

"The stress hits people a lot sooner."

The 80's bring changes in res life

by Emma Sadgrove

University residences have gained a reputation for being wild places where students party all the time and only study the night before exams.

Television and film images have only furthered this exaggerated picture and some students avoid residence as a result.

Some past residents of Lister Hall, the U of A residence, remember their stay as "an eight month long party."

But more students speak of the friends they made and still keep, and of the camaraderie which saw them through the ups and downs of a year of university.

Trent Tucker, this year's president of the Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA), first lived in residence in 1982-83.

Tucker sees many differences between the residence community of that year and the one that has

been forming this year. "People do not party as much, probably because they care about their marks and because things are so expensive," he said.

Tucker said, "There is still a good community spirit", but he sees students moving to different types of activities. "Floors are doing more activities that are less related to alcohol," he said.

Floors have arranged outings to places like WEM waterpark and movie nights among other activities.

Several first year residents agreed that residence is not what they expected. "It is quieter than I thought it would be," one student said.

Students said that it is "a great place to live." "There is always something going on," another said.

Resident assistant Stephen Jenkins said "there is a big change in student attitude."

"In the past there used to be an

anything goes attitude," he said, "but students no longer have the luxury of fooling around for a year."

Jenkins referred to today's competitive job market in which people are looking at marks more closely. Students are realizing that every year counts.

"Residence used to be a place where people would socialize for four months, then have to move out," Jenkins said.

Students also used to be more inclined to go to university because they did not know what to do, he said.

Jenkins was quick to point out that we have not suddenly discovered all the answers. "Students are still confused," he said. "But people are more edgy and they are pushing themselves."

"The stress hits people a lot sooner," Jenkins said. He sees the residence community playing a role in dealing with that stress.

"It is nice to know that there is a group of people that you can come home to," he said.

Students concurred. "You meet

a lot of people here," one said.

Is residence still a fun place to socialize?

"It is still where you can cut your first social teeth away from your parents," Jenkins said.

"In Lister, living at home means socializing," one student said. "Lister Hall is the biggest pick up joint in Edmonton," he added.

In previous years, socializing has often resulted in damage to the residence. This sort of damage has lessened considerably this year.

"It has been very minimal compared to past years," Tucker said. He cited four damage reports in September of this year compared to about 30 in September 1985.

"People care about where they live and they want to keep the place clean," he said.

"We try not to wreck stuff because they make us pay for it," a student said.

Jenkins said, "I think that damage comes out of a lot of high energy levels and no place to direct it to."

"We have to prepare ourselves

to meet the needs of students," he said. "They want more than parties."

Jenkins would like to see residence offer a wide variety of services that benefit students in all aspects of life.

"We have to offer services that fill the gap between the academic and the social," he said.

Jenkins credited people like Tucker and Housing and Food Services Director David Bruch and "a good group of coordinators" for "directing their energies in a positive direction."

"These are people who are proud to be in the positions and benefit from the positions," he said.

In the past there were many conflicts between LHSA and Housing and Food Services. Jenkins said that there is no longer a problem with the two groups.

"It's a new ball game," Jenkins said. "There are still a lot of good directions for this place to go in."

Firing sparks row

ST. CATHERINES (CUP) — A secretary at Brock University who was dismissed without explanation following her testimony to a sexual harassment committee is suing the university for wrongful dismissal.

Mary Warner, a secretary with the History department for fifteen years, was transferred to the Sociology department against her wishes on Aug. 6 and was dismissed later that month.

Articles in the St. Catherines daily newspaper, *The Standard*, and an editorial in the Brock faculty newsletter prompted university president Alan Earp to respond with a memo to all department chairs, denying that Warner was fired for providing "information to the Committee on Sexual Harassment."

Earp said Warner had become involved in "a very turbulent situa-

tion" as the History department secretary, and this was "one of the reasons" why she was transferred from the department.

"The feeling was that the move would be a good thing all around. Unfortunately, she (Warner) did not share that (view). She was unwilling to accept the transfer," Earp said.

He said, "there is no direct connection between the sexual harassment investigation and the Warner controversy."

However, former history student Tim McCurry said that Warner had "no problems in the department before her testimony" at the sexual harassment committee.

Gary Rush, Chair of the Sociology Department, described Warner's work as "thoroughly professional" and Warner as "a good worker."

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I guess what he meant was that light and airy and sweet things are fine and good, if that's what you like, but that here in the North a thing must be more substantial. Finely crafted, smooth and sturdy. It must be something you can put your hands around.

Yukon Jack did not believe in comfort for comfort's sake, he saw no point to it. But he did appreciate the finer things. Another paradox.

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