Tenants may suffer...

N. Garneau again shuffled

by Don Truckey

Grievances and appeals from tenants living in universityowned North Garneau may fall on unsympathetic ears following proposed administration transfer from planning and development to housing and food services.

"The university does not know how to administer cooperatives, because it has no experience doing it," claimed Jim Tanner, Graduate Students Association (GSA) rep on the Garneau Management Committee Tuesday.

Tanner emphasized he is pleased with the transfer to housing and food services, however, because it indicates the university has abandoned plans to level the community for expansion of the campus.

Restrictions feared

But Tanner said he fears the "history of democratic decisionmaking" in North Garneau will be restricted under housing and food services regulations.

"The centralized policies of housing and food services could limit democracy in North Garneau," Tanner said. "There will be a tendency to view everything within rules and regulations. The community will lose the right to deal with each case on its own

"The university has a policy which encourages cooperative living," he added, "but it doesn't know how to administer it.'

The administrative switch is



scheduled for April 1 of this year, vp planning and development R.E. Phillips said Wednesday.

'It's been approved in principle by the Board of Governors," Phillips said. "Right now it's a matter of working out the transfer administratively."

Reorganization of the Garneau Management Committee is one way, Tanner said, of opening channels for tenant communication. Presently the committee is composed of two community

members, one from the GSA, one from the Students' Union, Ernie Sheddon from planning and development and Dan Pretzlaff from U of A physical plant.

The GSA and SU reps are no longer needed, Tanner asserted. He favors replacing them with two members from the North Garneau community.

Democratic privileges

"I wouldn't want to see any regulations imposed on the community," Tanner said. "As far as I know, the university residences are democratic in making regulations. I see no reason why North Garneau shouldn't enjoy the same privileges.

Tanner said higher tenant involvement would contribute to the maintenance and care of the 85 houses and two apartment buildings in the area. The same sort of action could improve maintenance in HUB, he added.

An official university policy of "absolute minimum maintenance" was applied to North Garneau after the university's expropriation of the area in the mid-60s, Tanner said. Projections for an enrolment of 30,000 spurred the drive to acquire more land east of the campus.

"It was a policy of 'let them fall apart to make them easier to push over'," Tanner said.

When the university's growth levelled out, North Garneau once again became a place students to reside without threat of demolition looming the area, and administra under planning and development became unnecessary.

A \$300,000 reserve fund up from rents - and no ex diture on maintenance - was gradually funnelled back repairing the houses, Tar said.

The administrative trans to housing and food service the next step in restoring N Garneau to the legitimate of munity status it enjoyed be expropriation sent the original long-time residents packing.

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