



Government refuses to help with tests

Asbestos dangers in residence

by Mike Walker

Michener Park is not the only U of A residence complex with asbestos hazards in its ceilings.

Lister Hall ceiling finishes also contain "high concentrations" of chrysotile asbestos, according to U of A projects manager Dan Pretzlaff.

Asbestos causes lung cancer and asbestosis, a potentially fatal scarring of the lung tissue. There is no known safe level of exposure for humans.

Last week it was revealed that the university plans this May to strip and refinish the ceilings in Vanier and Galbraith apartment towers at the Michener Park married students' complex at 122 Street and 51 Avenue. The university has discovered that those ceilings contain high concentrations of chrysotile asbestos.

The asbestos is dangerous only when released into the atmosphere. Any damage to the ceilings in the Michener Park apartments of in Lister Hall will expose students to the asbestos, and to long term health risks.

The university won't know whether there is in fact airborne asbestos in the Michener Park apartments for at least three weeks, the earliest time when Western Research Ltd. of Calgary, the only firm near Edmonton capable of doing the airborne tests, can come to the U of A.

Pretzlaff says the provincial government's Occupational Health and Safety division will not perform the tests, even

though it is well-qualified to do so.

"They're saying they don't want to do the test," Pretzlaff says, because Occupational Health is concerned only with the workplace.

The samples are also expensive (\$400 to \$700 or more each), and very unreliable. Many samples must be taken to be sure of an accurate measure of asbestos levels.

No airborne tests are yet

Tenants surprise admin. on asbestos

At least one Michener Park tenant knew about asbestos in his apartment as early as last fall, but couldn't interest the university in the subject.

Bob Brewster, who lives in a townhouse at the Michener Park married students' housing complex, said Sunday he discovered crumbling asbestos insulating plates in his townhouse's light fixtures in October.

But, he said, "I called (the university department of) Housing and Food Services and told them about it, and never got a response."

University officials were unavailable for comment Monday.

Brewster said he might have been more successful had he written a letter instead of telephoning.

Michener Park tenants told university officials Friday about

scheduled for Lister Hall. The Michener Park cleanup could cost a bundle, and take months to complete. If the university moves tenants out of one floor at a time to do the job, each floor will take from one to two weeks to do, according to Martin Kratz, chairperson of the Michener Park tenants' asbestos committee.

"That's a bit of a problem," Kratz said. "Because Galbraith House has 21 floors, it could take almost a year at that rate."

the plates. "It's an eight-inch disc, covered with aluminium on both sides," Brewster said. "What appears to happen over the years is...the thing tends to fall apart."

The dust collects in the fixture's globe, he said, and is undisturbed until someone changes a bulb or cleans the globe. Then, if they blow the dust out of the globe, they are exposed to asbestos dust.

"It's a short-duration, probably high-concentration exposure," said Brewster.

The university's asbestos project manager Dan Pretzlaff was surprised by Brewster's news.

"We'll try to get at that as soon as possible," he said Monday.

In the meantime, Michener Park residents are advised not to disturb the dust in their light fixtures.

Board 'echoes gov't'

CALGARY (CUP) — The Board of Governors at Mount Royal College does not adequately reflect the community it serves but rather it is an echo of the provincial government, according to faculty and students at the college.

Out of the board's ten members, only two are elected. The other eight are appointed by the provincial minister of advanced education, Jim Horsman.

Hey U of A... happy seventy-five

The Alberta-75 logo has a competitor, of sorts.

The U of A has chosen a symbol for its 75th anniversary year from July 1982 to June 1983.

The logo was chosen from among 54 submissions to a competition held last fall.

"The chairman of the Board is an old bag-man for the provincial Conservative party and many of the other members are involved in the party so there is virtually no opposition to the government on the board except perhaps the student association president," said Dick Collier of the College English Department and former president of the faculty association.

Timothy Lau, of Edmonton, didn't get first prize for his design, however, since certain improvements had to be made before it was accepted by the five-person jury.

The logo incorporates the number 75, the letters U of A, and a human figure.

But some Board of Governors members were mystified when they were presented with the logo Friday.

Board member Ted Allan said, "I'm not a graphic artist, so do you think Dr. Prashing (director of Community Relations) could please decipher the prize winner for us?"

Some non-Board members have their own interpretations of the logo.

One anonymous student says it obviously symbolizes "a student paying continually-rising tuition fees, trying to get out of the hole."

Other Board members include representatives of Superior Oil Ltd., Harry Bass Oil Ltd., Canada Northwest Land Company Ltd., and a number of local law firms.

