

# Politicians promise housing

**TORONTO (CUP)** — Housing is foremost in the minds of most campus politicians as they attempt to mobilize students for the Nov. 12 municipal elections across Ontario.

Student leaders in Hamilton, Waterloo, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Kingston and Toronto are pressing candidates for commitments to sufficient and affordable accommodation near campus.

Vacancy rates have fallen noticeably. The province-wide rate today is 0.6 percent (less than one house empty for every 100 residents) compared to 0.9 in 1982 and 2.0 in 1979. A healthy level is 1.5 to 2.0, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Municipal elections in Ontario were last held in 1981.

The city of Waterloo, where one third of the city's 60,000 residents are students, recently established a municipal task force to investigate student housing. The city complains that students may be getting accommodation at the expense of families.

Students from the University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University and Conestoga College have formed a group to inform students about that and other election issues.

At Queen's University in Kingston, the student council is taking mayoral and aldermanic candidates, as well as the media, on a "housing horror tour" to show

them the poor quality of student housing.

In Thunder Bay, Lakehead University Councillor Dave Rawlings summed up the housing situation in three words: "There isn't any."

Students at Hamilton's McMaster University, who recently won the fight for a student bus pass, are now waging an uphill battle against zoning bylaws for more housing near the university.

Student leaders at the University of Toronto are lobbying candidates for more affordable housing, and have organized can-

didates' debates on campus.

According to a U of T housing director, "Cheap apartments within walking distance of the university simply do not exist."

Nearby accommodation is also a problem at the university of Windsor, but the student council admits there isn't much the city can do.

"There's no room to build close to the university," said councillor Rob Harrison.

Instead, the council is concentrating on getting a discounted student bus pass — the second most critical election issue for students across the province.

# Council gets flak over trip

**WOLFVILLE (CUP)** — Students at Acadia University protested their student council's several thousand dollar trip to a conference in Maine by blocking the bus and hurling abuse at the councillors as they left campus.

to cut costs.

"They pulled out of SUNS to save several thousands on this trip," says Geoff McLean, one of the students who led the protest.

Student council vice-president Ian MacIsaac says Acadia students will benefit from the skills the councillors learned at the conference. The conference featured seminars in programming, peer pressure, career counselling and alcohol awareness.

The student council sent 22 representatives to a meeting of the Association of College Unions International in Maine at a cost of \$225 each. Shortly before, they voted to pull out of the Students' Union of Nova Scotia

# Breakthrough

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develop normally. In other words, it's fatherhood, not manhood that's affected, he says.

Wiebe says he will test the substance on primates shortly, but has yet to schedule experiments with human volunteers. While THP is non-toxic, Wiebe says he doesn't yet know if the effects of the substance are reversible. "We don't have the answer yet," he says.

Wiebe is one of the few researchers currently studying alternatives to female contraception. The federal government's 75 percent cut to the Canadian Committee on Fertility Research earlier this year indicates a lack of concern about improving contraception for men, according to Lynne Robson, an executive director of Planned Parenthood, a national family planning and advocacy organization.

Robson says while contraception "used to be a male concern," women's awareness of reproduction swung the pendulum the other way. However, society now expects women to bear the burden of reproductive responsibility, she says.

While research on male contraception continues in several centres, the public will likely have to wait before other forms of safe birth control are available for men. "To date there is no effective chemical male contraceptive," Wiebe says.

"Well, mustard gas is effective, but it would kill you. It must also be acceptable," he says.

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