

HOUSING: A PROBLEM

The Case For Co-op Housing Its Need And Organization

by ALLAN PRESSMAN

A house is not a home, or is it? With winter coming and the harsh New Brunswick winds once more beginning to howl, many are finding the park bench an uncomfortable place to spend their nights. As a consequence, the housing problem once more has been brought to the fore. The Canadian Union of Students may have come up with a solution to this problem in their briefs on student co-operative housing.

It is felt by CUS that co-ops offer a solution, not only in the tangible, but also in two other areas of importance. These are: The traditional view of the role the university has as an insulated womb for the development of society's intellectuals has been challenged by a growing sense of responsibility among faculty and students for involvement in the so-called "real" world outside the University community, and the "realities" of the university itself. Also that the protective view that the universities have held towards the students cannot deal creatively with the need for involvement and responsibility felt by students today.

Students in both Toronto and Waterloo have been able to buy or have built residences without aid from the Provincial or Federal governments or from the university using the 90% CMHC mortgages. In spite of the fact that the co-ops must pay for municipal taxes, finance charges, depreciation expenses, etc. (which University residence fees do not cover), fees in these co-ops are \$150.00 to \$200.00 less than those in residences. In Toronto some provision has been made to supply married couples apartments at a saving of about \$20.00 per month.

A HOME

Putting economics aside, there are other considerations. The mental health problem among university students is critical, and certainly warrants close attention. Too many students, because of the drastic shortage of facilities, are forced to live isolated lives in damp basements or dingy attic rooms. The student co-operative residence becomes a home for students, not just a place to live. It is their home. They own it. They run it.

Further, because they run it, the co-op is a unique educational experience teaching responsibility in decision making. The danger in universities today is not that students will become castrated intellectuals, but they will be fed through the university production mill, branded with a B.A. degree, and auctioned off to the highest bidder.

But the university needs co-operatives even more than the students, for they no longer play a role as ivory towers. Rather, they have become manufacturing centres for a highly trained bureaucratic elite. This was the deep-seated cause of the recent student rebellion at Berkeley.

Gone is the secluded community of scholars. But is not being replaced by a scholarly community concerned with the improvement and betterment of society. Instead of social commitment, there is only a system of individual enrichment so that the product can be sold at a higher price in the market place. It is an attitude fostered by society. Go to university, or you will end up unemployed. The mass university has lost its community. The manufacturing university has lost its scholarly atmosphere. The glass boxes which have replaced the ivory towers have not acquired a social commitment or concern.

The universities can use the aid of student co-operatives in order that their capital resources may be utilized primarily for academic buildings. But they need co-ops for more important reasons. A sense of community must be re-established. A sense of open questioning which carries with it a sense of responsibility must emerge in a democratic environment that best encourages it. The questioning must be based on thorough scholarship and look with a critical eye at everything, including society and the university itself, with a view to reform and improvement. A co-op, can provide this unique contribution.

PROBLEMS

Three main problems are encountered in the formation of Co-op Housing. The first is to involve all parts of the university community, but most urgently the students, in the ideals and the development of

Poisoning

at U. of W.

WINDSOR (CUP) — More than 150 University of Windsor residence students suffered food poisoning after eating in the university cafeteria Wednesday (Nov. 16).

This is the first time Windsor has ever had a food poisoning incident, the university food services manager said.

Tests are being conducted to determine the exact cause of the illness.

Meanwhile, cafeteria operations were almost back to normal for lunch Thursday. However, only superheated foods are being served until further tests are completed.

co-op housing. CUS has appointed a field secretary to help this process, but the responsibility lies with the leaders and active members of the student community. The second

problem is to assure the administration and as well the students, that members of a co-op are capable of managing their own conduct so that Co-op Housing will be a positive rather than a negative contribution to the university.

The third problem is to assure financial supporters of the competence and seriousness of the students who will

manage the financial affairs of the project.

One of the most important features of Co-operative development is that it occurs in response to the felt needs of people in a situation, and is not imposed by external pressures. The need is apparent. The experienced assistance is available. The responsibility to act is yours.



Lawson Hunter, SRC president and Rick Waern, CUS Co-op secretary last week looked at a Fredericton home that could be purchased and renovated for a co-op for \$30,000.

Frats: Dalhousie's Answer

Fraternalities have never appeared on the UNB campus. In fact, the university's constitution will not permit them.

They may be, however, one solution to the campus' housing problem. Looked to as racially prejudiced, anti-academic cliques, frats are valiantly attempting to improve their images. Instead of providing pretentious prestige for those who are fortunate enough to pass the hazing, they are attempting to provide community service.

Dalhousie University is one university in the area who has had a fraternity plan and, according to a release for the Dalhousie News Service, with a measure of success.

HALIFAX (DAL-U) — Advice and counselling from upper classmen, tutorial and financial aid, and cheaper living accommodation during the academic year are a few of the advantages fraternities have to offer their members.

Fraternalities — made up of students attending Dalhousie

University — number about one-half dozen and membership in each ranges from 20 to 40. All groups have shown their interest in community activities by devoting some of their free time to a variety of worthwhile causes.

Phi Delta Theta set aside a community service day to entertain youngsters from the School for the Blind. Tau Epsilon Phi holds an annual party for underprivileged colored children, take part in a shoe shine campaign to help raise funds for a local service group and are planning another community venture in the near future.

Phi Kappa Pi in conjunction with Alpha Gamma Delta — a girl's sorority — recently held a Halloween party for crippled children, while Sigma Chi will be participating in the local Heart Fund blitz in addition to staging an orphan's party.

The fraternities, either affiliated with a national or an international body, have no re-

strictions as to membership. Those that offer living quarters as well as meals operate on a non-profit basis and claim that the cost of living-in at a frat house is about one-third cheaper than living elsewhere.

Upper-classmen offer their advice and counsel to undergraduates when called upon. An examination file and tutorial assistance is available for those who need it. Some fraternities offer scholarships to their members or interest-free loans.

Two are medical fraternities and here regular talks by professors on educational matters are arranged.

Although fun and frolic are part of fraternity and college life, these young people, through their individual representatives govern themselves through a joint inter-fraternity council and all of them cooperate in organizing the annual winter carnival which attracts the interest of local citizens.