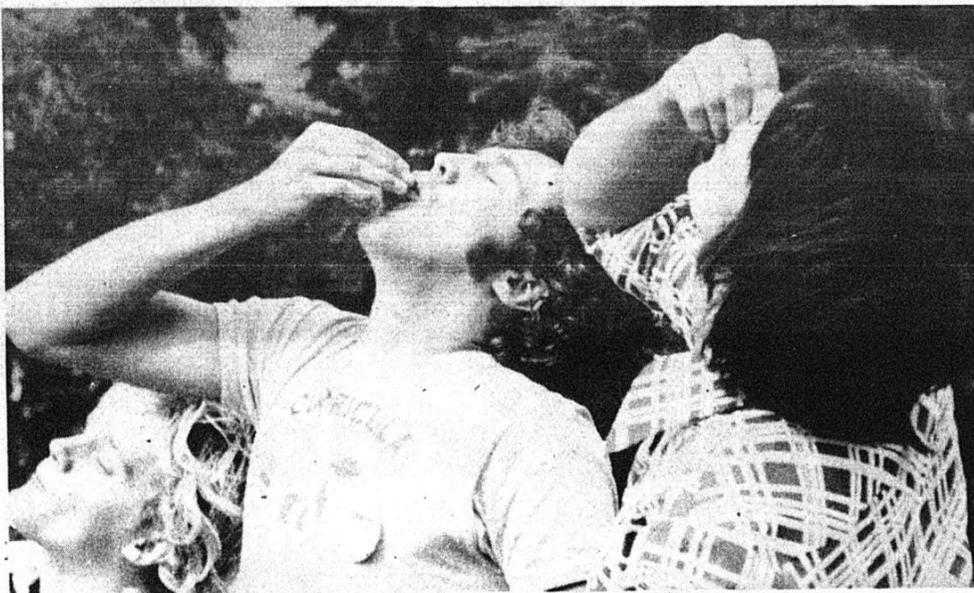
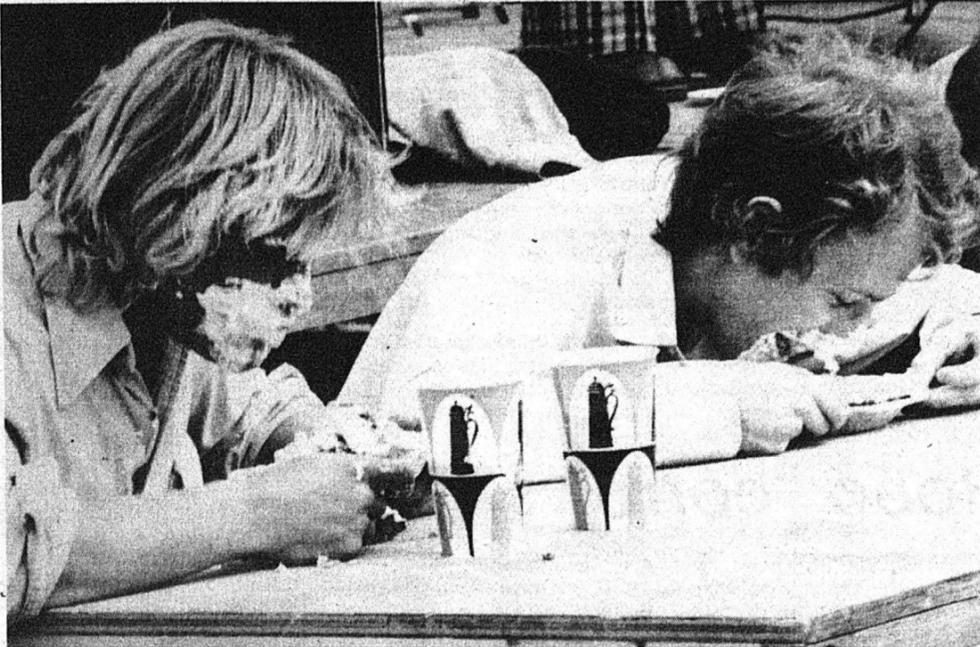


Frosh has its ups and downs



Freshman Introduction Week includes something for everyone's tastes from the mundane pleasures of swilling beer and eating cream pies to the more exotic flavor of live goldfish. The fellow on the right in the bottom pic swallowed 5 of the wriggling creatures in 12 seconds.

No news -
good news

No news may be good news regarding the fate of the U of A's oldest landmark, St. Stephen's College.

A decision to destroy the residence, which was expected to come last August 22, was postponed by the St. Stephen's governing board, to allow the U of A Board of Governors to hold a meeting to discuss possible university intervention in the building's fate.

FAS formed
at summer
conference

The formation of a Federation of Alberta Students was accomplished at a conference held here last August 14, 15 and 16.

