

Federal housing program

More troubles

OTTAWA (CUP) - The federal government's new housing program, announced on November 3, offers students and other low-income groups further hardship and disappointment" according to the National Union of Students (NUS).

In a statement released November 11, the National Union criticised the program as being primarily designed to stimulate employment through the production of new housing units "regardless of who benefits and regardless of long-term effects upon the housing market."

According to NUS, because the government proposes to make financial assistance available to anyone purchasing a low or moderately priced home, regardless of the income level of the purchaser, the effect is to "open the door to a squeezing out of the economically weak."

"It is difficult to avoid the conclusion that making assistance available to all is no more than a guarantee to builders of a ready market - encouragement of construction for its employment purposes, not to benefit low-income groups."

Previously, only low or middle-income purchasers were eligible for federal assistance. Under the November 3 package however anyone can get assistance to purchase a low or moderately priced home.

Another aspect of the federal program criticized in the NUS statement is that it "continues the freeze on student housing funds while opening no

new opportunities for non-profit and co-operative housing".

NUS criticized the government for assuming that "the only alternative to an increased private sector is substantially increased public sector, and that this is unacceptable, while ignoring the whole area of non-profit and co-op housing."

"The current dependence on the private sector has been the foremost cause of the present housing crisis", according to NUS and "long-term improvement of the housing situation requires a strong non-profit sector and continuation of an active public sector."

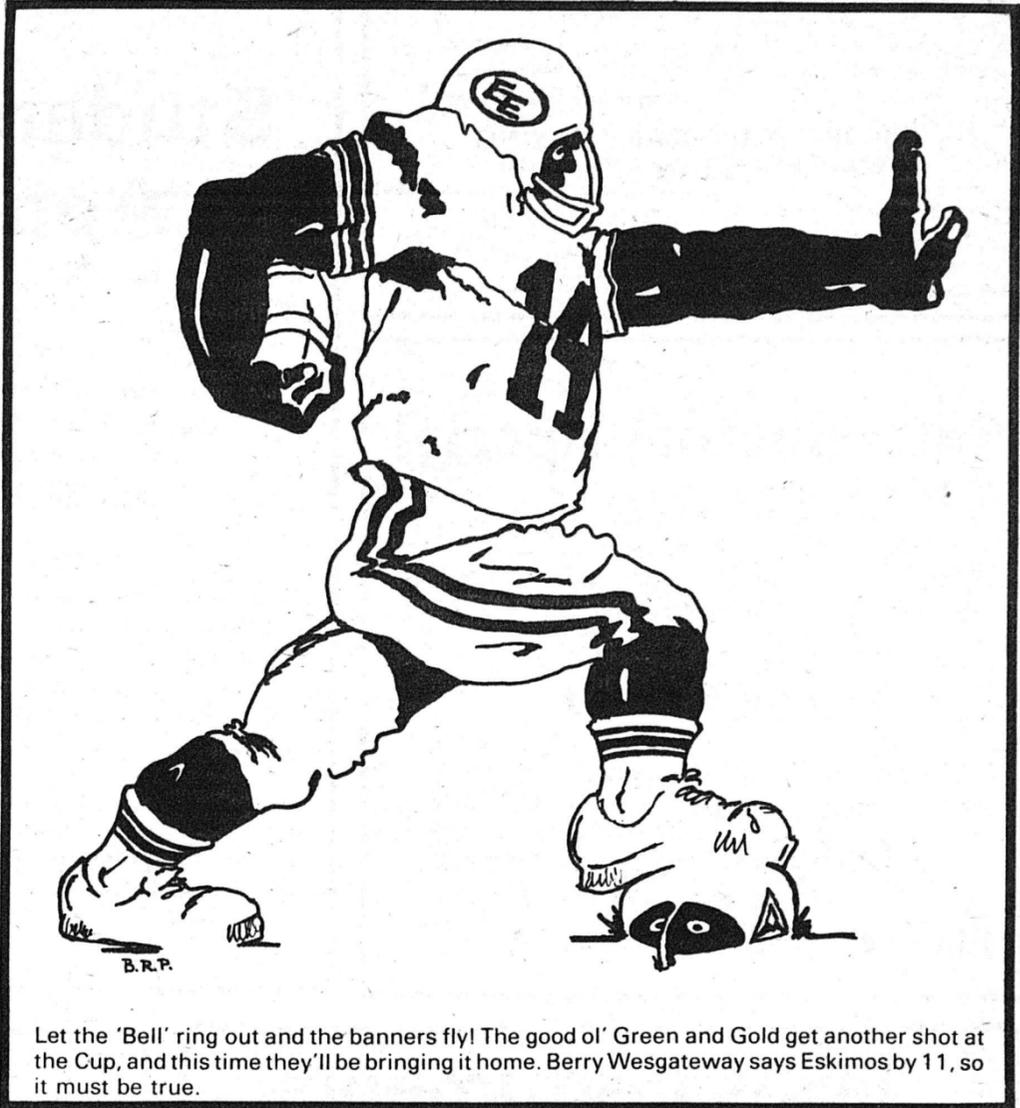
The new program "reduces the chances of long-term improvement" the statement contends.

