

Co-op housing

EDMONTON (CUP) — Alberta students may share government-subsidized housing with other low-income groups in the future, the province's minister of advanced education said recently.

"One of the problems with housing designed for a particular occupational group is the 'down period', which is the summer time for student housing", said Dr. Bert Hohol.

"This causes a real problem in making public housing feasible", he said, adding that one way to alleviate high-vacancy periods is to balance different occupational groups within single housing projects.

"But we'll have to come to grips with the problem quickly", he said. "That there should be a housing policy for students is a fact".

Student group presentations, as well as a final report on student housing issued by his department this summer, have convinced Hohol of the need for a housing policy.

Although the report was supposedly a "springboard" for a student housing policy in the near future, it did little except summarize housing conditions on most post-secondary campuses in Alberta. The report concluded that more information on student housing preferences was needed before final policy could be established.

Hohol said his government would be announcing a student housing policy soon, although it would probably consist of broad generalities because the situations at Alberta various post secondary campuses are so different.

Fire S.U. President

VICTORIA (CUP) — The student council at the University of Victoria plans to fire its student president.

The decision was made Oct. 3 after council voted to ask for Alistair Palmer's resignation, which he refused to submit.

The controversial student president has raised the ire of a number of council members by:

- refusing to ask the UVic board of governors to collect a \$1 fee levy

from students for the B.C. Student Federation, which has already been passed by a campus referendum;

- missing council meetings (which he has termed petty and boring) to watch hockey on television or attend a rugby function;
- made allegedly false statements to the press.

After council had voted to ask for Palmer's resignation, he was asked what action he planned to take.

Lesbian Group

On Thanksgiving weekend, October 9-11, Lesbians of Ottawa Now (L.O.O.N.) sponsored a National Lesbian Conference in Ottawa. At the closing plenary session, the women unanimously approved plans towards formation of a na-

tional organization which would provide a structure for dealing with the various issues of concern to lesbian women. Civil rights, child custody, and the women's movement were among the numerous workshop topics discussed during the three day event, which was attended by some 350 women representing Canadian communities from coast to coast.

For further information please contact Marie Robertson at 746-7468, Ottawa.

Also as a direct result of this conference, there is now a regional lesbian group in existence: Atlantic Provinces' Political Lesbians for Equality (A.P.P.L.E.). For more information on this group, phone 477-0435, or inquire at the Monday night drop-in.

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"Yeah, my action is that I'm not going to resign", he said.

The main issue is Palmer's repeated attempts to block UVic membership in the BCSF despite the results of the referendum.

"What are we going to have to do to convince Mr. Palmer we are members (of BCSF)", asked council member Casey Rippon. "Kill him?"

"Our constitution has no veto for the president", said Rippon. "His refusal constitutes malfeasance in office. He should get the hell out".

Palmer countered council's insistence that he comply with its wishes with respect to BCSF by introducing a petition, signed by 150 students, calling for another BCSF referendum.

Council declined an opportunity to place the issue before students during a by-election Oct. 15 and instead drafted another letter for Palmer to send to the board.

Several members expressed doubts Palmer would send the letter and one member who abstained on the resignation vote indicated he will vote for impeachment if Palmer ignores the request once again.

But Rippon said he will initiate dismissal of Palmer at Council's next meeting anyway.

Palmer has claimed that the representative assembly of UVic's Alma Mater Society has not passed the formal request for a \$1 BCSF fee levy, even though the students have, in an referendum.

Many students have already paid their fees without the \$1 BCSF levy added on, and Palmer says he thinks it is too late to collect the fees.

U.I.C.

MONTREAL (CUP) — No one's talking in Montreal these days about five hooded men claiming to work for the Unemployment Insurance Commission (UIC) who told a press conference recently that government policies force them to harass the unemployed.

The Central Council of the Confederation of Trade Unions (CNTU), who backed the group of five, has only reiterated the sketchy details already reported in the press and announced another press conference for this week.

UIC Information Director Jean Labossier only delivered perfunctory replies to the charges.

The five men, wearing hoods for fear of their jobs, released secret documents which they said were circulated by their superiors, telling them to stop phoning people for interviews and to send written notice instead. Missing an interview can lead to losing UIC benefits. Some 7,000 Montrealers were denied benefits between April and July.

The men labelled the government's austerity program "conscious fraud".

They also revealed that immigrants were being fingered in the UIC belt-tightening saying they were told not to warn those applying for benefits they were required to conduct interviews in either French or English. Immigrants, who usually contact ethnic aid groups for translators, could be labelled as "no shows" if they fail to speak either of the official languages.

Grants Committee

by Mike Sherar

The Grants Committee is a sub-unit of the Union Council. Its purpose is to recommend the granting of money to various groups in the Dalhousie University community and the public at large.

A fund of approximately \$15,000 has been set aside by Union to help organizations finance their operations and set up various projects and conferences. A little over \$7,000 is directly granted to the major societies on campus

is given to the other groups.

Application forms are available at the Council Office in the Student Union Building and interested persons can get copies of the Grants Committee Guidelines. Reference should also be made to Regulations 20 and 20A of the Union Constitution.

Usually oral hearings take place before the committee which are followed by a recommendation to council. So if you are need, or at least think you are, of some financial assistance for club or organization please feel free to apply.

It's your money!

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suspect that the objective of employment counselling is to direct young people straight into the job market and away from post secondary education.

Another area which appears contradictory in light of education cutbacks is bilingualism, a top government priority. The speech promises a move toward teaching French in schools rather than concentrating on the civil service.

However, at bilingual post-secondary institutions, bilingualism budgets were the first to be cut. Even at the primary and secondary levels French immersion programs have been cut back.

"You will be asked to amend the Unemployment Insurance Act in ways which will permit insurance funds to be used to maintain the income of Canadians being trained for new jobs and to help employers retain workers who might otherwise be temporarily laid off".

Nowhere are the UIC cuts introduced with the last budget mentioned. The extension of the UIC qualifying period from eight to twelve weeks is one which will particularly affect students.

Other areas discussed in the

speech — labour, civil service and a human rights code — have all been talked about before. For instance the speech promises a collective bargaining information centre. This task was supposed to be the major responsibility of the Canadian Labour Relations Council from which the Canadian labour Congress withdrew last year in protest against wage controls.

The speech does mention good intention. Housewives will be included in the Canada Pension Plan, greater subsidies for day care are planned and the principle of equal pay for work of equal value will be included in the human rights code.

With any luck, the freedom of information legislation will also be introduced which is particularly important to student organizations who may finally get access to so-called confidential documents such as student manpower studies and employment surveys.

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records of every transaction involving firearms or ammunition. These records will be inspected regularly. Further steps will be taken to improve the operation of the present import control system.