

Fire regulations

Fenwick Place not so hot

by Bob Pottle

The recent controversy regarding fire control in high rise apartments has created a fair amount of unease among students living in Fenwick Place.

The news that fire department ladders can only reach the tenth floor does not bring peace and tranquility to the hearts of those on the thirtieth. Although

a notice describing the building's safety features and fire procedures was distributed early in the first term, many may harbour doubts as to their efficiency.

According to John Graham, Director of Student Housing, Fenwick is "fire resistant", there being "no such thing as a fire proof building." The residence is the only high rise in

the city with a public address system through which instructions can be given in the event of fire. This is of prime importance in organizing evacuation and preventing panic.

In addition, a layer of concrete between floors acts to confine a fire to a single floor — theoretically. However, its effectiveness may be over-rated in the case of an extremely hot fire. A wind tunnel effect in high buildings tends to produce such fires. Fenwick has two fire escapes at the ends of each corridor. The fire doors are wooden, covered with sheet metal, and set in a metal frame. Once again, they may not last long in contact with intense heat.

There are two water-filled fire extinguishers on each floor, with a capacity of about two gallons. The extinguishers, although operated by hand pumps, are fairly effective in controlling small blazes but cannot be used against grease fires. Carbon dioxide extinguishers are needed for these, but are not readily available "for obvious reasons", presumably vandalism. These must be obtained from the main floor. If a grease fire occurred high in the building, it would be out of control by the time an extinguisher was obtained.

If a fire occurs, tenants are notified as to its location via the PA system. If it is serious enough, tenants below it are instructed to leave by means of the fire escapes. As long as it is at one end of a floor, people above can move down the fire escape at the other end. If both are blocked by fire or impassable due to smoke, tenants are instructed to move several floors above the blaze to relative safety.

Elevators cannot be used for evacuations as they tend to stop on the floor where the fire is located — to the considerable surprise of their occupants.

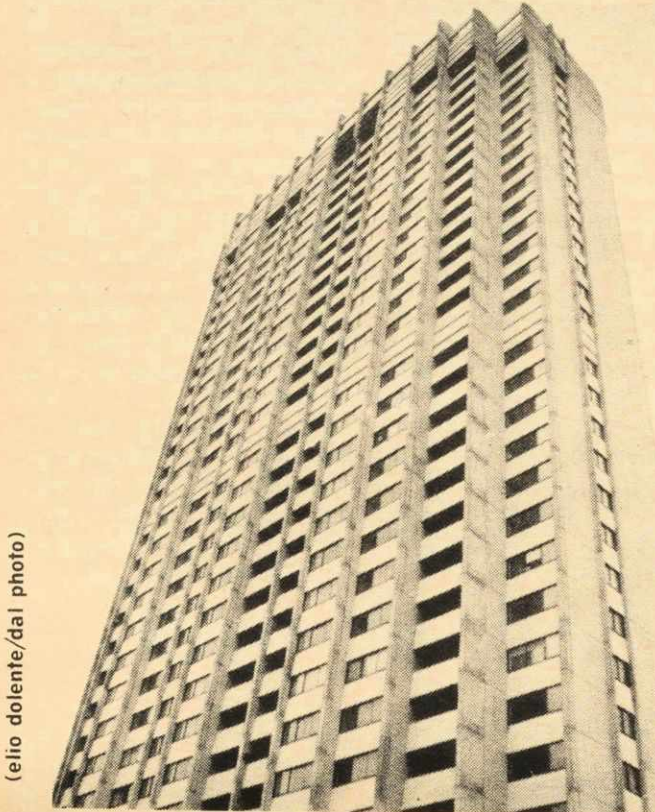
Fire fighting equipment must be carried up the fire escapes. This is obviously a problem if the fire is very high in the building and above the tenth floor, the highest they can be reached from the outside. Standpipes with attachments for hoses on each floor are located in the stair wells.

The only commonly used device for fire control missing

in Fenwick is a sprinkler system. City Council plans to institute a by-law which will make the installation of sprinklers in high rises mandatory but this may not come into effect until 1975. When asked why Fenwick did not have such a system, Graham stated that its effectiveness in fire control was over-rated and that its installation would be impractical.

Graham also stated that there had been only one fire in Fenwick, and that was during its construction. However, the Gazette found that a fire in a garbage chute last year resulted in the near asphyxiation of a girl as well as the evacuation of the building. Eye-witnesses stated that the fire escapes on the upper floors were filled with smoke.

In short, Fenwick Place is no less safe than most other high-rises. However, the safety of high-rises compared with most other buildings is another matter entirely.



(elio dolente/dal photo)

Applications for GAZETTE editor now open 'til January 15. Apply Council office, 2nd floor, SUB.

Interested in World Peace?

Freelance writer interested in international affairs and the causes of past wars and the prevention of future wars. Remuneration on time basis. Reply with resume in care of Dalhousie GAZETTE.

Tuition Fees and Residence Charges Second Installment Payment

Payment due by January 26, 1973
(Students may avoid line-ups by paying accounts early in the month).

Payable to —Cashier
Business Office
Arts and Administration Building
(cheque made payable to "Dalhousie University")

Office Hours —9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday

Penalty on accounts outstanding after January 26, 1973
Interest at 8 percent per annum

Province of Nova Scotia Bursaries

If the Nova Scotia Bursary cheques are not received at the Dalhousie University Awards Office by January 26, no interest will be charged to students who pay their accounts in full by presenting their Bursary cheque to the Cashier as soon as possible. This privilege will be extended to February 28, 1973 only.

No examination results will be released, nor will the student be permitted to register for another session until all accounts due to Dalhousie University are paid in full. The names of graduating students whose accounts are not completely paid by April 27 will not be included on graduation lists.

Dalhousie University
Business Office
January 3, 1973

G.R. George
Controller

Gay Alliance for Equality

Counselling and Information Service for Homosexuals (male and female) and other interested persons, Thurs., Fri., Sat., and Sun. 7-10 p.m. Ph. 423-7657

All calls confidential.

AROUND HALIFAX

Whisper panty hose
all sizes and colors 20 percent off
January 24-February 3

VO5 Shampoo Once a year special Normal and oily
Regular \$2.49 now \$1.49

Wilkensons Anniversary special Bonded razor with 5 blades
Only \$1.45

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

Maurice — a folk singer at the GraWood Lounge

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12

AND

SATURDAY, JANUARY 13

Godspell at the Seton Auditorium, M.S.V.U., 8 and 10 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

The Festival Singers of Canada at Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

"The Shape of things" and "About Pellan" — Killam Library Lunch Hour films.

Discoteque at GraWood Lounge.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 19

Joe Zemel Jazz Trio at GraWood Lounge

compliments of:

O'BRIEN DRUG MART
6199 Coburg Rd.