

Changes in Lister residence due says Derek Bone

100 empty beds in Lister, off-campus housing becomes popular

By DAN JAMIESON

There will always be problems in running a university residence, and U of A food and housing director Derek Bone has his share of them.

Rising residence rates and a lack of facilities for privacy are the most common perennials in the residence garden of weeds.

Mr. Bone cited the rising price of food and labour, increased mortgage rates and the rising cost of services provided to students in residences as principal causes for higher residence rates.

"However, I feel that we have reached the top limit that students can afford to pay," said Bone.

The cash barrier contributed to the almost 100 empty beds in Lister Hall.

"It's beginning to cost more than it is possible to earn in four months to come to university and live in residence," agreed Bill Roggansack, men's residence council president. The cost of university fees, books and residence fees for a student in residence is about \$2,000 per year.

"However, U of A still has

among the lowest residence rates and fees in Canada," residence council president Lawrie Hignell said.

In order to counter increasing costs, the university will have to find a less expensive method of housing students.

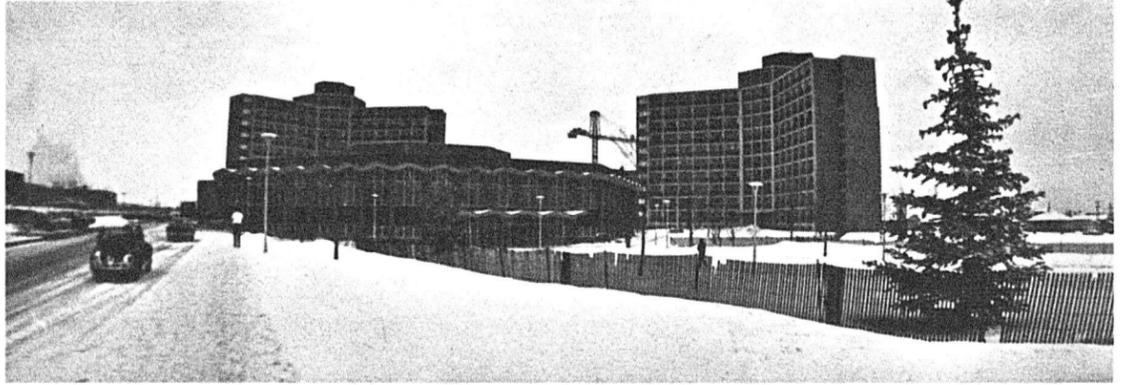
Designs which would facilitate cheaper housing methods are being sought for three new residences presently in the planning stage, an undergraduate residence, to be included in phase II of the Garneau development, an undergraduate residence, and a new married students residence, now awaiting Board of Governors approval.

"Do students really want to go into residences?" asked Mr. Bone. "Can they afford the cluster system? With four months' absence, can the university afford it?"

The cluster system is one in which 30 to 60 students are housed on each floor, sharing a common lounge, area, bathroom and other facilities. This is the system presently in use in Lister Hall.

Do the students want this type of residence?

Bone hopes the residence council will play a key role in providing



THIS IS LISTER HALL AT THE U OF A . . .
... will students get more of this type of residence?

the answers that will provide an alternative type of residence.

Hignell and Roggansack said the cluster system is good for freshman students.

"With 60 other people living on the same floor, using the same facilities, the freshmen get to know more people and find greater opportunity to get involved in student affairs," said Roggansack.

"We're trying to get students involved in the overall campus life, not just the residence things," said Hignell.

"I think the residence have played a big part in the rising student spirit here on campus."

"Some of the kids can't adjust to residence life and they're the ones who leave," said Roggansack, but he indicated they were in the minority.

A drawback to residence living for some freshmen is Lister Hall food. The complaints regarding food which have come up were dismissed by Bone as the result of boredom with institutional cooking.

Food complaints are now handled by the residence food committee, which has helped to improve and streamline food services.

"Sometimes they serve up a real mess but on the whole the

food has improved over the last four years," Hignell said.

According to the preliminary report of the students' union housing survey the largest single group of students to change their accommodations during their campus careers were the 15.1 per cent who moved from residence to off-campus housing.

"I know its pretty bad when a guy can't study in his own room," said Hignell, "but if he can't tell his friends he has work to do and ask them to go away until he's finished, he can always go to the library."

"A lot of kids leave residence because they want to develop a sense of being on their own they don't get in residence," said Hignell.

Something else he had in mind for residence is an arrangement of cells housing six to eight people sharing a kitchen, living room and bath. He is not alone in his preference. The students' union housing survey showed 49.2 per

cent of the students participating in the study preferred this type of housing over the four other types mentioned.

"In loco parentis", a common disease at other university residences, is practically non-existent on this campus. Except for those rules considered essential by the university Board of Governors, the students make their own rules, "and we try to make as few as possible," said Roggansack.

"We try to make them (the students) realize it is their residence and they can get whatever they want, if they work at it," said Roggansack.

This policy of student involvement is recognized and lauded by Mr. Bone. Perhaps he is hoping the students will follow up on the results of the student housing survey, in which 54 per cent of the students said they would prefer a co-operative system of student housing with student administration, and take over the problems he is now facing.

U of Calgary could riot

CALGARY—The only way we can avoid catalysmic upheavals of some kind in a university is to recognize some reforms are needed and sit down with the students and make some, said Charles Linton, chief academic officer of student affairs at U of C.

Mr. Linton was speaking to an alumni luncheon in Calgary Thursday.

"Student protests, sit-ins and even riots could easily happen on the Calgary campus if adults continue to turn a deaf ear to what students are trying to say," he said.

Society, as well as universities, must recognize that reform is needed, he warned.

The protesters are the ones who command the headlines, who stir things up, he said, and it would be wise to listen to what they have to say.

Arbitration is the only answer, Mr. Linton said, a situation anarchists will never accept.

Of these anarchists, the most violent are students who are members of Students for a Democratic University on the U of C campus.

"There is no surer way to upset the applecart," he said. "Keep your cool and keep in mind that no cause warrants a physical attack on a student," he warned the adults.

U of C student president, Luigi Di Marzo, commenting on Linton's speech, said "at the moment I don't see any imminent outbreaks."

"While there are 'cadres' of activists on campus, the mass of students would not follow the activists nor are the activists able to lead them," said Di Marzo.

"Even activists among the student body have no intention of simply destroying the existing structure," he said.

Di Marzo added that he knew of no anarchists on the U of C campus.

Protests out of place

MEDICINE HAT—Demonstrations and teach-ins can play no part in the university system, said University of Calgary Chancellor C. C. McLaurin Friday.

He said he did not expect any trouble of the type that occurred at Simon Fraser University to happen in Alberta, but he warned that student anarchists would probably be banned from campuses.

McLaurin dismissed the idea of students on university Boards of Governors as utter nonsense. He said they would not have enough time to work on board committees and maintain their academic standings.

Mr. McLaurin claimed that if any leadership were necessary on campus, the universities new president would provide it.

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