

inside the third eye

To get an "inside" story on the youth hostels, your gimp reporter wound up his crutches, grabbed his Brownie and stoically set off for the Third Eye. Here is a write-up on the sortee.

The car door slams behind me and I hobble up the cement walk of an old two story house. Facade: a light bulb above the door brightly illuminates the wooden porch. "The Third Eye" printed in neat blue letters to the left of the door on freshly painted white cement blocks.

Four steps and I'm up on the porch. Through the window in the door I can see down a long dim hallway at the end of which are a couple of people sitting in the kitchen with their backs to me. I ring the bell and Bill Barclay, the co-ordinator, comes downstairs, unlocks the door, and leads me toward the kitchen. The house is old and bears the marks of many years of wear, but it's clean.

On the way to the kitchen, I glance at the register. Nineteen names entered for the night, and of these, perhaps eight are eligible for funding under the regular provisions of the Department of Health and Social Development.

In the kitchen, perhaps a dozen guys are sitting around talking and watching TV. I snap a few pictures, move into what used to be the living room and is now a dorm, snap a few more, and talk to a few people.

There's Brian, slight and slim with tangled blond hair. He's twenty-one, from Montreal, loves corner grocery stores and black licorice

and has spent three weeks in Edmonton looking for work and 'sort of working'. He thinks Edmonton is generally alcoholic (the hostel is near 97th St.), the cops are good, and the drugs are expensive. He's thinking of going to Free University North when it opens, and thinks Edmonton has a great Public Library.

There's Andy: He's from Montreal and just passing through on the way to Vancouver. Andy's been here one day. He's travelling by train and he found out about the hostels from two young 'Jesus Freaks' he met at the CN station. They gave him a lift to 'Chaos', the old clearing house which had referred transients to different hostels during the summer. It's been shut down since the end of August, but a sign on the door directed him to the Third Eye.

Suzanne: She's nineteen, from Toronto, has been on the road for a month and a half and in Edmonton for a week and a half. She's found a job as a waitress and is staying at the hostel until she can get established.

Larry, eighteen years old and from Toronto, has been here three days. He says he's here to stay. He wants to go to U of A eventually, if he can. Larry thinks Edmonton has a fantastic library, with a great periodical section and a good record collection. Edmonton has 'interesting architecture' that 'varies from New England styling to Toronto's'.

I took a last look around, at the women's dorm upstairs (three army cots in one of the old bedrooms) took a few more pictures and left. ev



hostel hassle

A GATEWAY FEATURE

by Ernie Vilcsak

Unless the Department of Health and Social Development make some changes soon, there might be some cold and hungry young people wandering Edmonton streets this winter. And the way the cards are stacked now, the ones that are going to be left out in the cold are those transients who are under eighteen or female.

The Gemini and the Third Eye—the two transient youth hostels remaining open for the winter, are presently providing food and shelter for young people through emergency arrangements made by the Health and Social Development department. Of the other four

hostels which had been housing transients, the only ones which received female transients and those under eighteen, closed their doors at the end of August.

At that time both Gemini and the Third Eye, which had been funded by the Department of Health and Social Development at the rate of three dollars per night per male transient over the age of eighteen, had their capacities cut for the winter to a maximum of twelve per night from thirty. However, both hostels were taking in both males and females, those over eighteen and under, during the first week of September because they had no other place to go. The hostels were handling an average of twenty people a night and sometimes were not being paid for twelve because of the departmental rules.

By the end of the first week, the hostels' plight had become serious, with expenses far surpassing income. Fourteen transients from the two hostels held a sit-in at the Health and Social Development offices on the morning of Friday, the seventh of September, and by noon, emergency funding for the housing of females and those under eighteen was provided pending a final decision on the matter.

The government apparently had cut back their funding because of the decrease in transient traffic in the winter and because the Single Men's Hostel had empty beds, but a brief presented to the government on September sixth by the co-ordinators of Gemini and the Third Eye indicated only a slight decrease in the use of the hostels during the winter months.

Both hostels cannot be run economically on the basis of twelve transients per night, but if one were to be shut down the other conceivably could operate at capacity, with any male overflow being taken up by the Single Men's Hostel.

Young transient girls possibly could be sent to the Women's Shelter—but according to the hostel co-ordinators neither of these places are suitable for young people because of the types of older people staying there. And this would still leave the people under eighteen with no place to go.

Final developments on the issue will not be forthcoming from the Department of Health and Social Development for a few weeks. Until that time—as Alex Dorion, assistant co-ordinator of the Third Eye says—"We're in a blind."



booze but no movies

U of A students will be guzzling more booze and seeing fewer movies if there is positive response to two students' council motions made last Monday

● A referendum will be held in October or November to assess student demand for a liquor licence for the campus. According to SU vice-president finance Gary West, the ALCB are prepared to issue a licence (probably for the sale of wine and beer) if a majority of

students want one. The licence would be granted to the BOG but it would mean that RATT could serve drinks every night on a permanent basis instead of on a one night permit.

West said that there would be no "PUB in SUB" unless "someone came up with a lot of capital to convert a room" into a bar. The referendum is the result of years of lobbying by students. "I know grads from '48 and '49, when the frats were big on the campus, who were trying to get a licence," West recalled.

The referendum probably will be held in conjunction with one on CKSR's bid for an FM broadcasting licence. It would cost \$80,000 to set up broadcast equipment and about \$25,000 a year in operating expenses.

Council also voted in favour of a boycott of Famous Players Theatres. Under the theatre chain's new policy, anyone under 14 will be classified as a child, anyone 15 to 18 as a youth and those over 18 as adults. The change was made because defining the word

"student" has always been a problem, according to a representative of the theatre chain. Riskin estimates that about 85% of U of A students are affected by the change which went into effect in July.

The Famous Players Theatres in Edmonton are Strand, Capilano, Meadowlark, Westmount A and B, Paramount, Capitol, Garneau, Sherwood Drive-In and Golden West Drive-In.

In a letter to Riskin on September 7, James Cameron, public relations director for the theatres, warned against "beating a dead horse. We have no present plans to make any changes." Council hope that the boycott will become national.

Council also approved the brief on the Worth Commission prepared by Patrick Delaney, vice-president academic. The only objection was raised by arts rep Mark Priegart who requested that the brief oppose the idea of fee increases rather than accept them as inevitable. During the ensuing debate, S. Shandro,

commerce rep, questioned whether the issue was not one of realism versus idealism. Eventually Pat agreed to delete the sentence and Mark withdrew his motion for a substitution.

The speaker, Steven Snyder, who also does SU public relations work, commended council on the debate which he felt was the best he had heard.

Patrick Delaney also announced that there are at least two student vacancies on GFC following resignations during the summer but the positions cannot be filled until GFC meets and declares them open.

Other council business included a report on FIW, plans for a council retreat at the end of this month, registration of a karate club and a request for money to send three students to a physics conference in October.

UAB president, Harold Cliff was out for blood when he asked who was responsible for the offensive colours on the road outside of SUB (they are U of Calgary colours.) gl,ds,cs.