



# Tea party so

"A 1985 U.S. Labor Department study found that while women held only 31 per cent of the high-paying jobs as computer systems analysts, they represent 66 per cent of the lower-paid computer operator skills

... A John Hopkins study released in August reported that at the typical middle schools only 15 per cent of the after-school computer users were female."

Time Magazine  
Nov. 3, 1986.

like Engineering have been, and are predominantly male.

Engineering is only one set of areas, but computers are gradually invading all the facets of our lives. Computer knowledge will be necessary to all of us. And as a relatively new field, shouldn't we try to avoid sexual stereotypes? (or any stereotypes for that matter).

We set out to find out if these stereotypes exist in junior and senior high. I visited a local Edmonton high school, Harry Ainley, while Linda Atchison visited Kenilworth Junior

"Boys tend to act like know-it-alls, while girls come into it with the attitude that they don't know much."

How many girls do you remember, in your computer science classes?

Is there disparity between female interest in computers and male interest? It seems so. Talking to Joan Buchan of the U. of A. Computing Science Dept., she came up with the following statistics:

In 1985 there were 105 new admissions to CompSci.; 87 were male (83%) and 18 were female (17%).

In 1984 there were 91 new admissions; 76 were male (83%) and 15 were female (17%).

In 1983 there were 62 new admissions; 52 were male (84%) and 10 were female (16%).

To contrast, in 1984 the entire Science faculty was 31 per cent female (this statistic was only available for this year).

Seven out of fifty Computer Science professors are female here at the U of A.

So why is this important? Faculties

High.

Visiting a Computing Science 30 class, the first thing that you notice is that in a class of 20 some students, only three are girls. The class was very enthusiastic about computers in general.

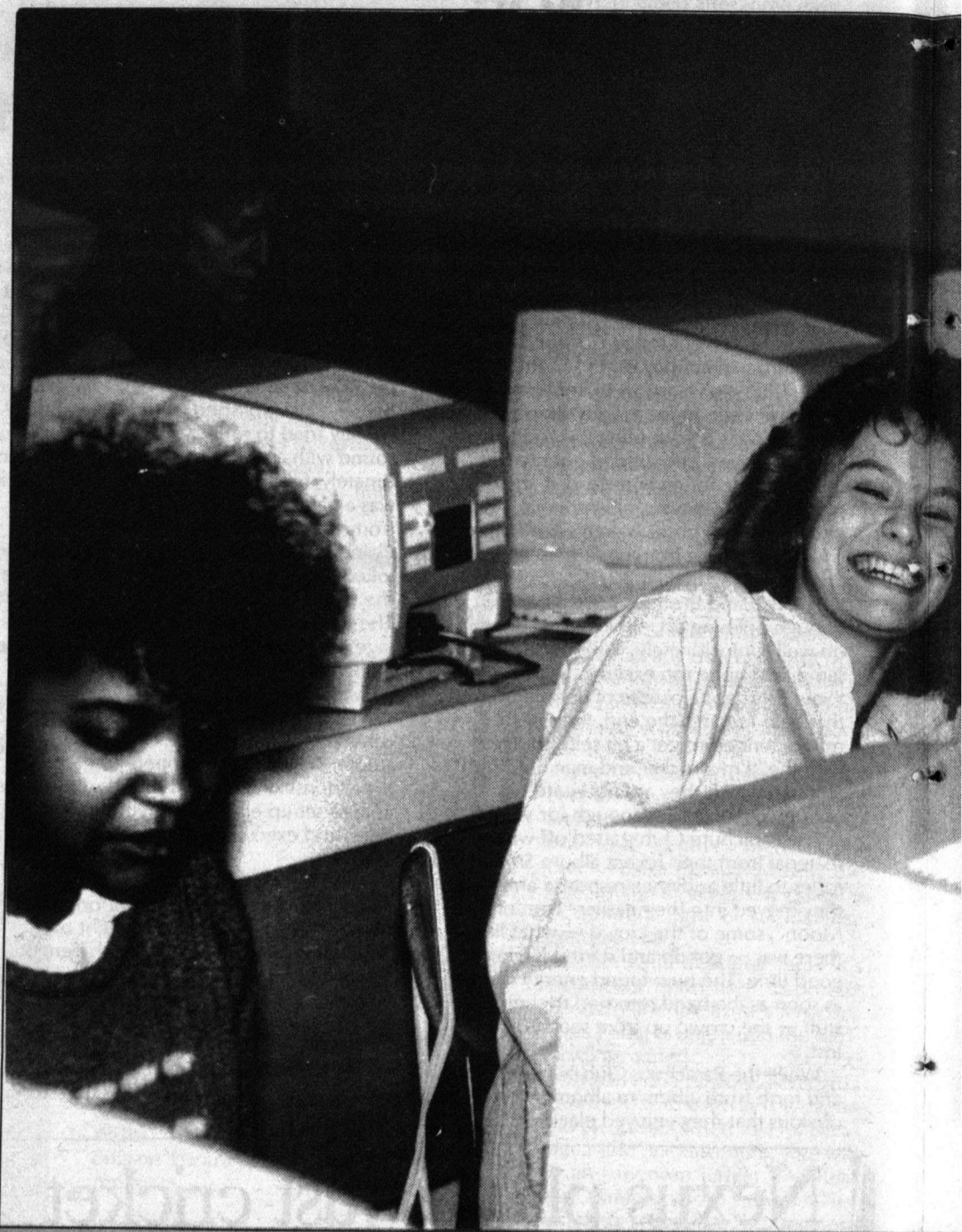
The girls concurred on the reasons why they took the class. They think it will help them later in their lives. None of the girls were considering computing as a career.