"Executives and lawyers have a vested interest in government policy so they can't mediate the differences between what is best for the college and what is best for the government," Collier said.

"All government appointments are obviously people with similar viewpoints to the Conservative government," said Chris Frazer, president of the Mount Royal College Student Association.

They are not going to be critical of any policy set out by the provincial government, Frazer said. He cited the recent tuition fee hike as an example of the Board of Governors going along with any proposal from the Minister of Advanced Education.

Collier said since 1975, when the Board was first established, the faculty has pushed for a Board more representative of the general community. At that time the faculty suggested that six people sit on the board "to represent as completely as possible a cross-section of the community the college serves."

The faculty's proposal was rejected by the college academic council.

According to Collier, the government's argument for having such a monopoly on the board is that if they are paying the bills then they should be making the policies.

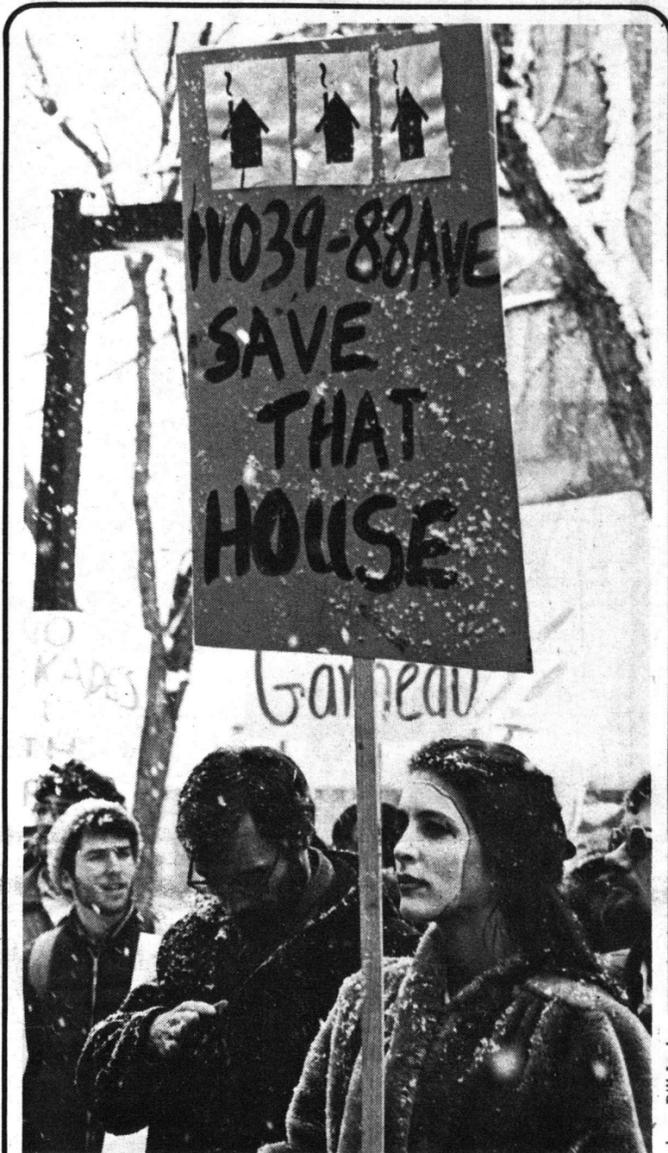


photo Bill Inglee

Rally cry: Save Garneau

by Mike Walker

About 150 shouting, sign-waving students withstood snow and cold Thursday to struggle against the university's plans for redevelopment of North Garneau.

Students' Union president Nolan Astley accused the administration of ignoring the 1973 U of A Senate Task Force report calling for a 15-year moratorium on North Garneau development. (About 300 students live in the area in 80 houses.)

In addition, he said, the Board of Governors, the highest authority on campus, designated North Garneau in 1977 to be used for student housing only. He said current administration plans violate this policy because they include carparks and tennis courts as well as space for future academic expansion.

He criticized the university ignoring these important policies because it wants 650 new beds in time for the athletes for the 1983 World University Games.

"North Garneau is too valuable an area to change for 10 days' use in 1983," he said. "I think the university should leave the Garneau area alone right now... There are other sites they could be using." He named the area south of Corbett Hall, the University Farm and land beside the Michener Park apartments as possible sites.

University president Myer Horowitz restated his commitment, made last fall, to the preservation of the area.

"I will not support any development which includes anything other than residential

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Board of Governors ok's food, rent increases

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