

# Living in HUB is no walk in the parking lot



KENT CAMERON

Would you like to combine the convenience of living right on campus with the thrill of living somewhere close to hell? We here at the University of Alberta would like to offer you a HUB bachelor unit, where “home” is a relative term.

Act now to secure this palatial, no-bedroom apartment house-in-a-mall, situated right next to the largest open-air parking lot on campus. From the clunky fridge and rock-hard floor to the grease-laden hood of the oven and the mousetrap welcoming you in the kitchen, you’ll know you’ve arrived from the day you move in.

As the sun reflects off the puke-coloured curtains and the “fresh” air vent awakens you at 6am after your first night in the unit, you’ll come to question the old adage that you get what you pay for—\$561 a month for a furnished apartment, to be exact. You’ll soon come to accept, however, that you’ll damn well get whatever the hell we feel like giving you.

If it snows, you’ll wake up shortly after the crack of dawn to the metal-to-pavement melodies of the loudest snowplows on the face of the planet. Our snowplow operators spend hours at it, but they rarely finish the job in one go, so you can generally look forward to more of the same for several

days following a snowfall as well. We wouldn’t think of waiting until you’ve woken up or of plowing the evening before, because we want to put the sweet coda into your dreams.

Speaking of music, you’ll hear plenty of it through the paper-thin excuse for a door that separates your unit from your neighbour’s. But hey, if you’d like to comment on your neighbour’s selection of tunes, you can carry on a conversation with them without leaving the comfort of your apartment, just using a normal speaking voice.

Feel like having a shower? We’ve covered the bathroom ceilings with the cheapest paint imaginable so that you can watch it blister right before your eyes after a four-minute shower. Into art, are you? Simply take a tissue and wipe gobs of paint right off the ceiling after your shower. Just don’t keep your toothbrush too close.

Edmonton can get pretty cold in the winter and pretty hot in the summer, so we’ve taken the liberty of providing you with a centrally controlled heater and air vent—you’ll never need to worry about adjusting it yourself. We’ll decide when you’re hot or cold, thank you very much, because we know you *that* well. But just in case you would like the illusion of power, we’ve installed a “thermostat” in your room. It sure looks real—but, fiddle with it as you will, you may as well be adjusting the settings on your radio, because it has *absolutely no bearing whatsoever* on the actual temperature of your room.

See, we look out for the needs of our tenants. If your neighbour tells us there are bugs in her unit, the



FILE PHOTO: KRISTINA SULATYCKI

**AT LEAST THERE’S LOTS OF LIGHT** There’s nothing like the smell of mall in the morning to get you on your way.

laughably named Ecopest will come out and drench her room in chemicals. They’ll put up a sign saying it’s safe to re-enter after several hours, but the stairwell will smell like fatal toxins for a week, just for good measure.

What’s that other smell, you ask? Well you like cars, don’t you? Don’t answer that. Everyone likes cars. That’s why we have the fresh air intake vent for your area of the building located right next to a high-traffic area outside. Feel like complaining? Instead, just breathe deep and pretend you’re at the motocross—

you might get a bit of a buzz! After all, we’re not called an institute of higher learning for nothing.

If, like the majority of students, you’re just attending school during the Fall and Winter terms, and if you plan on returning to the U of A the next year (it sometimes happens), then I encourage you to sign up for our fabulous “summer storage plan.” It’s a deal you just can’t miss. Just vacate your apartment at the end of April and pay us half your rent throughout the summer. In the case

of a bachelor’s unit, this amounts to a little over \$1000—surely pocket change for you students.

You won’t be allowed in the unit until September, except for a single two-hour visit per month, during office hours, but we’ll hold it for you when you do return—and we’ll let you keep your stuff there. Only \$1000 to store some junk for the summer and be guaranteed a unit for the coming year? “Wow, what a deal,” you might say. Silly little student—if only you knew.

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