

the Dalhousie Gazette

December 1983
Volume 116, Number 13

Students snooze while Fenwick struggles

by Simon Davidson

The legal dispute concerning Fenwick Place rental fees is continuing amid student apathy.

Dalhousie University is appealing a decision of the Rent Review Board that ruled Fenwick Place subject to rent control legislation, and assessed rents to be lower than those proposed to be charged by the university.

Despite the fact that the matter will go before the Nova Scotia Supreme Court on December 7, the students living at Fenwick Place have yet to take a stand on the issue. Students seem undisturbed even though a legal advisor for the university claims the case involves a quarter million dollars in rental fees.

Some students, like Sandy Crocker, a Dal science major who lives at Fenwick, are reluctant to rock the boat.

"It's the best deal in the city," said Crocker, adding, "The money's more important to them than us...We'd probably only waste it anyway."

This student apathy may be linked to the fact that the proceedings were initiated, albeit unintentionally, by the university. Some students may fear recriminations from the administration.

As well, legal technicalities confuse the average student and cloud the real issue—that of higher rents.

The rental office at Fenwick is serving to further student apathy, playing down the importance of the appeal.

"I've asked the rental office about the appeal," said Diane Rosenau, a Dal law student. "And every time they say it has nothing to do with us."

The office posted signs in the building saying that rents were to be paid at the original rate set by the university.

The university administration applied to the Supreme Court on November 24 for a leave to appeal, contending that the review board was acting outside their jurisdiction. Also, the university applied for a suspension of the board's order which would have allowed them to charge the higher rents and not issue rebates until the matter was resolved.

Dalhousie contends that if they issued rebates and lowered the rents they would have difficulty recovering the funds if the court ruled in their favour.

At the recent hearing the judge was surprised that the uni-

continued on page 3

