

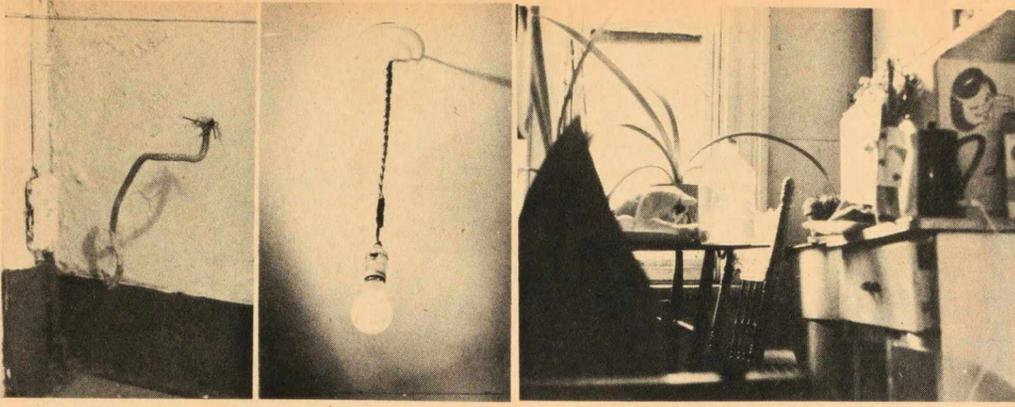
TV in rooms

KINGSTON (CUP) — Residences complete with phones, televisions and room service? Not ordinarily, but this is the case with 40 co-eds and 50 men at Queen's University who are now living in the La Salle Hotel in downtown Kingston.

The students are part of the overflow from Queen's residences.

University officials say the same arrangements might have to be made next year if residence projects are not completed on schedule.

The students pay regular residence fees to the university, but share dining facilities with other on-campus residences.



UBC faces same problem

VANCOUVER (CUP) -- Faced by a critical shortage of housing, UBC authorities have issued an urgent appeal to secure housing accommodation.

Landlords and householders are asked to register any rooms or suites or houses available anywhere in the Vancouver area within commuting distance of the campus.

The appeal was issued by acting UBC President Walter Gage. Don Munton, Chairman of the Alma Mater Society's housing committee, and international house director John Thomas.

"It's really bad," said AMS president Shaun Sullivan. "People are coming into my office and telling me they can't find anything."

University officials said the shortage is worse than ever and will probably cause real hardship unless more housing can be found quickly.

"Aggravating factors have been steadily increasing enrollment at UBC, closure of suites in single-family dwellings near the campus, and a slowing of off-campus construction," said Gage.

Also blamed are repeated delays in construction of the new residential complex Acadia Park.

"About 70 families, most of them with small children, were promised accommodation in Acadia Park and have now been unable to find places to live," said Munton. "These people have to be out of their temporary quarters by Sept. 30."

Munton estimated at least 1,500 single students are in temporary accommodations.

Student Housing:-

Quality down; price up

This year marks a climax in a long-standing problem—the problem of adequate good-quality housing for Halifax university students.

At present, a student who does not reside permanently in the city is faced with the necessity of finding living quarters for the coming academic year. Broadly speaking, he has two alternatives: he can either live in one of the residences provided by the university itself, or he can undertake to find accommodation outside the university community.

In the case of a student attempting to rent an apartment, there is a great likelihood that he will encounter difficulty solely on the basis of his student status.

By way of illustration, Don Lun, a Dalhousie student, is currently attempting to rent an apartment. Following up an advertisement in the newspaper last week, he was shown through an apartment by a real estate agent who asked that Lun let him know whether or not he would want to take up occupancy. Two days later, the owner of the apartment, upon learning that Lun did wish to rent, informed him that he would, under no circumstances, accept students as tenants in his building. This same apartment is still being advertised as vacant.

