Students Lack Tenancy Rights

DENVER (CPS-CUP)--- Just sign here on the dotted line, the man with the key says. He points to the dorm contract. We'll take care of everything.

The unwitting student, who has no choice but to sign, rarely studies the contract to see what he's getting from the university in return for his rent. At most places, the university is a more tempermental landlord than the stereo-typical student-cheating landlord, and is less bound by local tenant-landlord law.

In most cities, landlords and tenants must give each other written notice by a specified time before evicting or moving. In many dorm contracts, the university reserves the right to move or evict the students at any time for almost any reason.

Many dorm contracts absolve the university from any resopnsibility to student's belongings if a fire or flood results from poor maintenance of the building. So if a student loses his prized stereo to an electrical fire, he better hope his parent's insurance will cover it.

When the chair in the entryway of an aprtment building is found ripped apart, the landlord doesn't bill his tenants for the danage. Many universities, however, reserve the right to assess damages to public areas to all of the students who live in the area even if everyone was at the bar whenit happened.

Most landlords do not have the right to enter a tenant's apartment without notice except for emergencies. Many universities reserve the right to enter a student's room for any purpose without fiving notice.

All of these stipulations were written into the housing contract at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo. In addition, the SUNY contract allowed housing officials to bill for damages that were found in a student room without any hearings or explanations.

And worst of all, the SUNY contract make it impossible for a student to break the contract with the housing office even if the university failed to carry out its side of the contract in any way.

The SUNY Student State Association (SA), under the leadership of Student Affairs Director Steve Schwartz, complained to University housing officials that a new contract should be drawn up giving the student more tenant rights. The housing office "stalled" and then rejected the students' "ideal" contract, Schwartz said. At which point the SA said they would be glad to meet the housing office in court.

"We think we have a very strong case," Schwartz said. "This case could have long-term precedents for other state schools and could pave the way for similar suits."

The case, however, never got to court. A lawyer for the state decided to try to negotiate with the SA lawyer out of court and the decision is still pending. Meanwhile the Student Association of the State University is forming a state-wide committee to investigate the whole question of housing contracts.

NFU Urges Continuation of Kraft Boycott Despite Lack of Funds

SASKATOON (CUP)----The National Farmers Union has announced that the Kraft boycott must continue to "simmer" and rely solely on the individual and collective conscience.

In a recent issue of the Union Farmer, official NFU publication, the Farmers Union admitted to a lack of resources to keep the boycott strong.

"In the absence of a full-time co-ordinator to maintain contact with boycott committees, both within the union and in the urban centres, the active promotion of the boycott has been reduced to individual conscience and voluntary activity."

According to the report: "In the four years since its inception it has become obvious that to adequately promote a boycott of this kind requires perpetual organization and campaigning. This, in turn, requires considerable sums of money - and more importantly - the undivided support of the broad membership and the general public."

The Farmers Union reports that there are many people throughout Canada who have faithfully boycotted Kraft since its inception at the meeting of 1000 disgruntled milk producers at Ingleside Ontario more than four years ago.

The union is confident these people will continue to support the boycott into the future.

"To such dedicated persons the boycott represents a silent protest over the growing corporate domination of our food industry by a multi-national corporation, such as Kraftco," the Union reports.

The boycott was actively

promoted and organized with picketing actions at supermarkets, pamphletering, buttons, bumper stickers, "Anti-Kraft" recipes and urban support groups.

The NFU employed a full-time co-ordinator who resigned in 1974 and was not replaced.

Board of Governors Notes...

The U.P.E.I. Board of Governors will face a motion resolving that the future meetings of the Board be open. Notice of the motion was given at the last meeting by Roger Black. Black was elected by Senate to serve on the Board in early January.

Another election, this time by the faculty, re-elected Prof. G. Winston Pineau to another term on the Board.

The highlight of a previous meeting was the approval of Baker's salary which was placed at $47,000 which, although atrocious, is in line with that offered by other universities.

Score One For the Jello Tree

HAMILTON (ZNS-CUP) --- A Canadian researcher reports that he attached electrodes to a bowl of lime Jell-o and succeeded in picking up recordings of wave activity similar to that given off by the human brain.

Upton stresses that the lime Jell-o was not doing any thinking. He says the apparent brain waves from the gelatin dessert resulted from various artificial feeding machines and respirators that were operating next to the Jell-o, causing it to vibrate.

Upton explains the tests were conducted to show doctors that E.E.G.brain wave readings can be deceptive, particularly on persons in comas who are attached to various artificial life support systems.

Upton did not explain why the lime flavour was used.

Library Bursaries...

There are five (5) $100 Library Staff Bursaries available to fulltime students are not already receiving bursaries or scholarships. These will be awarded on the basis of need.

Applications are available at the Registrar's Office and the deadline for applications is Wednesday, 18 February.

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