



The stairwell where University President Myer Horowitz jumped to his death last night

## University losing on acquisition?

by Cheryl Parsons

Though the University has suspended its Windsor Park land acquisition policy there is still question about the financial advisability of the five house purchase.

The university had originally planned to acquire houses along 116 street and 117 street north of 87 avenue which they claimed would "act as a buffer zone against future construction on university property."

According to VP for Planning, Ron Phillips, the houses will only be rented to new and visiting staff members. University President Myer Horowitz said that part of the reason for the houses' acquisition was to attract these high calibre professors to the city.

Horowitz also said, "it makes as good sense for universities to invest in property as anyone else."

There is now reason to believe that the "good sense" might have been just the opposite.

The University will not dis-

close the exact rents charged not the exact prices of the houses at present.

Says Brian Silzer, Administrative Director for the Board of Governors, "rental rules are based on the advice of city rental agents and market rates."

Edward Chambers, Chairman of USSWP (University Staff to Save Windsor Park) suggested earlier that "in order for a \$160,000 house to obtain a comparable yield to a risk-free bond, rent of at least \$875 would have to be charged."

Added to the estimated \$160,000 price tag per house are extensive renovations done at an average cost of \$16,000 per house. Therefore, at an average estimated cost of \$176,000 rents would have to be considerably higher than Chamber's original estimate.

The renovations came as a result of the concern voiced by Windsor Park residents that their property value would go down because of the rented homes - cited were references to Garneau.

**News writers meeting today at 3:30. Room 282 SUB. One more real issue left!**

You let Bartholemew buy you dinner?!



Yes.



Oh, Sarah. Now you owe him something...



Cheeze whiz on rye and a large fries?



Sarah Hickson '93

Sounding board for developing issues...

## Question period equalizes

by Neal Watson

In an effort to convince those skeptics about the antics of our elected representatives, the Legislative Interns called their forum on Tuesday "The Importance of Question Period."

Legislative Interns are university students, usually political science majors, selected to work for all parties in the Legislature for a period of one year.

The Interns presented three guest speakers who all spoke about how important question period was, but failed to address the average person's perception of the Legislature and the theatrics contained within.

Professor Engelman, the chairman of the political science department, said there was a "terribly unequal situation between government and opposition in the parliamentary system."

Engelman called question period "the only equalizer" for the opposition. It, he emphasized, is "vital for the functioning of parliament when the opposition is weak" as is presently the case in the Alberta legislature.

Question period is virtually the only parliamentary device the opposition has for bringing the government's actions to the attention of the public. Consequently, the importance of question period intensifies in the Alberta political context as a very small opposition is responsible for scrutinizing the actions of the huge Conservative majority.

Professor Engelman said that

question period was the "only thing that engenders public interest." However, more often than not, the public's interest focuses on the theatrics of the process rather than the substance.

With a very small opposition, the importance of the media in monitoring the government is crucial. One expressed purpose of question period is to bring issues to the attention of the media.

Geoff White, a *Calgary Herald* columnist and President of the Press Gallery at the Legislature, called question period an "imperfect" but "important sounding board for developing issues."

"Government decisions are held up to closest examination" during question period permitting the opposition and the media to inform the public," said White.

Answering criticism that the media focuses on question period to the detriment of other government business, White defended the media role and said question period was an important "focus for developing a story."

White admitted that the "lively exchange" nature of question period gears it to media coverage. However, he also said this is not a negative thing, because question period is just a "convenient peg to attach a news story."

Problems exist for the media in its coverage of question period as well. Because of the small opposition, White said question period is not "as reflective" as it would be if there was a large opposition.

Question period is "imperfect" and reflects the political affiliation of opposition members said White. For example, NDP leader Grant Notley questions often reflect his union partisan.

Most dangerous is the government's potential for manipulating the question period said White. It is a common and legitimate government device to provide government backbenchers with questions for Ministers thus hampering the opportunity for opposition members to ask questions.

Referring to suggestions that Speaker Amerongen was responsible for hampering debate in the present legislature, Warren Graves, a former clerk assistant, said the speaker was only responsible for imposing procedure rules defined by the members themselves. Geoff White rejected this contention and said that Speaker Amerongen's rulings were often "arbitrary" and "capricious." The speaker was responsible for "repeated intervention into debate" charged White.

It was alleged that question period serves a "conspiracy of interests," including the press and the opposition.

Despite any conspiracy theories and the existing public cynicism about the process, question period remains virtually the only device to bring the government to public accountability.

## Bar None from forgery

No new evidence has been discovered regarding the Bar None liquor ticket incident which cost the U of A agriculture club almost \$1000.

Hundreds of illegitimate liquor tickets were used by patrons of the event to purchase liquor.

"We never noticed the difference in the tickets until the end of the night," says Rick Volek, Assistant Bar None Director.

He continued, "the letters on the illegal tickets were just a little bit bolder than the real tickets."

We weren't checking the tickets closely enough because of the high volume and fast pace of the sales," he said.

Volek thinks that someone must have come to Bar None early and phoned someone else, describing the tickets' appearance.

The illegal tickets' use resulted in the club running out of beer about five minutes before the events' close.

"There were about 100 people who were really mad but that isn't too bad considering over 2000 attended," says Volek.

The Agriculture Club subsequently offered refunds for the unused tickets.

However, at least one student complained that he couldn't receive his money back - the refund booth shut down before he reached it.

Bar None Director Ken Gratz denies this, saying "we refunded almost \$1000. As far as I know everyone that wanted a refund was given the chance."

Anyone knowing anything about this incident should contact the U of A Agricultural Club at 432-2932.

## Movie boosts awareness... Candlelight vigil

Organizers expect about 500 people to participate in a "refuse the cruise" candlelight vigil that will be held in front of City Hall Saturday night.

The vigil will be held in conjunction with activities across Canada and the United States.

People are also urged to wear a green arm band all day Friday. "When people ask, 'what are you wearing that for,' you can explain it to them," says Doreen Caldwell of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

The vigil has been planned for some time. "In about October US peace groups calling themselves the People's Test Ban came up and said we should act in solidarity," says Caldwell, "all across the US people will call for the end of the arms race."

Caldwell feels it is important that the Canadian and American peace movements work together. "We're not Anti-American people," she says, "we're against American policy."

"In Vancouver they will be marching to the peace arches at the border... in Toronto an anti-cruise Santa Claus Parade to the Liberal party headquarters is planned."

Caldwell says there will also be protests in Winnipeg, Regina, and Montreal.

Caldwell expects the turnout to be boosted by an ABC TV movie shown recently.

"There has been a new interest because of 'The Day After'... a lot of people are shaken up."

The protest takes on added significance in light of a Court of Queen's Bench decision on Monday to reject the peace movement's challenge that testing the Cruise was unconstitutional.

Saturday's vigil will commence at 8 PM.

## Snake charmers unite

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affected by selection and our biases. You can't trust what you remember since memory is not a filmstrip in your head, but rather is constructed - manufactured after the event. We build images of paranormal events and are prone to do so particularly in ambiguous or emotional events.

Besides these examples, there are instances where people don't even bother to look for rational explanations, or cases where people are under the influence of

mind altering phenomenon, like hypnosis or drugs, which radically alter a person's perceptions.

Alcock concluded that people weren't properly prepared to deal with so-called paranormal events. "No one ever tells us in school that we will have these experiences and that they will be strange."

"We have to train children in both logical thought and the workings of their own minds. Universities in particular have a responsibility to teach logic and rationality."