



Education student James Taylor and science student Jim Robison enjoy a scrumptious meal from a garbage pail as a protest of food prices in Lister cafeteria...



...later, Kim Nash, Housing and Food officer calls their protest "less than mature."

Garbage gourmet

by Jeff Cowley

A pair of Lister residents picked and ate their dinner from a garbage can in Lister dining hall Thursday to protest food prices in Housing and Food cafeterias.

While Lister diners looked on, education student James Taylor and science student Jim Robison plucked food from a garbage pail, "to draw attention to the Housing and Food situation and to take residents' problems to the University administration", the garbage eaters said.

Students association president Lisa Bloom, applauded the demonstration.

"It's become apparent to more students than ever what the problem is," said Bloom, "we've gotten to the root of it, and students aren't going to take it anymore."

Housing and Foods boosted prices in University cafeterias last summer in accordance with a mandate from the administration for their budget to "break even". The price increases sparked a series of protests from Lister and Pembina residents.

The garbage pail potluck was served up because students are "dissatisfied with the University

administration's handling of the Housing and Food situation," said Taylor. Students' Union officials, along with representatives from Lister and Pembina Hall, have been negotiating with the University administration over price increases since September.

"The protest was real," said Robison. "Pretty soon students will have to pick food from garbage cans." He said he has \$30 in food credits to feed himself until Christmas. Lister and Pembina residents are bound to a meal card plan which commits them to purchasing a fixed amount of food per semester on a credit system.

While Taylor said he sympathizes with pressure Housing and Foods is receiving over the mandate, he would like to see the department take the residents' problems across the street to the University administration.

"Students have displayed that they are very unhappy with the situation. The ball has been put into Housing and Foods' court as far as going to the administration to get the prices changed."

Housing and Food officials refused to comment on the matter.

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SU lobbies education issues

by Teresa Pires

The Students' Union has agreed to allocate \$2,372.00 to the External Affairs Board in order for them to conduct a campaign to inform students about the upcoming Federal election and to lobby the candidates in the university riding.

David Tupper, SU vp external, stated that the Students' Union is "trying to take advantage of the fact that it's the first time in almost a decade that elections are being held with the university session." The campaign itself involves a two pronged action aimed at the U of A students and at the candidates in the Strathcona riding.

In order to get more students out to vote, the SU has obtained approval from the chief returning officer to install polling stations on campus. As well, during registration, 10,000 student voter guides were handed out. The

money allocated by SU will be used to run advertising in *The Gateway*, to put posters up on campus, and to produce fact sheets.

When asked if he believed the parties were doing enough to inform the public about the election, Tupper responded, "each party is running ads but they have less to do with students than we'd like."

In the past, the percentage of students who have voted has been less than the national average. Tupper feels that "if we're going to be a powerful voice, we have to make sure that we get people out to vote because if they don't, politicians will think that students don't care anyways."

The campaign is also directed at the Strathcona riding candidates in the hope of getting them to raise the income tax education deduction and to make sure that candidates are going to do their best to get adequate funding for

the U of A. The education deduction is presently \$60 per month, up from the \$50 of last year. This increase was the first since 1973 when the deduction was established.

"We only got a 20 percent increase in 15 years while at the same time other expenses have increased 200 percent," said Tupper. The External Affairs Board also hopes to see a change in the funding formula which would have the province contributing more to education funding.

The campaign, being run by the External Affairs Board and the SU, isn't an isolated effort, but rather, a coordinated nationwide endeavor. Earlier in the year, both Tupper and Paul LaGrange attended a conference which dealt exclusively with what universities could do regarding the upcoming Federal election.

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