A constitution was formed and passed, that allowed for an interim executive to hold a later meeting to discuss the issues, structure and funding of the newly formed federation. That meeting was held in Olds Agricultural College August 29.

The federation (FAS) was formed said a prepared release, to unite the students of Alberta's post-secondary institutions and to "defend and advance the common interests of Alberta students, both individually and collectively," in a solid provincial lobbying force.

Terry Sharon, vp services of the Students' Union here, and member of the interim executive says that most people concerned with the new federation, both

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St. Stephen's College, owned by the United Church, and for the last three years leased by the Child Development Centre, was closed as a residence effective the end of August because it no longer met with fire regulations.

Smoke detectors costing about \$30,000 would be necessary to re-open the building as well as wiring and plumbing renovations. Neither the United Church nor the Child Development Centre are willing to put up an amount that great to reopen it as a residence as neither claim to be in the housing business.

The building has not been condemned says the governing board, it simply does not meet fire regulations.

Although requests for tenders are still out, a final decision to either save or destroy St. Stephens will wait until September 9 following a statement by the Board of Governors expected September 5.

The ex-residents of the college say they were given little notice as to the decision to close it as a residence, in fact some said the first they knew of it was from an article that appeared in a July 16 issue of *Portrait*.

Plans are rumored to be afoot to occupy St. Stephen's should a demolition company be awarded a contract to destroy the landmark.

But for right now, all concerned have turned their ears to the university Board of Governors to see what happens next. If the Board decides not to intervene, most informed opinion holders suspect demolition plans will soon come into effect.

Housing crisis no short-term problem

OTTAWA (CUP) - Students must realize that "the housing crisis" is not a short-term problem exclusive to students. It is a complex, long-term "social disaster" which is getting worse, and which governments at all levels have failed to grapple with.

And students should devote their energy and add their numbers to the ranks of Canadians now demanding and pressuring for decent housing "so that as students they have a better chance of getting adequate housing, and so that after they leave the educational system, they will not have to struggle with a disastrous housing problem."

This was the substance of a statement released 26 August by the National Union of Students (NUS) in Ottawa.

It comes at a time when half a million post-secondary students across Canada intending to return to school are finding that there just isn't enough housing to go around.

With a federally imposed freeze on student housing funds since 1973, despite increasing

enrollment, with building starts down 28 per cent over last year, which was a 20 per cent drop from the previous year, and with an average vacancy rate across the country of 1.2 per cent, the NUS release concludes that "only a general improvement of

the housing situation will mean an improvement in student's housing.

The NUS position bitterly attacks all levels of government for "inaction" in the face of increased household formations and a deteriorating

housing supply, rapidly advancing rents and housing prices, and landlord resistance to protective legislation for tenants.

The statement points out that "a considerable number of student governments have

already contacted active community housing groups and tenants unions in their community" and urges that others do likewise.

According to NUS, students have "a unique role to play" in community housing action. Students, as a low income group during their term of studies, compete with other low income groups for housing. However, they are in a unique position because of their existing organizational structures through which collective resources and action may be utilized.

Also, students move more frequently than other groups, and hence have a chance to "feel the housing crunch" more often. And, students who live in institutional accommodation can participate more freely in pro-tenant activity "because they have less reason to fear landlord reprisals," the statement reads.

But the fact that students have a better chance of affording adequate accommodation

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Jobless students up 95%

OTTAWA (CUP) - Over 17 thousand Canadian students between the ages of 20 and 24 were still unemployed in July of this year, compared to 8 thousand a year ago, according to the latest Labour Force Survey released by Statistics Canada.

In July of 1974, the unemployment rate for persons in this age bracket intending to return to school in the fall was 4.2 per cent.

The comparable 1975 survey shows an unemployment rate of 8.1 per cent, an increase of 95 per cent.

The July figures released on August 12 show an improvement over the situation in the month of June. During that

month 24 thousand students were unemployed giving an unemployment rate of 12.6 per cent, up 66 per cent from June of 1974.

But although the rate fell for July, as expected, the continued high rate of unemployment indicates that the job market for those needing money to return to school did not firm up in the latter months of the summer as in past years.

As well, it is unclear just how accurate a picture is given by the unemployment statistics. In the labour force survey, all persons who worked at all during the survey week are considered "employed", even though the duration of the job

may be less than a couple of hours.

According to Canada Manpower officials interviewed during the summer, not only were jobs harder to find this past summer, but those that were available were generally lower paying and for shorter periods of time.

Which means that the 8,000 students listed as officially "unemployed" may be just "the tip of the iceberg". The number of students who were unable to save enough money from summer employment to make ends meet during the academic year may be much than the official number.