

AND THE HOVEL

HAZARDOUS HOUSING

by Peter Kirchmeir

"What country do your parents come from?"

"Do you ever dream that your house is on fire?"

So started another year for students looking for rooms.

Many students were faced with personal questions, and if the landlady took exception to an answer the poor student was turned away. One student complained that a landlady asked him if he "likes girls." When this fellow said: "Yes, I do." he was brushed off with: "Girls pry too much."

Queer questions are not the only hazard. Lodgings have deteriorated to such an extent that one boy was asked to install his own faucets, and another had to do his own electrical wiring. In the interest of impartiality, it must be said that some rooms are adequate, but others are hardly compatible with moles.

A couple of girls have a room ten by twenty feet. This room has no ceiling light, one clothes closet, walls of plywood, and two pipes from the furnace running overhead. "The furnace is large and potbellied, and does not give off any heat. Besides, it is our rotunda," they complained.

Another girl was given a room on the third floor. The landlady wanted no boyfriends in the house. "The stairs creak so much that it wakes everyone up. How does she expect us to entertain anyone in those conditions, let alone boy-friends?" she wanted to know.

In one room ten by twenty-five feet, live two boys. The walls are not painted, furnace pipes and plumbing make a surrealistic shadow design on the ceiling. There are no doors in the bedroom or bathroom. One light and no plug-in!

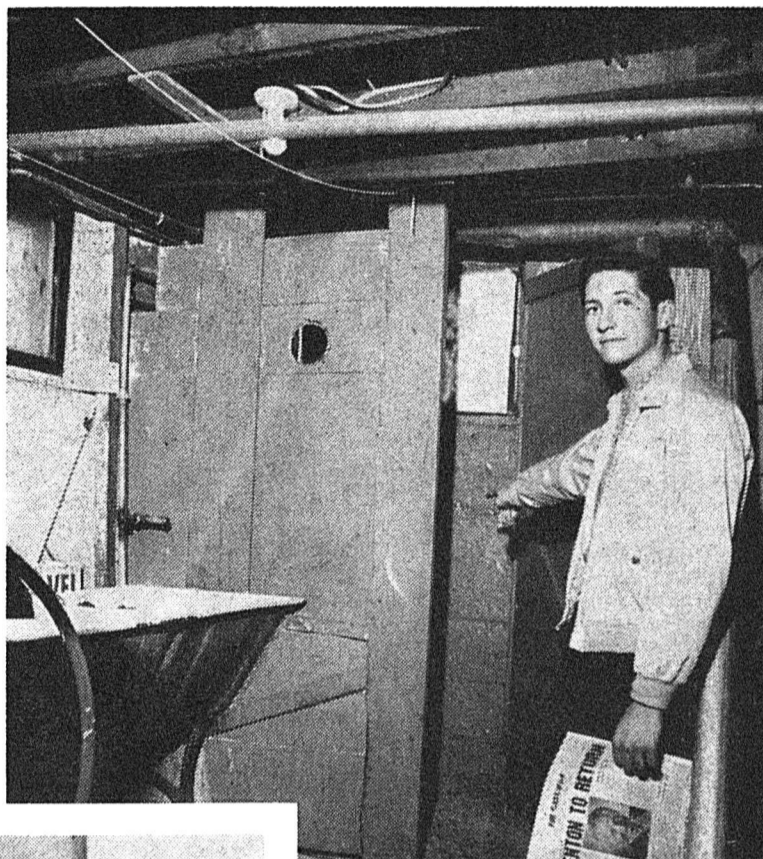
Two girls live in separate bedrooms in one house. They are restricted to their own rooms,

and the landlady insists that their doors remain open, even at night. Do university girls really need this sort of supervision?

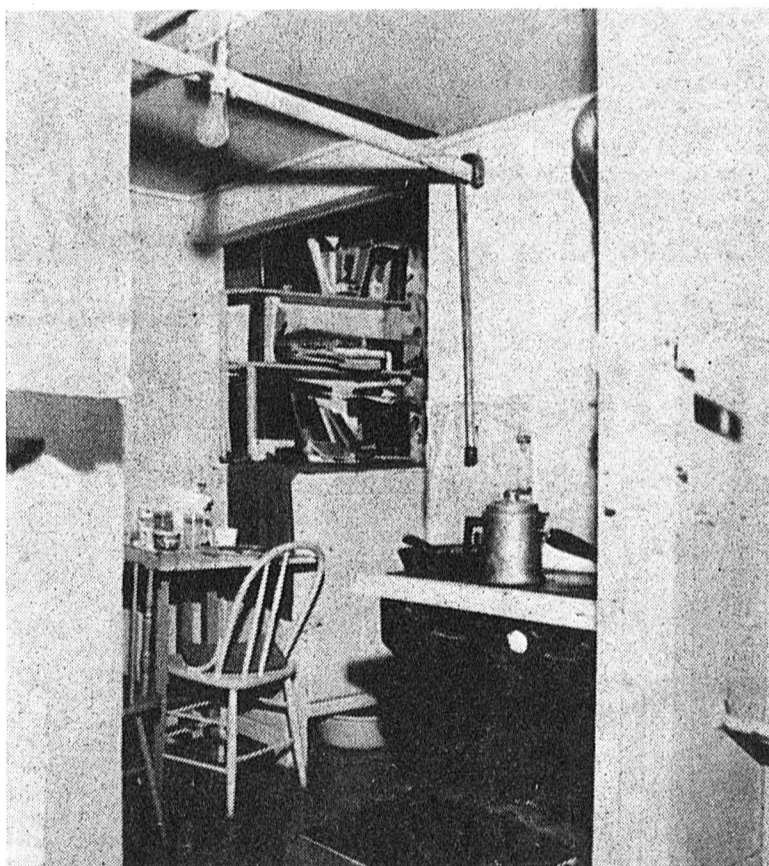
Another girl managed to satisfy the landlady's requirements, and was given a basement room. "I've worked over that room twice, and now I have the dust down to one inch thickness," she reported. "Also beetles crawl in and out of cracks in the cement."

