

U of A should plan

HUB Mall is undergoing extensive renovations. Each morning at 7 a.m., tenants awake to pneumatic hammers, saws and drills.

This process started last April just before final exams. Construction continued with water and power shut-downs occurring on a daily basis. The University fulfilled its obligations under the Landlord Tenant Act, giving HUB residents the required 24 hours notice. At one point tenants received a single notice for more than 80 hours of water shutdowns over nine consecutive days.

The University allowed the contractor to set the hours for water shutdowns, usually from 6 or 7 p.m. to 5 or 6 a.m. The majority of HUB tenants live in four-bedroom units, and share one bathroom between them. Four people sharing one bathroom for eleven hours without water is not sanitary. Shutdowns were scheduled on the nights before Spring and Summer Session finals.

The City health inspector, Mr. Froese, was no help. He visited frequently, finding numerous infringements, and at one point said he would like to bring his superior to tour HUB. In the end he suggested tenants keep a bucket, and a bathtub full of water to flush into the toilet during shutdowns.

City building and construction site inspectors have no jurisdiction on campus, even though it is in the middle of Edmonton. Instead, the Universities Act allows the University to do as it pleases. One inspector said the University is well aware of this fact, and "there is nothing we can do about it."

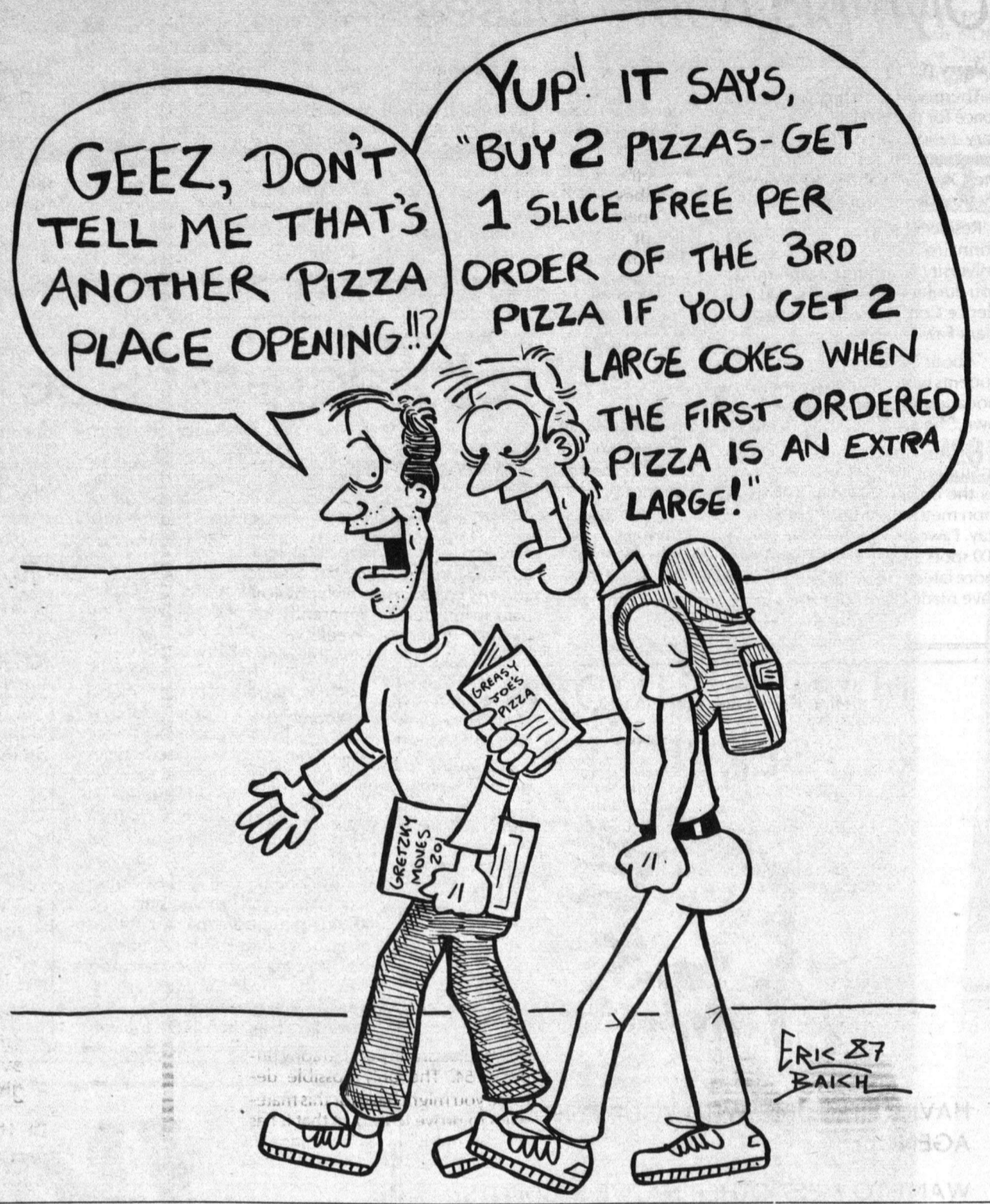
By the Housing directors own admission, HUB has not been a pleasant place to live during the last six months.