Another Dal student told of going to see an apartment which was advertised as willing to accept students. He expressed dis-

gust at the condition of the apartment in question, and the owner replied: "If students are going to act like animals, then let them live like animals."

Still another landlord expressed the view that students are generally considered "undesirable tenants". In two instances, students reported landlords as having said: "Students are a sure way for a building to lose its reputation as a respectable place to live. We wouldn't consider renting to them unless it reached the point where we couldn't get any other type of tenants."

The student is at a double disadvantage when seeking accommodation, on one hand because of his limited financial means, and on the other hand, because of his need to reside within a reasonable distance from the campus. The majority of students are not in the position of having their own cars, a fact which restricts them to a relatively small radius around the university.

This situation puts Halifax landlords in a position to demand exorbitant rents for whatever accommodation they might have to offer, while at the same time they are under no obligation whatsoever to meet any minimal standards with respect to the condition of their buildings. The student has little hope of success if he demands lower rent or an improvement in his surroundings.

There is the realization, both on the part of the landlord and of the prospective tenant, that the student must be prepared to pay a maximum amount for a minimum of quality.

In the past few years, rent in the city has risen considerably and rapidly. This can be in part explained by the rising cost of living, but at the same time it is clear that in many instances landlords have taken advantage of the increased number of students seeking accommodation to repeatedly raise their rents, with no visible improvement in the standard of housing which they offer. Generally speaking, the standards of accommodation available to students are far below what might be expected from the rents. Landlords often express a bias "Take it or leave it" policy knowing that the position of the student is a desperate one.

What are the alternatives to the widespread discrimination and exploitation???

In the majority of cases, the one alternative to "living out" is that the student take advantage of the residence facilities provided by the university itself—but the student must, at the same time, be prepared for the fact that such facilities do not supply satisfactory surroundings in proportion to what he is required to pay. The food is mediocre at best,

they are just about impossible to find."

One male student told of renting an apartment with little difficulty by telling the owner that he was employed by a local business firm. "The owner checked up on my story though, and before I signed the lease, he told me he had found another tenant. As it turned out, the apartment was vacant for almost a month after that time."

This year, the opening of the new Married Students' Residence has solved the problem of housing for some married couples. However, delays in its completion have resulted in many students having to find some other temporary quarters until the finishing touches are put on the building.

The case of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Cornish is typical of the situation of many others. The Cornishes are presently living in a coach-house near the King's College campus, and although their name is on a waiting list for the Married Students' Residence, they do not expect to be able to move in until January. Situations of this nature serve to emphasize the fact that the shortage of student housing facilities affects not just a few, but many students.

Of the couples who actually have taken up residence in the new Married Students' Residence there appears to be a marked



division of opinion about what it has to offer. One young woman, speaking in favor of their facilities said: "As far as we are concerned, it is ideal. Rent is completely reasonable, and there are advantages here that we wouldn't have in an ordinary apartment." Foremost among these advantages she mentioned, was the provision for nursery care, under the supervision of fully qualified registered nurses.

On the other hand, another couple who were interviewed felt that the rent was somewhat higher than a married university student should be expected to pay. Said the wife: "Facilities like a nursery and janitor service are unnecessary luxuries for a young married couple on a limited budget... the ideal way to approach the situation from an economical standpoint would be to establish a small-scale married students' cooperative. In such a system, duties like baby-sitting and building maintenance would be carried out by the students themselves on a rotation basis. These systems have been found to work very satisfactorily in other university communities."

The situations which have been described provide a timely reminder that, despite the progress which has been made, student housing is still a vast area for improvement. The power lies in the hands of the students themselves as a united body, striving for such things as: more freedom for those students who choose to live in the university residences; some degree of standardization of both quality and price of apartments available to students; removal of barriers of discrimination against student tenants in local apartment buildings.

Kingston landlords bigots

KINGSTON (CUP) — Kingston landlords and apartment owners discriminate against foreign students, a West Indian student at Queen's University claims.

