

Co-ops in high gear to get cheaper housing

The chairman of U of A's co-op housing committee is not surprised by a proposed \$8 hike in residence fees here.

"While a rate increase is not surprising, it is regrettable that the proposal didn't come before students' council first," said Glenn Sinclair.

"An extra \$8 could cut out a lot of social money from a student. There goes a student's coffee breaks and when the coffee breaks go, there goes a whole lot of his education right there."

The co-op housing committee has developed plans to bring about rapid realization of several co-operative residences on campus in an effort to provide cheaper but better quality living services for students.

"Council has been discussing co-op housing, but the big reason for delay has been lack of housing space in the university area.

NEED CO-OPS

"Now we need co-op housing because of increased costs of other accommodations," Sinclair said.

"We will start right away to establish a new committee with the immediate goal of five co-op houses for this fall," he said.

"Of course we won't have the modern-looking rooms of Lister Hall," he said, "but at least the rooms will make a person feel that he lives there."

Sinclair expressed more concern about the quality of food eaten by campus residents than about the rising fees.

Co-ops cut food costs by 25 to 35 per cent, and that is with top quality food, he said.

"I define top quality food as not only good eating but good looking as well—a varied menu with home cooking appeal."

Sinclair said the trouble with a fee hike is that the student is not even getting what he wants now.

ACHIEVEMENT

"Students in a co-op get a sense of achievement out of planning meals, but no one would want to claim achievement in the meals produced at Lister," he said.

He cautioned students who complain now but do not want to help with co-op housing.

"They won't gripe next year when co-ops on campus are enjoying their new-found happiness."

Dating data better late than never

The results will soon be out!

The people who invested 3 dollars in Cupid Computers will all have likely prospects for dates.

Terry Jackson, pharm 2, told The Gateway the delay occurred because Cupid Computer has been sold out to another firm which arranges dates by computer.

Because of this sale, the results from U of C, U of S, and U of M as well as the U of A will all be late arriving.

When asked for comments, participating students had this to say:

"I forgot all about it—I thought it was a big gyp deal. If it's successful, if everyone follows through with their dates, then I think it should be installed all across the country." Mary Sue MacDonald, arts 2.

"All hope is not yet lost." Barry Mah Ming, arts 1.

"I think they're very slow coming, but it should be interesting." Johanne Hamilton, ed 2.

Students unconcerned with hike

Students are facing the proposed residence fee increase calmly.

New mens' residence house committee chairman Bill Bowden said Friday, "We are not in favor of a rent increase at any time, but we can see it becoming necessary."

Womens' house committee chairman Pat Burrows was of the same opinion. "We are not going off the deep end about this. We have to be realistic," she said.

"We knew about this last spring, unofficially. The idea has been there ever since the first problem in 1964. It was expected to come up again at some time," she said.

"Mr. Bone is currently experimenting with staff changes in the complex to lower operating expenses. But they cannot eliminate maid service. The students cannot do an efficient job of cleaning their rooms," said Miss Burrows.

"As for the food, for an institution it is very good food. It is perhaps not as good as the food in private homes, but few institutions have food as good as that in Lister Hall," she said.

STUDENT COMMENT

A tour through the Lister Hall cafeteria produced these comments on the proposed rates increase:

"They should reduce or subsidize rates for out-of-town students," said Alvin Wolitski, phys ed 1.

"You can get just as good room and service elsewhere. I stay here because it's closer to campus," said Don Grell, phys ed 1.

"I can't pay any more, but I think it would be justified," said John Pedersen, sci 2.

"No. They are high enough now for what we are getting. I am not coming back next year," Nancy Noble, house ec 2.

"The extra amount received would be a small amount of the total government budget, but it would be a significant amount to me," Mike Lee, sci 2.

Criticism

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knows why they didn't put up all three at the same time."

