

## HOUSING, from page 1

"We're hoping that the tone has been set for the main report and that the government will not renege on observations made in the preliminary document," Sharon said.

But the government is not committed by the report. Sharon observed that the Alberta government has been moving away from subsidization of education, and more than likely will remain reluctant to improve student housing situation.

Some observations made in the report are that:

-students are concerned with cost and privacy over other considerations when choosing housing;

-some institutions definitely do have substandard, poor quality housing which should be replaced; and

-that increased student accommodation is needed in all areas of the province.

While most administrators contacted by researchers of the report felt that on-campus accommodation is still desirable, they were also of the opinion that residences should be run by professionals in the housing

field rather than university personnel.

Terry Sharon levied two criticisms against the report.

Leaders of student organizations were not consulted in the information gathering period, and the recommendation for increased private involvement in supplying student housing is not desirable. "We feel that private industry is not very community-responsible," he said.

Now that the findings have been revealed, said Sharon, FAS awaits reaction from the minister.

## Problems women have to face

by Greg Neiman

Universities should put together central offices that would sponsor orientation programs for mature students (particularly women) to help them adjust to a new life in the academic community, said instructor Jerrie Jackson, in a women's workshop Friday.

Speaking on the topic of "women's problems in upgrading themselves," Jackson, an instructor in Basic Training for Skill Development at the College of New Caledonia in Prince George, said these of-

fices greatly aid women in learning how to live in the university or college, especially in cases where women may not have finished high school.

"After deciding they need to upgrade their education, women go to school not knowing how to dress, how to act, how to relate to their fellow students," she said.

Divorced women who have no training to survive in the working world, women with children going to school and those who are under the burden of having to live on welfare,



Jerrie Jackson.

need such programs to help them back into school to become wage earners.

"Confidence is an important factor in this," she said, "it helps greatly for women to discover they're not alone with their problems, that there are many others who have already been through the system who could share experiences with them."

Federal departments such as Manpower are willing to finance the mature student's education, but only insofar as the training is aimed at a specific vocation. If people decide they want courses aimed at transfer to a university, Manpower cuts them off.

"Because of this, there's a lot of deceit in the Manpower offices," said Jackson.

For women specifically, problems begin in just deciding that an education is necessary.

"Separation, for instance, causes a lot of guilt feelings," said Jackson, "if there are children, the women are told that school is selfish."

"The biggest problem is the woman's own insecurity - and this one, no councillor have ever been able to solve."

"We tell women not to worry about society, and not to worry about the kids. It's the quality of time you spend with your children, not the quantity that counts," Jackson said.

Jackson stated that in British Columbia the government is aiming at upgrading older people's educations, but only to the point where they would be able to apply for skilled labor. University educations generally seem reserved for young people.

"But once you decide what you want, there's usually a way for you to get it," she said, through government financing, for example.

"The government can either spend money for their welfare or they can spend a little more to keep them off the welfare lists forever," said Jackson, "that's how we generally approach it."

The workshop was part of the Women in Education conference organized by the Womens' Program Centre here at the University of Alberta.

### REJECTS, from page 1

legally constituted club by the Student Council at UBC.

Foid said Robert Stanfield, former national leader of the conservative party, has been made an honorary member of the club, and provincial education minister Pat McGeer will qualify as an honorary loser after the next provincial election.

Admission fees to the film in future showings will be refunded if the film goes wrong or is bad.

Money raised from the admission, according to Foid, will be used to finance another film by the Rejects Club.

## Prov. budget babies corporate leeches

Corporations in Alberta are getting a free ride at the expense of ordinary Albertans, Alberta Federation of Labour President Reg Basken said.

Basken was reacting to the provincial budget presented to the Legislature by Treasurer Merv Leitch.

The most notable feature of the budget, which exercises

restraint in education and other areas of social spending, is a 40.5% reduction in revenue from corporations, Basken said.

Last year, corporate income tax contributed \$262 million to the budget, but this year revenue from that tax is decreasing to \$156 million, its lowest level since the 1973-74 budget year.

"It upsets me that ordinary Albertans will be facing reduced levels of government services this year, with cutbacks planned in hospital and education services, to name only two, while corporations are receiving a tax cut."

Only part of the reduction is accounted for by increases in royalty rebates which "leads me to suspect that Alberta corporations will be getting a direct tax cut this year," the AFL President said.

"But while the corporations got a 40.5 percent tax cut, revenue from personal income tax was up 12.7 percent compared to last year's level. The Treasurer is a very clever politician, and on the surface, the budget appears to be good. But below the politically smooth surface is a mess of confusing figures and give-aways to corporations," Basken charged.

There are no increases in royalties in the budget. The coal royalty is staying the same despite a 60 percent increase in

one year in the price of coal, Basken said.

Increases in oil and gas royalty revenue are accruing only because the prices of those commodities are going up, he said.

"On the surface, it appears from a cursory examination that the oil companies are increasing their contributions to the Provincial Treasury, but study reveals that with prices of their products going up, those increases in revenues are coming from the pockets of Alberta citizens."

In addition to the direct grants through lower taxes, corporations are also the beneficiaries of some major spending increases, Basken noted.

There is an 88 percent increase in spending in the Oil Sands Research Fund and a 39 percent increase in spending for the Syncrude Equity Management program.

This government, "which is preaching restraint to organized workers, the sick and the poor, and the students of this province, is spending 25 percent more on tourism and 16 percent more on business development.

"Spending on construction and improvement of airport facilities is jumping 73.8 percent, while the Education Opportunity Fund gets a 1.2 percent increase."

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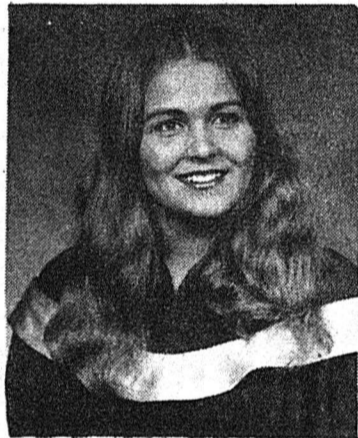
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