

Alcohol abuse on the rise

FREDERICTON (CUP)— Canadian universities are doing little to curb the flow of alcohol on campuses, says a researcher who has investigated the drinking habits of university students.

Michael Goodstadt says the efforts of universities to halt student alcohol abuse are merely "window-dressing" and most only respond after a violent alcohol-related incident.

"One factor is the increasing availability of alcohol on campus. The universities can't go around making it available and then be surprised when these things happen."

A survey he compiled that was published by the Addiction Research Foundation in 1983 supports his claims. The Goodstadt survey says that 90 to 95 per cent of university students drink alcohol, 70 per cent drink at least once a week and 34 per cent are problem

drinkers, averaging more than one and a half drinks a day. These figures are well above the statistics for the general population, of which 85 per cent drink and 61 per cent drink once weekly.

Alcohol related incidents on campuses this school year also back up his assertions. The incidents include:

- an 18-year-old stuffed into a garbage chute during a rowdy residence party at the University of Saskatchewan; the man plummeted seven storeys to his death.
- a 20-year-old Laurentian University student who died when the car in which he was a passenger spun out of control and hit a telephone pole; he and a companion were returning to campus after a Friday afternoon drinking spree.
- a high school student who took part in the Ryerson Polytechnical Institute frosh picnic and drowned after diving off a ferry; a coroner's

inquest ruled alcohol was a contributing factor in his death.

● two University of New Brunswick students and a friend from Ontario crashing into a train after they spent an evening in the bar; all three died.

● a first year University of Guelph student killed by an impaired driver being pursued across campus by police.

● sixty-four students arrested by Kingston police on alcohol-related charges during homecoming weekend at Queen's University; streets were littered with smashed beer and liquor bottles after two wild street parties.

● thirteen students arrested by London, Ontario police, who were pelted with bottles and debris and resorted to tear gas and the use of truncheons to break up a homecoming party at the University of Western Ontario.

● riot police swarming into Montreal's football stadium to break up brawls between Queen's and McGill University students; drunken vandals caused \$84,000 in property damage to the stadium and mock-raped a mannequin during half-time.

University administrations must get serious about student drinkers says Goodstadt.



Raise a little health

by Neal Watson

Milk-drinking, fun-runs and a Health Seminar are just some of the highlights of this year's Health Week which starts Monday and runs through March 8.

The Health Club, which is a SU club, hopes to involve the campus in a week of activities and information.

"We want to promote health throughout the campus," says Susan Rogerson, the club's spokesperson. "We want people to understand that there are many different components to health."

One of the main aims of the week is to promote communication between the ten different

health faculties on campus. They range from medicine to home economics to physical education.

The Health Seminar is scheduled for Thursday, March 7 (5:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m., EN-2-115) and will include information from the various health faculties and presentations on contemporary health issues.

Other events include the function set for Monday, and demonstrations by the U of A Folk Dance Club (CAB, 11:30 Thurs.) and Fit City (CAB, noon on Friday).

An information booth will be in CAB throughout the week. The week ends with a Dinwoodie cabaret, featuring Looker, Friday.

Tests under review?

by Mark Olyan

If anyone at Testing and Remediation has come to a decision regarding the fate of the U of A writing competency test, no one is saying anything.

Testing and Remediation chair Dr. Lorna McCallum refused to answer any questions about the test, and declined even to confirm that the test is under review, saying simply, "I am not at liberty to comment."

When contacted, Dr. Amy Zelman, associate VP Academic, similarly refused comment.

Dr. J.P. Meekison, V.P. Academic, confirmed that "yes, the test is under review, and the GFC (General Faculties Council) will be discussing it."

"I will present a motion to the executive committee and if they

agree with it, the motion will be forwarded to GFC for final approval," said Meekison.

When pressed for more substantive information on the fate of the test, however, Meekison refused to comment, except to invite *The Gateway* to cover his report to the GFC, tentatively set for March 25.

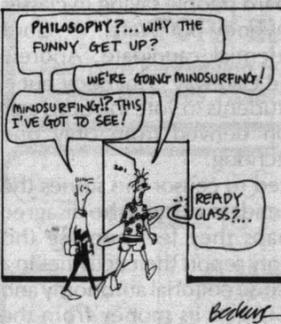
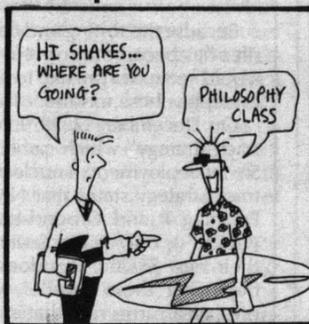
Introduced in 1979, the writing competency exam is designed to test the writing skills of U of A students.

In the 1984-85 term, the exam became mandatory for all first year students, and except in cases of transfer credit, students have two years in which to pass the test.

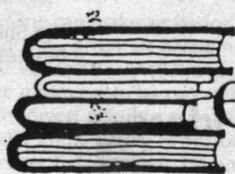
In the event of failure, three retests are permitted.

Last year, about 33 per cent of students failed the exam.

Yard Apes



by Hans Beckers



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