## News

# HOUSING SALE PUTS STUDENTS OUT

by C. Ricketts

If your building's on the housing hit list, you'd better start packing your bags right now.

Buildings tagged to be sold by the university will be put on the market sometime after May 10. This is to allow students and department offices time to vacate without interfering in the annual final exam crunch.

Although the sale of the housing will displace about 42 students, John Graham, Dalhousie's Director of Housing, reiterated the administration's stand that it would likely not have too much effect on the search for accommodation next year since the private owners would likely rent them back out to students. "I can't really see them being used for any other purposes, given their location,"

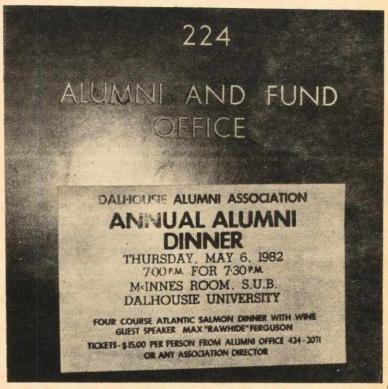
Graham agreed that the prohibitive cost of housing may affect some people's decision to attend university, but was quick to note that there is never a lack of applications for residences. "It's dangerous to say that students have a lot of money, although there are a few stu-

dents who do," he said. He continued that housing costs are real market costs facing the public as a whole, not just students as a particular group. They cannot be compared to educational costs, according to Graham, because education is sheltered due to funding from sources other than the students themselves.

Besides the sale of studentused housing, there are other problems for students not living at home in Halifax. Residence rents are going up next year, as part of the austerity program.

Fenwick fees will be raised 15 per cent for the coming year, with residence rooms going at \$2642 for a single room and \$2510 for double occupancy.

Students who have problems in the fall trying to find a room may refer to the Housing Service located on the first floor of the SUB. Emergency housing is available in Howe Hall and Fenwick while students continue to search. Housing ads from the daily paper are posted there, as well as vacancies phoned in by landlords. A list of rental agencies in the Halifax area is also available on request.



#### Elections unfair to women?

by Ken Burke

While Dalhousie students are lobbying the Board of Governors for smaller tuition hikes, many may not be aware that elections are taking place for the Board at the same time. Every year, the Dalhousie Alumni Association elects three members to sit on the Board for

a three-year term. And to be elected, it helps to be a man.

Section 8.2 of the Dalhousie Alumni Association's by-laws calls for the election of two (male) alumni to the Board of Governors, and one (female) alumna. The by-laws also call for the nomination of at least

four men and two women for ation maintains a six men to the positions. Alumni Board of Governor elections occur annually, as there are nine elected Alumni representatives on the Board, with three terms expiring

This ensures the elected contingent from the Alumni Associthree women ratio. Of the fortytwo people currently on Dalhousie's Board of Governors, only nine are women.

Donna Curry, the current President of the Alumni Association, doesn't feel the election quotas are a serious matter. "I honestly think it's reasonable the way it is now," she said. "I don't want to scream about getting more women."

When asked, nobody within the Alumni Association could say how many years ago the rule was instituted, but all agreed it had been in effect for a

Dr. Chester B. Steward, Vice-President of the association and a candidate in the Board of Governors elections, suggested the rule could have been instated when there was a problem in getting women elected to the Board. "When a group of men and women ran for the Board, the men were better known and got elected," he said. Curry agreed, pointing out that, "When they did this (instituting the quota) they were probably concerned with getting women on the board.'

Heather Herrington, chairperson of the Women's Committee at Dal, has sent a letter to the Alumni Association calling for elimination of the quotas. think it's ridiculous," she said. "It looks like a hold-over from 1900." Peter Rans, Presidentelect of Dalhousie Student Union, agrees that the rule is out-dated, "antidivulean" in his verbiage. Rans expressed surprise that nobody in the Alumni had changed the rule.

"I don't think it's been considered in the last few years," said Steward, concerning the Alumni elections. "One of the things we've got on our back-burner is a review of our by-laws.'

### Jill Allen hopes to make student aid more accessible

by Cathy McDonald

'Student Aid is the best thing that's happened to this country since sliced bread," according to Jill Allen, recent appointee to the student aid Higher Appeals Board. Allen ia a fourth year Arts student at Dalhousie,

majoring in History.

Allen was appointed April 4 by Minister of Education, Terry Donahoe, after the Students Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) did not respond to a request for nominations.

Allen is pleased with her

appointment, which will allow her to have some input into student life. She is tired of "four years of bitching in the cafeteria (about difficulties in obtaining aid.) Currently 38 percent of Dalhousie students receive government aid.

The importance of having a student on the three-member board is to bring an awareness of the changing realities students face, such as tuition increases, Allen said.

The Higher Appeals Board is the last opportunity for a student to contest the assessment of his or her financial need, after first approaching the Lower Appeals Board. "Student Aid officials don't know Joe Schmuck student from a hole in the ground," Allen said. "Obviously, the student isn't lying on the bloody (application) form."

The Board takes into consideration special circumstances where a family cannot give the required amount of support as calculated in the student aid guidelines. Situations such as an illness in the family, or where resources are tied up in mortgage payments are examples where a higher amount of aid could be justified.

Allen said whe will try to be critical and keep an open mind. "Obviously the money doesn't come from everywhere. The purpose of the board is to ensure every student gets what is fair and equitable to the student and to the taxpayers of

Nova Scotia.' The maximum allowable student aid in Nova Scotia is \$3,500, \$1,800 in the form of a loan, and \$1,700 as a bursary.

The Students Unions of Nova Scotia (SUNS) had lobbied successfully to increase the bursary proportion \$500, from \$1200 to \$1700. This became available this year.

Starting this summer, the student aid program will be reviewed jointly by the federal and provincial governments. Allen said that if approached, she would give suggestions for improvements in the program. having had first hand experience in seeing it work.

Allen said she has had personal problems with the system. and could not obtain a student loan last year. "I know lots of people who have had hassles, and others who had no problems." She said she hopes to 'make the wheels more greased."

#### Security vehicle use restored

by Ken Burke

The Dal Security vehicle is back on the streets.

On Monday afternoon, Max Keeping, director of Dal Securrescinded an order which cut off access to the vehicle. Only Keeping, his "delegate", or a supervisor in case of an emergency were allowed to use the transportation. Keeping said that the move hadn't worked out, and Security was reverting to the old system of vehicle use.

However, there appears to be a huge rift between Keeping and many full-time security guards. Since the article "Security Sent Walking" (Vol. 118, no. 25) appeared in the Gazette. other guards have come to the

Gazette expressing dissatisfaction with the work situation at Dal Security, pointing to rules such as "no smoking on campus", arbitrarily frozen wages, and especially a work schedule which has resulted in the campus being patrolled by only one guard on every night except

One guard expressed support for Keeping, though, stating, "If somebody had sat down and talked to Max, it could've been worked out. Max was a little ticked off."

Others definitely disagreed. "We can't speak to him," a security staffer said. "His main answer is, if you don't like the job, go elsewhere."