

The Gateway

Daniel Aarons' personal account of South Africa, PART II. PP 8-9



Housing for students

by Kevin Law

The Housing Registry is suffering from a low profile and obscure direction, says director Marc Dumouchel, who is working to maximize resources and elevate the quality of service in order to alleviate this.

The Housing Registry and its role has changed since its inception in the early seventies, when it was initially known as the Emergency Housing Registry. "Our purpose has changed," says Dumouchel. "We want to get away from the emergency situation and become more service oriented." By doing so, the Housing Registry is "looking for ways to restructure; to save money and make the system more effective."

The University housing zone has the lowest vacancy rate and the highest rents in Edmonton, and students are the most transient groups in the demographic terms. Therefore a major concern is "finding housing appropriate to the stu-

dent," says Dumouchel, and one of the improvements in sight to help address this problem is the installation of a new computer.

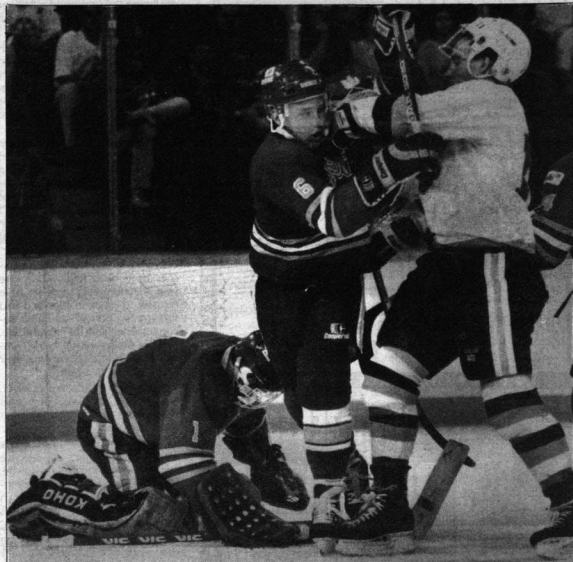
In the past, the Housing Registry has relied on the University's mainframe MTS computer, which prints all listings in one batch. The new computer, to be installed in the Registry office, will be more specific, dividing all listings according to all city zones. This will provide more accurate housing lists to help people find what they are looking for. The listings will also be more up-to-date helping to improve efficiency. The computer will also be used for planning and management of data.

The computer will cut paper costs, says Dumouchel, and its formatting capabilities will also reduce expenditures: "We can format from the office to improve listings. With the MTS system we have to pay the programmer to change categories."

Increased awareness of service is another goal of the Housing Registry. "In our estimation" says Dumouchel "we served over forty five thousand students last year; this can be higher. Most first year students don't even know we exist. We want people coming to the U of A for the first time to know we exist."

Along with increased service awareness is the issue of quality of service; an issue Dumouchel wants to address: "Quality of service has been relatively ignored in past directives." One consideration in this area is high turnover rate in staff, which causes problems in consistency of service. "We had four staff turnover this year and only three people here from last year," said Dumouchel, who hopes to respond to this problem in part by planning "more specific training" for staff and management. This incentive, along with a redefined focus in direction should lead to the realization of "a more personal service."

The U of A Student Executive wants to evaluate the service provided by the Housing Registry, believing the usefulness of the service has peaked. However, no concrete plans have been organized yet.



Ook goalie Gates Geneux seems to be praying. It didn't help as the U of A won 8-2. Story p.12.

Photo: Rob Guberman

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Election change demanded

by Roberta Franchuk

Disgruntled Lister Hall residents are circulating a petition to change the way that the Lister Hall Students Association (LHSA) elects its executive officers.

Claiming that the present system "offends the basic principles of democracy by making an effective challenge to the status quo impossible", the petition requests that any LHSA member be allowed to campaign for president or one of the three Hall vice presidents. Under the current LHSA constitution, candidates must have previously held a position as a floor coordinator or as a member of the executive committee of the LHSA.

Tom Bulmer, one of the organizers behind the petition, charges that this requirement excludes qualified candidates who have not spent enough time in Lister to be elected to one of these positions. Current LHSA president Trent Tucker says that the clause ensures that the president and vice presidents have the necessary experience. "We're looking for continuity. If you have experience with how the association works, when you get in and want to get things changed you'll know how to do it."

"What traits are so impossible to teach the average intelligent person?" asked Bulmer. "Although most of them would have to be told where to order the beer."

Bulmer has found collecting signatures for the petition difficult. He says unidentified members of one floor burnt a copy of the petition, and confrontations have taken place between supporters of the petition and other members of the LHSA.

"It's an organized vendetta... with an eye to intimidating them (the people who want to sign)," charges Bulmer.

"There was no organized retaliation," countered Tucker. "I put up a poster because a number of people came to me and claimed after the fact that they signed the petition without ever reading it."

"I also received a number of complaints that these groups went into the study halls and were harassing people who were studying," said Tucker. "I was looking into this."

Tucker questions the usefulness of the petition as a way to change

the election process. "I'm disappointed with the fact that they went to such an extreme," he said. "If you have a problem you should talk to someone."

"People have the right to disagree with the constitution, but there are ways to change it," said Dean of Student Services Peter Miller, one of the people to whom the petition has been addressed. Amendments to the LHSA constitution can be made by a two thirds majority vote at two consecutive meetings of the Joint Council, which consists of the elected floor coordinators and the executive committee, including the president and vice presidents.

"The constitution of the LHSA is all very official," said Director of Housing and Food Services David Bruch. "It's been approved by the University through the Council of Student Services," said Tucker, "Nobody in the higher echelons has ever complained about the constitution."

The petition has been circulating since Monday, and copies have been given to Miller, Bruch and University President Myer Horowitz. About 150 students have signed the petition so far, out of the nearly 1100 students who live in Lister Hall. A meeting between the petition organizers and the Joint Council of the LHSA will be held on Sunday. Bulmer says his group hopes to "propose a formal solution to the problem" at that time.

"Hain't we got all the fools in town on our side? And hain't that a big enough majority in any town?"

Mark Twain

Lubicon Lake discussion at U

by Rod Campbell

Chief Bernard Ominayak of the Lubicon Lake Indian band will address a forum next Tuesday at the U of A.

The forum has been organized to explain the issues behind the current Lubicon land claim and the subsequent call for a boycott of the Calgary Olympics.

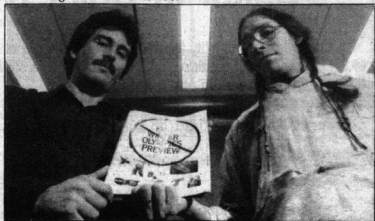
The Lubicon Cree have been trying since 1939 to establish a reserve at Lubicon Lake in Northern Alberta.

Albert Crier, a spokesperson for the campus Lubicon Lake Student Support Group and forum organizer, feels that the Lubicon issue has been a political football passed between the provincial and federal governments.

"They (the Lubicons) feel their

negotiations are with the federal government because of their constitutional responsibilities," says Crier, a second year political science undergraduate and a member

of the Saddle Lake First Nation Indian band. "The Alberta government has to release crown land to the federal government for the LUBICON p.3



Korten and Crier join the Lubicons in a call for an Olympic boycott.

Photo: Bruce Guberman