

Students climbing walls

by James Stevenson

During registration week while most students were "climbing the walls" in frustration, the Campus Outdoor Centre was receiving the material to build its own.

The University of Alberta's new climbing wall will be installed in the University Pavilion, south-west corner, and will be fully operational by the first week of October.

It will be the most advanced climbing wall in Canada said Hank Van Weelden, director of the Campus Outdoor Centre.

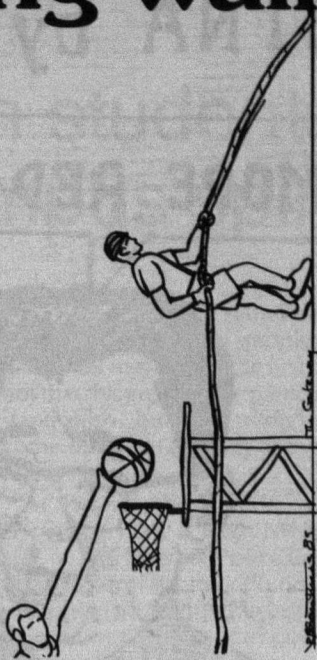
The facility will be complete with ropes and full safety features. The public can bring their own harnesses and rock shoes, however rental equipment will be available.

"There will be free student climbing time," said Van Weelden, as well as lessons for all levels of climbers.

Van Weelden also added that it will be the only competition wall in Canada. "In December, we will be holding the National Rock Climbing Championships here to determine who will be on the national team."

Rock climbing will be an Olympic sport in the 1992 Winter Games.

The cost for the wall is set at \$60,000, with an extra \$10,000 being spent on equipment. The wall is a joint project of the faculty of physical education and recreation and the Alpine Club of Canada, Edmonton chapter.



Senate addresses issues

by Randal Smathers

MEDICINE HAT—The University of Alberta Senate held their annual out-of-town meeting on Friday. It was held in Medicine Hat for the first time.

The Senate received submissions from the Medicine Hat School District, the Regional Hospital, and the Alberta Association for Adult Literacy, whose president, Catherine Chang, is a resident of the southern Alberta city.

The school district report contained "bouquets and brickbats", in the words of university Chancellor Dr. Tevie Miller. Chief among the concerns was the difficulty of transferring from a small (approximately 42,000 population) remote city, to the University. This problem was addressed in terms of accessibility, communication, and support services.

The literacy association and the hospital were both lobbying for more course offerings. Chang wanted

courses offered in teaching adult illiterates. Hospital spokesman Barry Finkelstein wanted more remote-access professional development courses, as well as asking the University to consider Medicine Hat hospital as another research location.

The Senate also heard a report on water problems in Alberta from Dr. David Chanasyk of the Water Resources Centre on campus, as well as conducting routine business.

WUSC helps foreign students

by Yedida Zalik

Two years ago the University held a referendum in which the students decided to join the Student Refugee Sponsorship program. Now 50 cents a year out of the tuition of every U of A student funds this project.

The Student Refugee Sponsorship program is an activity organized by the World University Service of Canada, or WUSC. WUSC is a non-profit international agency which involves the Canadian community in global economic development.

Every year, the U of A WUSC chapter sponsors a student refugee to come to Canada to study at the U of A. The student for 1988-89 was Yohannes Mersha Nega, an Ethiopian refugee, who is working towards a master's degree in civil engineering. Gabriel Moteshegoa a refugee from South Africa, is the WUSC student for 1989-90. He will be studying political science. Mo-

teshegoa said that he is "particularly impressed by the department I'm in", adding, "I appreciate the way they (WUSC) treated me ...as a host, someone who is extending a helping hand."

The aim of the one-year sponsorship period is for the student refugee to achieve a financial level equal to that of Canadian students. During this first year, the student's room, board and tuition costs are covered by the WUSC local committee and the campus contact group. The university itself has waived tuition fees for that year of study. As permanent residents of Canada, the refugees are eligible to work, and also to qualify for student loans. And so by the end of the year, the student should be able to support himself. "WUSC has been very helpful in every way, starting from finding study materials for the TOEFL (English efficiency exam), and getting my social insurance number," said Nega.

Most of the arrangements for the refugee students here in Edmonton are undertaken by the U of A WUSC Student Refugee Support Group. This group, which has official U of A club status, provides the first social framework for the new student. WUSC members are the first people to meet the refugee students and learn about their experiences. The group will begin the 1989 season with a wine and cheese social for the refugee students and anyone interested in WUSC. This will be held at the U of A International Centre on Sept. 20, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. All interested U of A students and staff are invited to attend.

In addition, the WUSC chapter sponsors many other meetings and forums on various international development and refugee issues. These provide students with an excellent opportunity to be a part of the U of A's "international connection".

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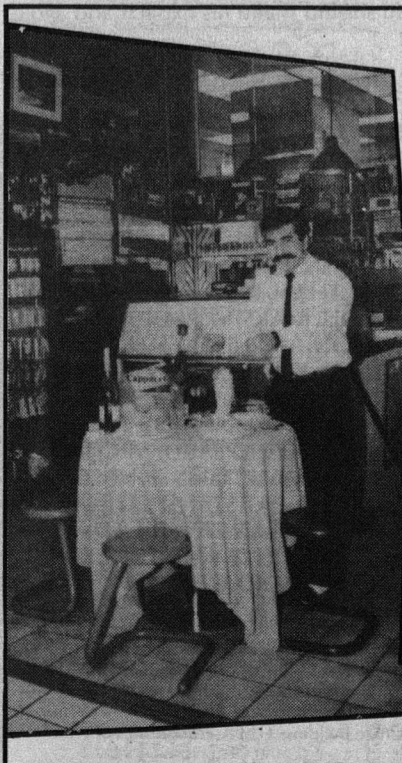
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