

Alberta lobbies for Silicon Valley facility

by Lutfulkabar Khan

A Silicon Valley in Alberta? Alberta Microelectronic Centre, in association with the U of A, University of Calgary, University of Manitoba and University of Saskatchewan, are lobbying the federal government for just that.

The Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) proposed the set up of two microelectronic sites in Canada. The joint submission of the U of A and University of Calgary claimed a number of advantages for locating the microchip facilities in Alberta.

Alberta already has an established electronic industry. Northern Telecom, Bell Northern Re-

search, Novatell and some 100 smaller firms with expertise ranging from oil industry electronics to advanced laser devices sells \$230 million worth of products annually.

One private corporation, Exmos, is soon launching a \$150 million microchip foundry.

The Alberta Microelectronic Centre has extensive research facilities in integrated sensors and I.C. CAD (Computer Aided Design) software development.

The U of A has the largest Department of electrical engineering in Canada, and they have excellent research facilities in I.C. technologies.

The University of Calgary also

supports research in I.C. CAD software and artificial intelligence.

According to Karl Miller, Manager of Corporate Relations of the Alberta Microelectronic Centre, all these excellent research facilities and established electronic industries point to the fact that Alberta is very suitable for the proposed site.

The province spends more per capita on research than any other province on electronics. The total amount spent (\$140 million/year) is almost equal to the province of Ontario.

Many corporations in Alberta are also willing to fund microelectronic research. Alberta is ideally positioned to capitalize on micro-

electronic development in areas where Canada is a world leader: agriculture and energy resources development.

The potentials of these areas are greater for Canada than in telecommunication or microcomputer production.

The provincial government of Alberta and the Alberta Heritage Trust Fund are also intent on accelerating the role of microelectronics to diversify the provincial economy.

"Industrial Multiplier," an appendix of the Industrial and Scientific Strategy White Paper, provides a graphic example of the far-reaching benefits of microelectronics.

The microelectronic research facilities should provide stimulus and support to the development of electronic industry, which in turn should provide the traditional industries with advanced technology for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

According to Miller, the immediate benefits of the proposed Microelectronic site would be more funding for the centre for equipment and personnel.

With the support of Manitoba and Saskatchewan, Miller thinks that Alberta has a very bright prospect of harbouring a silicon valley in the near future.

No vacancy in Halifax: Students stuck for space

HALIFAX(CUP) —With a 0.7 per cent vacancy rate and 18,000 students to house, Halifax has the worst housing crisis in Canada.

Andrew Wright, a student at King's College, lived in Dalhousie's administration building last year. He kept his clothes and sleeping bag in the closet, and snuck in before maintenance locked the building.

Then he rolled out his sleeping bag in the lounge and went to sleep.

Catherine Blewett, Dalhousie Student Union president, has two students living with her because they have no other place to go. Tom Rhymes, student union president of King's College, knows of a two bedroom apartment that shelters nine people, all of which are students, living there since January.

Blewett wants the university to step in. She doesn't criticize it for accepting more students than it can house itself, but she does think the administration run housing office could do a better job.

"We approached the housing office with proposals to increase their advertising campaign," says Blewett, "but they didn't respond."

Advertising for space that doesn't exist won't help students looking for a place to live. And it doesn't address the problem of housing in total, or even recognize that students are only one part of a bigger crisis.

Grant Wanzel, a member of the steering committee of Housing for People, a Halifax coalition of more than 30 organizations, says the crisis is one that can be solved, if parties responsible start facing reality.

He places much of the blame for the perpetuation of the housing shortage squarely on the area's universities.

"I think all the universities, and Dalhousie is principal among them, have been irresponsible," says Wanzel. "Dalhousie has been absolutely derelict in offering any sort of leadership in housing policy, in assuming any form of responsibility for

the problem or in acting in any way that says they're not the only people in the city."

Wanzel adds that universities, because their budgets depend on enrolment figures, want to accept all the students they can, but they don't want to be responsible for finding those students a place to live.

