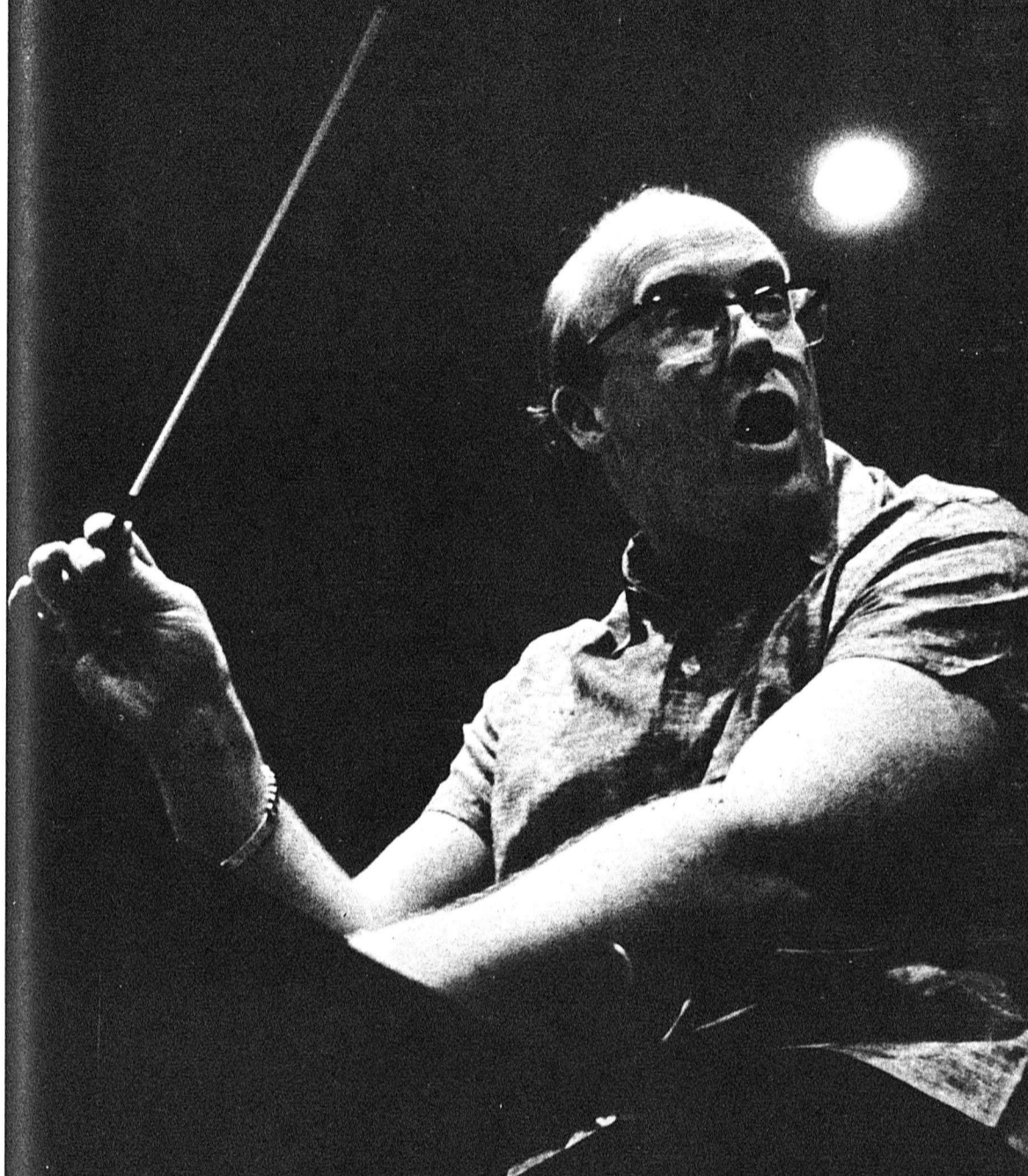


casserole



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Rules, regulations, nauseous food---

By JOHN GREEN AND BRIAN CAMPBELL

The university's three-pronged, two-towered, 1,300-student, Lister Hall residences took their lashes at a co-op housing meeting last week.

"Residence is where you go when you can't get anything better."

"It's an intellectual wasteland."

"There's nothing more than convenience in its favor."

"Most people in residence aren't interested in discussions."

It was Lister Hall's 1967 crop who dished out this full-course dinner of discontent at a meeting in Pybus Lounge last Friday.

And the past has been stormy too. Last year the residence policemen—the hall seniors and house committee—ran into trouble when they tried to enforce administration rules to the letter.

One student fell, or jumped, from a third-floor window in a liquor "raid". He broke an ankle.

This year some enterprising soul disappeared with the late-leave cards from the women's residence, throwing that complicated system into a turmoil.

Residence students have called the rooms small, the food lousy, the rules archaic, and the building ugly, but the administration is planning a whole family of these residences.

And where else can the student go?

The residences are already booked solid by next year's herd.

There's Garneau, with its subsistence-hole student community and sharp landlords who wring a more than comfortable living out of their broken-down shacks.

There are fraternities. And there are the towering apartments with elevators, cracked concrete, wall-art, lonely long halls, and not quite sound-proof rooms. They are the lonely crowd way of living.

They have high rents and absentee landlords who vacation in Hawaii.

And there are a few friends who rent their own homes. Just a few.

And that's it. There's nothing else—at least not yet.

The Friday meeting was called to discuss that something else—co-ops. And the impetus behind campus co-operatives, students' union co-ordinator, Glenn Sinclair, called in the movement's big guns, Howard Adelman and Rick Waern, for the occasion.

... Co-ops make their own

Adelman is a philosophy professor at York University, and executive director of the Toronto-based College Co-operatives Inc. Waern is CUS associate field secretary for co-operative housing.

"I have a feeling there is something wrong with the university when students are not happy with what they are getting," says Adelman.

"It is most important for them to create something meaningful to themselves."

And that's what co-operative residences are all about.

Students take responsibility for everything. They wash dishes, clean rooms, launder linen, bargain for food, balance the budget, and make the rules.

In a multi-residence co-operative, each unit handles its internal affairs. The central governing board "only decides whether or not to build more housing and handles the over-all finances," says Adelman.

For example, the girls, and only the girls, decide whether they want men in their house, where they want them, and how long they can stay.

The decision isn't "made by a central body of the co-operative organization," Adelman said. And it isn't made by the administration either.

The same goes for other decisions—liquor, hours, study periods.

Part of the educational value of co-ops, according to Adelman, is that students are conditioned to making democratic decisions—something that rarely happens before, or at, university.

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