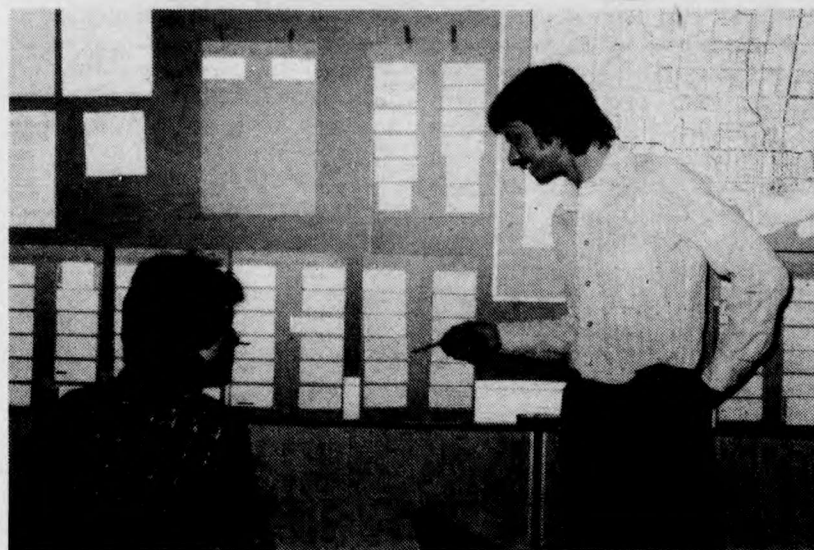


House-hunting can be frustrating, depressing



Housing officer Zenon Kulchycky assists student looking for accommodation

By Kim Llewellyn

Many students arriving in town the last couple of weeks, in search of accommodation, have found the task can be a frustrating, depressing experience, says York housing officer Zenon Kulchycky.

York's off-campus housing centre, room S102 Ross, experienced what Kulchycky would term its busiest week of the year last week as students poured in from all over the province only to balk at the Toronto rent rates.

The price range students are considering is between \$100 and \$150 a month.

The housing office, open from 10 am to 6 pm, will be gradually phased out sometime in October when the demand for housing has died down.

According to Kulchycky, the housing office is probably the best way to find student housing, because a lot of landlords advertise only with the housing office.

On-campus housing

The on-campus situation is pretty hopeless for anyone beginning to look for a place to stay at this date.

There are 1,500 undergraduate rooms, 746 apartments in

graduate residences and 173 apartments in Atkinson residence.... all of them are full.

A small waiting list is kept at each of the undergraduate colleges to fill up the cancellations, but there is at least a two month wait for anything to open on the campus apartment scene.

"There is a back-up waiting list from a year ago," said Jane Corbett, on-campus housing officer. "Two or three months before they want the apartment, is just too late for people to apply to get it."

Although the off-campus housing office has approximately 350 available listings at any one time, Kulchycky says appearances are deceptive.

To begin with, single rooms are not in great demand, probably, he observed, because the occupant usually has to live with a family and the tendency is that it is not very private.

The shared accommodation listings also haven't been going, says Kulchycky, but the basement and furnished apartments have an approximately equal supply and-demand, whereas unfurnished apartments are usually snapped up as soon as they come in.

"Basement and furnished apartments are, for the most part, rented out by people who are not capitalists. They just want to rent the space to help cover costs. Unfurnished apartments can generally be found in high-rise apartments which are not built for the student budget."

Restrictions

Some people advertising a place specify restrictions on their tenants, sometimes, says Kulchycky, to an excess.

"An awful lot of them are asking for females, but from what I can discern from the people using the office, most students looking into off-campus housing are males. Non-smoking is another common specification."

"People sometimes discriminate as to what race or religion they prefer. I always include that information when I write up the listing so people are aware of the situation they are getting into."

Another function of the housing office is the exchange service where people supply room and board to students in exchange for certain duties. About 96 per cent of these duties entail light housekeeping and babysitting.

Students exploited

"People like to exploit students," said Kulchycky. "There is often a feeling of obligation involved on the student's part and often it doesn't cost the landlord very much to keep the student."

People are welcome to visit other university housing offices at University of Toronto, 49 St. George St., phone no. 987-2542, Ryerson, 50 Gould St., phone no. 595-5296, and Glendon College, 2275 Bayview Ave., phone no. 487-6137.

Newspaper classifieds are another good source for apartment hunting, according to Kulchycky. He cites the Toronto Star as providing the best service in this area.

Kulchycky recommends that those looking for a place to stay

give themselves about a week to find a decent place.

So if you are just getting to town and are thinking along the lines of

accommodation, your best bet is to pay the off-campus housing office a visit with, says Kulychcky, a lot of energy.

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Co-op in Maple a cheap answer

Students share house, save money

In the university years, when students are experimenting with different ways to live on the least amount of money, the "co-op" house has become a popular option.

In Maple, a small town north of York, population 1,900, the locally famous "Doctor's house" has solved nine people's housing problem the cheap way.

It costs each of its occupants \$75 a month to live in the mammoth house on the southeast corner of Major McKenzie and Keele. For years the house was owned by Dr. Bigford until 1972, when it was first mostly students, on a co-op arrangement.

The 150 year old, eight bedroom house includes two staircases, a servant's quarters and a garden and swamp in the backyard.

The house is loosely termed co-op because its occupants share household duties. Each week everyone in the house has a single duty to carry out, and thus the chores more or less get done. "It is difficult to find a place that fulfills everything you want", says John Baumann, a current resident at the Doctor's house and a second year York fine arts student.

"In this case we had to sacrifice a certain amount of privacy for living cheaply. I've learned after living in this situation that privacy is often just a state of mind. You can have privacy reading a book in a roomful of people."

"Privacy is overrated in some ways," he added. "We basically work around each other. If you are



The mammoth "Doctor's house" stands on the corner of Keele and Major McKenzie. Nine people, mostly York students, reside within its great walls.

living there all winter you've got to talk to the people you live with and enjoy being with them. This is the hardest thing, but also the most valuable."

Cooking is done on an individual basis in this co-op because everyone is on a different schedule. A crowded kitchen isn't often a problem because people use the kitchen in twos and threes. There is only one stove at their disposal but there are three fridges.

Social events are organized spontaneously at the house, says Baumann. The most recent major social endeavor was a corn roast a few weeks before school began. A huge pot from pioneer village was

used to boil corn over an open fire in the backyard. About 120 people, mostly Yorkites, swamped Maple for the occasion.

When a decision has to be made it is done jury style, says Baumann. The household members come to a unanimous decision.

"Insignificant decisions are often made by the person who cares the most", he added. "Usually it comes down to somebody taking the responsibility."

"There have been bad times and good times," says Baumann. "People have to be committed to making things work out. It is important that problems aren't left unresolved when they could be solved."

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