

# Fire hazards in North Garneau houses

## Students to be turfed out

by Mike Walker

Close to 30 students living in North Garneau will be told next week they must move because the basement rooms they live in are firetraps.

And it appears students have been living in constant danger in the basements of the university-owned houses for a number of years.

The university's fire marshal last month inspected all the university-owned houses in North Garneau. In each one the basement was found to be a fire hazard.

"They're unsafe to be used as a sleeping area," said university director of Physical Plant Gordon Bulat Wednesday.

"Unless they're done up properly, people shouldn't be living there."

But renovations would cost thousands of dollars per house, according to university Housing Director Fred Worsfold. And the university is not prepared to spend the money on renovations for the houses because of uncertainty surrounding the redevelopment of North Garneau.

"We can't afford to go down there and spend thousands of dollars," Worsfold said Wednesday. The university doesn't know how many of the houses will remain standing after next spring, when some of them are sure to be razed to

make way for new student housing, which must be ready in time to house athletes for the 1983 World Student Games.

The houses' basements are in violation of city and probably provincial regulations, Bulat said. The fire marshal's report cited flammable walls, flammable materials adjacent to furnaces and poor emergency exit provisions.

Most of the Garneau houses have wood walls in the basements rather than fire resistant plaster or drywall, Worsfold said. In addition, most basements have only one exit.

The fire marshal's report states, "in every one of the houses with basement

units, all walls must be fire resistant," Worsfold said. In addition, furnaces must be enclosed in fire resistant rooms and each basement must have two exits.

Worsfold said 25 to 30 students now live in the basement rooms affected by the report. All must leave their rooms.

"I think there'll be some fur flying," he said.

However, the university will do all it can, short of renovating the rooms, to assist the students booted out. Some may be squeezed into upstairs rooms with other students, Worsfold said. Others will be given preference in Lister Hall - a prospect sure to excite them about their forced moves.

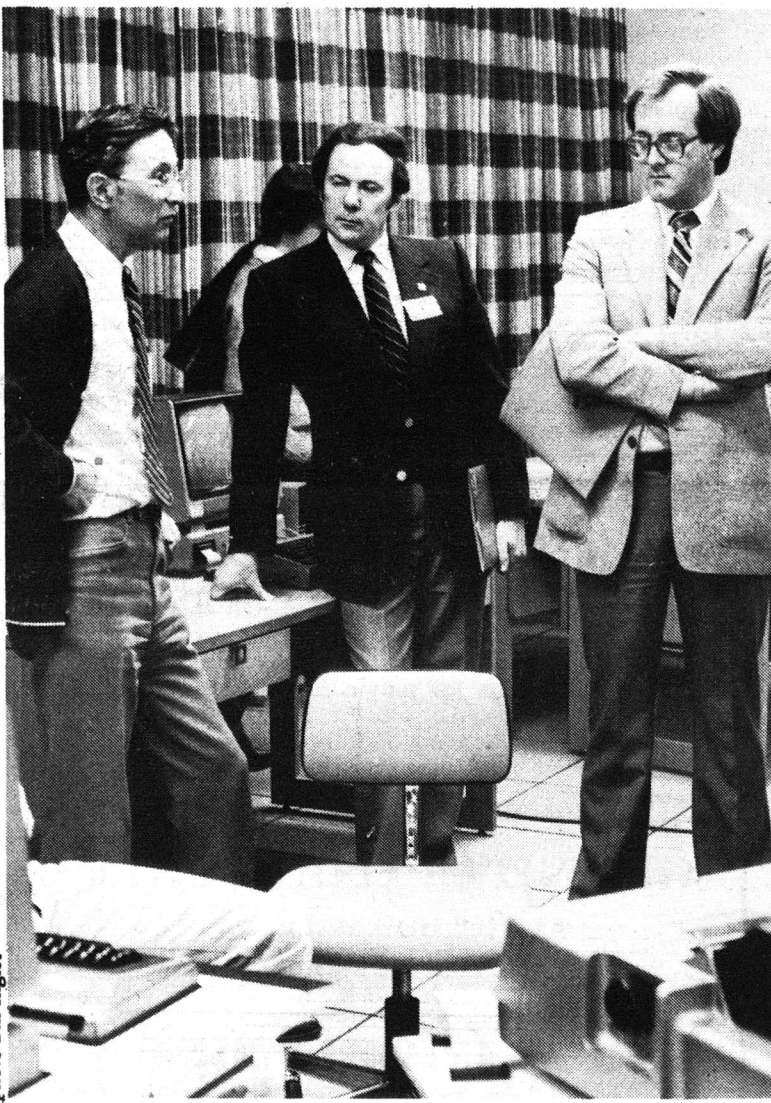
I understand:  
God is a bungler ...

