

Food hazard: students turn to drink

by K. Graham Bowers

Life in Lister Hall is a life of meeting people - on your floor, in the dining hall, in Ship (the bar), or almost anywhere else.

It is also a life of drinking. There are floor parties, unit parties, beer gardens, dances, Ship Nites — it's a wonder Lister Dwellers ever make it through their first year.

But they do. In fact, Lister is also a good place for keeners — there are three study halls, an MTS computer room, typing rooms, piano rooms, music practice rooms, even a teaching assistant for computing, math, and physics.

And of course, there are other residents studying the same courses, so you can help each other and study together.

Studying becomes an obsession in Lister at exam time. The Lister Hall Students' Association (LHSA) enforces quiet hours twenty-two hours a day, with 5-6 pm. and 9-10 pm. the only two hours that Lister becomes noisier than a morgue.

This attitude of responsibility for each other is one of the reasons that by the end of the year each floor becomes almost like a family — a family with incest!

After a year of eating, drinking, partying, eating, and sometimes sleeping together, residents get to know the other people on the floor very well. You'll like some of them, hate others, and maybe even fall in love.

One thing you won't fall in love with is the food! Over the entrance to the dining hall, someone has posted a banner reading, "The Killing Fields." The coffee's not bad though — if you chew it well.

On a more serious note, there was a drastic overabundance of onions, potatoes, and other "flavour-adders" and "fillers" in the food last year. Fortunately, we've been promised that this practice won't be as

common this year.

There is also a large number of Mexican dishes offered because SAGA, the firm that operates the dining hall, works with a menu based on the eating habits of all North Americans, from the Panama Canal to the Arctic Circle.

The selection of food is not the only problem. The quality is also dubious. The ground beef in Lister is 20% soybean extract, but it's the ham that has the reputation of being the worst meat, often appearing and tasting quite old. It's usually very dry and sometimes seems to have a slight greenish tinge.

Also note that the Turkey Tetrazini is commonly referred to as Turkey Tetrachloride. Beware of

this stuff.

On a more positive note, this year the dining hall has one new consolation — beer and coolers are now available with meals. These must be paid for with cash and cannot be purchased on your Meal Card.

There's also lots of alcohol available at Mac County Fair. From September 14 to 19, MacKenzie Hall will host this big drunk with a beer gardens, mechanical bull rides, and about a thousand drinking contests.

Then Henday Hall hosts its tribute to alcoholism, called Skulk, from Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 with another thousand drinking contests.

Kelsey Hall follows suit Jan. 17 - 24 with King Louis Week, a truly

royal pisser.

You might ask, "Does the University allow this?" Of course they do. We're adults now, so we can act like kids all we like.

The branch of the University that operates Lister and the other residences is called Housing and Food Services. The H&FS staff are generally helpful and competent people, although occasionally (usually at the worst times) you may find yourself the victim of a bureaucratic machine that screws up with excessive frequency.

At such times there is a resident assistant to rely upon to cut through the red tape for you. And, of course the LHSA, that good friend of all breweries great and small, is also helpful with many of the little crises

that make up rez life.

The LHSA has an elected (usually co-ordinator on each floor who will organize social activities, enforce discipline, and generally will show you around the place.

One of the secrets of enjoying rez life is getting a good floor co-ordinator. Of course, this is purely a matter of luck for the first year resident, because you don't know any of them yet. But next spring you can elect one, or become one yourself!

Good or bad, the floor co-ordinators do their best, and try to be friendly. In fact, one of this year's floor co-ordinators summed up her role by saying, "If there is anything that you guys want, I'm always available." What a lady!

Hints to help you through rez life

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1. Examine the food closely before purchasing it. Green meat and blue pastry should be cause for caution. If in doubt, eat at Angelo's (for pizza) or Windsor (for burgers and shakes). **Safe Bets:** (a) Shepherd's Pie; (b) Stews and most Soups; (c) Turkey Pot Pie; (d) Casseroles and other mixed foods; (e) Mexican Foods (if you like Mexican Food); (f) Fresh Fruits (what can go wrong here); (g) The Easy Riser for breakfast (an Egg McMuffin).

2. Plan your budget with two or three times your usual alcohol intake — and hope that's enough. You're almost guaranteed to drink more here than anywhere else. **Recommended Watering Holes:** (a) Ship; (b) RATT; (c) Dewey's; (d) Our Place; (e) Angelo's.

3. After a hard day, go for a sauna. It's free, and very relaxing. **Helpful Sauna Hints:** (a) for a hotter sauna, pour cold water on the thermostat when the sauna shuts off; (b) do not stay in for more than three

hours — you'll evaporate when you leave; (c) do not drink in the sauna. It's impossible to finish your beer before it boils.

4. Participate. Pay the full social floor fees, buy a floor shirt, get a floor picture, etc. If you do, you'll never regret it. If you don't, you might regret it.

5. Don't Panic: (a) if you have a problem with the administration (Housing & Food Services) talk to the Resident Assistant, Stephen Jenkins; (b) refer all other questions, concerns, and ideas to your floor co-ordinator. Most of them are decent people like you and me.

6. Party Hardy but don't neglect your courses. They're the reason you're in Lister, remember?
7. Be considerate of others. Lister is a small community and if you're from one of these, you know how quickly a bad reputation spreads. If you're not from a small community, ask someone who is. Also keep in mind that friends come and go, but enemies accumulate.

8. If you get a fine (usually for noise or damage) you can appeal. The Lister Disciplinary Appeals Board (LDAB) meets every 2-12 weeks (roughly). This group of your accusers' best friends will listen patiently before upholding the fine. **Suggestion:** don't get a fine.

9. Carry your meal card at all times. The Residence Community Patrol (RCP) will demand to see it before allowing you into Lister after 8 pm

and you can buy food (or a reasonable facsimile thereof) with it at CAB Cafeteria, the Subway, The Killing Fields* and at lunch-rooms all over campus.

10. To quote the LHSA Calendar, "If you saw Animal House — don't do anything they did, and you should be okay." Also, tease the LHSA President Trent Tucker. He loves the attention.

Quips 'n' Quotes

"People said, 'It can't happen here', but we have got one woman on our city council now. A lot of us have been saving this country to give it back to the Indians, but if women get control they'll ruin everything."

— quote from "What We Need Now Is Equal Rights For Men" essay printed in 1937 Gateway (Oct. 30)

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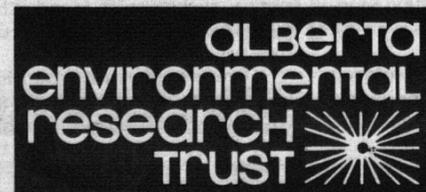
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