

New stress line opens

by Brent Fennell

Alberta Blue Cross has designed a Student Help Line to aid those who may be "overcome by the pressures of today's increasingly stressful society."

The 'Help Line' is intended to provide crisis intervention for students under 21, on such topics as suicide, drug abuse, pregnancy, AIDS, and pressure, explained Peter Schmid, Vice President of Administration at Blue Cross.

The operation is a 24-hour a day phone-in program sub-contracted to The Personal Development Center, which is a non-profit charity staffed by professional volunteers.

The service is based on a similar program which has been run by Manitoba Blue Cross for the past 3 years noted Schmid, and is coupled with the Personal Development Center's 10 years of local expertise.

The phone-in service is for the exclusive use of Blue Cross policy holders, and callers are required to identify themselves after dialing the private phone number.

Blue Cross claims that approximately 100 attempts occur for every suicide death and that a 15 per cent increase in suicides between 1985 and 1986 indicate a clear need for the service.

Enrolling in the service costs

approximately \$10 per person which entitles the caller to immediate access to a counsellor and an appointment with a psychologist within 24 hours at the Personal Development Center. This is in contrast to the free services of the U of A's Student Counselling which operates during regular business hours or the SU's Crisis Line which is staffed by volunteers.

The Personal Development Center has nine affiliated psychologists and two suicide prevention program therapists on their counselling staff.

Dr. Fisher of the U of A's Student Counselling commented that the main problem students seem to face at the University is "Dealing with peer pressure" in addition to needing counselling on vocational, sexual, and family pressures.

Another SORSE of help

by Sherri Ritchie

You have been lost three times today. You have no idea where SUB is or how to use the library. You are beginning to feel like an idiot, but are afraid to ask questions for fear of looking like one. You are a first year student.

You are not alone. The size and population of the university can be very intimidating for the first time. But there is someone out there who will help you without laughing at you.

Students' Orientation Services will make the pieces fit. SORSE is a non-profit service provided jointly by the Students' Union and the University. The focus of SORSE is on making the transition from high school to university easier.

From July through to September

they offer seminars on everything from academics and stress to student life and library use.

"What I want to see in a student that has taken our seminar," explained Rick Toogood, SORSE Director, "is the ability to start school Day 1, rather than fumbling around for a couple of weeks."

This is quite a bit harder than it may seem, but you still have a chance to take advantage of SORSE.

There is one seminar left, on Saturday, September 12, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The cost of the seminar is \$23.50.

To pre-register, contact the SORSE office in room 238B in SUB or call 432-5319. Or you can simply show up Saturday in Room 109 of the Business Building before 9 a.m.

Summer thefts include SUB sculpture

by Rod Campbell

A sculpture weighing an estimated one hundred pounds was stolen from the Students' Union Building (SUB) sometime between 12 p.m. and 8 a.m., August 12th.

Measuring six by three feet, the piece entitled "Nail Sculpture", by Akron, Ohio artist David Partridge, was purchased by the SU in 1968 for \$900. It is currently valued around \$3500.

The sculpture was mounted on the south west wall of the main floor, opposite the campus bookstore.

SU Facilities Manager George Cunningham speculated that the culprit(s) must have taken close to thirty minutes to remove the

sculpture from its mounting.

Campus Security have no leads to date, but have not ruled out the possibility that the removal of the sculpture was a prank.

The loss of the sculpture is just one of several thefts that have occurred in SUB during the summer.

A number of stores have been burglarized, some more than once. However, the burglaries stopped after Campus Security apprehended a youth on the premises of Mmmuffins early in the morning of July 3rd.

The youth was handed over to City Police and charged under the Young Offenders Act for illegal entry and being in possession of

stolen goods.

Chief Security Officer Ralph Oliver hoped that the reduction of burglaries since the youth's arrest was more than just a coincidence.

Asked if he felt security was adequate for SUB, Oliver replied

that the building was well protected.

"It gets more security because it's close to our building. We do a good job as far as I'm concerned," said Oliver.

However, SU Business Manager

Tom Wright feels that security "could certainly improve."

"We're going to look at a security guard sitting on the main floor all night," added Wright.

South African ambassador may speak on campus

by Rod Campbell

The University of Alberta Philosophy Club is currently in the process of inviting the South African ambassador to Canada, Henri de Clark, to speak on campus.

Although no official request has been made, Club president Danny Beauchamp said an invitation to Clark would be sent by mid September.

Beauchamp says his club wants to hear the South African government's perspective on apartheid first hand, rather than depending on the media.

Asked how he felt Clark would be received on campus, Beauchamp expressed hope that people would listen.

"The best way to defeat an opponent is to listen to his platform," said Beauchamp.

Students' Union VP External Paul LaGrange feels inviting Clark to campus is a positive move.

"This could foster lots of discussion. I would encourage groups like CARA (Citizens Against Racism and Apartheid) to hold a symposium at the same time," said LaGrange.

CARA executive Bob Schmidt agreed that a potential visit by Clark would rally anti-apartheid activists, but added, "Why should he be allowed to spread his apartheid beliefs?"

South African ambassadors are noted for their communication

skills while presenting biased opinions, said Schmidt.

"It can be very dangerous when people are given half the story."

Beauchamp is hopeful that Clark will speak on campus by early October.

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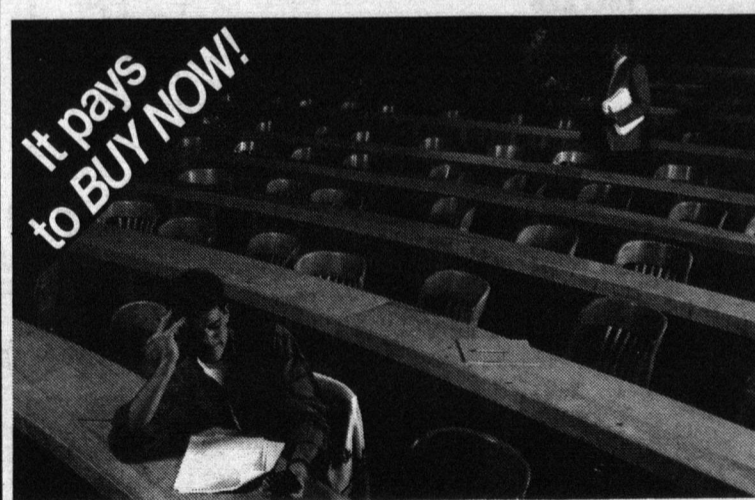
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