Registration just a call away by March

by Lutful Kabir Khan

Registration blues may become a mood of the past when the sophisticated computerized 'telephone registration' system opens at the U of A in March.

Except for the poor students of Dentistry, Medicine and 1st and 2nd Engineering (they are NOT 'abnormal' insists Hugh King, Associate Registrar Schedules), the regular students can now register from the comfort of their homes (or in most cases from the discomfort of some remote mountain lodge, some ski slope, etc.).

But students beware! The future of your student life depends on the availability of a Touch Tone telephone that makes a different tone sound after each button is pressed (e.g. a Van Goghan approximation of Do-Re-Mi-Fa-...). It also must have a * (star) and a # (pound) key.

Phones that make no tone (or make a continuous gurgling sound) or phones that make the same tone (usually a variation of Tooo..t) will not work.

So once you have the proper telephone, what do you do? Even if you know the system number, unless you want to run telephone bill that will be a prospective Guinness Book of World Records entry, you HAVE to obtain the proper registration material and, in some cases, Faculty Department counselling.

"This is very important," says Brian Silzer, Registrar, "for the students to know that they just can't pick up the phone and expect the computer to do everything."

This marvel will keep you from standing in line next term

The registration material will include a U of A Calendar, Registration Procedures Booklet, Program Planning Booklet and admission letter or permission to register for continuing students.

nient, conflict-free timetable, taking into account the exam schedule. When the timetable is satisfactory, you have to enter the course abbreviations, course numbers, section types, section numbers in the timetable planner sheet.

"Here," says King, "is where most students will encounter trouble. They will copy the numbers wrong and the computer won't know what they are talking about."

Communication with this computer is one-way, you have to be content with being an avid listener of this high-tech marvel.

When you have everything ready, you can pick up your precious telephone and call the system number. A voice on the other end will ask you to enter your student I.D. number, a star (*), your birthdate and a pound (#). As soon as the computer validates the information you are 'on-line'.

Once again, beware! Don't give your friends your I.D. number and your birthdate. Since that is the security code to enter the system, some poor Arts student may (in rare cases) end up in science due to the prank of some intimate friend.

"Once you are on-line, the computer prompts you to take all the right steps and gives you feedback. This way you won't end up taking Cerebral Anatomy 308 instead of Biology 298," says King.

If a section is unavailable, the VOICE may say 'I am sorry. The section you requested is full (or cancelled). Section xx at the same time is available. If you would like

Once you have everything, you have to check the restrictions, pre-requisites and the co-requisites of the courses you want to take and are allowed to take.

You have to make up a conve-

this class, press 'A' followed by the pound key or please enter your request now.' Or it may say, 'I am sorry. The section you requested is full. Section xx at another time is available. Please enter your request now'.

The good thing about the VOICE is that its vocabulary is severely limited. All it will probably say is already printed in black and yellow in the procedures booklet. So you are not up against some rude awakenings.

But students who have not paid some fees or haven't returned some library materials won't be allowed to register.

Pressing the 'L' buttons will give students a listing of all the courses he or she has registered in. 'S * S #' will cancel the entire registration. Pressing 'X #' terminates a call (if you simply hang up the phone, the system wastes 30 sec. waiting for a response).

Cancellation of courses or change of sections can also be accomplished by telephone within given deadlines.

But the horror of the yellow dome is not completely over yet. Students still have to pick up time tables, I.D. cards and library validations down at the pavillion.

Students are very enthusiastic about the new system although some paranoid students needed a lot of assurance to convince them that the VOICE is not a synthetic robotronic voice, it is just a regular pre-recorded human voice, manipulated by a VoCom II machine.

Faculte fiasco

endless talk about parties," he said. "There should be better things to do at a university. I would like to see more of the student government in my office with feedback.

"It isn't going like it should," said Bour. "You are children running the student organization and I've seen nothing here to merit my support [of the executive]."

The dean added that he has no authority to take further action and that the matter was solely a student concern.

Bour concluded his remarks cryptically: "You elected them, you're responsible."

SU President Nickel said that fiscal responsibility for FSJ SU money finally rests with the SU, "even though we respect the faculty's independence."

He said that the FSJ SU was like other faculty associations — like the Engineering Students Association and the Arts Students Association — on campus. They can be auditted by the SU and can be taken before the SU's Disciplinary, Interpretation and Enforcement (DIE) Board as well as the university's University Disciplinary Panel (UDP), which has the power to expel students.

Nickel said that the SU would audit the FSJ SU "if we had complaints and we had just cause. There has to be a damned good excuse."

SU pres Nickel considers audit.

Photo Bill St. John