

Residents upset over food

The new meal program in the Lister Hall Complex and Pembina Hall has residents up in arms.

But Housing and Food Services director Gail Brown says the system is an improvement from the previous arrangement.

The new plan employs a paper currency scrip which is issued in various denominations to residents. This scrip may then be used to purchase food and beverages at all Housing and Food Services outlets on campus.

Under the Lister Hall contract, residents are issued \$945 worth of scrip for \$900, in nine separate allotments.

The previous system had included room and board the cost of three meals per day in residents' contracts.

Brown cites many problems with the previous system. Students were forced to eat all their meals in Lister cafeteria. Abuses of the system - food fights and wasted food were also widespread. Light eaters were supporting heavy eaters in a system that charged everyone the same amount for food.

Last year, Lister Cafeteria operated at a \$175,000 deficit.

To remedy the situation, Housing and Food Services employed food services consultants in January 1979. The new scrip system is based upon their recommendations.

Lister Hall residents have so far been unenthusiastic about the new system. Many said they felt they had been misinformed about food budgeting.

"Tension is building," said one resident.

Part of the confusion arose because of printing delays in the Residence Handbook. The handbook, which explains the new meal program in detail, was still unavailable to residents at press time.

The biggest controversy concerns the daily allotment of scrip per resident. If calculated on the basis of three meals per day, 30 days per month, the daily allotments equal \$4.

"Do Housing and Food Services really expect us to live on \$4 per day?" complained one student.

Many students expressed concern about running out of scrip well before the end of the eight-month Lister contract.

However, Brown says the \$945 cannot be considered a \$4 per day allotment. Last year, the "missed meal factor" - the number of students missing a given meal was 40 per cent for breakfast, 20 per cent for lunch and 15 per cent for dinner. The new scrip system attempts to take this into consideration.

In addition, students may purchase more scrip as they require.

Many students also complain of increased food costs.

However, Brown says that the food operation is faced with a 20 per cent increase in food costs, rising labor costs and a 10 per cent cutback in staff. In addition, Housing and Food Services has been instructed by the university to operate on a break-even basis. Because much of the 1978 deficit was caused by increased food costs, prices have been raised to

counteract that.

Residents of Lister have also commented on long line-ups for food services. Many students say they have been forced to skip meals to get to classes on time.

Brown says this situation will improve "as cashiers improve their skill in using new machines." Unreliable attendance and no back-up system have also lengthened line-ups. Brown says the problems are

simply the symptoms of a new system and should soon be soon eradicated. She also says the scrip system has already had positive results. "We've already reduced the wastage from 25 garbage bags per day to just three."

Residents are still dubious about the new system, though. "I think I'll just wait and see," one said.

Half million \$ face lift

"Maybe they're building another parking lot!"

Actually, the construction activity between SUB and the Physical Education Building is landscaping, designed to clean-up and beautify the area.

When 89 Avenue was first closed to traffic, it was thought SUB would expand into the area. When this plan was abandoned, the landscaping became necessary.

"We always planned that the area would be landscaped properly," said Blake Pratt, project director.

Total cost of the project is \$471,000. The money is coming from a capital grant to the university and is not part of the university's operating budget.

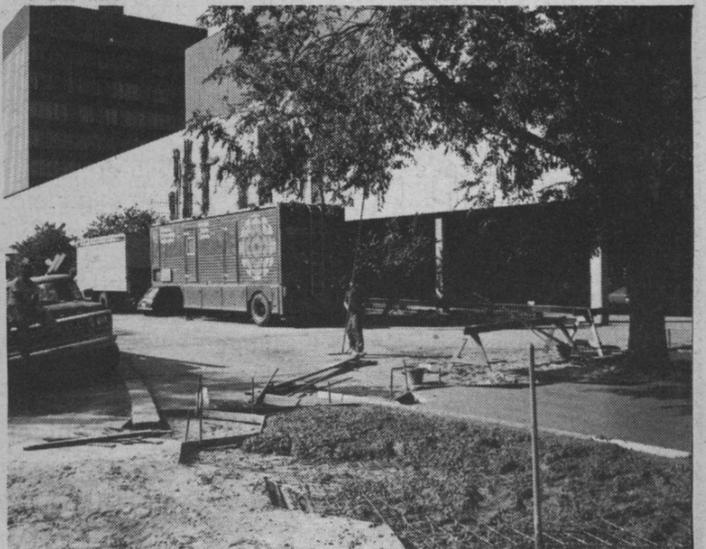
"The government has been exceptionally good to us," said Pratt. "We have some very nice buildings on this campus and have been able to maintain them well."

