

for campus expansion

invasion of North Garneau

North Garneau Development-Report I says:

"Junior colleges which have academic programs equivalent to the first two years of university are now located at Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, and Red Deer. Already students from these two colleges have confined the growth of the Edmonton campus to the upper years of the undergraduate programs. These colleges were conceived with the possibility of their developing into a university supported by other colleges.

Student enrolment at U of A will soon reach peak loads. At some point it will no longer be feasible to continue the present incremental growth. Arts, science, education will reach their maximum enrolments within a year or two of each other. . . . another Edmonton university would develop. The present campus could then place more emphasis on graduate studies."

What will this integrated university look like?

No one has more than a vague notion right now, but the second report of Bittorf and Pinckston to the Board of Governors in January will present some alternatives.

Plans now call for the main public entry to campus to be

at 87 Ave. and 112 St. A plaza from there will lead into the heart of the campus at 89 Ave. and 112 St.

Around this core will be an administration area, an art gallery, theatre, library and dining facilities. Around these core facilities will be academic facilities and on the outside, parking space.

Between the present university core (SUB, administration, and phys ed) and the new core, there will be a pedestrian mall along 89 Ave.

It is intended that this mall will unite these two areas and prevent the new campus from becoming a splinter group.

Along the east side of the 112 St. plaza will probably be student residences for 2,500. They will also act as a buffer between the university and the residential district on the south side of 87 Ave.

The architects have been told to provide 2,684,000 square feet of floor space in the development. This includes 875,000 square feet for parking but does not include residences.

That means there will be 60 acres of floor space on a 40 acre site.

What will all this cost? No one seems to be sure, but \$70 million plus seems to be close enough to everyone's thinking. The architects will not say

anything except that the university has not unreasonably restricted the amount of money they have to work with.

But this was before the great budget dispute came around. According to Dr. W. H. Worth, U of A vice-president in charge of campus planning and development,

feature by
ronald yakimchuk

photos by
george barr

there is no doubt the provincial government's restricting of the capital budget of the universities of Alberta and Calgary will slow the growth of the project.

"But I am optimistic that the government funds will be increased in the future, and that there will be some money from private donations," said Dr. Worth.

WON'T STOP

Construction may be slowed down, but it will not stop.

"The first building might begin in '68-'69. We will know

for sure in two or three months," said Dr. Worth.

"But before we can have any buildings we must extend utilities into the area. We have consultants working on it now.

"If we were to use a tunnel system like the one just being completed, it would cost us \$10 million. I think this is too much."

This means that any plans laid so far are subject to change. Also, all plans have to be approved by many groups including the campus development commission, the Board of Governors, and the Universities Commission, and they could easily reject them.

What about the most important group of all—the students? Well, nothing has been said, but they could and should have an independent voice in the matter.

The architects are eager for student opinion on the type of facilities which should be created, but so far none has been heard.

"We have decided we will want some student representation, but have received none as yet," says Don Bittorf.

Dr. Worth says, "We have not considered student briefs, but it is something to think about."

There is a door open for student participation. But no

one is using it. Until last week the students' union was unaware the architects had presented a preliminary report to the Board of Governors.

Here is a grand chance for all those so-called student activists to contribute something of genuine value to future generations by shaping the facilities which will shape them.

ENOUGH HEADACHES

But perhaps it would be better if students did not meddle in this affair because there will be enough complications involved without them.

"It is very difficult to plan for a university because of the autonomy within the parts of universities—they are the most democratic bodies in the world," says Don Bittorf.

Thus the asset democracy becomes red tape when put into practice.

A final picture of the campus probably never will be available. So long as no one sets a limit on the size and there is still unused land, some one will be putting up new buildings.

But let's do it right because most of these buildings will have to outlast the lifetime of any person now living, and I'd hate for my kids to have to live with an abortion.

Masterminds behind the master plan

Behind university president Dr. Walter H. John's residence on the north side of the campus are about 15 houses arranged around a long U-shaped drive. Tall poplars and shrubs obscure the fronts of the buildings and it is difficult to read the number seven that identifies the working place of ten young men, employees of Bittorf and Pinckston. These are not ordinary men. The

work they are doing will have more impact on the look of this university than generations of presidents.

They are no less than masterminds for what could be a whole new way of life for countless future U of A students.

The group is headed by Donald G. Bittorf, and Donald L. Pinckston. Known to their staff as "the Dons". Both are native Edmontonians and maintain sepa-

rate architectural practices in the city.

Mr. Bittorf has a B.Sc. in architecture from Washington State University and a M.Sc. from Harvard. He has spent eight years in private practice.

Mr. Pinckston has a B.Sc. in architecture from the University of British Columbia and has had seven years practice in Edmonton.

Working under them are a diversified group of men, both engineers and architects, some straight out of university.

There is the office senior, Guy Maron, who has had all his training and experience in Australia.

Rod Kay, a tall Englishman has had experience on the continent, where there is a lot of redevelopment of the North Garneau type going on.

Why did Bittorf and Pinckston take on this project? Well, aside from the money, challenge man—challenge.

"This is essentially urban redesign of a historically residential area," says Don Bittorf.

"There are many new universities being built, but most of them are in undeveloped territory where the amount of land is unlimited.

"Here we are given a piece of land and told to put in everything we need."

Coordinating the architects with the university is Dr. W. H. Worth, U of A vice-president in charge of campus development and planning. He assumed the new post on Sept. 1, 1967.

Says Dr. Worth of his position, "The position was created because the Board of Governors and the administration felt there was need for someone to provide

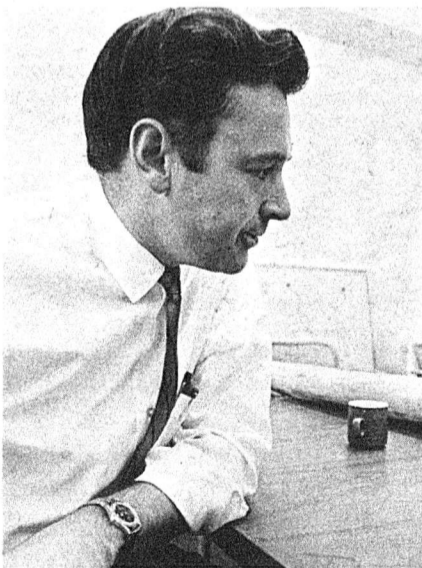


DR. W. H. WORTH
. . . co-ordinator

leadership to the development and expansion of the campus.

"I got the position because I was involved in a similar role in the faculty of education," he said. "My position with regard to Bittorf and Pinckston is to try to coordinate the acts of the planning architects to insure that their proposals are concurrent with the long range academic plans of the university."

"The university also has a planning consultant in California by the name of Louis DeMonte, who is our overall advisor on planning. He will also be invited to give reactions to the plans of Bittorf and Pinckston," said Dr. Worth.



"THE DONS" IN CHARGE OF REDEVELOPMENT
. . . architects Don Pinckston (left) and Don Bittorf (right)