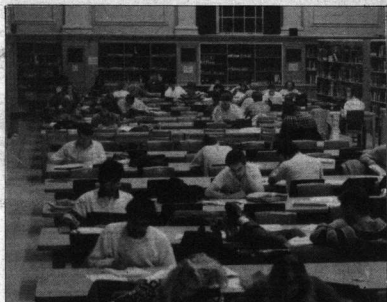# The Gateway

Honors lounge petition rejected by Dean

By Brent Fennell;

A petition for the conversion of the Student Lounge in the Arts Building (Arts 232) into a Graduate and Honours Lounge was rejected last week by the acting Dean of Arts, Dr. Powrie, due to space and budget constraints.

The petition, presented by the Romance Languages Graduate and Honors Society, raised such concerns as a lack of privacy from undergrads, cramped and shared offices, and a lack of windows. The petition claimed that these conditions affected the work of the graduate students and that inattention to the situation threatened the overall quality of the university. Paul Belanger, co-chairperson of the RLGHS, recognized that their chances for a private lounge were few, but felt that "the issue needed raising ... we understand why it was denied."

Dr. Powrie, in explaining why the request was turned down, said he had reviewed the petition carefully and had spoken to members of the RLGHS but could not justify "excluding other students... considering how crowded the campus is." In commenting on the petition he said "the people had a sensible request in that building... it would be nice for them to have a common room." Dr. Powrie added that the RLGHS was "very understanding" in accepting the denial of their petition.

SUB at night — the lights are on in RATT   Photo Bruce Gardave

None of these students have their own lounge...   Phot Rob Galbraith

SU fees suit goes to court

by Ken Bosman

The Students' Union court case opposing the library and computing fees imposed by the U of A administration will be heard April 6th by the Provincial Court.

"The University hasn't deviated from their 'we need the money' argument," said Tim Boston, SU president. "We agree that they need the money, but they can't raise it this way."

The University was limited last year to a 10 percent tuition increase by the provincial government. The U of A imposed a fee of $30 per term in addition to the 10 percent hike. The SU contends that this violates the 10 percent rule.

"You can't separate the library and computer fee from tuition," said Boston. "It's not a fee for service — everybody has to pay the fee."

Dave Russell, Advanced Education Minister, will not comment until the court's decision but has pledged to "step in if the Boards of Governors abuse their powers" on incidental fees.

Peter Meekison, the U of A's VP Academic, declined comment on the matter while it is before the courts.

Boston believes that the Advanced Education decision that the $30 fee is tax deductible, like tuition fees, will help the SU case.

Computer access still a problem
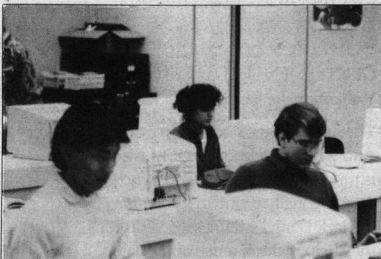
Mac attacks limited

by Greg Lockert

Student complaints continue to mount concerning access time to Macintosh computers on campus. Excellent Macintosh capabilities such as its word processing and graphics functions are high in demand among university students. Yet, it remains a problem for the average student to utilize these services.

According to the Director of Instructional Laboratories for the Department of Computing Science, Katherine Descheneau, the three Mac labs in C.A.B. contain a total of seventy computers. The hours of availability for the labs are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The problem, explains Descheneau, "is that enrollment in Computing Science 261 has risen to 646 students. Each of these students are allowed three hours per week in lab time. Thus, a tremendous strain is put on the available computers." Descheneau says that "there is no limit on the number of students allowed into Computing Science 261. This is largely due to the fact that it is a mandatory course for Education students, and a popular course among Arts students as well."

Both Descheneau and Computing Sciences Chairman Lee White agree that the new Mac labs are needed on campus. White cites budget cuts begun two years as responsible for the present shortage. "At that time, two new Mac labs were about to be instituted," claims White. "Meanwhile, we have submitted a top priority request for more labs. Unfortunately, the request was not dealt with in the capital budget issue."

One of the recurring complaints among students is that during lab hours they are not allowed to use Macs even if computers are unoccupied. To this Descheneau replies that "at the start of the year all Mac labs are filled up completely. If there is any room, it is because of course withdrawals." Nevertheless, it seems unfair to many that students interested in using Mac word processing functions are unable to do so, even when computers are available. White states that the problem is not a simple one to solve. "Those students in labs are booked people who should have first priority in using the Macs," said White, adding that often students are late for their labs and if other students are allowed onto the Macs it is a real problem for the late students to get onto a computer. Thus, claims White, "it is a policing problem. The proctors are simply not hired to police the computer labs." Anyway, said White, "we feel labs by and large are heavily used."

Descheneau and White believe that the only solution to the problem is to get new Mac labs on campus.

White states that two new labs would go a long way towards alleviating the problem. Both see the Mac as being valuable technology and one that should be available to far more students. Whether or not this goal will be realized is unknown. Said Descheneau, "In the short term I'm not optimistic. In the long run, yes."

Students who managed to beat the Mac lineups   file photo

For every problem there is one solution which is simple, neat and wrong.

H. L. Mencken