

Residences an absolute must

by Philip Preville

Within the next three months, important decisions will be made that may set back the clock substantially on the universality of access to post-secondary education.

Two committees have been set up to deal with the imminent crisis in university housing funding - one by the university Board of Governors, the other by the Ministry of Advanced Education. Both will take a very broad look at the issue of funding for residences, and both will consider the question of whether the university or the government should be involved in student housing at all.

Consider the magnitude of the situation. The cost of putting all the U of A's residences back in order is in the neighbourhood of 75 million dollars. Then there is the cost of preventative medicine - proper annual maintenance to ensure that the crisis doesn't happen again. Even then, nothing lasts forever, and within the next half century a major investment will again have to be made. This is only for one of the campuses in the province.

The Minister's advisory committee is expected to consider the numbers and recommend policy alternatives before the end of 1989.

Housing and Food Services Director David Bruch said he was "confident that our residences would be with us for a long, long time." Bruch said that he knew of no movement to take the university out of the housing business.

Nevertheless, it is disturbing to think that the question should even be asked at all.

Bruch compared the situation to that of getting major repairs done on your car. "Before you get the repairs done, you have to decide whether or not the car is worth the investment." This particular analogy has one flaw. The decision on repairs assumes that, if you don't get the repairs done on your present car, you will buy a new one.

It is virtually impossible for a student to save enough during the summer to make ends meet through the school term. The university-area housing crunch is a worsening problem. Many students simply wouldn't be able to afford a university education without a student housing service.

The watering down of the current housing policy would represent a large step towards making a university education something only high-income families can afford.

A quota based on income is an unacceptable disgrace in a democratic society.



ANDY PHILLPOTTS
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LETTERS

HUB Mall too noisy

So this is the difference between a small town and a big city. Noise. Yes, noise. The small towners seem to be deprived of the bliss of phonic tumult enjoyed by the city dwellers. I used to get up in the morning with the chirping of birds, now I wake up with a headache.

I'm getting a little suspicious, probably the small towns lack some other things as well, like... like an architectural wonder like the HUB Mall. Millions (O.K. divide it by some powers of ten) of people swarm on the mall while an equal number hang from windows at the top floors like bats. Not to mention the incessant buzz that adds spice to this 3-D live audiovisual phenomena.

New place, new experience. You turn up three weeks before classes and the housing service says no to any hope of getting a place to live. After 9 weeks' whining of your long distance travel and an I've-been-on-the-street-for-a-week look in your misty eyes, they put you into a room right above Dewey's - the holy shrine for those who want to momentarily forget the anxiety of the assignments that are due tomorrow. Is this a punishment for the constant whining in the housing office? I've tried everything from closing the window & locking my bedroom door to locking myself into a suitcase, but nothing works - the noise keeps coming in. And they say you can't ask for parole for four months.

SU's showing "See No Evil, Hear No Evil" makes a lot more sense to me now.

By the way, do they give you a hearing aid with your certificate when you graduate?

Abdul Salf
Computing Science

Football undeserving

Why does the U of A student body blindly accept such unequal distribution of athletic funding?

To an observer it seems ludicrous to spend vast amounts on the Golden Bores football team when so many sports go completely unsupported. Interest in football doesn't justify its current allocation. Traditionalist macho bullshit rather than performance seems to determine who gets the dough.

The current system, by only supporting the top team of those sports lucky enough to get some cash, encourages no depth, or participation by any but the elite.

Guy Hamling
Bruce Polwart
Kirk Russell
Rehab. Med. IV

Environment Week Coming

In response to "Environmental awareness missing on U of A campus"

To Kathryn Elford:

You're not alone with your concern for the environment. The Students' Union is proud to present Environment Awareness Week, October 2-6. Throughout this week, our own homemade "blue boxes" will be placed around campus in which students, faculty and staff will be encouraged to deposit cans and bottles. As well, there are paper recycle bins in all major areas - opposite the Students' Union information booths in HUB and SUB and behind the kitchen in CAB.

Throughout Environment Awareness Week

educational displays will be set up in HUB, SUB and CAB and presentations will be made by experts on topics ranging from recycling and toxins to pulp and paper. The week focuses on action: what each of us can do in our day-to-day lives to contribute to a healthier environment. All forums are open to the public and most are free.

This is the first of many steps in improving our environment on campus. Increased awareness, education, and concerned individuals like yourself will make the difference.

Kathy Lazowski
Coordinator
Environment Awareness Week

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