

"Budget:..."

The Gateway

Tuesday, September 25, 1984

...a mathematical confirmation of your suspicions."

A.A. Latimer

Bilbo Baggins sent us

by Gilbert Bouchard

You're not too late. Organizers of Dreamquest '84 have extended their application deadline by two days especially for university students.

"We're taking registration until 5 pm on September 27. And as a special for U of A students, anybody who says 'Bilbo Baggins sent us' will be given a 10 per cent discount on groups of 5, and a 20 per cent rebate on groups of 10 if they say that they heard of us either through CJSR or the Gateway," said Dreamquest organizer Sheree Zielke.

Zielke describes Dreamquest as "a live roleplaying game set in a resort 45 minutes outside of town which has all kinds of geographical landmarks on it. People will be bused out to the site on Friday night (September 28) in costume, and the game will start the next morning when the players get their adventure packages."

Players also get to name the character they play, but have to play the whole game under that name.



Photo Tim Kubash

So you think you have everything under control. So did the guy with the staff.

"The idea of the game is to solve a quest," said Zielke. "There are monsters in several locations which are hiding clues and treasures - some of the which are real treasures. What you're attempting to do is to find clues either by solving riddles, combating monsters, or combating other players, and then collect all those clues to solve the puzzle of the land of Brecht. In this

case you have to figure out what has been stolen, where it is, how to put it back, and what secret sacred ceremony is needed to break the spell.

Dreamquest needs no prior knowledge of fantasy games, and the combat that Zielke spoke about earlier is "through the use of dice and spells on spell cards. It's a game

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Computing Services gamble on Apple

MicroStore now open

by Ann Grever

The new MicroStore may be a risk, but Computing Services and Apple computers are both willing to gamble students and staff will take advantage of the savings and service and buy their micro computer on campus.

The opening of the store follows an agreement between the U of A and Apple Canada, approved by U of A President Myer Horowitz and Apple Canada President Dave Kilam. The Microstore is administered by Computing Sciences.

The store opened on September 17 and is located in the General Services Building (103P).

It offers a full line of Apple computers, including the Macintosh, the Apple IIC, the Apple IIE and the Lisa, all with corresponding software.

According to John Stasiuk, Computing Services section leader, microcomputers are much more flexible than the standard terminals which are presently available around campus.

"They are a better facility, the

micro-computers can communicate back through the system and still work independently."

Word processing, Stasiuk says, is "one of the large things the micro-computer could be used for" especially for students.

The computers are also capable in other areas such as graphics, budgeting spread sheets, project scheduling, business, games of strategy, and of course programming, with some models soon to be capable of different operating languages such as PASCAL.

One of the clear advantages of the store, next to the savings (Apple provided an educational discount to the University), is the lack of high pressure sales staff. The staff, including Stasiuk, Liz Armitage and Dave Halberton, are very academically minded. They are acquainted with the U of A systems and possibilities of the microcomputers both in and out of the systems for use by students or staff members.

The hours for the MicroStore are 9 to 3:30.

University housing too expensive

by Gilbert Bouchard

"The main problem with housing on campus is the price," says Student's Union Housing and Transportation Commissioner Grant Borbridge.

"Students can't live in University of Alberta residences because of the cost," said Borbridge, "I've found several very nice apartments

that cost less than Garneau."

Borbridge thinks the Lister Hall complex is ridiculously over priced.

"\$225 a month is a terrible price to pay for just a room," said Borbridge. "That's the price of half of a nice two bedroom apartment."

"Lister Hall is convenient, but you have to consider what you're getting for your money. For exam-

ple, you get just one room that by average is just 10 feet by 15 feet, and with that room you give up your privacy, you have to share a wash-room, share a TV room, and lose the option of personalized cooking," Borbridge said. "In residence you have to expect that they won't have everything you want to eat all the time."

Another drawback to residence living, according to Borbridge, is the growing number of residence regulations.

"Residence life used to be fun because there were fewer rules. Now you have to watch what you do much more than you once had to. People who are coming back to visit can't believe all the things you can't do anymore," said Borbridge.

