

Enrolment down, Alberta gov't halts university expansion plans

EDMONTON (CUP)—In Alberta, the Progressive Conservative government, elected last summer, has ordered a halt to planning on all University of Alberta construction projects where actual construction has not begun.

The freeze will likely last at least until the legislature convenes in March.

The government move indefinitely postpones five construction projects at the Edmonton campus, and orders "status reports" be compiled by the university on some seven more projects.

Most of these projects were born in the optimistic days of the 1960s, when U of A enrolment was spiralling by 12 percent annually. However, minimal enrolment increases in the last two years have cast into considerable doubt university projections that enrolment, currently around 18,500 would reach 25,000 by the mid-seventies.

U of A Planning and Development vice-president W.D. Neal is "very concerned about the matter and would like to see some action on it soon."

He worries that re-engaging the planning mechanism for projects will be expensive and fears the financial and legal implications should projects already underway be cancelled; or should U of A's annual \$10 million capital expenditures for renovations, improvements and equipment be cut

back. Neal also claims that the university, despite the under-enrolment, is short of space. "We're currently 500,000 square feet short of floor space, and if there are long delays in approval of these projects, it would certainly hurt our planning for the rest of the 70s."

Founders approves act 'in principle'

Founders College passed "in principle" the proposed York University Newspaper Act on Tuesday night. It plans to discuss the act next week again.

The act received a tie vote in McLaughlin and was tabled until next week.

McLaughlin senior tutor Barry Argyle felt the act did not place trust in the students because they alone

could not amend it.

Editor Andy Michalski disagreed and said that if there was a great deal of dissatisfaction with the paper Act, the elected board of directors would also feel the need to amend it.

He said all three bodies — the Excalibur staff, board and student body should make any amendments.

At press time, the act was being discussed by Winters.

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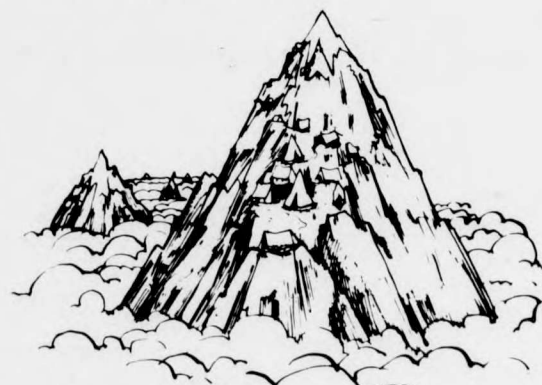
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