

# The Gateway

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TWELVE PAGES

## UNIVERSITY SHORT OF PROJECTED ENROLLMENT

by Bob Mack

Administrators have been crying for students two years in a row.

Last year the U of A was 2000 students short of its projected enrollment; this year it is expected to be 4200 students short. The university had expected about 19,500 students for the 1971-72 term but preliminary figures show only 18,300. This means total enrollment should be the same as last year or down about 100 students. The greatest drops came in the faculties of Arts and Education.

The University of Calgary and the University of Lethbridge are facing similar student shortages.

Usually, when university registrations have dropped, technical schools and regional colleges have had increases in attendance. This does not seem to be occurring this year. Northern Alberta Institute of Technology Registrar, Mr. S. Kembly, said that the 50 student increase was about 150 less than expected. The situation is apparently the same at SAIT.

"Through the sixties we became accustomed to increases of 12% every year, an increase disproportionate to the age group's growth," said Registrar A.D. Cairns. "Now it seems it is beginning to level off."

He said social changes could be possible factors in the sudden drop in enrollment. Two other factors according to Cairns are the dim employment prospects and the fact that loans are now the only form of assistance available to students.

Another factor that adds to the confusion is that while post-secondary enrollment is static or decreasing the number of students in secondary institutions is continuing to rise. Admittedly, secondary enrolment is down, but

there are more high and junior high students in school or graduating than before. Students coming out of school simply are not going to university or to technical institutes.

The University is increasingly worried about the situation. Last year it lost 3.5 dollars in government grants allotted on a per capita basis, when 2000 fewer students than expected enrolled. By a new arrangements between the government and Alberta universities the grant total is determined on a "reasonable projection of the enrollment". In line with a lowered estimate this year the university will lost only \$500,000. The budget will not be expected until the 1972-73 fiscal year however.

Another student, Sheila Harrington, Education student felt that, "There's too much specialization," and that a lot of kids "don't like to go into something but they're not sure they would like it."

Students had as many views on the dropping enrollment as the administrators. Joan Davidson, a Nursing student said its "too long a haul," and students get "no real practical application out of it." She said, "It's a real hassle for four or five years".

Ken Mattson, Commerce 1, said that classes "should be smaller, but probably can't." Commenting on a lost feeling he said, "This is the perfect example of it, (waving a class card) a bunch of holes."

Max Wyman, president of the U of A, said, "We had been assuming that the proportion of young people entering universities in Canada would continue until it reached the 50% level of the United States. Obviously, this is not the case. There seems to be a deep sociological change involved and young people are asking some important new questions about their education."



Is This An Attempt by the administration to pad the enrollment figures or has the University of Alberta finally gone to the dogs?

photo: Barry Headrick

## U of C freezes budget

CALGARY (CUP)--The University of Calgary Board of Governors voted Tuesday (Sept. 14) to freeze the budget of the institution. The budget freeze is on the "hiring of both academic and support staff" and is to be "implemented immediately."

On the suggestion of vice-president for business and finance, Harvey Bliss, the Board of Governors passed the motion with only one dissenting vote. The motion also includes expenditures on supplies and materials in the 1971-72 budget.

These will be cut back as much as possible.

Due to under-enrollment the U of C has found itself committed to expenditures which may exceed its known resources.

The projected enrollment figure was 10,600 but at present there are only about 8500 confirmed registrations. Officials disclosed to the press that enrollment would amount to at least 9000, but informed sources say this is a gross exaggeration of information.

University financing is dependent on provincial grants in

the form of enrollment units per student registered; student tuitions pay only a portion of the cost. This year's enrollment will be below last year's figure of about 9800.

Previous decisions on grad student and faculty salaries and new appointments will likely be scrutinized as well.

University of Calgary was one of the few universities in the country which continued to hire new faculty in spite of this year's tight money situation.

## MISERICORDIA

## WORKERS

## STRIKE

by Tony Simmons

It was an important day for the over 300 workers at the Misericordia Hospital last Saturday Sept. 18, as they officially went on strike at 8.00 a.m. The 310 workers represented by the striking local 323A of the Service Employees International Union are composed of janitors, orderlies, ward aids, ward clerks, maintenance people and dietary staff. Throughout the morning of the strikes first day the number of demonstrating workers swelled from around 50 people to over 70, and were distributed between the three main picket lines around the Hospital grounds. Although the strikers were hoping that most conventional traffic would respect their picket lines they made sure that all ambulances and other emergency

vehicles encountered no interference.

In many ways the Misericordia Hospital strike may be seen as a landmark in the history of Provincial industrial relations, as it is the first Hospital strike to occur in Alberta. Given the difficulties of organization in 'essential service' industries and the setbacks experienced by similarly located workers in other parts of the country, the present action at the Misericordia may well prepare the way for more democratic bargaining situations in the other hospitals across the province.

The background to the dispute has in fact been developing for just under a year. On the recommendation of a conciliation commissioner a conciliation board was established earlier this year. This board finally made its majority Conciliation Board Award on August 10th after meeting on July 12th, and 13th,

1971, and having heard from both management and labour. Following this the members of the S.E.I.U. local 323A participated in a government-controlled ballot on August 26, and voted overwhelmingly to accept the

Conciliation Board's majority Award. However the Hospital management rejected the award and left the workers little chance to continue meaningful negotiations over the interests in the dispute. Therefore on September 7th, the local union took a strike vote to determine future action which resulted in 273 workers in favour of strike action and 6 against. The strike, which began at 8 a.m. last Saturday, followed the breakdown of negotiations earlier that morning when both parties had met with Mr. Don Gardner, Deputy Minister of Labour, until 3 a.m.

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