Seria



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Sudden Movement in Wesley Leads to EB 17 1007 Sudden Move

"On the advice of structural engineers, The University of Winnipeg has closed a portion of Wesley Hall effective immediately." With those jarring words, staff were urged into action on Fri., Jan. 24.

Staff on Wesley's fourth floor learned just before noon that the northwest quadrant of Wesley Hall would have to close for repairs, and that a portion of University Relations had to be relocated. Boxes, tape and felt markers were already on their way from Physical Plant.

Across the hall, employees of the Faculty and Staff Club were informed that the club would close for several months at the end of the day (see related story, page 6).

Within 24 hours, the area affected by the closure had been completely cleared out.

According to Steve Coppinger, the affected area is confined to Convocation Hall and everything above it. He explains that this portion of Wesley is supported



When a dramatic acceleration of structural movement in Wesley Hall became apparent, staff were quickly relocated out of the affected area.

Alumni Help Answer Students' Career Questions

This month, students will again have the opportunity to gain valuable career advice and get some inside information from alumni working in a variety of fields.

The annual "What Can I Do with My Degree? Days" will happen on Mon., Feb. 24 and Wed., Feb. 26. Presented by the University Alumni Association and the students' association, the event is designed to help introduce students to the career possibilities available to them, and to offer valuable advice on succeeding in a chosen career, as well as in a job search.

Alumni will speak about their experiences in occupations such as journalism, law, medicine, personal counselling, financial planning, law enforcement, computers and business.

All sessions take place from 12:30-1:20 p.m. in the lecture theatres on the first floor of Lockhart Hall. Information regarding specific speakers and venues will be posted throughout the University.

Faculty are asked to encourage their students to take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

by a truss system extending up into the attic. The trusses join timber beams that run beneath the floor of the fourth floor, and the trusses and beams are anchored to the supporting walls. It is these junctures that are experiencing structural failure.

While a facility audit conducted by Wardrop Engineering last year revealed that the trusses were moving, the situation was deemed urgent after a dramatic acceleration in structural movement became apparent.

"That sudden movement manifested itself in the visible widening of the cracks in some office walls," Coppinger explains. The engineers were

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called to investigate and provided a report on Thurs., Jan. 23. "They advised us that the trusses are continuing to creep, and the structural system above Convocation Hall was yielding under the load." The engineers recommended that activity in the affected area be suspended immediately.

Coppinger notes that the structural failure is both a result of 101 years of wear and tear, and the fact that the area was never built to bear the load it does. "This area was originally designed as a residence," he explains. "With offices and the club up here, it now has a higher occupancy rate and more concentrated weight on the floor."

He goes on to assert that there is no apparent danger to the rest of Wesley Hall, or its occupants.

On Mon., Jan. 27, the Board of Regents decided to immediately undertake the necessary remedial work, estimated to cost approximately \$350,000. "This is part of the longer range program of totally upgrading Wesley Hall," Coppinger says.

The unexpected closure had a ripple effect across campus. It threw a monkey-wrench into plans for the Theatre and Drama Department's production of *Saturday, Sunday, Monday*, scheduled to open in Convocation Hall the following week. The production was moved to Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall, which in turn cancelled The Collegiate's plans to host part of their Open House in that venue. Theatre classes previously held in Convocation Hall have also had to be moved, and will now be held in Colony Square, where space has been leased.

Several events scheduled to be held in the Faculty and Staff Club were also cancelled or moved.

And the urgency of the situation certainly kept the Physical Plant staff occupied over the ensuing weekend. They were already busy enough helping Admissions, Records and Awards & Financial Aid relocate from their Bryce Hall quarters to their new space on the first floor of Graham Hall (see related story, page 7).

According to Norm Loat, director of Physical Plant, he had to call in his entire staff to handle the emergency. Through the weekend, Physical Plant staff worked alongside some members of University Relations and Technical Support Services to get everything into place with minimal turmoil. By Monday morning, the relocation of all offices was complete. Computer systems and telephones were attached and working, and barriers to block passage into the affected area of Wesley were already being constructed.

