

Dalhousie tenants will pay \$25 more

University residents face rent hikes

By DONALD SELLAR
Canadian University Press
From Vancouver to Halifax, students are being hit in the pocketbook by a general rent increase in university-sponsored housing facilities.

Spiralling food costs, increasing wages and higher operating costs are being blamed for the rent hikes -- which average about 10 per cent across the board.

As residence administrators pore over columns of red-inked figures these days and submit estimates for next year's operations, they seem to be reaching the same, inescapable conclusion: Rents must go up.

Many residence administrators, however, are reluctant to say what the increases will amount to in many cases.

Housing directors contacted at several Canadian universities during the past week -- perhaps fearful of angry student reaction to rent hikes -- refused to reveal what new fee schedules they will recommend to their particular board of governors.

More than one would say only that he intends to recommend rent "adjustments" for next year. And in university budgets these days, "adjustments" is a good synonym for "increases".

Already, increases for next year have been announced or rumored at the universities of B.C., Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, United College, Queen's, Carleton, Ottawa, Waterloo, Saint Mary's and Mount Allison.

As Canadian Union of Students vice-president Dave Young puts it, residence students are the easiest to mobilize in any campaign, mainly because they live in close association with one another and are thus easy to gather together.

Student reaction thus far to the prospect or threat of room and board increases has been predictable, with the usual programs of protest and weighty briefs to provincial governments or boards of governors being the order of the day.

The current CUS Ontario regional newsletter reports student efforts to obtain "clear statements" from universities about next year's residence fees have been unsuccessful.

The newsletter says rent rises appear "virtually certain at Queen's and Carleton, while at Ottawa there is even some talk of closing down existing residences because of lack of operating funds". It also criticizes the Ontario government for failing to state its position on uni-

versity housing.

Meanwhile, across the country, the inevitable rumors of rent hikes and some announcements are circulating freely.

At Edmonton, about 1,500 residence-dwellers doomed to pay \$8 more per month for room and board in September, are preparing to demonstrate to back up their demands for a hold-the-line policy on rents.

At Kingston, Queen's University students are still trying to stave off a rent increase by employing a slightly different approach. Male residents there voted last week to cut down on their maid and janitorial services. This move is expected to save them each \$30 to \$40 per academic year.

Dalhousie University has announced that residence rent in the men's and women's dormitories will increase by \$25, effective in September of this year.

At Manitoba, the residence rent increase has already been announced, but strangely enough, one student leader there has come out in favor of the \$86 annual increase being planned for 1,000 U of M students living in 10 residences.

Bill Lowes, who recently resigned as residence council president, says the increase is "very justified. Compared to fees at British Columbia and Eastern universities, we are far below their cost."

And he's partly right, too. Even with the increase at University of Manitoba, students will

be able to live in residence for a minimum of \$622. Even the posh facilities at University College at U of M rent for \$726 -- which is only about \$30 above the national average.

A survey of 35 residence rent

schedules obtained from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics in Ottawa shows an average room-and-board rate of about \$695 per academic year.

But Lowes is wrong when he says UBC rates are high. As of last fall, they were the lowest in Canada, with a floor of \$475 per academic year and a ceiling of \$630. University of Ottawa residence fees are listed as the highest in Canada (\$800-1,000), but this is attributed largely to the fact that meals there aren't provided in university facilities.

Following are 1966-67 DBS figures for university-operated residences in Canada. These statistics don't apply to off-campus private quarters, and costs shown don't include transportation and personal expenditures for books, clothing and entertainment.

NEWFOUNDLAND: Memorial University (\$600).

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND: St.

Dunstan's University (\$485).

NEW BRUNSWICK: University of Moncton (\$650-700); Mount Allison University (\$665); University of New Brunswick (\$700-750); Saint Thomas University (\$600).

NOVA SCOTIA: Acadia University (\$725); Dalhousie University (\$683-733); Mt. St. Vincent (\$700); St. Francis Xavier University (\$690); St. Mary's (\$730).

QUEBEC: Bishop's (\$650-750); McGill (\$725-970); Sir George

Williams (no residences).

ONTARIO: Brock (no residences); Carleton (\$751-791); Guelph (\$700 for two trimesters); Lakehead (\$675-725); McMaster (\$775); U of Ottawa (\$800-1,000); Queen's (\$690-869); Laurentian (\$750); U of Toronto (\$680-750);

Trent (\$750); U of Waterloo (\$700-800) (regular academic year); Waterloo Lutheran (\$745);

U of Western Ontario (\$775-885); U of Windsor (\$800); York University (\$815).

MANITOBA: U of Manitoba (\$538-665).

SASKATCHEWAN: U of Saskatchewan (\$596-650).

ALBERTA: U of Alberta (\$615-675); U of Calgary (\$575-630).

BRITISH COLUMBIA: U of B.C. (\$475-630); Notre Dame U (\$595); Simon Fraser U (\$640); University of Victoria (\$595-630).

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