Students are over a barrel. Tenants who protest have been told they are under no obligation to stay. A rent strike would not help because students would find themselves without marks, transcripts and degrees until all debts are paid.

Construction is scheduled to end in August of 1988.

The department of Planning and Development should live up to its name and plan --with students in mind.

Jerome Ryckborst



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Letters to the Editor and encouraged and always welcome.

If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will not print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three hundred words.

Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 SUB, or drop them at any SU information booth.

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Censorship

In case the members of the International Relations and Strategic Studies Society are unaware of the fact, I would like to inform them that Nicaragua is a political issue. Both in Central America and around the world a struggle is being waged to prevent the present government of the United States from overthrowing a democratically elected and popularly supported government in Central America. The single crime of the Sandinistas is that they have adopted a policy of putting the interests of their own citizens ahead of those promoted by the U.S. government and the trans-national business community.

The New Democratic party, which I support, has put forward clear demands on both the U.S. and the Canadian governments to defend Nicaragua against the Reagan administration's campaign of diplomatic isolation, economic embargo, and illegal "covert" war against Nicaragua, a war which is costing thousands of Central American lives each year. When I made use of my turn during the question period to address this fact, at an IR and SSS forum last thursday, (which was open to the public) attempts were made by Mike Hunter of the club's executive to censor my comments and prevent me from speaking. I was censored on the grounds that I was affiliating myself with a political party when the forum was to be "non-partisan."

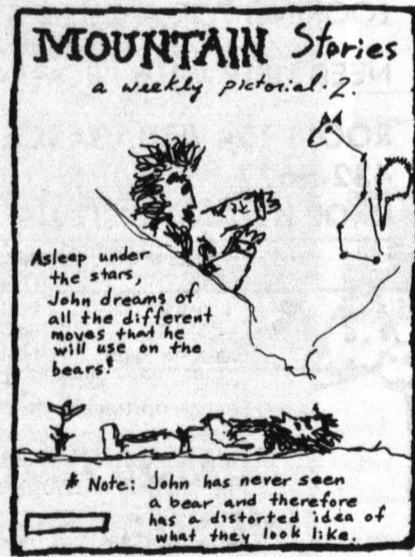
This letter is to inform the IR and SSS, and any other campus club which practices a similar policy, that I do not recognize their right to censor anyone on the grounds of the political content of her/his remarks at a public event. The "non-partisan" character of their own group does not entitle them to edit the remarks of others. This applies whether a meeting is "political" by nature of its topic (as in the case of Nicaragua), or by

that of its speaker (e.g. an official representative of the apartheid regime of South Africa.)

If, indeed, either of the twin parties of big business had anything to be proud of in their policies toward the struggle for justice in Central America, I would be the first to defend their right to say it at such a meeting.

As for Mike Hunter, if his political career in the Liberal Party is furthered by his activities on the executive of the International Relations and Strategic Studies Club, I hope that his idea's on "freedom of speech" never assume the form of public policy in this country. They are already all too common elsewhere.

Andrew Rodomar
 U of A New Democrats



Refugees

I'm writing in regards to Bonny Dearing's letter, titled "Hope Misplaced", printed in the September 22 issue of the Gateway.

Bonny, you must have heard a lot of comments on your interesting letter, but let me give you first hand info on the status of refugees in Canada.

First of all, we are not all "boat people" or "illegal refugees". In our immigration to Canada, a third country, the UN and the Canadian government have been involved, so by the time we get to Canada, we are "Landed Immigrants" and are given the right to become "Canadian Citizens".

Also, it might be easy for you to suggest that "refugees go back to where they came from", but do you realize for some it would mean imprisonment and execution? Yes, even

execution. We are not criminals, but are being persecuted for our beliefs and our lives are at stake. That's probably why some of these refugees have come to Canada in the first place, not because of its luxuries — considering that some have had far better lives than they do here — but maybe because of the freedom of opinion they thought they would find in Canada. We also haven't come to get educated and take Canada out of your hands, but actually to become good citizens and serve this country and all of humanity.

Dear Ms. Dearing, now imagine yourself in a situation where you couldn't continue your education, your life was in great danger, and every knock on your door could mean imprisonment, and consequently torture and execution. What would you do in those circumstances? Wouldn't you try to find a safer home to live in?

Cler Baheri