But don't expect to hear any griping from Loat about the workload. While he conceded he was tired after all was said and done, he says crises like the Wesley Hall closure only add to the fun of working in Physical Plant. "It's exciting. You're looking after everything on campus and everyone is impacted by what you do," he asserts. "We never know what's going to happen next—but we always expect emergencies."

He goes on to say that the crisis inspired cooperation. "Everybody chipped in as a team and pulled together to get the job done." That's no surprise to Loat, who says he's known for a long time that his department can boast "the best team at any university in Canada."

Another Campus Move

Student Health Services has moved to Room 1C34 (next to the automated banking machine). To make an appointment with a registered nurse, call Harriet at 786-9231. Other messages for the nurse can be left at 786-9496.

Inter-Department Envelope Shortage

Once again, Printing Services is asking for your assistance to keep up with the demand for reusable inter-department envelopes.

If you have more of these expensive specialty envelopes in your department than you can use, Printing Services would be grateful to receive them.

If your department needs internal envelopes, contact Leslie Uhryniuk at 786-9420.

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Comments, suggestions and submissions are welcome. (All material is subject to editing.) The deadline for the next issue is Feb. 13.)

in edition is printed on recycled paper. After you have finished with this issue, please pass it on to a friend.

Alumni at Work Alumni Help Single Parents Take Charge

Two recent alumni are helping single parents say farewell to welfare and hello to long-term employment. Rosa Walker '91, executive director, and Darell Hominuk '91, program consultant, work for Taking Charge, Inc., a government funded initiative to help single parents achieve selfsufficiency.

"Taking Charge gives single parents the necessary tools to provide employment and a better future for themselves and their children," notes Hominuk.

Established in the fall of 1995, the program is designed to be flexible. "Whatever the clients need, we try to accommodate so they can take advantage of any opportunity," explains Walker.

The biggest barrier to single parents entering the workforce is appropriate childcare, which Taking Charge helps clients find and fund. Its on-site Child and Parent Development Centre even provides parents with access to short-term childcare while they attend job interviews.

Taking Charge, which serves 600 clients, offers a variety of programs covering everything from career training to job hunting techniques to entrepreneurship. "We have about 50 projects around the city and on site," says Walker. "Usually there's about 20 clients involved in each project."

Taking Charge tries to make the most out of existing programs in the community, such as training for home care aides at South Winnipeg Technical Centre or peer support counsellors at the Knowles Centre.

Currently, 80 per cent of their clients find long-term employment. "Those clients who aren't successful in finding employment, we maintain them until they find a job," adds Walker.

Both Walker and Hominuk began attending The University of Winnipeg after several years in the workforce, so they know what it's like for their clients who return to school as adults.

Hominuk, who has worked in vocational training and counselling for the past 11 years, saw further education as the path to advancement. "Without that degree, I wouldn't

Leslie Newman's performances have been described as "polished," "intelligent," "powerful" and "flawless." The acclaimed flautist has performed with symphonies across Canada, and won an impressive number of honours and awards. Newman will perform, along with the Winnipeg Chamber Music Society, in a Virtuosi Concert on Wed., Feb. 19. See Coming Events for details. be able to achieve a lot of the goals I set for myself," he says, adding that his double major in political science and justice and law enforcement provided him with a strong background for working in the community.

Walker, whose previous employment experience was in social work and human resource management, praises the valuable research skills she gained through her degree. As executive director, her elective courses in public administration have proven to be very useful in her position. But her courses in her anthropology major have helped in indirect ways: "When you're studying anthropology, you learn a lot about human behaviour."

This series helps us stay in touch with former students. If you know of a graduate from the past 10 years who has an interesting or unusual job, call Lois Cherney, Associate Director (Alumni & Communications), at 786-9134.



Training in New Technology Offered in Byte-Sized Pieces

Most of us want to become more familiar with the new computer technologies. And now that the University has set up a distributed website, which means each department will have to maintain its own pages, many of us *need* to develop our technology skills.

Unfortunately, few of us have the time or the patience for all-day intensive courses, and absorbing so much technical information in a short time can be frustrating and overwhelming, if not impossible.

