

University may hike rents 30 per cent

Student rents may skyrocket

by Lucinda Chodan

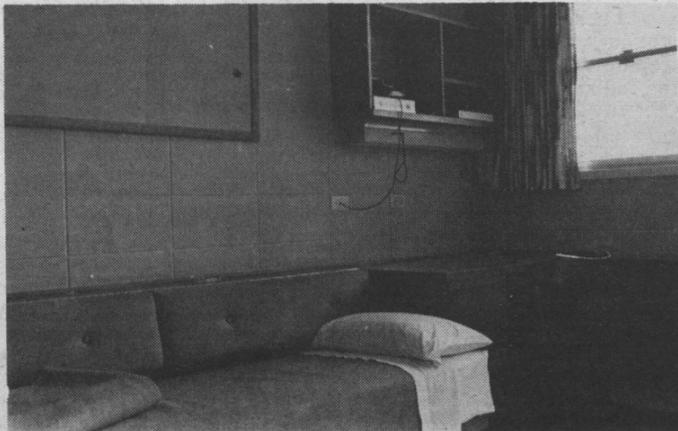
Rent in some university housing units may jump by as much as 30 per cent in September if the Board of Governors okays the recommendations of a General Faculties Council (GFC) Committee.

The GFC Housing and Food Services Committee approved a proposal for rent increases of between three and 30 per cent for HUB, Lister Hall, North Garneau, Michener Park, Faculte Saint-Jean and Pembina Hall residents Monday.

In addition, the committee approved 30 per cent increases in food costs for Lister and Pembina Hall residents. Scrip which cost \$900 last September will cost \$1200 this fall.

About 3200 students will be affected if the Board passes the proposed increases.

The rent increases were proposed by Housing and Food Services to equalize rent in university housing units. University housing was also compared to the cost of renting private accommodation in a study by university investment officer Dan Kanashiro.



Home sweet home in a Lister Hall residence. For \$330 a month you get all the comforts of a remand center.

The rate comparison prepared by Kanashiro said students living off-campus were now paying an average of \$290 per month for a one-bedroom unit.

The Housing and Food Services proposal also says off-campus housing rates may jump more than 30 per cent after provincial rent controls are lifted June 30.

Hardest hit by the proposed university rent increases would be some residents of North

Garneau. Twenty-three of the area's 108 housing units would be hit with 30 per cent rent increases — as much as \$124 more per month than they are now paying.

Rent in 24 more housing units in North Garneau would increase between 10 and 27 per cent.

Michener Park residents would also be hard hit by the proposed hikes. Some students in the married students' housing

units would pay up to \$35 more per month — a 15.9 per cent jump from their current rent.

Pembina Hall and Lister Hall residents would see their room rents rise 10 per cent in the proposal and Faculte Saint-Jean accommodation would climb 11.7 per cent.

HUB residents would be least affected by the proposed rent changes. The 870 students in HUB apartments would see an average rent increase of about five per cent.

All university tenants' associations except the Michener Park tenants' group accepted the rent increase proposals in private meetings with Housing and Food Services Director Gail Brown in February.

Students outnumbered administration representatives at the GFC Housing and Food Services Committee which recommended the rent increases to the Board Finance Committee.

Students protest proposed increases

Student leaders and university tenant associations have reacted negatively to the proposed student housing rent hikes.

Students' Union (SU) president Dean Olmstead says the size of the rent increases is unjustified.

"It's probably reasonable to expect moderate increases in university housing, but I think a lot of these increases are exorbitant."

Olmstead says he's particularly concerned with Lister

Hall increases. "I think they're over-priced as it is."

And he's critical of the university's policy on the matter.

"Here's a chance for the university to control the costs students face without the external factors that affected tuition increases. Instead they're greatly increasing the rent."

SU Housing and Transport Commissioner Tim Hogan joined Olmstead in criticizing the increases.

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Bigot: One who is obstinately and zealously attached . . .

the Gateway

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1980

. . . to an opinion that you do not entertain.

Teachers can rite

by Lucinda Chodan

Charges that Education students at the U of A are illiterate have been dismissed by officials and student representatives in the Faculty of Education.

In early February, two Education students wrote a letter to *The Gateway* citing widespread illiteracy and low standards among their colleagues.

"We are embarrassed to be members of this faculty," Valerie Loo and Joan Schell said.

However, Education dean Dr. Walter Worth says the charges are unrepresentative of most students in the faculty.

"I'm not surprised that these things occur," says Worth, "when we have 4000 students in the faculty. On balance, though, they aren't typical."

Worth says admission requirements in Education are the same as in all other faculties — a 60 per cent average in five high school matriculation subjects. In addition, the Education program requirements mean most students take more courses in faculties other than Education, he says.

An English course is not mandatory for all Education students.

Although no data is available to compare current Education graduates to their predecessors, school boards say teachers are better now than they were five years ago, Worth says.

But he says he is concerned about the charges levelled against his faculty, and the "unease and concern" they produce in Education students.

"I'm the first to acknowledge that there are problems in Education. But as far as I'm concerned, I think allegations of widespread illiteracy are hogwash."

Education Students' Association (ESA) president Darlene Melnyk agrees that the situation has been blown out of proportion.

"I don't think the problem of illiteracy is just confined to our faculty. However, it appears

that the Education faculty becomes a focal point when the illiteracy issue is brought out."

She says the ESA has contacted the writers of the letter, but the association has no specific plans to push for changes in the faculty.

And although she says she supports mandatory English courses for all Education students, Melnyk says the ESA

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Native women unite

by Nina Miller

Indian women must unite and fight their real enemies — the government and "the garbage we've been fed for hundreds of years."

This was the message delivered by Maria Campbell, the U of A's writer-in-residence, at a Native Awareness Week forum yesterday.

Nellie Carlson from the Indian Rights for Indian Women (IRIW) organization spoke about federal legislation which revokes Treaty Indian status for Indian women marrying non-Treaty men.

"We are victims of the most blatant discrimination ever in a democratic society," said Carlson.

She read the government form letter that asks Indian women to leave the reserve when they lose their Treaty status.

"Our treatment by the government and society is so insidious and sometimes brutal that we need a time to seek solace

and spiritual guidance from each other," she said.

Carlson and Campbell said the Indian people and especially their male leaders are "sucked in to support the government policy."

"The hatred and mistrust between Indian men and women is nursed by white racism, by the church and by the government, but it never has been a part of us," said Campbell.

History has labelled half-breed women "loudmouths, gossips and colorful as peacocks," Campbell said. But Metis women were taught to speak out as equals and this was scorned by white society, she said.

"Sure, sometimes our housework was neglected and sometimes our kids had runny noses, but what was happening to our people was more important."

Now, the speakers concluded, the solution lies in re-

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Bruce Cockburn in concert Monday at the Jubilee Auditorium. See review page 15.

photo Russ Sampson