The one 'bright note' NUS sees in the November 3 announcement is the "federal government's willingness to regulate investment so that residential construction receives a fair share of the money invested in Canada."

This refers to the part of the program which requires private lending institutions to direct 750 million dollars into the financing of new lower and moderately priced housing.

The statement concludes that "the housing package seems to show that student organizations must continue to work on the housing scheme. Only low-income groups and their allies can be counted on to fight for better housing policies."

Legislation putting the new program into effect has not yet been introduced in the House of Commons by the government.



Let the 'Bell' ring out and the banners fly! The good ol' Green and Gold get another shot at the Cup, and this time they'll be bringing it home. Berry Weggateway says Eskimos by 11, so it must be true.

New housing rent freeze free

by Greg Neiman

Rent controls have historically worsened housing shortages, but government officials feel this will not be the case in Alberta.

A background paper, prepared by the U of A's Institute of Law Research and Reform at the request of the provincial department of consumer and corporate affairs, contains arguments from history that rent controls lead to increased housing shortages.

The paper, which is a collection of material pertinent to rent control and security of tenure, says freezing or regulating rents may drive investors out of the rental market. As costs rise, but returns are

kept stable, landlords will be forced to neglect upkeep on the housing they own, resulting in deterioration of existing housing with no new housing to replace it.

Bill Samis, executive assistant to consumer and corporate affairs minister G.L. Harle, said in an interview that government policy will exempt new housing from the rent control scheme to account for these arguments.

Samis said the government

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Council doing its dole

Several faculty association requests for grants were approved at last Monday night's Students' Council meeting, leaving only three associations yet to receive funding from the Students' Union.

Two associations have not received grants as they have not yet applied for them and the third, the student's committee of the school of library science, has had their grant postponed until a representation from them is heard by council.

According to the criteria council used to assess the requests, library science's request for 430 dollars was out of line with their enrollment of 48 students. The library science association feels there are special circumstances, as this is the last year for the library science degree to be an undergraduate program, as well as the last year for their director. Plans had been made to use the money for a dinner and awards.

Other associations were more successful, notably

BACUS, the business administration and commerce society, who received the highest grant this year, \$2,300.

Other grants went to the following undergraduate organizations: medicine students assoc. - \$750; the law club - \$700; household ec. club - \$600; pharmacy undergrad. soc. - \$500; medical lab. science soc. - \$300; dental soc. - \$280; nurses soc. - \$250.

Grants were previously given to SAPHER and to the rehab. medicine, engineering and education associations in October.

The criteria Academic Affairs Board used in determining the sums granted included the consideration of the number of students in the faculty, number of students serviced by the functions of the association, the types of functions, attempts to raise funds from other sources and the amount of planning evident in budgets and programs.

Drugstore man called sexist

Playboy magazine's Miss December is soon to be unveiled at Varsity Drugs in HUB, and not without some protest.

There has been brought here by Playboy on a publicity stint, but several feminists on campus have determined to make her stay as unenjoyable as possible.

Last week a number of female students picketed Varsity Drugs, where a pinup display featuring the Bunny in question was placed in the window. Last

weekend persons unknown taped a large poster of a nude male alongside Miss December's bare body in a way of providing equal coverage (or exposure, whichever way you want to view it).

"It's sort of ridiculous," said Van Gardener, manager of Varsity Drugs. "They've been calling me everything from a fascist to a sexist."

"Their first approach was a woman's liberation approach -

"Why don't you put a man up in the window?" They came back and gave me the pornographic line - morals and all that."

Gardener wished to point out that the first suggestion seems to contradict the second, because displaying a male nude is morally equivalent to displaying a female nude.

Miss December will show up on the first of the month at 11:30 to talk with people and autograph Playboys.

"I'm not sure what kind of response we'll get," Gardener said. "The university kids are quite funny in a sense because they shy away from this sort of thing...because they think they're going to get conned."

It looks like there may be a few demonstrators present at the event, but Gardener isn't worried. "I really don't mind," he said. "I appreciate a little controversy. The odd exception really gets riled up but most of the kids take in stride. If someone can line up a nude male we'll bring him here. Keep the girls happy."

Varsity Drugs decided to pick up on the promotional tour because Playboy does a good sale here on campus.

