

Cooking classes needed? Kitchens replace cafeteria



photo Ray Giguere

Faculte St. Jean Residence; students soon to be cooking with gas as three kitchens installed in 73 year-old building.

by Gilbert Bouchard

Students residing in the Faculte St. Jean Residence have voted to close down their cafeteria.

Fred Kreiner, representative for the St. Jean Tenant Association on the Housing and Food Advisory Council (HFAC), blames both the reluctance of Housing and Food Services to administer St. Jean and the attitude of students for the cafeteria's closing.

"Housing and Food doesn't think it is equitable to run a cafeteria for 40 people," but when the Housing and Food budget that outlined the closing of St. Jean after this year's summer session was presented to the HFAC, 70% of the residents polled favored the closing.

Kreiner says the cafeteria's large deficit (\$30,000 this year) prompted the close, and that Housing felt they could increase occupancy in the 73-year-old residence by installing kitchen facilities.

Three kitchen areas will be installed with three groups of "twenty people sharing one cooking area with 14 burners, 2 fridges,

2 fridge/freezers, 1 freezer, 4 ovens, and one microwave in total. Housing is budgeting for 60 people." The cost for all these renovations will be about \$70,000.

But the students do have some reservations. Kreiner fears that "communal fridges won't work, and this is the common consensus." He feels, "It could work in small groups with private fridges in individual rooms. Students have requested to rent or lease small fridges but we have no guarantee that we could even use them due to the building's wiring."

Kreiner concluded that Housing and Food have made "no serious attempts to improve services ever. It's easy for them to close down the cafeteria, they've wanted to close the cafeteria for years. They've wanted our complaints so they'd have an excuse to close this place down."

Andre Thibert, a student housing officer responsible for St. Jean's transformation, was enthusiastic on the future of this type of housing facility. He says there is "a definite market for this

kind of housing. It is very popular and gaining support throughout most universities across Canada; a halfway point between residence and apartment living."

Thibert hopes the revamped residence will achieve maximum occupancy and says he has received "positive feedback from people who would not live in residence as it is, but would move in with kitchen facilities."

Thibert is also not losing sleep over the future of the building, "nobody knows when, or if, the building will be torn down, and it is economically feasible to put in these facilities. I doubt that anything will be done for the next five years."

As for the building's standards, Thibert asserts "the building will be up to standards," and reassures students that small private fridges will be allowed in any room that has two outlets.

Thibert concluded that "the students are in an apartment fever and students as age 18 and 19 are much more independent than they were 10 years ago, and will appreciate this new wrinkle in university housing."

Rape victim fears repercussions

OTTAWA (CUP) — A recent incident at the University of Ottawa has starkly revealed the need for a sexual harassment grievance committee there.

An international student who was having problems with a class approached a professor for help. He offered tutoring at his home. When she went, he made physical advances and when she protested, he didn't stop. He raped her.

The woman said nothing of the incident that occurred in early February, until one week later when she told two of her classmates. They were shocked and urged her to visit the women's centre on campus.

She went but refused to make a formal complaint for several reasons. She had recently become a Canadian citizen and felt very

frightened and confused. She was not sure whether the professor's actions weren't normal, but her classmates assured her they weren't.

Roxanne Lepine of the U of O Women's Centre says in these cases the centre offers the victim support, understanding and compassion. If the woman chooses to report the incident they will assist her in any way they can, but if she doesn't their hands are tied.

And the U of O isn't the only university faced with the problem of sexual harassment, although it is one of the few that has yet to establish procedure to deal with the problem. Campuses that have established such a procedure include Concordia University, McGill University, the University of Alberta and York University.

The University of Toronto is in the process of creating one.

Yvon McNicoll, U of O superintendent of protection services, said in his six years at the university no rapes have been reported on campus. Does this mean none have occurred?

"No, it doesn't mean that it doesn't happen," he said. "It means that we don't know about it."

Caroline Andrew of the women's studies co-ordinating committee says fear of reprisal has to be alleviated before students will come forward with complaints.

"It's difficult for students to report this sort of thing as there are so many other variables. Marks are a consideration as well as how it will affect the rest of their education."

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Symbolic sacrifice proves futile

SASKATOON (CUP) — In a symbolic demonstration of support for an expanded Asian studies department, a group of University of Saskatchewan students burned \$250,000 on the steps of a campus administration building.

The symbolic Chinese bills were burned as part of a march to demonstrate support for their cause.

The Chinese burn symbolic money in order to obtain favours from the gods, said Shannon Storey, a representative of the

group. "The administration is saying that Far Eastern Studies isn't

- that is, the administration - that we think it is."

The Far Eastern Studies department was slated, in the fall of 1981, to be phased out by 1984 as a cutback in the university budget. The move drew strong opposition from students and faculty.

Last semester, the faculty submitted a proposal for a new Asian Studies Department. The program includes classes of interest to students from all faculties.

According to Storey, the protestors marched to demonstrate to the administration

that there is student support for the new department.

"There are students on this campus who care about access to the quality of education. We are trying to show the administration that we consider Asian Studies part of that quality of education."

"Some people on campus seem to feel that Asian Studies isn't useful, and should be the first to go when the budget's tight," said Storey. "We want to show students and administration that this department fills a real social need."

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