

New scrip for Pembina

by Ken Lenz

A pilot scrip program for Pembina Hall will be introduced in the next academic year.

Last Friday the University of Alberta Board of Governors directed the Finance Board to come up with a trial scrip program for this small 136 tenant residence this summer.

The move came in response to a proposal taken to the B of G by SU president Robert Greenhill in an effort to get the University to do something about this perennial student concern.

At present, the minimum amount of scrip a student must purchase is \$1445. The Department of Housing and Food services will not buy back any unused scrip and this forces many residents to sell their excess scrip at a reduced rate.

Under the SU proposal, the minimum allowable amount of scrip purchase would be lowered to \$1100 and a discount would be available for those residents who choose to buy more than the minimum.

Since Housing and Food Services runs on a break-even policy they rely on residents not using all of their scrip to help make up for their massive deficits incurred in many areas. The projected 1984-85 loss of revenue for Lister Hall alone is \$695,705.

Though it is not yet known whether the SU's recommendations will be accepted by the Finance committee this summer President Myer Horowitz says though it may cost money, a trial project for scrip may be worthwhile.

"The total cost of the change, relative to the total budget is very small," he says.

"What we (the SU) are concerned with is that the minimum amount of scrip students are allowed to buy is too high; students end up selling \$350-\$400 worth on a black market," says Housing and Transport Commissioner Paul Alpern.

Though Alpern feels this decision is a "major step forward," he also indicated he felt the changes "long overdue."

In a survey completed in January of this year the SU found 75.5 percent of the 387

respondents were not happy with the scrip system. Most of the respondents felt the purchase of scrip should be optional, the minimum allowable purchase should be lower and some suggested the whole system be replaced with cash.

The survey also showed that 17 percent of students who withdrew from Lister Hall and 26 percent of those who left Pembina did so because of the scrip program.

Another survey of 1983-84 room and board rates of residences across the country indicated that only four out of the 30 residences which offer board programs charge more for meals per student per day than does Housing and Food Services at the University of Alberta.



It's survey time at Housing and Food Services. The surveys, filled out by customers at cafeterias and food bars across campus all this week, will allow Housing and Food to determine what its customers think about the service. Last year's survey led to renovations in the Subway and an addition of a Mexican bar in CAB.

Washers and dryers for now

by Mark Roppel

Michener Park students have temporarily blocked Housing and Food Services' plans to remove the washers and dryers from the houses in Michener Park.

Housing and Food Services presented a proposal to the Board of Governor's Finance Committee on February 16 to install centralized coin-operated washers and dryers in Michener Park instead of individual washers and dryers in each house, as there is now.

Michener Park is the residence for married students.

But the Michener Park Tenants' Association opposed the plan and the Finance Committee told HFS to come up with a compromise proposal.

Thus Housing and Food Services had another meeting with the Michener Park Tenants Association Monday night.

"We had another meeting with them (the tenants)," says Housing and Food Services Director Gail Brown. "I think it's going quite satisfactorily," said Brown, although she would not discuss the details of the negotiations.

"We're still in the process of negotiations," says Paul Urmson

who has been presenting the Tenants' Association's case. "I don't think it is in our best interests to make any comments now," he said.

But Urmson did point out that Housing and Food must give three months notice before they can remove the washers and dryers from the houses.

"It's sort of a stalemate," says Michener Park Resident David Morrow. "They (HFS) were told at Finance they had to talk with us again. Nothing has come out of it. We have stalled them."

Urmson says negotiations have been going better since Associate Vice-president Facilities and Services Al Rennie became involved after the Finance Committee meeting.

"Gail Brown and (Student Housing Officer) Andre Thibert are difficult, but Al Rennie has been fairly reasonable," says Rennie.

Morrow also claims Housing and Food Services has been planning to centralize the laundry facilities in Michener Park long

before the students were ever consulted.

"Back during the summer maintenance workers were telling students, 'you won't have to worry about these (washers and dryers) much longer,'" says Morrow.

Nor does Morrow accept the HFS argument that the close to one million dollars HFS is planning to spend repairing houses in Michener Park over the next few years justifies a decrease in such services as washers and dryers for each house.

"They're talking about insulating the floors," he says, "any place where it gets 35 below and the floors aren't insulated - it borders on criminal negligence. They want to caulk the windows. The windows ought to have been caulked already."

The Tenants' Association did a questionnaire of residents and got about a ninety per cent response.

All the tenants who responded thought the washers and dryers should remain in the individual houses and eventually be replaced with new ones.

"Gail Brown doesn't want to run up a deficit, but it shouldn't be at our expense," says Morrow.

U of C gets more ... Grads downtrodden

Graduate studies at the University of Alberta are being neglected according to Graduate Students Association President Richard Jehn.

Citing a 1981 Board of Governors recommendation "to build our graduate school to be one of the top two or three in the country," Jehn says. "Why do they (the university) pass a policy if they don't mean it?"

Jehn points to the fact that government grants to the University have increased from \$58 million in 1971-72 to \$182 million in 1982-83.

This is more than a three fold increase, but over the same period, the increase in Graduate Assistants' salaries has only slightly more than doubled.

Jehn says the university has been using the extra grant money to make more programs available rather than improving the existing programs.

