Dr. C. Smith, Chairman of Classics. While the main part of the course is devoted to a study of the city of Rome, a survey of Italian classical history and the culture of the Etruscans will also be included.

The course will include several field trips; among them a visit to the villa of Hadrian, two visits to the ancient port of Ostia and an excursion to the famous Etruscan tombs. A trip to southern Italy will include visits to Pompeii, Herculaneum, Baiae, Paestum, Capri, Naples, Benevento and Taranto.

For more information regarding Classics 459, contact Dr. Smith, department of classics, 432-3257.

Fee Payment Deadline

JANUARY 17, 1977

University regulations provide that the last day for payment of the second instalment of fees and for payment of fees for Second Term only registrants is January 17, 1977. A penalty of \$15.00 will be charged on any payment made or postmarked after that date.

The regulations further state that should payment not be made by January 31st, registration will be subject to cancellation.

Fees are payable at the Office of the Comptroller, 3rd floor, Administration Building, or by mail addressed to the Fees Division, Office of the Comptroller, The University of Alberta.

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Bookstore installs computers

Although the annual fall rush for books at the U of A bookstore was as frenetic as in past years, the cash registers didn't ring rhythmically.

They did, however, emit staccato buzzing sounds which served to broadcast the arrival of a computerized book-selling operation.

The IBM 3650 retail store system was quietly instituted this fall after three years of planning.

In 1967 the bookstore purchased several cash registers which had a life span of 10 years. When indications of mortality began to appear in September of 1975, the need for an improved system was recognized, emphasized by the fact that the university is in the top six in terms of volume among university bookstores in Canada.

The unified system of data collection and recording made the IBM 3650 the bookstore's choice. "It's the first installation of this particular system in Canada and it's functioning with few difficulties," says bookstore manager Jim Malone.

From early September when it became effective until the end of November, the system handled 390,695 sales transactions.

Malone calls the 3650 "a powerful system which we're just tickling at the moment. We will be phasing in additions as time goes by and it will take about three

years to fully implement the system."

In the new scheme of things the cash registers are called points of sale terminals and terms like cyclical flow, purchase order entry and display station have become commonplace in bookstore jargon.

The store controller is the nerve centre of the system. It collects data, records current departmental and flash item totals, and serves as the communications controller for the attached terminals.

There is interactive communication between the store controller and its terminals. An integral disk unit built into the controller collects data from all terminals connected to the controller and stores it for future processing by user-written application programs.

Each point of sale terminal performs cash register functions such as automatically accumulating totals, calculating change due, printing cash receipts and sales checks, printing a journal of all sales transactions and maintaining audit controls.

The optional wand reader feature which the bookstore will implement later reads sales data from magnetically encoded merchandise tickets. It helps to assure collection of accurate

sales transaction data and decrease queuing problems.

The wand reader, which is attached to either side of the point of sale terminal, allows item and salesperson identification and accounts receivable to be entered into the system.


The display station and ticket unit are the other main components of the 3650 system. The former is an interactive display terminal capable of displaying 24 rows of 80 characters each. It increases the bookstore's data entry and inquiry capabilities.


A high speed device, the ticket unit produces and reads magnetically encoded and printed merchandise tickets in varying sizes and formats.

The bookstore records the total daily sales in each of its nine departments. Each transaction is recorded on tape which is housed in an adjacent building.


To avoid consulting expensive and bulky computer printouts, the bookstore intends to use microfiche to accommodate its author and course listings. The change is expected to be completed soon.

Interest in the IBM 3650 has been expressed by a number of institutions. Recent visits to the bookstore have been made by the U of Victoria, U of C, U of L and Alberta Liquor Stores.


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