

NUS plans access campaign

REGINA (CUP) - "It's time for students to stop reacting and start taking the initiative."

That was the rallying cry of the delegates to the National Union of Students (NUS) semi-annual conference which meets here to evaluate the progress of their accessibility campaign and make plans for the rest of the year.

NUS central committee chairman Alex Daschko told the one hundred delegates that the accessibility campaign, for-

mulated at the NUS conference in Vancouver in May, is starting to gain momentum.

He said NUS is facing a great challenge in making the accessibility campaign successful because it depends on grass roots organization and the participation of students.

NUS central committee member Bill White said a crucial phase of the accessibility campaign which ties together issues such as tuition increases, funding cutbacks, student aid, and unemployment, will begin in

November. NUS will then coordinate general assemblies to discuss accessibility on various campuses.

At the conference, delegates also passed a motion to discuss a new student aid plan. The plan would consider the socioeconomic background of students and potential students, and actual student costs in the post-secondary education system.

They also asked that the current plan be changed until a new student aid plan can be

established. The proposed changes ask that:

-required student contributions to the cost of education be based on actual savings rather than on the current arbitrary formula.
-applicants be classified as financially independent at the age of 18.

-required parental contributions be reduced, especially those of students from lower income brackets.

-part time students be eligible for student aid.

-post secondary students enrolled in a program of at least twelve weeks duration be eligible for aid.

Delegates also passed a motion categorically rejecting any increase in the student loan ceiling. They argued that an increase would ignore the fundamental problems affecting student aid, and added that the incurring of large debts is a proven disincentive to students attending post-secondary institutions.

Co-op living... six is company

by Portia Priegert

It isn't a typical family — four students, a postal worker and an unemployed artist.

But then a co-op house isn't an average home.

A cheap form of alternate housing, the nine co-operatives run by Campus Co-op offer students the opportunity to experience self-government in the domestic sphere.

Campus Co-op, not to be confused with the co-operative houses run by the U of A's Housing and Food Services, was formed in 1967.

"Our members control what goes on in the houses," says Pam Dunk, a member of last year's executive.

"That means we decide if pets are allowed, or if the rent has to be raised, for instance," she explains.

But the co-operative aspect of the association extends beyond policy decisions.

"With four to seven people living in each house, we usually cook one meal each per week as well as sharing house and yard work," she adds.

Campus Co-op currently has 57 members, of which 60 to 70 per cent are students. They operate three houses in Garneau, four in Strathcona and one each in Norwood and Oliver.

The rent for a room in the houses was recently raised to \$105. That doesn't include food, which costs approximately \$15 each per week.

But that \$105 does include a \$20 mandatory levy which goes towards down payments on other houses. The next house will be added to the co-op early next year.

Campus Co-op owns only three of the houses they now operate — the university owns two and the City of Edmonton

the other three.

But eventually the association would like to own all their houses so they don't run into the kinds of problems they are

currently facing.

The leases on the houses owned by the university can be terminated at any time, say co-op members.



photo Brad Keith

Dave Liverman, another member of last year's executive, says they received notice to leave the two university houses last March. Co-op members protested and they were given a one-year lease.

"That means we'll be facing the same situation next year," he says. "The university said they wanted to keep their options open and that we were a possible threat to new development projects."

"But it would be a serious setback for us to lose those houses now," he says.

Moreover, the university's actions are seen by the co-ops as part of a disturbing trend.

Campus Co-op rented eight houses from the university in the early Seventies. They lost one in 1973 and another in 1977.

But in 1978 they lost a total of four houses.

Dissent over the \$20 surcharge prompted tenants in those four houses to ask the university to rent directly to them, says Colin MacKenzie, a

long-time co-op inhabitant.

"Though the university rented the houses at a slightly cheaper rate, tenants in two of those houses were evicted soon after," he says.

"Now those two houses are part of the new Faculty of Social Welfare."

"We're not out to pick a fight with the university," says MacKenzie, "but with the current price of houses, we're facing a difficult situation."

Co-op member Tom Dunk says that although student apathy has been a bit of a problem, there are still a lot of students interested in co-operative living.

"Co-op houses bring together a real diversity of people; they're an interesting place to be."