To answer the need for greater understanding offered in byte-sized portions, the Centre for Learning Technologies (CLT) will provide a series of one-hour workshops for faculty and staff. Each workshop has been carefully designed to impart a specific skill through introduction, demonstration and hands-on experimentation. The workshops begin with a series dedicated to an exploration of the World Wide Web.

This series will allow participants to absorb one aspect of the technology before continuing on to the next. "We'll present six short sessions that offer one idea, one specific skill," explains CLT's Ian Lark. "That way, the information is easier to grasp, and each workshop will build on the last."

Part of the CLT's mandate is to help the University community develop some proficiency with the new technologies. Lark says workshops of this nature will be an ongoing thing. "We will be offering more advanced topics as people develop their competencies."

Future topics will include capturing video and sound with digital media and scanning and saving images for different formats.

And all you need to start is a good working knowledge of Windows.

The first workshop, "An Introduction to Browsing the World Wide Web," begins on Feb. 18, and the next five in the series are spread over 10 days. Workshops will be repeated again in March, and will then be offered as long as there is a demand.

All sessions will take place in The Collegiate's computer lab on the first floor of Wesley Hall. Seating is limited to 25 per session. Call 786-9826 to reserve a spot.



Alaa Abd-El-Aziz will present "Plastics Are Forever," the second lecture in the Distinguished Faculty Series on Tues., Feb. 18 in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend this event, co-presented by the University and the Faculty Association. Afterwards, a reception in the hall's foyer will honour Abd-El-Aziz and his accomplishments. Please see **Coming Events** for details and ticket information. (Changes have been made due to the closure of the Faculty & Staff Club.)

See Coming Events for workshop titles, dates and times.



Change of Plans Brings Spanish Dance to Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall

The second event in the new Saturday Night Concerts in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall series has been changed. The originally scheduled Ensemble Mondetta concert on Feb. 22 has been cancelled due to illness.

In its place, Marnie Cooke will present an evening of classical and Spanish dance. She'll be accompanied by "special guest artist" Johann Sebastian Bach—with a little help from Glenn Gould.

Cooke teaches flamenco and classical Spanish dance at the Bravado Dance Studio. Highlights of her significant dance career have included choreographing and performing in *Rigoletto* and *Carmen* with the Manitoba Opera.

Tickets may be ordered through the Virtuosi hotline, 786-9000, or purchased at the door. Tickets already issued for the Ensemble Mondetta concert will be honoured at the Marnie Cooke performance. Seating for this event is limited.

See Coming Events for details.

Conference Focused on First Year

What programs and support systems will improve the chances of a first-year student returning for a second—and subsequent years?

That question was at the centre of a conference held on our campus in December, 1996. And judging from attendance at the conference, the answer is of critical interest to all of the province's post-secondary institutions. The conference drew 40 participants representing*every* post-secondary institution in Manitoba.

Billed as a one-day exploratory workshop, "Focus on First Year: Orientation, Curriculum and Assessment" examined the three key issues that affect first-year retention rates. It also considered how these three areas can work together to help create a climate in which students new to the university experience can succeed.

The conference was developed after Judith Huebner, associate dean of arts and science, and Marg Unruh, assistant to the dean, at-

tended a conference in Regina. "We presented a one-hour workshop on some of these issues, and realized that we needed more time to explore them," Huebner explains. They sold the idea to the University's Student Orientation Committee.

According to Huebner, the conference was "a real eyeopener" and gave participants the crucial opportunity to learn from one another's strategies. "These issues are quite far-reaching, but we had no idea what anyone else in the province was doing about them," Huebner says. "People from a wide spectrum of positions and institutions got to start a dialogue about the commonalities of our experience."

The first portion of the conference dealt with orientation. Led by Biology Professor Larry Didow and Academic Advisor Suzanne Martin. Participants discussed everything from how orientation is organized at their institution and what it emphasizes to how it's financed and what works best about it.

The second session looked at the design and delivery of first-year curriculum and academic programming. Facilitated by Huebner, Unruh and Anne Rusnak from the French Studies Department, the discussion touched on the potential benefits of multi-disciplinary courses and common firstyear core programs, and the development of supportive



first-year orientation, curriculum and assessment: "These issues are quite farreaching, but we had no idea what anyone else in the province was doing about them."

learning environments. As well, it set out to examine how various institutions approach the cultural and social diversity of students.

