

Brian Mulrony will return Canada to its former greatness...

The Gateway

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...mainly the pre-Cambrian icefields.

Student parking cut by city

by Neal Watson

As many as 1,000 students will be searching for new parking spaces later this term when the City of Edmonton begins to implement a new parking policy.

The City Traffic Planning Section plans to prohibit non-resident parking in the McKernan and Garneau residential areas. McKernan will be a two-hour parking zone between 8 am and 6 pm for non-residents and Garneau will be closed completely for non-resident parking. The policy will take effect by late September in McKernan and by November in the Garneau area.

Students will not be able to park in McKernan from 119 Street to 111 Street and in between University Avenue and 76 Avenue. The boundaries in Garneau extend from 87 Avenue to 83 Avenue and from 111 Street to 109 Street.

Scott Mackie, of the City's Traffic Planning Section, says the City is reacting to "constant complaints" from area residents. The impetus for the action was complaints from residents, said Mackie. City Council directed the traffic section to deal with complaints.

Mackie also said the police were conducting an enforcement campaign tagging and towing illegally parked cars because, as Mackie said, parking in these areas is "bumper to bumper to 76 avenue."

The residents of McKernan presented the City with a petition signed by 300 of the area's residents. This petition represents two-thirds of area residents.

VP External Paul Alpern con-

ceded the new parking policy would "aggravate the parking situation" and said the Executive was working to get the City to "relax their parking restrictions."

Last week, Stadium Car Park was closed at least until February due to structural problems. Stadium had a 1000 vehicle capacity.

Alpern said he would be meeting with area Alderman Percy Wickman and Lillian Staroszk this

week, but emphasized that the Executive did not want to "confront residents."

Alpern also suggested the idea of a shuttle service from Emily Murphy and Hawrelak parks as a means of alleviating the parking situation.

Mackie said the University had failed to provide enough parking space for students and students did not utilize the 25 bus routes that serviced the University.

"So far we are reacting to complaints from residents" said Mackie. "Students are dealing with the problem, there have been no complaints from students," said Mackie. The Director of Physical Plant, Gord Bulat, said "bus service has to be improved." Bulat said buses are packed and students are facing long morning line-ups.

Associate VP Facilities and Services Brian McQuitty said the Uni-

versity had no plans at present to construct new parking facilities.

McQuitty said the University was looking at developing the south end of campus for parking in the "long-term."

According to McQuitty, the lower floors of Stadium Carpark may be re-opened as early as December. As construction is completed on the lower floors, they will re-open said McQuitty.



Look familiar. Well it will only get worse. The city has acted and students will no longer park in McKernan or Garneau.

Student protest underway

Suzette C. Chan

The University of Alberta Students' Union has launched a protest campaign against the Students' Finance Board decision to reduce rental allowances, but the board believes the cuts are justified.

The campaign is a joint effort involving the Students' Unions of Mount Royal College, the University of Calgary, and the U of A.

Alpern says the point of the campaign is to protest the cuts by flooding the SFB with appeals based on rental allowances.

In June, the SFB reduced its maximum rental allowance by 27 per cent, from \$295 to \$215 a month.

U of A SU VP External Paul Alpern says the cut was "unrealistic."

"All statistics from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and the Consumer Price Index show that housing costs have declined marginally," he says.

Acting Director of Program Services for the Student Finance Board Susan Silverstone admits she did not know of the campaign, but that "we're expecting that students will appeal."

She also defends her board's actions, saying that the CMHC and CPI figures are misleading.

"The CMHC looks only at occupied units," she says, "and landlords aren't reducing rent. And the CPI takes into account all aspects of housing, including taxes, home maintenance, even household help."

Silverstone says the SFB based the rental allowance reduction on their own survey of rents advertised in local newspapers.

"We are looking at vacancies throughout the city, not just in the university area," she says, "and obviously, we are looking at shared accommodations."

She adds, "vacancy rates are projected to be quite high in the next year."

But Alpern is skeptical of the SFB figures.

"I question the validity of their study," he says.

Alpern says the SFB has not been cooperative with the Students' Union.

"In April, we lobbied and pressed directly against the cuts, but they

continued on page 3

Housing woes cross-country

OTTAWA (CUP) Larry Beaudet is a living testimony to the housing crunch in Halifax.

He's paying \$80 a week for a spot in a noisy, rundown rooming house while looking for a permanent place to stay. The noise and environment will prevent him from stay-

ing there once homework piles up, he says.

Beaudet, who moved from Victoria, expected to find cheap accommodation because of the Atlantic's reputation as a depressed area. But he found few suitable places and most with rents 10 per cent above

the national average.

The depression has eased student housing in Larry's hometown, though. In Victoria, an ever-increasing number of homeowners are hoping to make a few bucks by opening up their basement doors to students.

In Brandon Manitoba, the housing market is similar. Traditionally stuck with a near-zero vacancy rate, the city is not swamped with students looking for a place to live. Only about 20 students are waiting on Brandon University's residence list.

The picture is less rosy in Ottawa. The University of Ottawa has received 26,000 requests for student housing and 1,350 students remain on the waiting list. Off campus, the market is not much

better and the vacancy rate rests near the 0.4 per cent mark.

Students at Ottawa's three post-secondary institutions, including Carleton University and Algonquin College, have formed a tenants' association to push for more student housing. They hope to lobby landlords who refuse to rent to students.

The University of Ottawa has been openly soliciting accommodation in the community and has gone as far as taking out numerous ads in the city's daily paper.

But this is small consolation to the Larry Beaudets of the world, holed up in hostels, rooming houses and temporary shelters, hoping that in the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

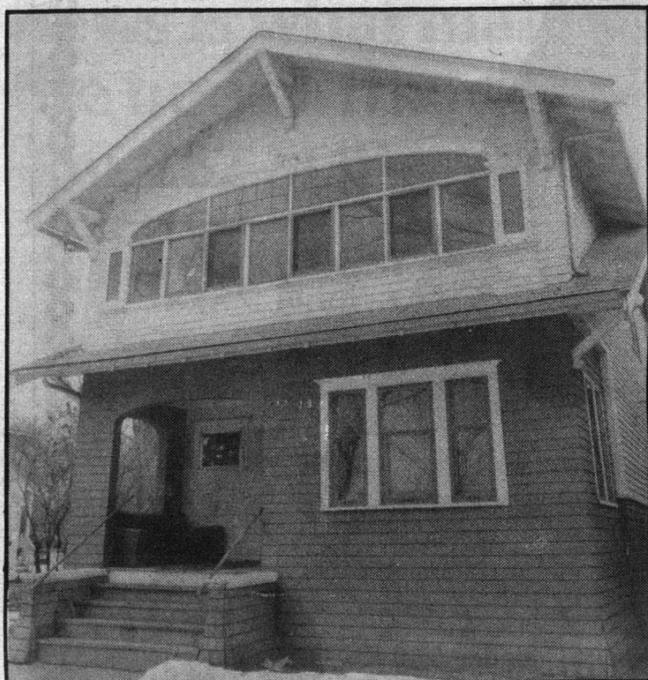


photo Bill Ingles

Student housing remains a problem at most Canadian universities. Gilbert Bouchard will be starting a series on student housing issues starting next Tuesday.

If you're interested in stimulating conversation, check out the Debating Society... if you want free beer, try the Gateway recruitment night Thursday at 7 282 SUB.