

Cheap housing gets tougher to find

The Carillon, *University of Regina*
REGINA (CUP)—Proposed changes to the Saskatchewan Tenants Act include an increase in damage deposits, which may make it difficult for students to find affordable housing.

Since July 1992, landlord and tenant groups in Regina have been debating proposed changes to the Saskatchewan Tenants Act.

Besides an increase in security deposits, the changes advocate a more efficient way of keeping records of both tenants and landlords.

Some landlords want to see the security deposit increased from a half month's rent to a full month's rent. As well, both landlord and tenant groups would like to see a computer system put in place that would hold tenants and landlords accountable if actions are taken against them.

Students were most opposed to the idea of an increased damage deposit.

"The landlords can charge you a lot of money for doing small things around your apartment and then take it from your damage deposit." However, it will prevent tenants from leaving without paying their rent and give landlords some form of insurance.

Shoshana Scholar said, "Regina has a very good system. Some cities like Calgary force tenants to pay two months rent for a deposit. This would make it very difficult for students who are trying to pay their tuition at the same time they're finding an apartment."

Tamara Miki, a single mother said, "It's difficult to find an apartment when you have pets and a child. An increased damage deposit would make it even more difficult."

Quebec cracks down on deadbeat Dads

by *Katrin Fhima*
The McGill Daily, *McGill University*
MONTREAL (CUP)—Since a large number of non-custodial parents default on their child support payments, Quebec will soon deduct child support payments directly from pay cheques.

By the end of this year, the province will follow the lead of Ontario, which has already had a similar system in place for a couple of years—deducting the payments regardless of whether the payee is in arrears or not.

Under the new law, employers will be responsible for ensuring that up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the pay cheques of parents in arrears is deducted and sent to his or her family.

Quebec finally decided to make back-sliding on payments harder due to the tenacity and perseverance of Focus, a charitable organization that provides financial, legal and moral support to single parents.

Roughly 60 per cent of all non-custodial parents default to some extent on their payments, 98 per cent of whom are men.

Payments are supposed to be based on the financial ability of both parents to pay, but this only takes visible earnings into account. Critics say the system would work better if judgments were flexible and would take into account all circumstances.

In Quebec, some are advocating that the credit bureau consider legal judgments involving non-custodial parents when calculating a person's credit rating.

If child support payments are owed, they should be considered a financial liability.

Statistics show that single mothers and their children make up the poorest segment of Canadian society. A few extra dollars a week could be the difference between making ends meet and living in abject poverty.

Another victory over pollution and filth

by *Melissa Murphy and Gabriella Fisher*
The Muse, *Memorial University of Newfoundland*
ST. JOHN'S (CUP)—The main smoking area at Memorial University of Newfoundland closed due to a new provincial law that refused smoking permits to buildings with improper ventilation.

The Vault—used in previous months as a common smoking area—closed its doors Jan. 1 to hundreds of smokers and forced them into the Breezeway, the campus bar.

This enforcement of the law angered both smoking and non-smoking students. Darrell Piercy, a Memorial student, said, "I'm really mad about The Vault closing up because I feel that we should have access to smoking areas. . . . It's not fair to the smoking students who are paying the same tuition as non-smokers."

But not everyone is upset by the closure of the Vault. Scott Andrews, a member of the MUN Liberal Club, said students made their choice in an October 1992 referendum, deciding they weren't willing to shell out \$100,000 for a new ventilation system.

Canadian University Press (CUP) is a national organization made up of over 40 student papers from St. John's to Victoria. CUP enables student papers to exchange stories and ideas through the wire service, regional and national conferences. As a founding member of CUP, the *Dalhousie Gazette* makes sure that our university news becomes national news.

MP visits Dal

by *Patti Waller*

Mary Clancy, Liberal member of Parliament for Halifax, was in the Dalhousie's Student Union Building (SUB) cafeteria on Tuesday to answer questions from students on areas ranging from social services reform to unemployment insurance and the Québec referendum.