And though Campus Co-op has the dubious distinction of having what in the words of one member is "probably the ugliest house in Garneau," those houses are a valuable resource for future generations of students.

Bart Evanski

A column for the old farts

How about that. Only a couple of columns and already I'm getting reader response. Sheesh, it makes a guy humble receiving all those nice comments. One letter in particular I liked. With understandable pride I shall repeat for you the most complimentary lines. They went like this: "Your column is the best fuck up that I have ever read. Never before have I come across such a way out crock. Dig out the shovels, man. What a screwball you are." I don't know exactly what he means with all those teeny-bop words, but everybody I show this to smiles, so I'm sure it is good.

Another reader sent a piece of chocolate as a gesture of appreciation. With the chocolate came the following note:

"Having read your column, I discovered much to my surprise, that it makes a perfect substitute for eating beans and drinking beer. The after effects of both are the same.

"Therefore in appreciation and to assist you in your continued creative endeavor, I am enclosing this piece of chocolate to relieve you of any hindrances or blockages that may occur in the passing of your great knowledge. I am sure it will inspire you to produce a large amount of material.

Yours truly,
E.X. Lax"

Well Mr. Lax, your consideration is appreciated. Such selfless behaviour cleanses my soul and drains out any ill-will that I may have towards my fellow man. Thank you and may God bless you.

I have to admit, though, that I haven't yet eaten the chocolate, but when I do, I'm sure that I'll be thinking of you, Mr. Lax.

Another fine reader sent along an airline ticket to Tibet. He suggested that I leave as soon as possible. I guess he figured that I was overworked and needed a holiday. Such a nice man. He even offered to pay my expenses if I hid there for several years. I hate to insult this generous man, but my professional ethics demand that I refuse this well meant gift. Besides, I couldn't leave even if I wanted to. I feel it is my solemn duty to keep this column going, if only for my many grateful readers.

All this unwarranted generosity by my appreciative fans has put me into an equally generous mood. One poor soul wrote to ask for money. It seems that his mother is dying, his wife is an alcoholic, and he is a cripple. Therefore as a gesture of appreciation to all my readers as a whole, I am going to set up a special fund for this poor, troubled man.

In order to raise money, I am thinking of asking the Beatles to reunite for a special benefit concert. I think it would be able to sell out the SUB Theatre, don't you?

Perhaps I am being a bit unrealistic. Maybe only half the seats will sell.

I guess than a better idea for raising funds is a sewing-bee. I'll have to talk to some Engineering students about this endeavor.

By all means keep those letters coming in. They are a pleasure to receive. However be forewarned, any nasty letters will be used to line the kitty litter box, but I'm sure there won't be any.

No GFC arts reps this time

Arts candidates for General Faculties Council (GFC) for GFC positions will not participate in Friday's by-election, returning officer Sue Savage announced yesterday.

Savage says she decided not to hold the election for GFC arts representatives because the returning office was unaware of the vacancy until it was too late to change advertising.

She said a large number of people were unaware that the position was open, and several people who might have run were unable to do so.

Students' Council will decide tonight whether nominations will be re-opened and a byelection held or whether a representative will be chosen by a nominating committee.

Savage also announced an open meeting Wednesday afternoon to allow students to meet candidates in Friday's election.

The meeting will be held in Rm. 270A SUB from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Elections for Students' Union (SU) vp finance and administration, students' council Education and Science representatives, GFC Science represen-

tative, and University Athletic Board men's athletics vice-president will be held Friday. Polls will be open in all major buildings and areas on campus from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

An advance poll will be held Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on the main floor of SUB.

Council considers cutbacks, Lister Hall administration

Students' council will discuss a motion by science councillor Steve Cumming that the executive committee make the anti-cutbacks campaign their first priority.

A separate motion by Cumming would require the executive committee to research cutbacks thoroughly and report to council at its next meeting.

Council will also consider a motion from arts representative

Alan Fenna which would direct the executive to report on the situation in residence, with an "analysis of the political, financial, and administrative problems in Lister Hall."

Cumming and Fenna make no suggestions to the executive on ways to find time for all this.

Council meets in University Hall at 7:00 tonight. Interested students are welcome to attend.