"Dalhousie has demolished a lot of adequate housing, and it hasn't built any new residences, but it still wants to bring all those students to Halifax," he says.

"I think that attitude is extremely arrogant," he adds.

Some students are caught in a double bind when looking for housing. Single mothers who attend university face discrimination from landlords who won't rent to them because they have children, as well as others who won't give them a place to live because they are students.

There has been no increase in construction, however, to meet the demand for housing. Landlords like to put this down to high interest rates and rent controls, claiming government restrictions prevent investment in the housing market.

New buildings in Halifax almost exclusively have been aimed at middle to high income people. Peggy Sarty, a statistical clerk at Canada Mortgage and Housing here, says most of the construction has consisted of condominiums.

"There has been a lot of those going up — so much so that they are probably reaching their saturation point now," says Sarty. "Maybe some of those units will be placed on the rental market, temporarily anyway," she adds.

Halifax student unions, the Students' Union of Nova Scotia, Housing for People, and other housing advocate groups want government intervention from all levels, provincial, municipal and federal.

Housing For People is directing its energy towards this fall's municipal election, demanding that candidates publically challenge the



Is this UofA student homeless too?

Photo Alex Miller

city's lack of housing policy.

"It's an issue they can't ignore this time around," says Wanzel.

The group first attacked the city's June symposium, Housing Halifax. They called it an election ploy.

"I made my pitch to the symposium, and I might as well have spit in the sea. (City Council) wants to believe there is some magic solution to the problem. They want

everyone to live on the beach with a blanket to cover them" he says.

"It's not as if we aren't aware of what other countries are doing. Nobody has really solved the housing problem. Those that have come the closest are those that admit the private sector will not provide affordable housing and then do something about it," Wanzel says.

CMHC provided funding assist-

ance to groups that wanted to build low income housing projects, says Sarty, but Wanzel says the 300 units that were built in the province were far from enough.

Housing for People is preparing a blueprint that demonstrates the need for at least 1,000 units in the Halifax-Dartmouth area alone, he says.

Hike for Central America

by Bill Doskoch

Raising funds to improve life the people of Central America is the goal of the second annual Hike-and-Bike-a-thon: Kilometers for Central America which takes place this Saturday, Sept. 28.

The event commences at 9:30 a.m. at Strathcona Park (83 ave. and 104 st.) is also designed to counter "the mis-information being spread about Central America by the Reagan Administration," said Sara Berger of Tools for Peace, one of the six group sponsoring the event.

She expected between 200 and 250 people to participate and hoped to raise roughly \$40,000.

The money would go to support

educational, agricultural and health projects in El Salvador and Nicaragua, as well as helping Guatemalan refugees in Mexico, she said.

If you wish to participate, pledge sheets are available at the following locations:

- Edmonton Co-op stores,
- High Level Co-op: 10313-82 ave.,
- Canec (United Church): 4474-99 st.,
- High Country Sports: 11848-111 ave.,
- Common Woman Books: 8210-104 st.,
- Edmonton Learner Centre: 10765-98 st.,
- Development Peace: 10765-98 st.

It's probably illegal, potentially dangerous, and definitely crazy.

Dr. Harry Wolper is an eccentric genius. And, with the help of his loyal assistants, he's closing in on one of the greatest discoveries of all time.

All that's standing in their way

is the University, the faculty, the laws of nature and about 20 local ordinances.

But, with a little luck, they just might pull off a miracle.

Creator

Starring **PETER OTOOLE · MARIEL HEMINGWAY**
VINCENT SPANO

KINGS ROAD PRODUCTIONS Presents A STEPHEN FRIEDMAN Production
"CREATOR" with VIRGINIA MADSEN DAVID OGDEN STIERS
JEREMY LEVEN JEREMY LEVEN RICHARD CHEW
SYLVESTER LEVAY CHARLES MULVEHILL STEPHEN FRIEDMAN
IVAN PASSER Read the POCKET BOOK! A BONUS READ! A UNIVERSAL Release

Playing now at a theatre near you