The third session tackled the toughest issue of all: assessment and tracking. It was facilitated by Judy Chapman, who coordinates first-year entrance programs at the University of Regina. Chapman has specific expertise in developing, implementing and evaluating programs for non-traditional and undecided students, and co-authored From Best Intentions to Best Practices: The First Year in Canadian Post-secondary Education. Her session asked participants to consider what programs, if any, are assessed at their institutions, what criteria are used to evaluate success, and how students are tracked.

"Our weakest area is assessment," Huebner acknowledges. She says that while the biggest loss of students occurs between first and second year, there is no way of knowing why students don't return. "Therefore, we don't know how to

respond. There is somewhat of an urgency for us to develop assessment strategies." Unfortunately, the strategies are complex, and she observes that just determining how to define success is often problematic.

"The literature indicates that many students leave not because they are failing academically, but because they fail to engage in the experience we offer them."

The conference was a "really good beginning," says Huebner, noting that the committee is planning to hold sessions that are more focused in the near future.

Employee Changes

ARRIVALS Heather Copp Technician 3 Biology

Curtis Walker Technical Support Level 3 Technical Support Services

Faculty and Staff Club Asks for Continuing Support



The Faculty & Staff Club's dining room area has been temporarily tranformed into office space.

Structural problems in Wesley Hall forced the closure of The University's Faculty & Staff Club. Most of the kitchen and pub area, as well as the fourth floor washrooms, fall within the section no longer considered structurally sound. The dining area on the south side, meanwhile, has been allocated to University Relations, which lost office space along Wesley's northwest corridor.

According to a memo circulated by Désirée Vanderwel, chair of the Faculty & Staff Club Board, it is likely that the facility will not re-open until September.

At an emergency meeting held after the closure was announced, the club board

unanimously agreed to continue collecting membership dues. Vanderwel says the board is asking for support from members that will allow some financial flexibility: "The club may encounter (significant) costs in the next few months, since the renovations may provide an opportunity to refurbish some of the facilities in the club at a fraction of the normal price." Specifics, however, will not be available until the engineers have presented detailed plans to the University. At that time, the club's board will determine the desirability and financial feasibility of any improvements.

The board has also decided to maintain as many services and events as possible during the closure by using other campus venues. "Obviously, it will

not be possible to obtain a dining room or pub facility on campus on a full-time basis," Vanderwel notes, and adds that the board has decided not to look for off-campus facilities. "However, it may be possible to make arrangements to have light coffeetime service somewhere on campus." Vanderwel asks that anyone interested in such an option contact her as soon as possible, so that the viability of such an option can be determined.

In addition, arrangements to hold some of the club's regularly scheduled parties including the popular end-of-term party and the last event in the Club Dialogue Series are being made. As well, the annual Valentine's Day party will be held—better late than never— on Feb. 19 from 3-4 p.m. in the north part of Riddell Hall.

And don't lose those pink frequent diner cards. Vanderwel says Marilyn Cass, manager of the club, has agreed to honour the cards at Partners Delicatessen in Portage Place.

Members who wish to terminate the payroll deduction of their club dues, or who would like to receive a pro-rated refund of dues paid in full, should contact Patty Hawkins at 786-9292. For other information, members should contact Désireé Vanderwel at 786-9033.

Human Rights Activist/Author To Lecture at University

Activist, parliamentarian, development consultant, farmer and author Marilyn J. Waring will speak about equality, work and human rights as they relate to women on Thurs., Feb. 20 at The University of Winnipeg.

Waring's book, *If Women Counted: A New Feminist Economics*, was influential in challenging traditional understandings of the value of women's work. Since its 1989 publication, governments throughout the world have invited Waring to explore the relationship between their national accounting systems and women's labour.

A senior lecturer in public policy and the politics of human rights at the University of Waikota in New Zealand, Waring has just published a new book. *Three Masquerades* explores the concepts of equality, work and human rights.

