

Campus area housing crisis

by Shannon Taylor

With vacancy rates in university areas plummeting and rents skyrocketing, students are facing an unprecedented housing crisis.

"The situation is terrible. The vacancy rate is less than half of one per cent and rents are higher than anywhere else in the city," Renters' Aid spokesperson Isobel Woodman said Tuesday. "I've never seen a housing crisis this bad anywhere in the city," she added.

Canada Mortgage and Housing market analyst Elizabeth Woodman agreed. "The vacancy rate is hovering around zero, and rents are high," she said. The average rent for a one bedroom suite in the city is \$398 compared to \$435 for the university area. Two bedroom units run at a \$486 average in the city and \$603 in the university area. Canada Mortgage and Housing define the University area as between the river

valley and 62 Ave.

The housing crisis began in August and reached its peak this week. "Students from out of town were wiring us (Renters' Aid) money and trusting us to find suitable accommodation for them," I. Woodman said. Because of the high rental cost in the area, she suggests students look for housing north of the river.

On campus 49 places in student residences were available Wednesday, said Dr. Wyn Gittins, manager of Housing and Residence Life. However, Gittins expected these to be gone by the end of the week. "We will also provide temporary arrangements - up to five days accommodation - for students with nowhere to go," Gittins said.

Mark Seemann, of the Student Housing Registry, said they have some shared accommodation available, but no self contained apartments or basement suites.



Searching for housing in the University area, the majority of students will only be able to afford something in the lines of the garage of this lovely abode.

Increasing enrollment plagues University

by Lisa Hall

Attendance is up once again at the University of Alberta, and classes may be more crowded than ever.

According to registrar Brian Silzer there are about 350 more students this year than last, bringing total enrollment to slightly higher than 29,000.

Silzer said that faculties have been watching the registration since March, and have tried to expand the courses to accommodate as many students as possible. "Faculties can either add on more sections of a course or they can raise the maximum number of students allowed into one section. But they only have so much flexibility," said Silzer.

Language and science classes are tied to the availability of Labs.

Classrooms can only hold so many desks. But even if an external factor does limit the size of a class, this doesn't mean that it won't be crowded.

First year students will probably be the hardest hit, as they have to fight for seats in Freshman English, science and language classes, which have traditionally been in high demand.

Enrollment did decline by about 700 for the 88-89 year, after the 70% admission requirement was imposed, but this trend only lasted for the one year. Potential students worked harder to meet the U of A's requirements, and the University's hopes to cause a steady decline were wishful thinking.

Silzer said that another enrollment calculation which proved to be wishful thinking was that University

officials had thought enrollment would naturally go down after the Baby-boom generation had gone through University.

"But we're still in very high demand," said Silzer. "More people who are qualified to continue their education past high school are doing so." Others have begun to renew their education, and have come back as mature students.

"And unemployment statistics which show that any kind of post secondary education increases a person's chance of getting a job can also lead to more students enrolling at the U of A," said Silzer, adding that other post-secondary institutions in Alberta, such as the University of Calgary and NAIT, were suffering from the same sort of enrollment problems.

Dunk a Christian and grab a burger

by Lisa Hall

As if there weren't enough things to do on campus this week, the U of A's Campus Crusade for Christ is also sponsoring a couple of activities.

Today and Friday they have a dunk tank at the Beer Gardens in Quad from 10:30 to 2:30. For a dollar students have three chances to "dunk a Christian". Money received from the dunk tank will be donated to Emmanuel International relief and provide food for the people of Uganda.

"We decided to support this project because the funds we raise

will be matched at a considerable rate by the Canadian International Development Association," said Geoff West, Director of Campus Crusade for Christ, adding he felt the dunk tank was a fun way to bring awareness to third world problems.

The second activity will be a barbecue on Friday starting at 5:00 in Hawrelak Park. If students are interested they can find out more about getting involved with the club, or they can just munch on some free hamburgers. "We'd like to promote both the spiritual and social side of the club," said West.



The beergardens in quad are one of the most popular WOW activities.

WOW welcomes all students

by Dawn Lerohl

Opening week on campus has a new image this year as WOW (Week of Welcome) rather than Freshman Introduction Week.

"This is an opportunity for all students, not just freshmen to celebrate being back at university," says Aruna D'Souza vp internal. The students' union is attempting to dispel the former image of Freshman Intoxication Week by holding a variety of new activities says D'Souza.

This year's activities run from Tuesday, September 5 until Sunday

September 10.

Tuesday through Saturday beergardens will be in full swing in Quad as well as a film festival in Myer Horowitz Theatre from Tuesday to Thursday.

Thursday will feature a "Walk on Whyte" by SORSE (Student Orientation Services) leaving from the Students Union Building at 6 p.m.

Friday at noon the International Food Fair in Quad will sell exotic cuisine.

Friday evening is the Sleeping Bag Drive-In. Students can bring a

sleeping bag and watch *The Naked Gun* and *See No Evil, Hear No Evil* outdoors in Quad.

Saturday's event is the Butterdome Bash featuring 54-40. For the price of \$5 you can attend this event as well as the football game on Sunday afternoon between the U of A Bears and the Manitoba Bisons.

"We hope that students that haven't been involved in the past will get involved, and those that have, will continue to be" says D'Souza. "It's a six day party," she says.

Faculty of Extension on the move

by Lisa Hall

The Faculty of Extension has moved from Corbett Hall, and now doesn't only have one new home, but has three.

The move has split up the faculty, which provides continuing education and interest courses for the Edmonton community. Different departments can now be found on the second floor of the Students' Union Building, in the Garneau Trailer complex by the Law Building, and on the lower floor of Campus Towers. Extension's main office is in

SUB, where the various pamphlets about course information can be found.

beer gardens will be in full swing. The Dean of the Faculty of Extension, Dr Dennis Foth, said the move has a few good and a few bad results. "The classrooms and the Fine Arts studios aren't as good as they were in Corbett Hall," said Foth, but the facilities will still be acceptable.

Foth added that because the faculty's main office was located in SUB "the university community will

definitely have better access to us." But he is worried about the external community, which makes up about 90% of their students, losing touch with the Faculty of Extension because of the forced move from Corbett Hall, which will be going through renovations.

Extension will not be returning to Corbett Hall once the renovations are complete, but will remain in its present locations for a few years until a new building is constructed on campus to house the faculty.