"A lot of the girls think it (computing) is hard. When they see me with a computer book, they are impressed. They think computing is only for the brains," one girl said.

"They have the same idea that it is difficult that they have with physics and math..." another said.

Only one of the girls said she finds math extremely easy.

The boys, on the other hand, came up with entirely different explanations like, "They (girls) think



Who says computers can't be fun? Two students at Harry Ainley High School overcoming

that computers are something only guys are interested in because that's the way they always show it on TV and in movies. There are always a bunch of guys in white coats around the big machines with flashing lights in the movies..."

Of the boys I talked to, two were already heavily involved with computers, selling games software and working for a local computer store. In class, it was noted that the boys were much more inclined to experiment with the use of computers.

They tried to break into the operating system, and were more frequent players of games.

The girls regarded this as "a waste of time". They preferred to work on their assignments. "The guys spend a lot of time playing, and then do the work. I like to get my work done first," stated one girl.

Later I visited a typing class that used computers for word processors. It was quite the antithesis of the first class. There was one boy in a class of about forty girls. More than half the class raised their hands when

## FACULTY OF SCIENCE STUDENTS

### ATTENTION!

#### Nominations for the Science Award for Excellent Teaching

The Award recognizes outstanding teaching ability of Professors with at least 10 years experience in the Faculty.

#### Previous winners:

- 1985/86 Dr. J.R. Nursall, Zoology
- 1984/85 Dr. J.S. Muldowney, Mathematics
- 1983/84 Dr. B.G. Kratochvil, Chemistry
- 1982/83 Dr. S.J. Rule, Psychology
- 1981/82 Dr. S.W. Willard, Mathematics
- 1980/81 Dr. J. Kuspira, Genetics
- 1979/80 Dr. R.E.D. McClung, Chemistry

**Nominations:** A group of 10 or more undergraduate Science students may nominate a Professor for this important award. Nomination is made through the Undergraduate Science Society. Previous winners are not eligible for the award.

**Information:** Contact the Chairman of the Awards Selection Committee:

Dr. E.A. Cossins, Associate Dean  
Faculty of Science  
CW 223 BioSciences Building

**Deadline for Nominations:** March 6, 1987

## Research: Dragos Ruiu and Linda Atchison

Story, photos, graphic: Dragos Ruiu

## WANTED: Student Member-at-Large for Administration Board

Application Deadline:  
January 9, 1987

Please see: Receptionist  
Room 259 SUB

There's still time to prepare  
Classes Start

**LSAT • DAT**  
FEB. 87 • MAR. 87

call 432-1

International Test F

Oldest and largest test-preparation center in Western Can.  
Small classes taught by attorneys & educators. Wh  
affiliate/franchise. Remember — DON'T COMPETE WITH /  
— BE ONE.