David Roett, an engineering postgraduate student from Barbados says he telephoned one house and asked to look at an apartment for rent. The landlady was agreeable until she thought to ask where he was from.

When he replied "from the West Indies" she said he wouldn't find the apartment suitable. He asked to see it anyway, but the landlady refused.

The apartment was listed by the Queen's placement and housing service.

Noel Brown, a West Indian physics grad student said he feels the service should not list housing which discriminates.

"The University is an international sort of place, and should not sanction such action," he said.

Saunders said some landlords ask specifically for foreign students, who are thought to be less rowdy and troublesome.

Brown also claims he and his wife also met discrimination. At one apartment, he said, before he and his wife had a chance to speak they were told "I don't think you'd like this place."

Elsewhere they were told "The place was just taken."

In some places they were bluntly told that the landlord would rather not rent to foreign students, Brown said.

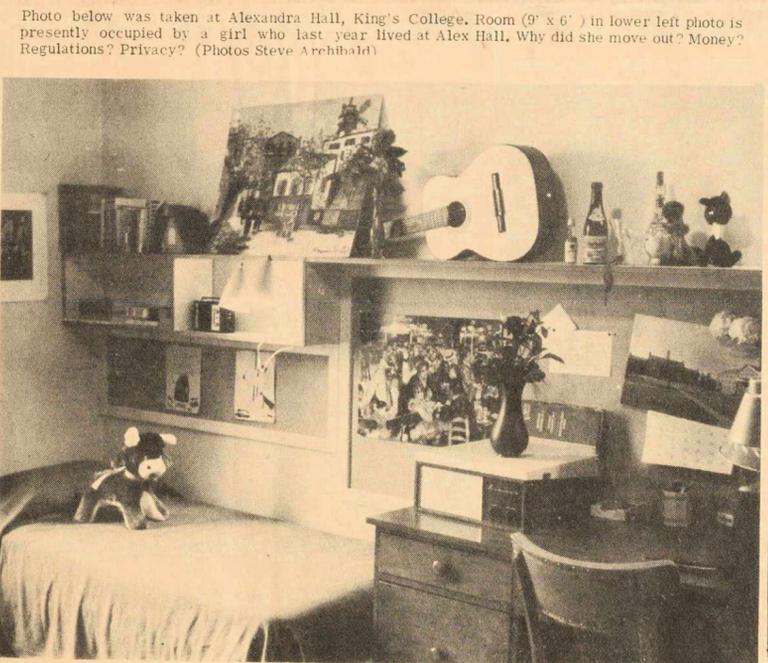


Photo below was taken at Alexandra Hall, King's College. Room (9' x 6') in lower left photo is presently occupied by a girl who last year lived at Alex Hall. Why did she move out? Money? Regulations? Privacy? (Photos Steve Archibald)

discrimination

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- UMSU President Chris Westdal Tuesday charged that the University of Manitoba is "participating in discrimination against non-white students."

The University has denied this charge.

In an open letter to Dr. Hugh H. Sanderson, President of the University, Westdal said, "It has come to the attention of the University of Manitoba Students' Union that the University maintains discriminatory off-campus residence lists."

"In other words, the University lists accommodation that is available to all students, regardless of their race or colour, and maintains a second list of accommodation for white students only."

In the letter, Westdal said he believed the University "must not be a party to discriminatory practices."

The letter concluded, "It saddens me to think that an institution such as the University which, by definition, cannot subscribe to any practice of racial discrimination has stooped to accommodate the racial prejudice of others in our community."

The letter was released to all local newspapers, radio and television stations.

In a written reply, Sanderson said the two lists maintained by the University actually differentiated between people who preferred to take in overseas students and people who had not expressed such a preference.

"I am naturally unhappy if some homeowners have special preferences in students."

Students of ALL faculties:

PANEL DISCUSSION

Tuesday, October 3, 6:30 PM, Rm. 21, A&A

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For further information contact the Student Placement Office

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