

gateway

Thursday, March 8, 1984

There is no repression in Nicaragua...

...just people keeping an eye on each other.

Sandinista youth.

Eleven run for VP External

by Brad Karpinka

Campaigning for the position of VP External began last night at 8:00 PM and eleven people will be contesting the position.

"I believe this is a record number of people running for one position," says Chief Returning Officer Ninette Gironella.

The VP External position was not filled in the SU election last month and so a by-election will be held on March 16.

Originally there were twelve candidates, but Don Davies dropped out.

In the first election Paul Alpern was the only candidate for VP External. But solitary candidates are subject to Yes-No ratification, and Alpern lost. However, Alpern will be running again. "I don't know whether it's guts or stupidity," he says.

"I believe I have something to offer and have the experience to challenge the government for what the students want to see changed."

The other ten candidates are Oscar Ammar, Phil Ewing, Donald Grier, Phil Hammond, Rainer Huebl, Lee Lane, Dianne Murtha, Alan Robinson, Gilford Whyte and Martin Schug.

As in the general election, two major issues in the by-election will be the recent SU Executive pay increase from \$900 to \$1200 a month, and membership in the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

Alpern hesitates regarding the pay increase. "I think it's wrong for an employee to set his own salary. Personally, I think I'm worth \$1200 a month, but I'm not interested in the money."

Another candidate, Oscar Ammar, says, "\$900 is sufficient for executives working part-time while taking courses on the side. The executives don't deserve \$1200 a month."

Donald Grier agrees, saying, "a \$900 figure is in line with most summer jobs."

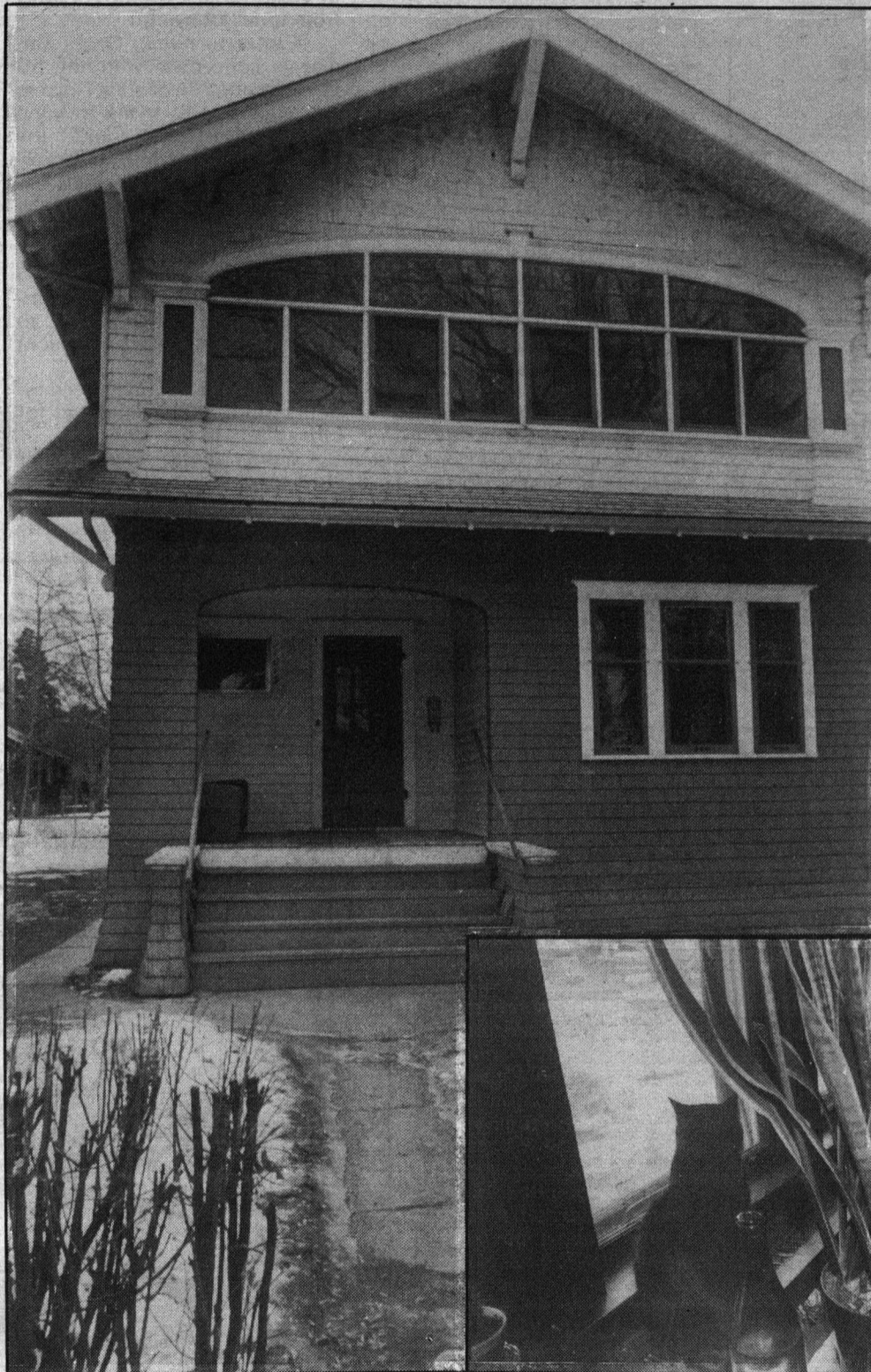
Dianne Murtha considers executives to be "way overpaid. They must show more results," she adds.

