

## Proper prerequisites to be better enforced

by Lisa Hall

The Sociology Department has started a screening process to prevent students without the proper prerequisites from completing higher-level sociology courses.

Many students who had registered in such courses, thinking they could get the prerequisite waived, have had their requests turned down.

Several students complained

to Arts Representative Wade Deisman, saying that in the past, prerequisites had often been waived. Deisman said one student even asked the professor if he would be allowed to take a course. "The prof said it would be no problem, but then the department wouldn't okay it."

Most students dropped the courses on the telephone registration system before September 14 deadline. "But then they had to try and rearrange their timetables,

and many courses were full," said Deisman. This created problems for students who graduate in December or April.

Students could risk not dropping their courses, but the Sociology department's screen process would likely catch them. Deisman said the students were told "that if, by September 30, they are still registered in a sociology course without the prerequisite for it, the department will withdraw them from it (the course)."

The screening process has been undertaken by Dr. Earle Snider, the Sociology undergraduate advisor. The screening, Snider said, "has created a lot of work, but I'm trying to prevent students from doing something that could get them in trouble." Without the

screening process, students could lose credit if they were caught without a prerequisite for a course, even if they had already successfully completed it.

Snider, who started his position as undergraduate advisor this year, said many students had been requesting that the prerequisite be waived, and he was granting this request to individuals with legitimate reasons.

Some requests were refused because Snider felt the rules regarding prerequisites should be, and always have been, enforced. He said there were also instances where sociology majors had come to him, saying that a course they needed was full. When he looked into the registrations, he discovered many were in the

course without the prerequisite. "Of course the sociology majors should come first," said Snider, "but that is not the issue. The issue is that there are rules to be followed concerning prerequisites."

Deisman, however, disagrees with this position. He feels that Arts is a faculty where you should be able to study many different disciplines. "It's hard to get the prerequisites for everything that you're interested in taking, because you can only take so many junior courses," said Deisman.

Deisman approached VP Academic Charles Vethan with the situation. Vethan said that as far as he could tell, everything the Sociology department was doing was within their power.

## Senate hears community concerns

by Dragos Ruiu

Members of the U of A Senate convened in Spruce Grove and Stony Plain to hear the concerns of these communities about the University on Friday.

The Senate is a volunteer body which acts as a bridge between the public and the University, as well as conferring honorary degrees. The Senate meets four times a year, with one meeting traditionally held out of town with the intent of communicating the University's concerns to the host's community.

The Senate, led by Chancellor Miller and Dr. Horowitz, heard briefs from the hosting commu-

nities, its working committees, the Administration, and the Students' Union.

The predominant theme was that the University should set up transfer programs with regional institutions. Westerra Technical Institute officials, in Stony Plain, stressed that there was a great demand among their student body for such programs.

Also voiced were complaints from a local high school teacher over the Writing Competency Test. Earl Miller said, "the removal of the English literacy examinations are overdue... a four hundred word essay is not a reasonable judge of competency."

There was also debate over the recommendations of the Senate Ethics Committee. The committee is researching ethics policies on campus.

The committee had recommended that an ethics component be present in all programs of study, but not all faculties have implemented such class content. "The committee felt kind of fobbed off on this matter," said Chancellor Miller.

A more strongly worded resolution was delivered to the General Faculties Council and the office of the president. A resolution that all programs include separate mandatory ethics courses was not passed.

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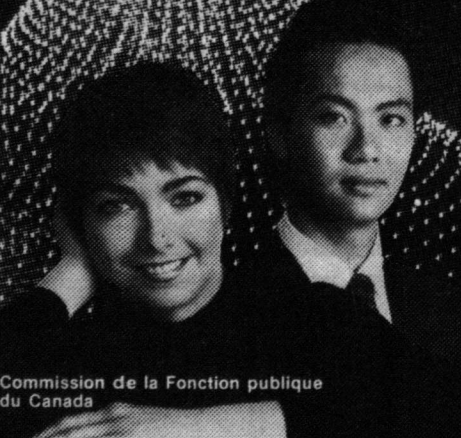


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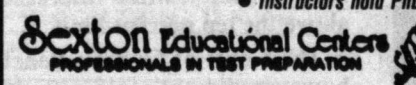
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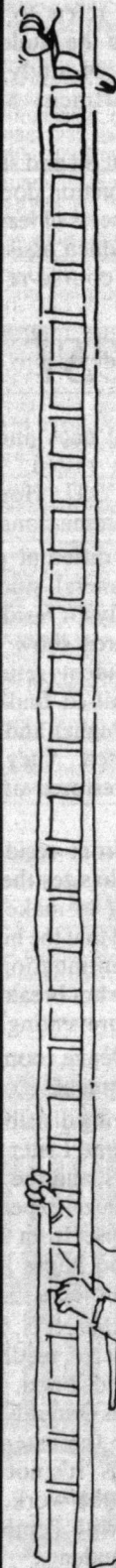
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