

Fewer students blue-printed for future

by Jeff Cowley

Stricter admission standards are keeping the University's population control plan on target.

The latest 1989 enrolment figures show that fewer full and part-time students are attending the University of Alberta, said registrar Brian Silzer.

"The latest figures show that the university is on schedule with cutting back its general enrolment," said Silzer.

The slide in enrolment follows last September's increase in admission standards to a 70 percent high school average.

The increased entrance requirements were expected to lead to an enrolment decrease of about 700 students. The actual total dropped by 943 students.

A total of 28,383 full time and part time students are attending the U of A this year, down from last year's 29,326.

A surge of 730 new students was admitted in January, but they served to balance out the first semester drop-out figures.

The overall decrease is tied to the University's plan to thin out the number of undergraduate students and increase the number of graduate students attending the U of A.

In line with proposals in "The Next Decade and Beyond", a blueprint of future University pro-



Brent Valan, cyclist extraordinaire, takes advantage of the warm cycling weather. Is he practicing creative visualization of traffic or just sleeping?

grams and structure, enrolment would be trimmed back to 20,000 students in undergraduate programs by 1997, while graduate programs would be opened up to accommodate 5,000 more.

"The University Board of Governors feels this is a realistic capacity recognizing the University's physical and financial situation," said Silzer.

The big three faculties, arts, science, and education, experienced a significant drop in enrolment, accounting for almost all of the change. Compared to January last year, arts decreased by 3.7 percent; science by 3.8 percent; and education by 10 percent.

Other faculties showed less significant decreases. However, the

faculty of engineering failed to fill its quota of students, with 161 fewer students enrolled in the faculty compared to last year.

The significance of the campus-wide enrolment cutback is "in the eye of the beholder," said Silzer.

"Whereas our university is experiencing a significant change in the size of its population, in other areas of Canada it is increasing."

"The decrease represents the number of students the University can adequately handle."

Election timetable bone of contention

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enda on this year's ballot which "directly affect students' pocket-books," said Hunter. One of these issues concerns setting a formal SU policy on tuition fees. Students will also be voting on how the SU should deal with the university administration.

The schedule shift may have left some professors red in the face because they have already arranged their timetables around the election. Some may have already told their students not to bother attending noon classes on February 16, the time originally set aside for the SU election forum in SUB Theatre, said Hunter. The forum will now be running on March 8, although it has not been decided if noon classes will be cancelled to allow students to attend.

"There are some obvious problems with communication between the returning office and registrar's office, but the new election date eliminates more problems than it creates," said Hunter.

The calendar change also smooths over gaps that would have been created in manpower. Holding an exam-day election

would have interfered with balloting officer's schedules and left the returning office with a skeleton staff and poll stations that may not have been opened.

"Working a polling staff of 50 people at 19 stations over the campus is a lot. During exam week it would have spread things kind of thin," said Hunter.

Election officials had also intended to bump the balloting up from Thursday and Friday to the middle of the week to increase voter turn-out. "We have found that most students head home or go to RATT (on Fridays), meaning they don't stick around campus and are less likely to vote," said SU vp external David Tupper.

"Statistically Fridays have been pretty bad from student turn-out," he said, noting that two-thirds of voting students cast their ballots on Thursdays, and only one-third on Fridays.

But burrs in the election bylaw meant that resetting the election machinery for a Tuesday or Wednesday was constitutionally impossible.

Stumping coming

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are Edmonton lawyer Eric Young, past president of the ridings's PC association Dr. Jack Scott, and environmentalist Peter Ojamaa. Ojamaa is also president of the Edmonton Strathcona Federal Reform Party association.

There is no PC incumbent in the riding as Julian Koziak, who represented the constituency as a PC MLA for over 15 years,

stepped down after losing to Wright in the last election, said the Edmonton Strathcona PC Association president Sharon Sagert.

"He (Koziak) is expected to hold a press conference (later this week) to announce his candidacy in another riding," Sagert noted.

No date has been set for the Edmonton Strathcona Liberal nomination meeting.

WUSC saves students

by Boris Zvonkovic

The University of Alberta will soon be welcoming student refugees from third world countries.

The Edmonton local committee of the World University Service of Canada (WUSC) has worked for more than a year to establish the Student Refugee Sponsorship program at the U of A, and hopes to welcome its first participant this month.

WUSC is a national, non-profit, non-governmental organization involving the Canadian community in social and academic development at home and abroad. The primary objective of WUSC is human resource development through teaching and teacher training in the third world, said national committee vice-president Judith Padua.

"WUSC has a large number of

programs to train human resources in developing countries, and it does this partly by sending Canadians (ie professors, students, etc.) abroad to teach, and partly by bringing people from developing countries to Canada to be trained."

WUSC is partially funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and may also receive support, depending on the project, from international organizations such as the World Bank or the United Nations.

One of WUSC's major projects has been the Student Refugee Sponsorship program. Under this program, WUSC offers aid to exiled students who have had to flee their own country for fear of religious, political, or ethnic persecution.

The Edmonton Journal
staff writer **Matthew McClure**
will be presenting a seminar
on **newswriting**
TODAY
at 4:30 pm in the
L'Express overflow lounge.
Anyone interested is welcome
to attend.

WUSC field officers in developing countries collect dossiers on suitable candidates and forward this information to the organization's national headquarters in Ottawa. One potential candidate is then selected for each Canadian campus that is supporting the student refugee program.

The local campus committees would then aid in getting the student accepted to a program of study and must ensure that funds are provided for the successful

candidate's accommodation, food, clothing, transport, and tuition fees for their first year of study.

The Student Refugee Program was accepted by the U of A in the spring of 1988, after the Edmonton local committee of WUSC lobbied the 1987-88 Students' Union to add fifty cents to each students' tuition fees to support the program.

A referendum was held on this issue in the spring of 1988, and 54 per cent of the U of A students

who voted agreed to the fifty cent increase.

"I think students all around the world should show some solidarity... the idea of this program is students helping students," explained David Howarth, president of the U of A local of WUSC.

Since the Student Refugee Sponsorship Program was started in 1978, 167 student refugees from Africa, Central America, and the Middle East have been sponsored to study in Canada.