The lecture is presented by the United Nations Platform for Action Committee (Manitoba) as a preliminary event to their 1997 conference in March. Additional support for the lecture was provided by the Margaret Laurence Chair in Women's Studies, the Universities of Winnipeg and Manitoba and several women's organizations.

See Coming Events for details.

Students Benefit From The Alexander Technique

If certain students are standing straighter and speaking more clearly these days, they are probably enrolled in Theatre Professor Gail Loadman's Voice and Diction class. Last month Loadman brought in former dancer Joel Simkin to teach two classes on the Alexander Technique, a handson method of movement re-education.

"The Alexander Technique is very important in the development of a tension-free body and therefore a good vocal sound," explains Loadman.

A certified teacher of the Alexander Technique, Simkin visited the class, which mainly attracts theatre and education students, on Jan. 7 and 9. Through a combination of gentle touch and verbal directions, he taught the students how to be more conscious of their movement and postural patterns, so that they could replace faulty habits with improved coordination.

"He was trying to teach us to be aware of what we were doing with our bodies so we would have the option of correcting it," says Aynsley Brown, a third-year psychology student who is taking the course to improve her publicspeaking skills. "Now I realize how to relax when I'm going to speak." Brown reports that after she worked with Simkin, her classmates commented, "Wow, that's the loudest we've heard you speak."

Millie Lewis, a second-year theatre student, found the technique so useful that she now takes classes with Simkin. "I thought it was great," she says. "I'm not forcing now."

Adds Lewis: "It's not just for actors; it's for everybody. It invades every part of your life. It's supposed to be as automatic as brushing your teeth."

Although the Alexander Technique is big in England, Japan, and Australia, it hasn't caught on in Canada. "It's not a technique you can teach without touching," explains Loadman. "In Canada, that's a problem. But when Joel taught it in New York, nobody thought anything of it."

F.W. Alexander, an Australian actor, developed the technique at the turn of the century after he discovered he kept losing his voice because his posture was putting pressure on his larynx.

Popular with physiotherapists, the Alexander Technique benefits senior citizens and the disabled as well as performing artists and athletes.

Student Services Finally United in Graham Hall

Admissions, Records and Awards finally made the move to Graham Hall at the end of January. This scheduled move completes the integration of Student Services into one area—except for all those non-current records, that is.

According to Nancy Latocki, director of Registrarial Services, the physical move went smoothly and staff have settled in to the brighter, newer space. Computer hook-ups and installations are still in progress.

Unfortunately, because the space is smaller, there are a multitude of logistical solutions to be worked out—everything from where to place materials that must be easily accessible for students to how to control the line-ups. (Spring registration is still to take place in the old admissions area in Bryce Hall.)

And then there's the problem of all those records. Only the most current student files could be accommodated in the new Student Services area. That means years and years of older files on paper, microfilm and microfiche had to stay behind in Bryce—along with Records Assistant Sandy Peterson. Peterson is responsible for scanning all the 1990-1995 records into an electronic format.

As Peterson explains, however, it's a long process. After scanning, each file must be accessed to verify the information transferred. Many older documents are too faint to reproduce, and so their content must then be input manually.

And that means all those files cannot be discarded for quite some time.

"Ultimately, we want to scan all documents at the point of admission and do away with the paper files altogether," Latocki says.

COMING EVENTS

"Coming Events" is compiled by University Relations. Planning a campus event? Please let us know and we'll help you publicize it. Send written information to Lois Cherney, University Relations, 10 working days in advance of the event. Basic details are required: what, when, where, sponsor, price of admission (if any) and the name of a contact person.

MON., FEB. 10 - FRI., FEB. 14

• Mid-term reading week. No classes.

• **The Bookstore** will be open during the mid-term reading week from 10 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

WED., FEB. 12

• The Skywalk Series will have some "Food for Thought: Goobers, Pudding Pricks and Blobsterdis" when Mark Morton, assistant professor of English, offers the origins behind some common and not-so-common culinary words.

THURS., FEB. 13

• The Skywalk Series presents Uptown Grass—a "Virtuosi of Bluegrass."

