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**HOME, SWEET HOME** — While this is an extreme example of student housing in Halifax, conditions such as this do exist. The bottles in the case on the right were put there by the landlord, the student assured The Gazette. He added the pipes were useful for drying clothes on.

(Photo by Purdy)

## MATTRESSES, BABIES, DOGS ANNOY STUDENTS IN DIGS

(The following report is the result of a two-week survey of student housing conditions by Gazette staffers August Visman and Cal Hindson. We think it deserves the close attention of both students and the University Administration.) — Eds.

A survey of Dalhousie students living off-campus and away from home reveals that the great majority have single rooms, eat at restaurants or the Men's Residence, and do their laundry as infrequently as possible at the nearest coin emporium. Most of those questioned felt that they were getting a square deal; however, lumpy mattresses, wailing babies hairy dogs, and generally inadequate lighting were frequent complaints.

Room rents range between seven and nine dollars per week. Those who have breakfast included pay an additional two dollars. Laundry bills vary from one to three dollars per week, depending on whether or not one is allergic to soap. The greatest expenditure is for meals, which no-one could hold down to less than \$12 per week. All of those polled estimated their total outlay for essentials to be between \$20 and \$25 per week.

#### "DUMPS" CRITICIZED

There was general agreement that the lists of addresses supplied by the Business Office had been helpful in locating rooms at the beginning of the session. Criticism of the service was levied mostly against the "dumps" that were listed, as well as the long delay between the time a room was rented and the time its listing was crossed off. One thoughtful pre-Dent student remarked: "I found my room through the Business Office, but not until I had wasted a day slogging through a series of depressing holes which would have insulted a dog. Also, a lot of places had already been rented."

The same student suggested several improvements which could be made. First, he felt that for very little expense, the Students Council could hire a few local

students immediately prior to registration week, and have them inspect and make a physical inventory of each place when it is listed. Such an inventory would take account of a desk, condition of the bed, closet space, lights, the extent of kitchen privileges offered, and the presence or absence in the house of babies, dogs, and other wild animals. This, he felt, would provide an objective valuation for the person renting the room, and would save students a great deal of time now spent on wild goose chases.

#### FEEDBACK SHOW

Further, he recommended that the Students' Council hire someone during registration week to telephone each place on the list once a day to see if it is still available. This would keep listings accurate and save a lot of time. He added: "The feedback we now get is terribly slow, and I actually ran into a place still listed as open which had been rented to a Tech student for ten days!"

Several people indicated that next year they would prefer to live in residence or share an apartment with other students. Reasons varied, but most seemed disgruntled over the lack of company and their inability to get away from the books when things get too oppressive. One co-ed said: "Some nights after studying a few hours, I nearly go up the wall. You don't realize what it means to be able to talk and laugh occasionally with someone, until you have a stone-deaf landlady who won't allow visitors after sundown."

A student who shared an apartment in years past mentioned several drawbacks to this arrangement which are not immediately obvious. The division of household duties, such as cooking, scrubbing the bathtub, and cleanup on the morning after the night before can lead to many feuds. Quarrels also seem to develop over each member's share in the payment for food. This sort of problem, he emphasized, grows proportionately to the number of people involved. Further, there is the high statistical probability that out of any given set of four male students, there will be at least one who is either a ladykiller or an alcoholic. "These characters can cause real trouble, and you have to take care to avoid them. It is the prime reason, too, why landlords are often reluctant to rent a place to students."

#### SINGLE ROOMS

Those who preferred their single rooms over any other type of accommodation conceded the drawbacks of a solitary life, but felt these to be outweighed by the unsurpassed conditions for study uninterrupted by the howling, gleeful mob whom they felt dominated residence life.

The last comment came from a Toronto student. He thought that many of the problems experienced at Dal could be met by the establishment of a co-operative housing society similar to the one now booming at the University of Toronto. Rents are substantially reduced, and, in time, additional service such as meals and laundry can be added. The benefit of such a set-up was felt to be the proximity to both the University and other students combined with a private place in which to study.

#### NECKING NO PROBLEM BUT GRASS IS COLD

OTTAWA (CUUP) Spurred by the necking problem at the University of Connecticut, the student newspaper at Carleton University in Ottawa has conducted a survey on the necking situation at Carleton. Apparently necking in the grass was the concern at the American institution.

During the Carleton investigation no necking couples could be found, so the paper asked several student councillors about the situation.

"We don't have enough grass." "When we get here in the fall it's too damned cold," council president Scotty Johnston said.

The Carleton asked what the reaction would be if the administration brought down a rule restraining necking.

"Revolt," said one councillor.

### SEATS TAKEN BY PLUMBERS

LONDON (CP) The campaign took weeks of minute preparation and was executed with swift precision in 10 minutes.

A group of engineering students swooped down on the University of Western Ontario and made off with every toilet seat used by undergraduates. The 104 seats will be used as ransom. All the undergraduates have to do is make sure the engineering students' representative gets a date with the frosh queen.

The engineering students spent three weeks loosening screws holding the seats in place to ensure success of their campaign.

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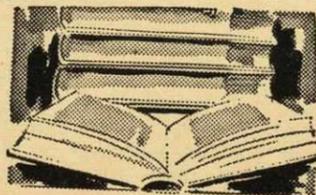
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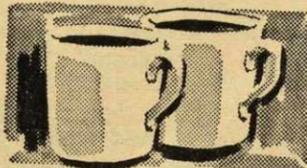
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### BREAK-TIME



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