

The Gateway



Maria Formolo, pioneer of Canadian modern dance, performs at Nexus Theatre. Page 6

Student Help stressed

by Jeff Cowley

An overall rise in stress related calls has swamped Student Help, forcing the organization to operate with a bare-bones staff, said Pat Olliphant, Student Help Director.

Student Help, a volunteer organization sponsored by Students' Union, has had to cope with the heavy burden of an overall increase in crisis calls, said Olliphant.

"Crisis calls have gone up. There has been an increase in family problems, school problems, and suicide calls — we had the most suicide calls ever last semester," said Olliphant.

"We've had about 5000 calls of various types (last semester)," meaning that "one out of every five to six students is using [Student Help]," said Olliphant.

"We're not professionals, we don't pretend to be professionals..."

said Olliphant. "We don't know for sure why we have so many calls. We don't know what the problem is."

Whatever the case, Student Help has been literally swamped by phone calls, said Olliphant, placing undue stress on the volunteers.

"We didn't get as many volunteers (this year). Because of this, we've had to reduce the number of hours that Student Help is available," said Olliphant. Adding that "we are students for students; if we're not there, we're not doing our job."

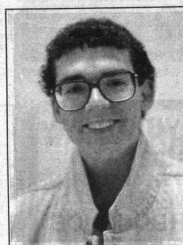
In order to cope with the volunteer shortage, Olliphant and Student Help are on a recruitment drive for new volunteers. "We're looking for 25 to 30 new volunteers," said Olliphant.

But, he warns, because of the situations Student Help often deals with, the organization is "looking for a certain type of person."

Olliphant says that Student Help needs people who are interested in

Student Help's recruitment drive is running until January 22. Students interested in becoming a part of Student Help can apply at room 250 in S.U.B., or phone 432-4266.

counselling, but notes that previous experience is not required.



Student help director Pat Olliphant



The Engineering mind at work

Photo Dragos Ruiu

Engineering Week begins

by Dragos Ruiu

Duck, Engineering Week is here again.

It got off to a quiet start Sunday afternoon with the Tech Display at Heritage Mall. Each one of the Engineering clubs set up a booth with exhibits showing the public what they do.

Robot arms playing Tic-Tac-Toe and large model cranes entertained the public. The displays were designed to give passers-by a better understanding of engineering, and the material engineering students study.

A mild bit of excitement ensued when a 20 liter per second water pump in the Ag-Eng display blew a pipe clamp and started an impromptu new fountain in the mall. The water was quickly mopped up, and no damage was done.

The various clubs' kick-lines are touring campus Monday and Tuesday morning, much to math professors' chagrin. The tug of war and scavenger hunt took place on Monday.

Toboggan races and the pub crawl are scheduled for today, as well as the Engg 500 Rally in Tory Lecture Hall.

Wednesday brings us the Keg Races in Quid and the infamous Skit Night. Tickets for the sometimes funny, and always lewd Skit Night are in heavy demand as usual.

Thursday, all the kick-lines will be performing again for the last time at the 12:30 CAB Rally for anyone who might have missed them.

Boat-Races take place Thursday night, and the formal Queen's Ball will be Saturday.

As usual each of the clubs will be performing some stunt on campus, so strange objects and events could be appearing and taking place on campus.

Engineering week has been a tradition at the U of A since the

faculty was established. The week pits each of the engineering departmental clubs against each other in various events such as scavenger hunts, snow sculptures, kicklines, spirit, and departmental pride.

The "skit night" has also traditionally been a source of controversy as many feminist groups have been offended by the nature and content of the skits.

The controversy over the event peaked in 1985 when the "building policy" of the Students Union was amended overwhelmingly by a student referendum so as to guarantee access of the Engineering clubs to the Students' Unions SUB Theatre. Prior to the referendum the Vice President Internal had the power to prohibit events deemed "racist, sexist, or otherwise objectionable."

Peace tools moving

by Pat Mandin

"The necessities made by the Contra war have distorted our whole pattern of aid," said John Williams, a warehouseman for the Edmonton Tools for Peace project.

The modest warehouse in which Williams spoke gave credence to his words. Amid boxes of school supplies and production equipment, the medical beds and surgical lamps serve as a reminder that this aid project exists for the war-torn nation of Nicaragua.

"The tragedy of this medical equipment is that we have to hold it in storage until transport in the countryside becomes more reliable," commented Williams.

A U.S. trade embargo has caused on the country severe fuel shortages and Contra attacks have made the transportation of medical equipment dangerous in the areas where such equipment is desperately needed.

The Tools for Peace program sends primarily educational, medical, agricultural and housing construction equipment. However, the Contra war has generated highly specific needs for the population. For instance, the war has changed housing patterns, said Williams.

"The old pattern of the Nicaraguan rural villager or country dweller would have been a wooden

house with a thatched roof," he said, but it was very easy for the Contras to set fire to these homes in their military operations. So to address the problem, the new housing projects for those displaced through the war are built with galvanized, metal roofing. There is a wooden upper portion of wood wall but it is built upon a foundation wall which is at least a metre high to protect people from being shot while they sleep."

For a country which, since 1981, has incurred more than 40,000 casualties and is incurring them at an increasing rate, such considerations for civilian safety warrant a high priority.

The "war of attrition" which includes the U.S. embargo, the Contra attacks, and the suspension of international credit has been estimated to have cost Nicaragua in excess of 3½ billion U.S. dollars. It is in this context that the Tools for Peace organizations attempt to assist the government of Nicaragua.

The Canada-wide Tools for Peace

MOVING p.2

Most writers are not quick-witted when they talk. Novelists, in particular, drag themselves around in society like gut-shot bears.

Kurt Vonnegut

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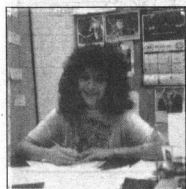
CJSR club's voice

by Gateway Staff

Ten free minutes of "prime time" on the CJSR Radio program "The Ace of Clubs" awaits any U of A group that wants to promote itself to the campus, according to Tasha Larson, CJSR's Public Affairs Director.

"Most clubs really have something they want people to know" says Larson.

The "Ace of Clubs" airs each



CJSR's Tasha Larson

Monday at 8:20 a.m.

Larson stresses that "Each feature really depends on what the club wants to make of it. We've had everything from the clubs selecting music to discussions of the political issues a club is dedicated to."

The biggest problem Larson has with the program is getting clubs to come in to do shows. "People don't realize how open and accessible we are."

Another aspect of "Ace of Clubs" is a calendar of events where clubs can promote special events, recruitment drives, forums, or any other club events.

Larson hopes to expand the club's feature to more than once a week. "There are over 150 clubs on campus at one a week it would take quite a while to get through them all."

CJSR is located in Room 232 SLB or phone 432-5244, and can be heard on 88.5 on the FM dial.