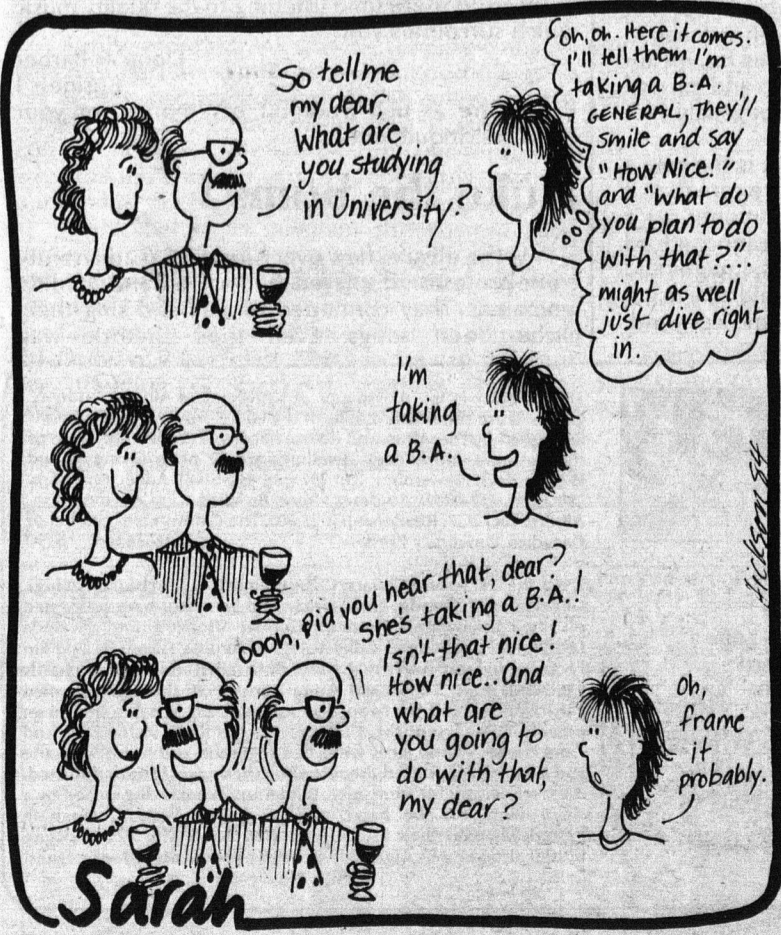
"In a large part, it is accidental. The University could have been much more careful."

Jehn says that financially, Graduate students at the U of A are much worse off than their colleagues at the University of Calgary.

The maximum amount of money a grad student can earn in two terms teaching with a full graduate appointment as a qualifying student at the U of A is \$6116. A Master's student can earn up to \$8586 and a PhD. student can earn up to \$9114.

At the U of C, all three categories are entitled to \$9559.

Jehn supports the work of the strategic planning groups established for the university in December, the first of which recently recommended quotas for all faculties, but "the Board of Governors is going to have to implement what those planning groups say," says Jehn.



by Sally-Ann Mowat

The B-52 bomber carried two Cruise missiles in its test flight on Tuesday and Doreen Caldwell was feeling helpless.

"I really wasn't sure this morning that I wanted to go," said Caldwell of the Campaign For Nuclear Disarmament on Tuesday night. "I thought they're going to test it and what's the use."

At the end of a long day spent protesting in Northern Alberta, she said, "it was a good day... people were feeling disappointed and it felt good to come together with people who are still going to work for disarmament."

A chartered bus carrying 36 members from Edmonton's peace groups left the Federal Building at 9:00 Tuesday morning. It stopped at Grand Centre, where a huge aircraft draped in anti-Cruise banners was positioned on the highway. At 2:00 PM the protestors followed a hearse brought by a group from North Battleford, Sask.

Groups from Toronto, Galliano Island BC, and Calgary were represented, and so were the towns of Lloydminster, Meadow Lake, and Lac La Biche. Altogether, there were some 150 marchers.

"It's not just the Cruise that was tested today," says Caldwell, "it was democracy. Peace supporters were bitterly disappointed by the Federal Court's decision to

refuse an injunction against the test, but they will continue to protest the cruise and fight for an abrogation of the Cruise testing agreement. It allows for six tests per year over the next five years.

Peace supporters in Edmonton have been invited to join Saturday's International Women's Day parade. It leaves the Legislative Building at 11:30 AM and will proceed downtown. Green armbands will be worn by many, symbolizing their hope for peace and renewal of life.

A meeting is scheduled at the Edmonton Learner Centre (10765-98 Street) at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, March 14th. The meeting will organize the circulation of a Peace

Caravan petition throughout local constituencies. The petition is an attempt on the part of peace groups across Canada to gain signatures in every Canadian constituency and present them to local MP's. It calls for a "ban on Cruise missile testing in Canada, the declaration of this country as a nuclear-free weapons zone, and the allocation of monies presently spent on nuclear arms to areas of human need."

"The Cruise got Canadians out of their armchairs, but it is only a small fraction of Canada's involvement. We will just have to fight harder. The question is just as important as it ever was," said Caldwell.

UNIVERSITY NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT ORGANIZATION

Box 497, SUB Post Office, University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E0

Public Lecture

CAN WE AVOID AN ARMS RACE IN SPACE?

John Polanyi
Professor of Chemistry, University of Toronto

Tuesday, 13 March
12 Noon, SUB Theatre