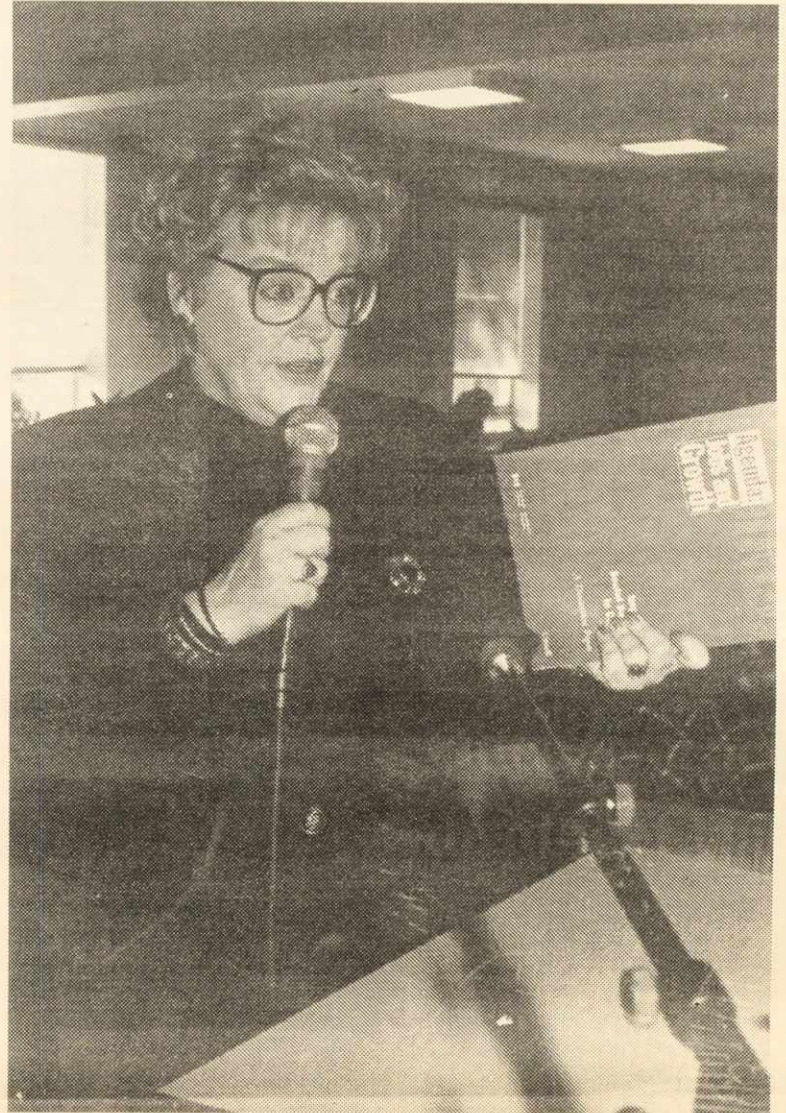
Hal Maclean, V.P. External for the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), was pleased to have Ms. Clancy address some post-secondary education concerns: "We wanted to create a pipeline between the government and students." When asked if the DSU felt that this method of communicating concern to the government was a better one than the Strike/Action committee's method last Wednesday, Mr. Maclean stated that "both [The Strike/Action and the DSU] are working towards the same goal" and added that perhaps the cathartic release the strike allowed was conducive to a more congenial environment for Ms. Clancy.

It was during her last visit to the SUB three years ago that a man who was believed to be a member of the International Socialist movement got into a verbal jousting match with Ms. Clancy, and attempted to physically harm the M.P. It was this action that prompted Ms. Clancy's request for security during this visit.

Ms. Clancy reviewed the government's preliminary plan for social spending reform as outlined in their "Green Book", but maintained that a clearer plan of action hinges on the tabling of the report by the Standing Committee of Human Resources next week. Ms. Clancy made it clear that she did not have all the answers to the problems involving social reform, saying so twelve times in Tuesday's meeting alone.

Ms. Clancy also addressed the changes that may effect Unemployment Insurance. She maintained that she was trying to express to Mr. Axworthy that there are regional differences that need to be taken into account when addressing social reform. "There has been a tremendous problem with the U.I. program...vis-à-vis the way people look at it...we have a seasonal economy here..."

She also stated that U.I. changes, if they take place, will not effect



Mary Clancy interrupts students' lunch.

PHOTO: MIKE DEVONPORT

university students "as it will, say, your parents...[or] maybe some of your contemporaries who aren't going to university and who are not being trained for the kinds of jobs that are going to be available." However,

"Not everyone is meant to go to university."

what these jobs are exactly, and how soon they'll arrive was not discussed.

Ms. Clancy also put forth the idea that it is up to educators at all levels to "stream" people so that they end

up in the "proper" place. "Not everyone is meant to go to university," she stated, "we're going to make a lot of mistakes, and a lot of people are going to fall through the cracks..."

In terms of Medicare, Ms. Clancy maintained that the user-pay system doesn't work: "What difference does it make if you take ten bucks out of your left pocket or your right pocket? I mean, if we told you it costs twenty-five dollars when you cut your hand, maybe you'd stop bleeding...that's not our theory..." In particular, the federal government seems to want to prevent the development of the hierarchical system of private clinics similar as to how it exists in Great Britain.

It remains to be seen how the federal plan will work, but all questions are sure to be answered when the federal budget is revealed.

Dal not accessible

by *Mark Anderson*

There have been and are some ongoing concerns with Dalhousie's Physical Plant and their ability to meet the needs of the universities disabled students, specifically wheelchair students.

Currently, the counter in the Registrar's office is not low enough for wheelchair students to write on. It was lowered once, but couldn't be lowered sufficiently because apparently, this would be disharmonious with the pattern of the room.

In a similar vein, the main office of the French Department is not wheelchair accessible. Last year Physical plant built a ramp that ended at a flight of stairs, violating common sense and building codes alike. This has not been changed.

Recently, the washrooms in the

Student Union Building were renovated for the second time, because the correct measurements to allow the turning of a wheelchair inside a stall were not followed the first time. They are fine now, but this represents wasted labour and materials, as

The old ramp was too steep

well as inconvenience for wheelchair students.

Nora Bednarski, who sits on the Presidential Advisory Committee on Accessibility, says that the problem is not that Physical Plant will not fix their mistakes, but that they keep making them.

"They never take accessibility into account until after the fact," said Bednarski.

On a more positive note, Physical Plant has recently installed a new ramp and automatic doors in the Arts and Administration building, at the entrance facing South Street (Wickwire Memorial Field). The old ramp was too steep, and led to a heavy door that was hard for wheelchair students to manage.

A policy passed through Senate in December states that "students with disabilities have a right to full access at Dalhousie." There had actually been some debate by high ranking members as to whether the words "right" and "full" were perhaps "too strong," but this was sensibly overcome.

This policy will be implemented if it passes through the Board of Governors in the upcoming weeks.