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letters to the editor are starting to trickle in, but more are expected, and appreciated. today's letters concern co-op housing, the bookstore, and registration. co-ops are also examined at some length in two features; one on the rochdale experiment and one on our own co-op project. two cartoons "borrowed" from other campus periodicals round out this edition of page five.

letters

no disagreement?

In an editorial found in the September 25 edition of The Gateway, it was suggested that some disagreement between the university administration and our membership hindered our activities and impeded the progress of the co-operative housing project here in Edmonton.

We would like to assure you that such is not the case. During the summer our relationship with the administration remained on a very good level. Several members of the administration took a great deal of time giving us their fullest cooperation. The present stage of development could not have been reached without their help and advice.

The only major disagreement between our membership and the university administration has involved the issue of co-educational housing. A decision of the Board of Governors confined the project to a separation of men and women by houses, on property owned by the university. We feel that a very important factor in an experimental community is the establishment of a balanced community, and that any attempt to do this while working within the bounds

of a segregated housing policy will be unsatisfactory. We hope the administration will be more receptive to our ideas in the future.

The remarks in the editorial regarding our project were obviously based on rumor, and we feel that the impression given did not accurately reflect the existing situation. We hope that the Gateway will investigate the co-operative movement on campus more thoroughly.

Jack Kumlin
Robin Walker

sticky labels

Much as I appreciate the beauty and convenience of the new bookstore, I feel obligated to raise a voice in protest against a heinous crime which is being perpetrated by that institution.

It has always been the policy of the store to affix unremovable price labels on all the books therein. I can appreciate the reason for this, viz. to prevent label-switching and suchlike dishonesties; but I cannot appreciate the result of trying to remove the labels, viz. torn fingernails and mutilated book covers.

Now, in celebration of the opening of their new quarters, the administration has seen fit to affix not one but two such labels to each book, the second containing a mysterious code number seemingly of little use to themselves and of even less use to the poor customer.

Furthermore, this second label is carefully perforated so that it must be painstakingly removed in small sections.

What, pray tell, is the reason for this? It is merely an action of perversity on the part of the store?

Vana Nomen
arts 4

thank you

I would like to take a minute to thank all those kind people in the Science Department who made my registration such a pleasure over the last few days. Actually, I didn't mind visiting all those departments over and over again and certainly those courses I listed weren't really the ones that I want. Again, thank you, for your inspired guidance.

Randy Pall
sci 2



OBOY, ANOTHER SEMESTER, EH FRANK

—reprinted from the peak

'A community of thinking people'

By JOHN GREEN

"Co-op Housing is a community of thinking people," says Brian Whitson, arts 2.

Campus Co-operative Association Ltd., a U of A student organization, has dug into the north Garneau area. Forty-seven students are living in six houses in the few blocks just east of the campus.

The co-op centre and office is at 8808-111 St., formerly known as the Allin House. Thirteen students and three cats share the main house while the other five houses are within two blocks of the centre.

Facilities used by the co-op are rented from Royal Trust. Jack Kumlin, eng 2, said, "There are some problems with the plumbing, particularly in the main house. The water heater has to be replaced," and "because of the rental agreement reached with Royal Trust we are responsible for maintenance and utilities."

Members living in the co-op will be assessed an estimated total of \$40.00 per month for rent, utilities, and maintenance costs.

"The majority of our resources are being directed now to supplying the material necessities for comfortable living," said Kumlin.

"We hope to direct the greatest part of our time to developing a unique educational and social atmosphere within the co-op. We want to establish a healthy relationship with other campus organizations for the exchange of ideas."

Most of the co-op is furnished in late, early and middle Salvation Army, but students do not seem very concerned about the lack of glamour within their residences. Some of the furniture was purchased from the old Students' Union Building at an almost nominal cost.

The University Housing Office supplied some of the furniture on a loan basis for the winter session.

"Mr. Derek Bone (director of housing and food services) has been instrumental in supplying us with some furniture and kitchen utensils not being used by his department this year," Kumlin said.

Most of the co-op members denied any friction with the university administration. A university decision was made earlier this month quashing plans to have co-educational

housing within the co-op set up, but since the houses presently occupied are now university owned the decision was expected.

The co-op has not given up the idea of having co-ed housing eventually, although they are willing to abide by the university regulation now. Dawne Touchings, arts 1, one of the few freshettes in the co-op residence said she would, like co-ed housing because it would "probably mean a cleaner house." There are four houses for women and two for men with a ratio of 30 women to 17 men.

The administration of the co-op is suffering from registration week blues, but members are optimistic. Robin Walker, sci 3, said, "The houses are in a state of flux right now, but things should settle down within two weeks, when people get down to their studies."

