

## Canadian University Press DATELINE

### Arts program has no compulsory classes

SASKATOON—The University of Saskatchewan's Arts and Science Faculty Council has organized an arts program free of compulsory classes.

The new program will be presented to the university Faculty Council for approval.

Particulars of the program have not yet been released, awaiting council's approval and the suggested modifications of the Regina Faculty Council.

But in a recent interview with the Sheaf, U of S student newspaper, Dean Haslam did say the program has no compulsory classes.

"No one single subject, not even English or a foreign language, will be compulsory but while students will be expected to take classes out of their particular field, their choice of subjects will be far greater," said Dean Haslam.

If accepted, the program will affect not only freshmen. All students working on their degrees will have the option of turning to the new program.

### Lakehead to get own television network

PORT ARTHUR, Ont.—Lakehead University will become the second university in Canada to operate a closed-circuit, non-educational television network on campus.

The network will be set up in January.

In discussing the proposed project with Pat Wesley, psychology lecturer and presently one of the main actors on the closed network, mention was made of Scarborough College, the only other Canadian campus using television facilities for non-educational purposes.

Mr. Wesley said the difference between Scarborough's programs and the ones which will be run here is not so much in the material used but in the fact that the administration runs Scarborough's show.

At Lakeview, the entire production will be in the hands of students.

The plan at present is to broadcast campus news, events and feature items of interest to students.

# Vern Minow tells drug conference about plans for 'half-way' houses

By MARG BOLTON

"We would take a girl into the university cafeteria. She would stand up and say: 'I have been a prostitute for nine years, and a drug addict for eight. I am willing to trade my knowledge of prostitution and narcotics for your knowledge of academics and normal living.'"

Vern Minow, at a conference on drug addiction in SUB theatre Monday, told the students of his experiences in Vancouver.

Minow says he has spent 17 years in prison since he was 14, and has been a drug addict for 16 years. Since his release in 1965 he has built "half-way" houses for addicts in Vancouver, and now plans opening them in Edmonton.

"Canada has the highest drug addiction rate in the world," he said. The average addiction costs \$150 a day, and the addict keeps only one-sixth of all he steals. This means that he must steal the equivalent of \$900 a day. Society cannot afford to let this go on.

"But it is not for the protection of society that I am setting up these houses. It is for the individuals—the mixed-up kids who have taken the wrong turn."

This is the most usual result of barbiturate addiction, he said. If a girl of 16 is addicted to barbiturates (sleeping pills), the chances are 95 to 1 she will never live to be 18.

"While barbiturates, or 'goof-balls' cause a long, subtle, sleepy effect," he said heroin causes euphoria which lasts for one one-hundredth of a second.

This happens once, he said, the first time that the drug is taken but is greatly magnified by the mind.

"It is the impurities in heroin which eat away the flesh, leaving the veins and arteries wide open.

"Heroin addiction can be cured. Methadon, a synthetic heroin, causes no euphoria, and takes 17 days to break the habit. It costs only six cents a day, but it is almost impossible to get it here."

However, Ray Edwardson, who claims to be a minister and an ex-convict, says that methadon is not very effective. He took it several times, but each time went back to heroin.

"The mental aspects become part of the personality," he explained. "You must change the personality before you can cure drug addiction."

He said he was cured by the faith of his wife and little daughter, and the help of God. He said after a record of about 30 arrests, he is now working every night in all the coffee shops and beer parlours near Jasper Avenue, trying to help the youngsters.

Instead of trying to cure them with drugs, his organization works on faith.

Vern Minow said that, although he has been off drugs for two years, he is still living day by day.

"The philosophy of our half-way houses," he said, "is: 'Tomorrow never comes; yesterday is gone forever; every day is today.'"

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