

SU commissioner appointed to residence board.

# Student voice on committee

by Lisa Hall

The Students' Union Housing and Transport Commissioner, John Mark Fisher, has been appointed to the government board which will help decide the future of college and university residence funding in Alberta.

The Ministerial Advisory Committee on Student Housing Funding Policy, which was formed earlier this fall, will be preparing a report giving recommendations to

the government about its role in residence funding. Fisher is one of two student representatives who will be sitting on the 23 member committee. "I will be representing all Alberta universities, and not just the U of A," said Fisher.

Fisher is not new to the issue of student residences. As former president of the crumbling Faculte St. Jean residence, Fisher has lobbied extensively for the improvement of student housing.

Fisher hopes the committee will recommend that the government play a bigger role in residence funding. The government's policy has been "that residences should be self-sustaining. The profit made from rents should support them," explained Fisher.

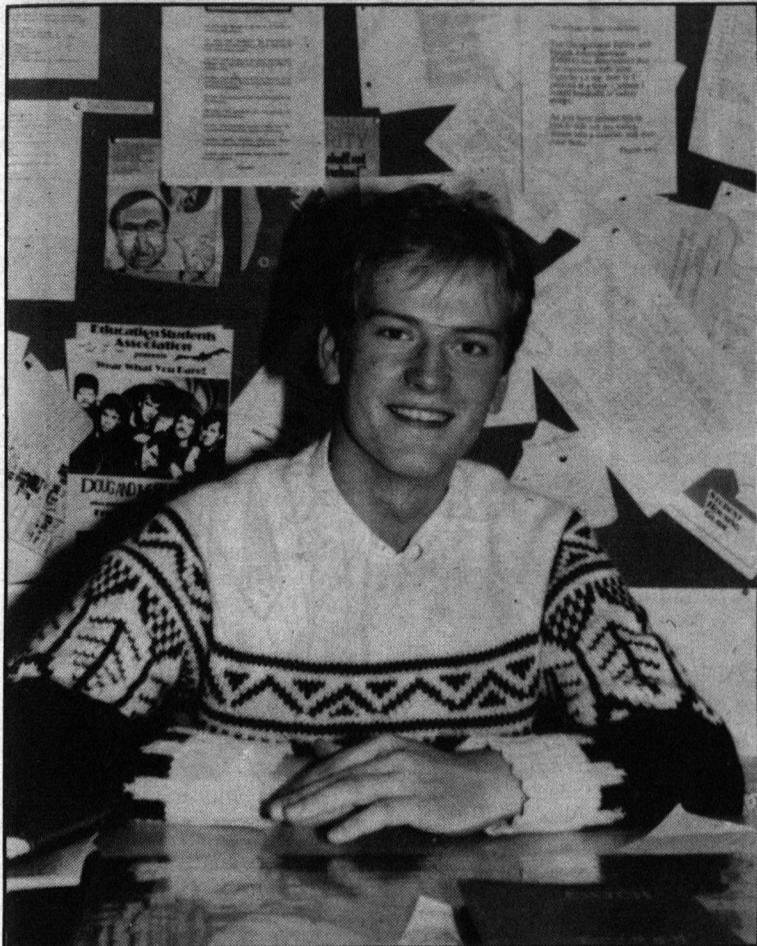
But lately, because some residences have not been able to support themselves, the government has been helping residences at some institutions. "But now there is complaints that this policy has been inconsistent," said Fisher.

Both the Universities of Lethbridge and Calgary did get residence funding from the government recently, while the U of A is still waiting to hear if the government will help pay the bill for renovations to Lister Hall.

Fisher hopes that, upon recommendations of the committee, the government will eventually change its policy and consider "developing one that is applicable to all institutions," and not one that is "laissez-faire," where the government decides arbitrarily which institution to help.

He would like to see residences a concern for the government because of the financial and physical needs of some residences, but would also like to promote their necessity because they cater to younger, rural, or out-of-province students, who look at residences as a home and a place to meet friends.

After considering the situation of residences all across the province, the committee is slated to make recommendations to the government's department of Advanced Education by December, so that the department can include residence funding in its application for the 1991-92 budget.



John Mark Fisher — Housing and Transport Commissioner



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## Correction

The following paragraphs were inadvertently omitted from the article "Getty refuses environment petition" in the October 26 issue of *The Gateway*. We apologize to our readers for any confusion which may have resulted.

An aide close to the Premier said that the Premier might be able to meet to receive the card, but based on his schedule it could be at least four months. "The card should be given to Klein who could then pass it along to the Premier much faster than if the students would wait to see the Premier."

When asked what Klein would do with it, Rod Love from the Minister's office said that, "he'd make sure that his colleagues in caucus and cabinet knew about it. That might be by letter, or perhaps by presentation - but first we have to receive it."

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