

Warning: Roommates can be health hazards

by Gilbert Bouchard

Do you share an apartment, house, or suite? Or perhaps you are a boarder?

Well, either way, if you aren't on the lease of the unit you live in, you have no protection under the Alberta Landlord and Tenant's Act and you can be evicted at a moment's notice on any grounds whatsoever.

Gordon Pedden, a consumer relations officer with Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs explains that "if you're sharing an accommodation it does not fall under that act, and unless you're on the lease you're not protected."

"A lease is between the individual and the landlord. If you share the premise, it's up to you to make an agreement with the tenant. The landlord has no responsibility to you," said Pedden.

One U of A student, who wishes to remain anonymous, learned the hard way how little

protection the act affords people sharing accommodations.

The student in question had used the SU's Housing Registry to find an accommodation. Another student, wishing to share her unit, had advertised through the registry, and the two of them shared the unit as of October first.

Personality problems arose and the original tenant decided she no longer could get along with her new apartment-mate. The new tenant was given verbal notice of eviction on November 28, and had twenty-one days to vacate the premises.

Not only were no substantial reasons for eviction provided, but as the student commented, "she could have tossed me out the next day."

Mary Harasim, the executive director of the Edmonton Landlord and Tenant Advisory Board, echoes the same sentiment. "There's no law saying you have to give notice. In that situation, there's no law that applies. We suggest that they try to give a

reasonable amount of time for the other person to find new accommodations. If people share accommodations, and disputes arise, it tends to be more of a personal matter where no laws apply."

"The Landlord and Tenants Act only concerns self-contained units, not tenant to tenant relations," said Harasim. "If you feel that you have a dispute, it's pretty much up to you to go to court."

There are other steps that can be taken to protect yourself in tenant to tenant relationships. Most just involve a little planning, common sense and a bit of forethought.

"Most people don't think ahead, friends move in together and don't anticipate problems," said Harasim. "Even a verbal agreement is better than nothing."

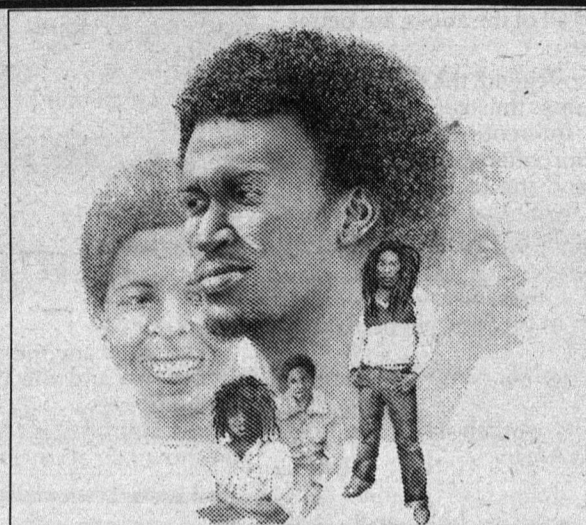
The simplest thing to do, of course, is to make sure you are on the lease. Talk to your housemates and landlord, and find out if you

can be included on the lease. The next simplest thing to do is to draw out a simple contract between tenants. It doesn't have to be anything fancy. A list of concerns and both your signature and the tenants' are all that are really necessary.

Arrangements for evictions, damage deposits, and defining exactly what is a reasonable

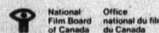
amount of time to notify intent to vacate should be included in the contract.

For further information on tenant's rights, sample contracts, or any other information, contact the Edmonton Landlord and Tenant's Advisory Board (426-4951), the SU Housing Registry (432-4212), or Alberta Consumer and Corporate Affairs (427-5782).



HOME FEELING STRUGGLE FOR A COMMUNITY

National Film Board of Canada, Ontario Production Center
A film directed by Jennifer Hodge, produced by John Kramer
Produced with the assistance of Multiculturalism Canada



View the film - Question its director
JENNIFER HODGE

Saturday, Dec. 10 at 7:15 pm.
Sunday, Dec. 11 at 9:00 pm.
Monday, Dec. 12 at 7:15 pm.

in the NFT cinema, CITADEL Theatre

also Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2:00 pm.
in the Centennial Library Theatre

FREE ADMISSION TO ALL SHOWS

Feminist newsletter published

by Ken Lenz

The University of Alberta Women's Centre is publishing a new newsletter entitled 'Enragee'-French for both angry and enthusiastic says Siobhan Avery, Editor of the publication.

"We thought the title was in the proper spirit since there are some things we are enraged about, but at the same time we are enthusiastic about the changes (in the status of women)," says Avery.

"Enragee was also the name of the first active feminist group in

the French Revolution," she says.

The eleven page baby blue newsletter contains news, letters, poetry and commentary - all written from a feminist perspective.

Avery says 'Enragee' is different from the old newsletter the Centre put out 'Changing Perspectives'.

"We started completely from scratch and are trying to make it both new and better."

Though the Centre still wants to leave a lot of room for commen-

Though the Centre still wants to leave a lot of room for commentary, Avery says, "We want more news...to turn it into a real newsletter."

Avery hopes the new, improved newsletter will raise the profile of the Women's Centre on campus and intends to publish every two months, though only 600 copies of the first issue were printed.

"We hope to print on actual newsprint in the future and also to print more copies," she says.

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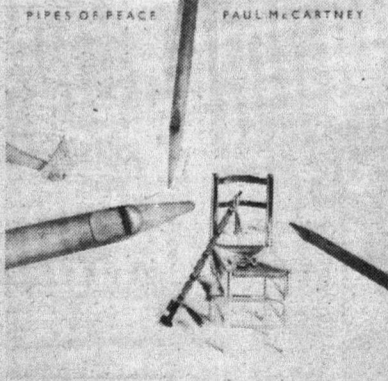
Mon. Tues. Wed. Fri. Sat. 9:30-5:30

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The Season's Best - All Yours!



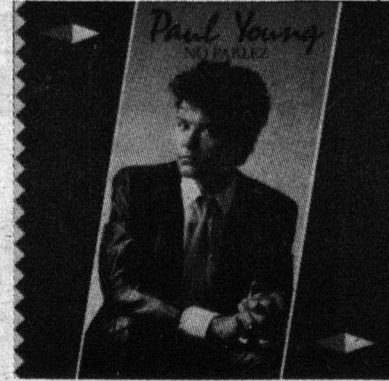
Earth Wind & Fire
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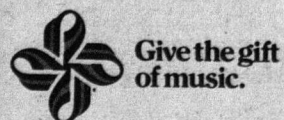
Paul McCartney
- *Pipes of Peace*
- featuring hit single -
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Willie Nelson
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Julio Iglesias ★★★★★



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