And so it goes on. Six girls cook on one hot-plate . . . "We wear leotards and sweaters to bed trying to keep warm" a voluptuous blonde told me confidentially . . .

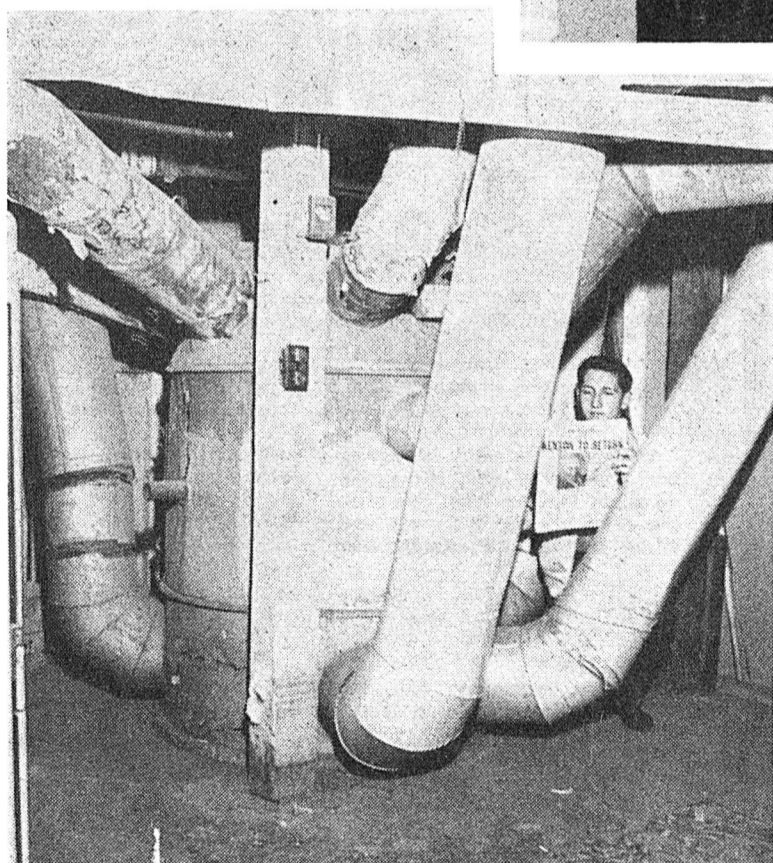
A student quipped: "From home, to house, and into a hovel!"



THE GUESTROOM



LE BOUDOIR



THE ROTUNDA

HOVEL PHOTOS
BY CARL NISHIMURA

HERE IS HOPE

Gateway Features are not alone in concern over the problem of hovels and mole-hole type accommodations. There is ANOTHER new committee. Says Mrs. Sparling, Dean of women: "A number of people wish to know the actual facts in off-campus housing and what is being done at other universities, both in Canada and the U.S."

The Off-Campus Housing Committee, of which Mrs. Sparling is chairman, in cooperation with the sociology department is "now acquiring facts so that action may be taken."

We asked what sort of action. She answered: "I would hope a housing officer, and perhaps a rating system for off-campus accommodation."

Dr. Kalback, of sociology, indicates that we will likely hear more from his department over the next few months, although right now his study is only in the beginning stages of formulation.

"We will need your help," he says. "This is a student affair and can only be done with your cooperation."

FOOD TOO

In conjunction with the new residences will be a modern cafeteria-style food services building, designed to handle approximately 2,000 persons per meal, in two sittings. There will be about 1,200 seats.

Contrast this with the 278 seats (including banquet room) of our present cafeteria. The present set-up handles 500-550 for noon meals. The record this year is 643, unmatched since veteran days.

Until more than 2 residences are built the new food services building will handle overflow from the old cafeteria.

Snack bar, recreation areas, and a separate eating area for banquet-type affairs are contemplated.