Original plans called for a

fountain to be built at the east end of the area, but this plan was discarded because climatic conditions made the idea impractical.

"We eventually hope to put a sculpture or other work of art there," said Pratt.

Work should be completed late this fall.



Council preview

Student Councils' already small number may be further depleted by a motion by SU president Dean Olmstead which asks council to suspend those members who have missed three successive meetings or an aggregate of five meetings.

This would affect Alan Fenna of arts, and the representatives of commerce, engineering, forestry, medicine, agriculture, phys. ed., education, women's athletics, and residence.

The motion will be con-

sidered by Students' Council at its regular meeting tonight at 7:00 p.m. in University Hall.

Council will also consider a recommendation from vp academic Chanchal Bhat-tacharya that council recommend to General Faculties Council that they amend appeal procedures to allow students in courses where the exams count less than 30 per cent to appeal their final mark.

Students are welcome to attend the meeting.

Campus chem lab theft

A late-night break-in at Faculty St. Jean netted thieves approximately \$15,000 in chemistry equipment Thursday night.

The thieves entered the

balance room of the chemistry department at some time during the night of September 13 and took eight precision weight instruments. The theft was discovered at 8:30 a.m. Friday.

The head of the faculty's chemistry department, Dr. Ed. Blackburn, says police suspect the balances will be retailed into the drug industry. "There was a spectrophotometer, worth \$6,000 to \$8,000, that is a darn sight more valuable than those balances."

He said thieves removed a window frame to get into the chemistry department. "Campus Security said it was the neatest job they'd ever seen." He says that the professional quality of the break-in suggests off-campus criminals.

"They had obviously cased the place, because you couldn't see them (the balances) from the door."

Blackburn says the biggest problem will be the replacement of the balances. "It will cost about \$15,000 to replace them - we paid less than half that for them."

"It's sad. We're a small faculty and we just don't have that much money to replace them."

Campus Security officer Ralph Oliver says the security force called the police as soon as it had been determined there was a break-in.

Although the force patrols the college campus regularly, they did not see the thieves.

City police were unavailable for comment at press time.

Stomping around the province

by Lucinda Chodan

"Do you guys want to go to Inuvik next week? . . . Wednesday? Thursday? Okay, see you on the plane."

It's a typical day for the three researchers for Youth Travel Canada's Alberta branch.

They've been travelling their territory - the province of Alberta north of Calgary, and the Yukon and Northwest Territories - almost every second week since May.

And it's all in the name of a good time for other students.

Youth Travel Canada is the combined project of the Canadian Department of Tourism and the Association of Student Councils (AOSC). Its goal - to highlight tours and travel in Canada of particular interest to students and youths. The Alberta branch is one of seven across Canada that are researching these tours.

The end-product of this research will be a student handbook published either by the government or by AOSC. The tours in the handbook will fall into three categories, according to Sharon Jeneroux, one of the project's researchers. Educational tours will spotlight

places like Fort Edmonton, the Muttart Conservatory and art galleries.

Recreational tours will be organized around activities like tennis, camping, hiking, boating, and cross-country skiing.

Group handling services, the third category, will describe facilities available to large groups travelling through the province.

So far, the three researchers have covered a lot of ground. Free bus passes from Greyhound have allowed them to travel

anywhere in Alberta and Saskatchewan. By their consensus, though, their most interesting trip so far has been to Inuvik.

Their major problem in putting together the travel handbook is lack of time, says Jeneroux.

Since the project ends in May, they're looking for student input for their research. "We want students who have travelled in Alberta and the north to help us find interesting tours for young people."