TUES., FEB. 18

· An Introduction to Browsing the World Wide Web-The Centre for Learning Technologies new workshop series starts with a look at the Netscape browser, its interface and functions, the meaning of WWW jargon, and ways to surf the 'net. This workshop, intended for faculty and staff, runs from 1:30-2:20 p.m. in The Collegiate's computer lab on the first floor of Wesley. Call 786-9826 to reserve a spot. Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series-Alaa Abd-El-Aziz will present "Plastics Are Forever" in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall at 8 p.m.

A reception, originally planned for the Faculty & Staff Club, will be held in the hall's foyer. While the reception is free, a ticket must be claimed ahead of time to help facilitate planning. Tickets are available from University Relations in the Faculty and Staff Club area, the Office of the Dean of Arts & Science, and the Research Office.

WED., FEB. 19

• Virtuosi Concerts presents Leslie Newman, flute, and the Winnipeg Chamber Music Society at 8 p.m. in the Winnipeg Art Gallery. Co-presented by the University and CBC Stereo. Tickets are \$19, \$17 for seniors/ students and \$12 for children. Call the Virtuosi Hotline at 786-9000.

• The Skywalk Series—Curtis Nordman, dean of Continuing Education, will ask "Universities in the Information Age: Digital Dessication or Electronic Emancipation?"

• A Look at The University of Winnipeg Website— Workshop #2 in the Centre for Learning Technologies new series offers an overview of our website, its purpose, its look and its structure. This workshop, intended for faculty and staff, runs from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in The Collegiate's computer lab on the first floor of Wesley. Call 786-9826 to reserve a spot.

THURS., FEB. 20

• The Skywalk Series presents Greg Lowe—"The Virtuosi Electric Guitar."

• Marilyn J. Waring, will speak in Riddell Hall at 7:30 p.m. (See related story, page 6) A reception will follow the lecture. Admission is \$5 (\$2 for students and low-income individuals). Wheelchair access and ASL translation available. For further details, call 772-8380.

FRI., FEB 21

• Stone Soup will offer stories: "4 Weddings and a Storyteller" from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Bring a candle, bring a friend and bring a story to Room 1L04. For more information, call Wayne Drury at 488-8331 or Mary Louise Chown at 489-6994.

• The Basics of HTML— Workshop #3 in the Centre for Learning Technologies new series will give an introduction to understanding and creating HTML documents. This workshop, intended for faculty and staff, runs from 2:30-3:20 p.m. in The Collegiate's computer lab on the first floor of Wesley. Call 786-9826 to reserve a spot.

SAT., FEB. 22

• Saturday Night Concerts in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall—The Marnie Cooke Bravado Dancers will perform at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$17 for seniors/students, and \$12 for children 12 and under. Call 786-9000 to order.

MON., FEB. 24

• **Music at Noon** presents Sara Jane Schmidt, piano, from 12:30-1:20 p.m. in Eckhardt-Gramatté Hall.

• What Can I Do With My Degree?—This annual event offers students a chance to gain from the experience of alumni who work in a variety of fields. All presentations will take place from 12:30– 1:20 p.m. on the first floor of Lockhart Hall.

• **Board of Regents** meets in Riddell Hall at 5:30 p.m.

TUES., FEB. 25

• Downloading and Installing Netscape Gold—Workshop #4 in the Centre for Learning Technologies' series. Participants will download Netscape Gold from the University website and install it on their machine. This workshop, intended for faculty and staff, runs from 1:30-2:20 p.m. in The Collegiate's computer lab on the first floor of Wesley. Call 786-9826 to reserve a spot.

WED., FEB. 26

What Can I Do With My Degree? continues. All presentations will take place from 12:30–1:20 p.m. on the first floor of Lockhart Hall.
The Skywalk Series—Collegiate faculty member Karen Zoppa will discuss "The Classical Greek Mind in the 20th Century."

SKYWALK SERIES

The Skywalk Concert & Lecture Series will warm up your winter. Don't miss the intriguing lectures every Wednesday and invigorating concerts every Thursday from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in Winnipeg Centennial Library's second floor auditorium.