# the Gateway

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1980

... who burns his mistakes!

Hugh Leonard



Three middle-aged farts, professor Steve Hunka, left, Advanced Education minister Jim Horsman, center, and Education minister Dave King, right, stand around and make faces at each other at University Night Wednesday.

## Nervous meet

The student hosts were nervous, the MLA's were well dressed and the conversation was, for the most part, trivial.

That was the story at last night's University Night, an event designed to bring together university students and government representatives in an informal setting to increase communication between the groups.

About 25 MLA's put in an appearance, including minister of Advanced Education and Manpower Jim Horsman. All were paired with students from their constituencies and bundled off to various campus venues for brief tours of research projects.

These included the Population Research Institute, the education faculty computer facility, and the nuclear research center.

A free dinner was then served in the Power Plant, and polite conversation was the order of the day. The presentation used for the 1983 World Student Games bid was also shown. Many MLA's including Horsman beat a hasty retreat immediately afterward.

Those who remained were party to sometimes casual, sometimes heated discussions on the university and related issues.

Horsman also used the occasion to reiterate the government's position on funding for the Student Games. He said the government would "back the university to a point." He claimed he was sorry the university would have to make its final presentation to the international body without full government support.

## Suzuki for elitist school

# How little we know

by Jens Andersen

"Would you train Olympic athletes by having them take Phys Ed 201? Of course not. Then why do we take those with intellectual prowess and throw them into the same classes as everyone else?"

The speaker was UBC zoologist and host of the TV program *The Nature of Things* David Suzuki, addressing a U of A Senate-sponsored forum on science, education and society. Suzuki was advocating, in no uncertain terms, that Canada should establish an elite university "a Harvard of the north," to alleviate what he called "the plight of the scholastically gifted."

The failure of existing educational institutions to enlighten people was a thread running through Suzuki's comments, anecdotes and proposals. He told of doing man-in-the-street interviews at shopping centers in the middle of the winter, and asking people coming out of Safeway with mangoes and tomatoes if they thought that science affected their life. Most people answered no.

"Where the hell do they think those mangoes and tomatoes come from at this time of year?" he asked.

Or on politicians:

"Two years ago a survey was made of about 50 MPs to test their knowledge of very basic scientific terms and concepts. 90% of all MPs are businessmen and lawyers. The results showed that those who consistently tested so low they belonged in a class for the retarded were ... lawyers and businessmen. And these are the people who will eventually decide whether Dome Petroleum is allowed to drill in the Beaufort Sea."

Or Suzuki on superstition:

"Only six Canadian dailies have full-time trained medical or science reporters, but they all have their astrology columns."

The way to cure this ignorance is scientific education, Suzuki said, and the essence of science is skepticism, not the simple piling up of facts.

He also had harsh words for Creationism.

"Astrology, at least, led to astronomy; it has more basis than Scientific Creationism."

When he was asked about specific ways in



UBC zoologist David Suzuki

which education could be improved he suggested that since high school students were essentially "walking gonads" the natural thing to do would be to educate them about their bodies. Earlier he had bewailed the fact that women took the Pill without having the faintest idea how it operated on their physiology.

The audience, which overflowed into the SUB Theatre foyer, was mostly friendly but at one point an audience member, apparently aggravated by Suzuki's comments on superstition (he had suggested that the Holy Ghost wasn't much different from other ghosts) demanded, "What good is science?" and then, before Suzuki could answer, "Where is the cure for cancer?"

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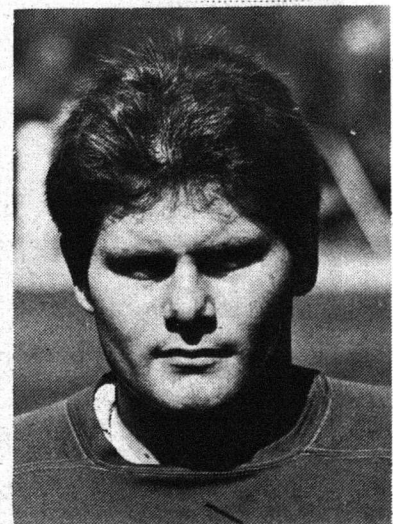
## Playoff football

It's playoff time!

This Saturday quarterback Forrest Kennerd will lead the number one ranked University of Alberta Golden Bears against the fourth ranked Calgary Dinos in the WIFL final. Game time at Varsity Stadium is 1:00 p.m.

Both teams have potent passing attacks and strong defences. As well they dominated the all-star team placing 20 players on the 29-man squad.

For stories on Saturday's game, the all-stars, a feature on Forrest Kennerd, and a prediction, turn to page-eight.



Forrest Kennerd