

photo Brett Kullman



Engineering Week started off in a big way yesterday with the traditional tug of war in quad.

# gateway

Tuesday, January 11, 1983

Fifty million lem-mings...

...can't be wrong.  
Jens Andersn

photo Martin Beales



This kitchen is found in the four man unit. Lots of colour, little space,

All that glitters...

## Garneau housing sham?

by Andrew Watts

Charges of incompetence and inefficiency have greeted the opening of the new Garneau Student Housing complex.

Student Union President, Robert Greenhill, feels that the "entire project has been mishandled."

Greenhill believes that Housing and Food Services lost control of the project.

"I think they (Housing and Food Services) could have been much more cost efficient," he says.

Greenhill cites irregularities in the construction of the new units such as: inefficient design of the interiors, the fact that the front doors to the new apartments are half glass, and a high rent structure that does not include the cost of utilities.

He also feels that there could have been more communication between Housing and Food Services and the Office of Design and Construction, who oversaw the project.

Gail Brown, the director of Housing and Food Services, admits that a lack of communication did exist and that her department was not informed, until the last minute, of many changes.

One of those changes which occurred was the change in the design of the front doors to the new apartments. Originally, the doors were supposed to have a narrow window. Instead, the front doors are now about half glass. When Brown discovered this change she says, "I was disappointed."

Tim Miner, the director of the Office of Design and Construction, also feels that "communication lagged." He attributes this to the speed of the project, in that some last minute changes had to be made.

"Maybe we overdid it a little bit in speed," Miner comments.

Regarding the charges that the interiors of the new units are inefficient, Brown states, "People are going to like and dislike different things."

Many of the units have no distinct areas set aside as an eating area. Miner says that the concept was to have a living/eating area. In fact, on the one bedroom units,

Miner comments, "What is it really but a bachelor apartment?"

Another aspect that bothers Greenhill is the fact that the base rents do not include heat, electricity, phone or water.

Comments Greenhill, "I think it's just hiding their (Housing and Food Services) costs." Greenhill continues, "It just shows how ridiculous the whole thing is."

Gail Brown says the utilities were left out of the base rent and charged to tenants, "to make people more responsible for their own energy costs."

"If people are paying for their own energy costs they'll be more careful in using it," Brown says.

Greenhill does feel that the overall responsibility must lie with the Department of Facilities and Services and its director, Vice President R.E. Phillips. Both Housing and Food Services and Design and Construction are under facilities and services.

When reached for comment Phillips said that he was not "really in charge of the construction."

"I'm involved in more of an administrative role," Phillips commented.

But Student Union President Greenhill is not satisfied.

"I think they had a good opportunity and they blew it."

by Allison Annesley

If buying your lunch on campus is becoming a luxury, Housing and Food Services may have had a hand in your decision to brown-bag it.

On January 2nd, food prices rose in all the University-run food outlets, which include CAB, SUB, Lister Hall, Faculte St. Jean cafeterias and 14 campus lunch rooms.

As part of a retroactive price adjustment policy prices have risen from 5 cents to forty cents for various food items. Food prices, says Housing and Food Services director Gail Brown, have remained constant with the exception of coffee, over the past eighteen months.

The organization's price adjustment policy is supposed to

ensure that food prices rise with the price of their ingredients. For some reason, the policy has not been effective for some time but the Services' deficit budget has forced the price hikes. University Food Services have a mandate to produce a break-even budget.

In mid-October, Saga Foods were contracted to provide management services for the food operation to replace the hole left by a vacant position, that of Food Service Officer.

The University now purchases most of their food through the companies associated with Saga Foods but retains all the same staff as before the Saga contract.

Brown believes the contract with Saga has been a positive step for Housing and Food Services and that it will improve her

organization's purchasing power as well as provide better recipes from Saga's menu testing department. It seems the University maintained its own kitchen testing program until it became too expensive.

Marketing specialist Paul Combie has also been contracted to work five months for the University as part of the deal with Saga. Combie does analysis of products and makes suggestions about how to better display and sell menu items. Combie's employment with Housing and Food Services will end in March.

In keeping with the organization's price adjustment policy, the prices of foods whose ingredients have become more expensive should rise accordingly in the future.

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