CRITICISM

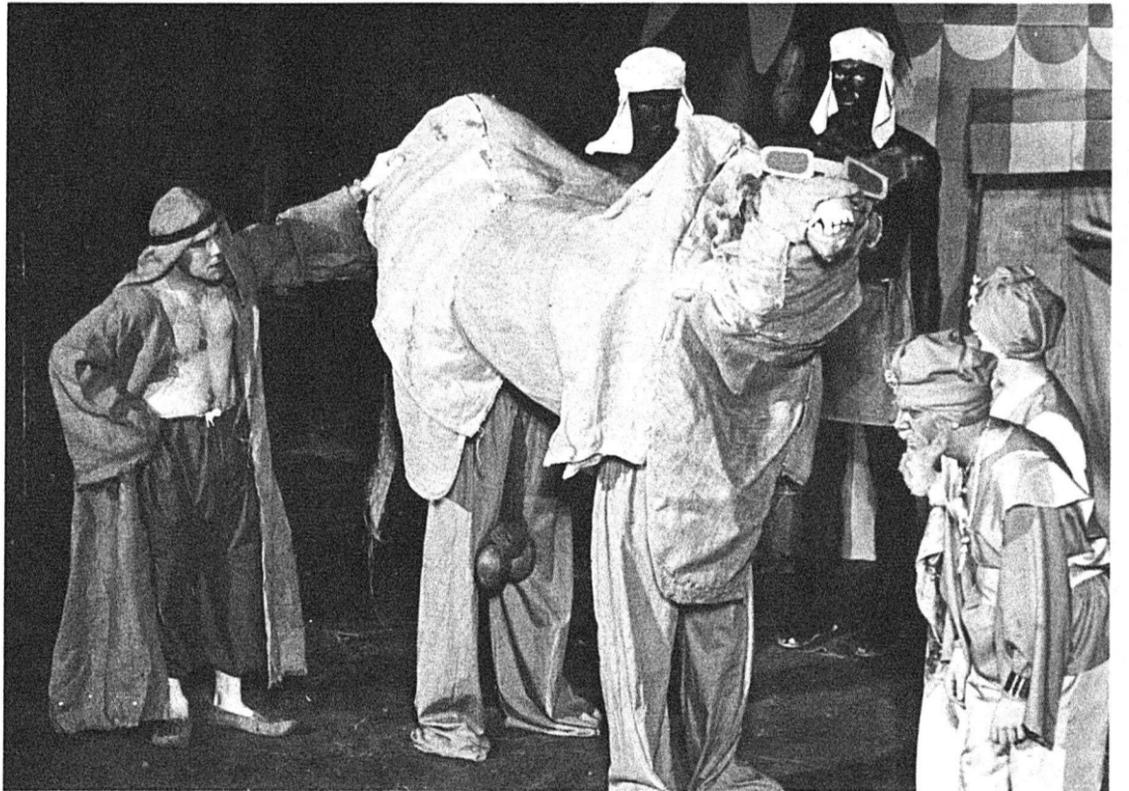
Mr. Bone criticized his predecessors, George Tauzer and Joel Stoneham, for not raising rates by a small amount each year as the cost of living went up instead of stalling until things got to a desperate state.

Mr. Bone gave several reasons for increasing rates in a letter to students' council.

- the food price index has risen 22.8 per cent in the last two years.
- labour costs have gone up thirty per cent in the last year.
- the residences require almost constant redecoration. Labour union increases mean that this work will cost more.

If the B of G approves them, the higher rates will come into effect next fall.

Only four Canadian universities have lower residence rates than U of A, and all these are currently being revised. Two of these residences are subsidized by the provincial governments.



—Craig Karpilow photo

WHO SAYS NO MAN IS A CAMEL?—These thoughtful thespians are only a few of the horde that made the Med Show the artistic triumph it was. This annual highlight of the Edmonton concert season, presented at Corbett Hall last week, was again a resounding success, and was again in delightful bad taste throughout.

Increases in rates not new

The proposed residence rate increases, if put into effect, will be the second increase in three years.

In January of 1964, the Board of Governors announced a planned 20 per cent increase in rents raising single rooms from \$80 to \$96 and double rooms from \$74 to \$90.

At that time student action was successful in holding the rates to \$90 and \$82 for singles and doubles respectively.

A Residence Committee for Lower Rents, formed to take action on the issue, threatened to employ "all measures at their disposal both on and off campus" to get the rates reduced.

An estimated 500 indignant students demonstrated in front of the administration building at noon on Jan. 28 to present a petition, known as the Assiniboia Manifesto, to university president Dr. Walter H. Johns, protesting the increase.

OUT TO LUNCH

Dr. Johns was out and the petition was accepted by provost A. A. Ryan while students chanted "Dr. Johns is out to lunch."

Students bore placards with messages such as "Never have so many paid so much for so little."

They commented on Dr. Johns' statement of Nov. 2, 1963 which said "Students' double rooms are smaller than any others being built today in Canadian universities and are far below American standards."

A student march on the provincial legislature was called for Feb. 13, then disbanded after leaders of the march were told the march would prejudice the students' chances of getting government co-operation in the future.

Subsequently, the RCLR issued a statement: "By not demonstrating, we have created a situation showing our willingness to be reasonable. The onus is now on the authorities to show they acted in good faith."

Members of the committee met with Liberal MLA Bill Dickie who brought the whole question of residence financing before the legislature.

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