A general meeting of the co-op will be held Sunday evening, for the election of a new board of directors and many of the administrative decisions will be made then.

Mr. Don Clarke of Melton's Real Estate is one of the outsiders who has watched the co-op grow. He said, "What I've seen of co-op housing so far is far above 75% of off-campus student housing. There is much more room for each student in the co-op than in most of the cubby holes I have seen."

Co-op facilities provide 100 square feet for students in single rooms and about 150 for doubles. Mr. Clarke said, "Few private individuals can supply nearly as much room."

The co-op plans to buy property in the future but there are problems in the zoning regulations for the areas around the campus. Fraternities and the co-op committee failed in an attempt to have an area in South Garneau rezoned for their purposes last year. The co-op plans to investigate how campus groups can use this area. Meanwhile much of the South Garneau has been rezoned for high rises.

Off-campus housing is practically impossible to obtain in the university area. One entire block east of 112 St. and north of 89 Ave. was demolished during the summer. There were at least 150 students in that block last year.

Rochdale -- co-op experiment

By SUE HELWIG

The Rochdale College experiment has begun.

Eighty student residents have moved into temporary quarters next door to the University of Toronto campus to live and work together as they will next September when the building opens at the corner of Bloor and Huron Streets.

Dennis Lee, a former lecturer at Victoria College, says: "Things have gone fairly well, but the whole process has to prove itself or be a failure."

Rochdale College is Canada's first co-operative residential college. Rejecting such established structures as curriculum, examinations, diplomas and degrees, the college members will create and accept responsibility for their own educational programs.

Rochdale takes its name from a town in England where in 1844 a group of weavers founded the first co-operative, a grocery store.

The college's aim is to build a community where the ideals and problems of education are the ties between students.

John Jordan, co-ordinator in charge of building and development of Rochdale, says that within such a community, "it is the group which

performs the critical role of a staff member at a university.

"During this next year the challenge we face is to work out and develop patterns and structures which allow and encourage people to develop freely and take responsibility."

Mr. Lee envisages an institution "that stays open enough to permit a doctrinaire group working within without dominating and controlling other members."

In forming its educational projects Rochdale must overcome the problems of physical isolation of its six houses. It must also find a way to co-ordinate the activities of both residential and external members.

These problems must be met before next September when membership will expand from an estimated this year's 200 to at least 800 as Rochdale moves into its new building.

Mr. Lee and Mr. Jordan both stress the responsibility which students at Rochdale are going to face.

In financial terms alone they are in charge of a \$6,000,000, 18-storey building. A young group, ranging in age from 18 to 25, they must face the responsibility of making important decisions without experience and proven competence.

Mr. Jordan sees the real danger as the fear of responsibility itself.

Although it is an autonomous organization, Rochdale College has close ties with the Campus Co-operatives.

Rochdale was first planned as a large residence to be owned and operated by the Co-op. An educational committee was established as part of the planning council for the residence.

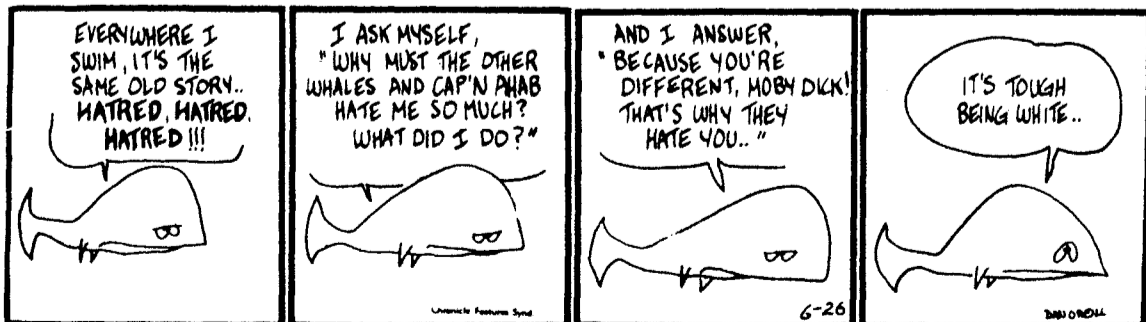
Gradually the members of this committee, working together in a seminar on the problems of education, formulated the concept of the role which Rochdale could play as an alternative to the present system of university education.

Rochdale also has ties with the Company of Young Canadians. Two of its "resource people" John McKenzie and Mr. Lee, are CYC research consultants.

The CYC is interested in Rochdale as an example of a developing experimental community.

The majority of Rochdale's present population of 80 are either students or faculty members on the main campus.

The relationship between the two institutions may be solidified soon if the University of Toronto library grants a request by Rochdale for library privileges.



—reprinted from the georgian