Borbridge believes that the tightening of regulations is one of the causes of Lister Hall's difficulties in attracting students. (Lister Hall can hold up to 1300 students, but only 1000 students are living in residence this year, which is down from the 1100 students that Housing and Food services budgeted for creating a deficit of close to \$500,000.)

"Although it's a good way to meet people in first year, you don't see people coming back in their second and third years," said Borbridge.

Borbridge also commented that Housing and Food Services' attempt to make residences more academically oriented might also have a detrimental effect on attracting students.

Housing and food should isolate the academic areas and loosen up the rest of the place," said Borbridge.

"As for improvements, I know of one thing that Housing and Food could do to improve the residence, but it would cost a lot of money and would take 75-80 per cent of the rooms, to make 3 rooms into 2 rooms. They have already done that for some of the rooms - each of the hall vice-presidents have one of the large sized rooms - and it makes a big difference," Borbridge said. Another possible improvement

would be to follow the lead of the Faculte St. Jean Residence (also owned by Housing and Food Services) which closed down its cafeteria facilities and set up kitchens in the residence itself for students to do their own cooking.

"They went from having vacancies to turning people away," said Borbridge.

Borbridge added this could be something Housing and Food might want to do on a large scale, since the residence building already have facilities on each floor that could be renovated into kitchens.

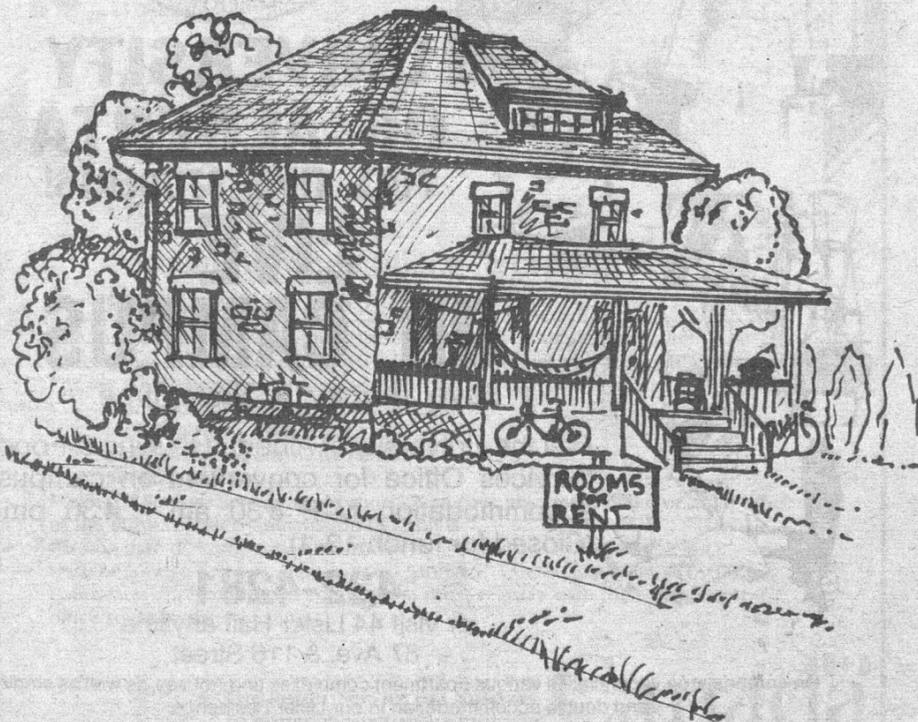
In fact, Housing and Food is serious enough about making improvements to its services that it is organizing a fieldtrip to the central United States to study their housing and food systems.

"Myself, Housing and Food Director Gail Brown, Food Manager Jim Gougere, and two students on the Food Committee (Joyce Hostle of Pembina Hall and Don Chidlowe) are being sent to four U.S. universities in early October to study alternative food programs and to look at what the trends are in student housing.

"We're going to be looking at how to improve our own scrip, residence and food programs," said Borbridge.

"The U.S. is five years ahead of Canada as far as residence housing goes," said Borbridge. The group will visit universities in Chicago, Illinois; Minomonie, Wisconsin; Anderson, Indiana; and another university in the Chicago area.

Housing woes affect university students across Canada. See page 2.



graphic: Doug Bird