In fact, of all the candidates, only Alan Robinson would "accept the increase," no questions asked.

Gilford Whyte, while accepting the increase, says, "I plan to get out there and work 50 to 70 hours a week. This works out to about \$6.00 an hour and is not unreasonable for the dedication and quality of work students will get from me."

Phil Ewing would simply "not accept a pay increase." He, like Dianne Murtha, considers the pay

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Morris and ten students will be evicted on April 30th.

Students in Garneau evicted

by Ken Lenz

Unless University policy is changed, ten students will be evicted from Garneau Housing to make room for office space.

The two houses at 11019 and 11023 90 avenue will be converted this May into an International House (containing the offices of Canadian Universities Services Overseas, the Canadian International Development Agency, and the International Students' Organization) and the Faculty of Extension (Women's Programs) office.

The students presently living in the houses, the Students' Union and the Garneau Student Tenants' Association are all criticizing the University for this move.

Student Audrey Macklin, who has lived in one of the houses for three years, says, "the University is going to evict students from housing which is cheap and attractive to live in, and at the same time have other units which remain empty."

Macklin is referring to the four-bedroom units in the North Garneau housing, built for the Universiade. A 33 per cent vacancy rate in these apartments has forced the University to turn them into motel units for the use of visiting professors and lecturers.

At present, the cost of staying in the four bedroom units in new Garneau is well in excess of \$200 per person per month while tenants in the old houses pay less than \$150 per month. Added to this is the fact that the houses are much larger than the new Garneau apartments and have front and back yards.

But two years ago the housing in Garneau was divided into two precincts: one for office space and the other for student housing. Thirty-four out of sixty houses in Garneau are designated for office space.

The houses to be vacated are in the office precinct while the new Garneau housing is in the housing sector.

However, the Garneau Student Tenants' Association (GSTA) maintains that at the time the boundary lines were drawn "there was a strong belief that the new Garneau units would be affordable and attractive to students who wished to share accommodation."

Pointing to the fact that the four bedroom units in the housing project have a 33 per cent rate of occupancy, tenant Audrey Macklin says, "these units have obviously not lived up to their mandate - serving the needs of students."

She adds, "conversely, the two houses (to be turned into office space) have had full occupancy since they opened and a low turnover rate as well."

But University VP Facilities and Services Ron Phillips says "it was the students themselves that wanted the borders so rigid," when the boundaries were decided two years ago.

"We only look at the houses in the office precinct. These things are approved by the University and we have to find space. It (the office sector) is not ideal space... in fact, a lot of it is second rate, but it is all we have."

Phillips adds, "sure the cost of North Garneau housing is high, but mainly because the students who were on the committee insisted the housing reflect the look of the Garneau community. If we had built walk-up apartments the cost would be a hell of a lot lower... and they (walk-ups) are not unattractive."

Though Housing and Food Services Director Gail Brown admits "the students would prefer to live in the houses (rather than North Garneau) she says, "we simply cannot afford to keep building and renovating houses for students, it is just plain economics."

Brown also says the low occupancy rate in North Garneau is "short term", caused by the market housing glut.

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SU elections elitist

VP-External candidate Oscar Ammar's campaign has been saved by a promissory note from Chief Returning Officer Ninette Gironella.

The Students Union provides \$500 for each candidate to run his campaign but this money is not paid out until receipts are turned in and candidates are reimbursed for legitimate campaign expenses.

So a candidate must have \$500 up front to run his campaign and make a \$25 deposit.

"I have some money but it is for rent," says Ammar. "Not many students have \$525 lying around."

The problem came to a head Tuesday when Ammar couldn't afford to pay cash for some posters he had printed and the printer would not give him credit.

It was resolved yesterday when Returning Officer Gironella wrote a note guaranteeing payment for the printing costs.

In all, the posters cost \$445.27.

Surprisingly enough, Ammar is the only candidate who has complained this year, but Gironella says "in the past this office has guaranteed payment."

Special International Women's Day Supplement Inside