

# A view from inside a Howe Hall Triple

by D. Munkittrick

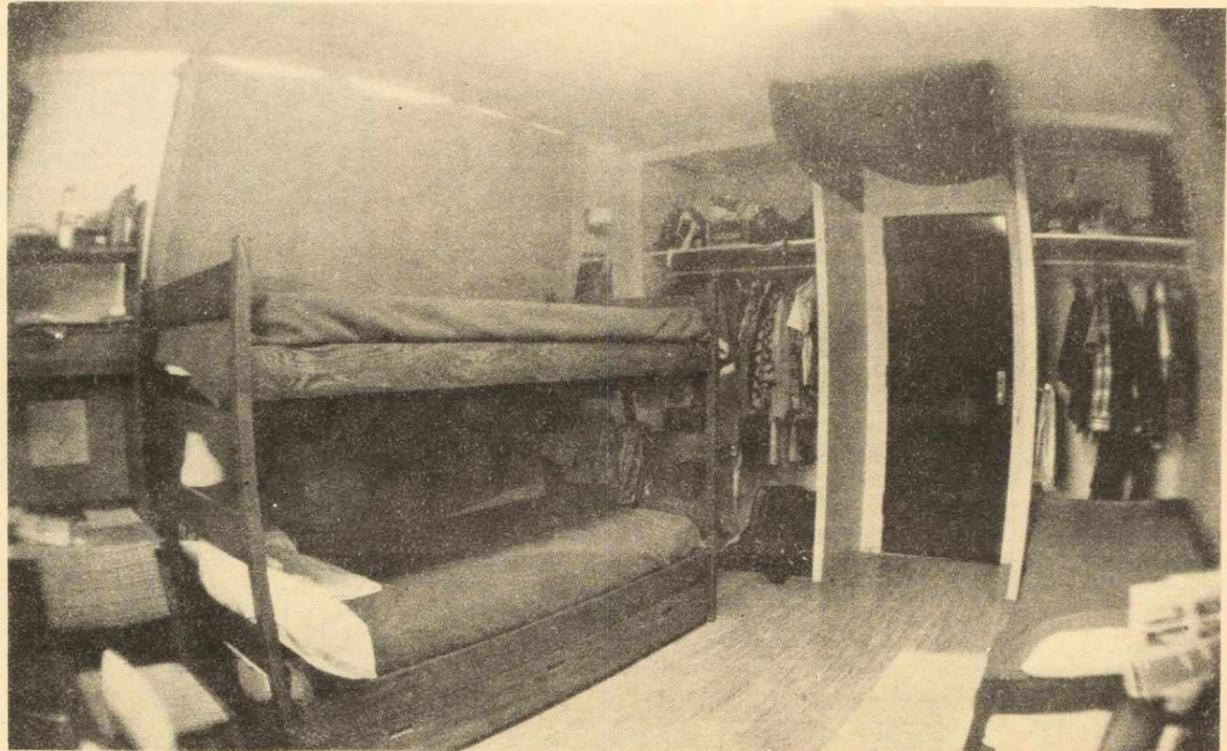
In view of the latest renovations at Howe Hall, the Gazette felt that the views of those who are living in the "new" triples and doubles would prove to be of some interest to the rest of the student body.

To begin with: the over-all attitude of most of the people spoken to was that of passive resignation. Most did not find it too difficult to make the best of a bad situation and basically felt that the conveniences of on-campus living outweighed the problems arising from the over-crowding. "There's nothing really seriously wrong with the triple set-up, it's just that it increases the problems a certain amount. But once you get used to it you just kind of accept it."

This is not to say, however, that there were no grievances or problems of any significance. In the words of one resident, "It's a completely different set-up when you have three guys instead of two. For one; if you want to get to bed early it's not like having one room-mate who may be sitting around and reading or whatever ...two guys can start a party, one guy can't." Another person had this to say, "I think it's unfair and I realize the problem but I think they just made another mistake with this arrangement."

About the rooms themselves people had little to say except to point out the obvious lack of storage space and the fact that some of the rooms had doors that could at best, be opened only half-way. A graduate student living in a single turned double put it this way, "The room is still mechanized for one person. You open the closet to put your towel away and there's only room for one, so the other person has to throw his on top." Some of the problems noticed were; a trunk that was put out in the hall simply because there was no room for it anywhere else, a double that had no reading light for the bottom bunk, and the fact that in some of the rooms the space allotted for the three desks made it difficult, if not impossible for all three people to be working at one time.

The general overcrowding in Henderson House, (where the triples are located), was exemplified by the fact that doing laundry was no longer merely a chore, but a problem. One person mentioned that it took him five hours to do his wash, (although 11:00 to 4:00 are not the best times). Dalhousie is combating this problem by installing new washers and dryers. The trouble is that the washers and dryers have yet to be installed and in fact, have been sitting in the front entrance to Howe Hall for over a



Triple Room in Howe Hall. Would Henry Hicks live here? Kerry Delorey / Dal Photo

month now.

As far as studying goes, most felt that the closeness of the library nullified any ill-effects that the new situation may cause. Besides, anyone who has ever lived in a dorm knows that it is just not a place conducive to study in the first place. A few students, however, expressed the fear that it may possibly adversely affect their grade to some degree.

The changes made in the Studley apartments this year also caused some interesting problems. Due to the fact that the apartments were not finished at the beginning of the year, the students who were to be housed there had to be temporarily relocated. As one Howe Hall resident put it, "For a while here it was really rough; they had all the Studley guys in the lounges...really bad...they had six beds in each lounge just lined up right in a row for the first three weeks of school."

Although I didn't get a chance to talk with anyone from Studley, I imagine the situation was anything but ideal. Having little else to do under the circumstances, they apparently did have quite the three week party.

In compensation for the problems caused, the people in triples pay \$75 less than people in doubles, (there is no compensation for people who live in doubles that used to be singles). There was unanimous agreement amongst the people spoke to that this was in no way a fair price in view of the circumstances. Another somewhat irksome inequity is the fact that some of triples, due to no shows or people leaving, were occupied by two and sometimes even one person. It makes one wonder why, if there is such a demand for resident housing, the rooms are not filled in an instant.

The feeling on gets from talking

with the residents can best be summed up by what a graduate student, who is living in a so called double, said, "I wanted a place in residence for my first year since there are other graduate students in residence and it's easy to get a hold of them say when you want to work. But, had I known of the situation perhaps I might have changed my ideas. I thought the living atmosphere would be much better and once I got here it was kind of an inappropriate time to look for another place. For next year I'm applying for a single...if I don't get a single I will take nothing else because I don't trust a double. So, under no circumstances will I take a double because my first assumption will be that it's a single like this one. When I thought I was going into a double room, I thought it was going to be a double room."

## Workers

Cont'd from page 1  
more likely 66-67%.

Asked about the disparate development in Canada, Mr. Scott suggested there were three reasons: the first reason was because of numbers - B.C. has 44% of the labour force unionized, compared to the national average of some 22-27%; secondly, there is a militant streak in B.C.; and thirdly, Mr.

Scott stated a high union consciousness in B.C. (e.g. no one crosses a picket line in B.C. - for any reason). Mr. Scott said that B.C. has always been a strong union province also because it has traditionally had strong employers and tough workers - similar to the

situation in Cape Breton.

The evening ended on a high-pitched note - literally! One of the listeners became embroiled in a shouting match with Mr. Scott and when neither would give in the Gazette left.

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