

Howe Hall faces rising costs

by Brian Manning

Residents of Howe Hall and their counterparts in other Dalhousie residences were subjected to a 100% increase in the cost of using University owned washing ma-

chines. The machines until now cost 25c per load to use. The present 50c cost has met with a great deal of opposition from residents, though there has been no official protest

from Howe Hall Residence Council. The service provided thus far by the university has been much less than sufficient. Washers are often in a poor state of repair. Repairs



Laundry prices in Dalhousie's residences have increased causing many students to voice their disapproval.

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Cohn Box Office on the opening day for ticket sales, Monday, January 10th. I arrived at 10:30 a.m. only half an hour after the office had opened, to find approximately forty people ahead of me already. The tickets I planned to buy were for an unscheduled, recently announced concert given by Johnathan Edwards on January 17th. Fearing that it would be sold out quickly, I estimated a wait of, perhaps, one and one half hours, and resigned myself to the fact that I would have to miss a class.

The first hour went rather quickly. My line-neighbours and I got acquainted. Hour #2 was highlighted by coffee, and when 1:30 rolled around I pulled out my lunch, feeling sorry for those who hadn't thought to bring theirs. By this time the lobby of the Cohn looked more like a peaceful demonstration than a group of people waiting for tickets. Having made it halfway through, I wasn't about to give up...and I suppose the people at the end of the line weren't aware of what they were in for. I was growing apprehensive about missing my ride home at 3 and made arrangements with newly-made friends in line to have my place held so I could explain to my driver when he arrived. I live forty miles from Halifax and have rigid schedules for getting in and out, as I don't drive.

At 2:30 p.m. I approached the house manager. First I asked reasonably if he would take into account my situation and hold some tickets in the event that I had to leave. I was prepared to wait and extra half hour if my driver was agreeable. When he refused, I got angry for I had been in line for four hours.

There were only three people working in the ticket booth. It seems that in 4 1/2 hours a better system could have been devised. Some of the customers spent up to 45 minutes conducting their transactions. Several of them received applause when they finally left. Perhaps a time limit could have been imposed? - or a separate time limit could have been formed for those buying Jonathan Edwards tickets, as it was an unscheduled

event and tickets were available only through the box office. Some businesses use a system with numbered cards. If this had been in effect, those waiting could have estimated the time until they would be served and done errands (or attended classes) in the interval. There are many systems which could have been employed to alleviate the situation.

I finally left at 3 p.m. empty handed, though I later got tickets through a friend who had "pull". This is not fair, but I couldn't get them through the correct system. I understand that the lines were just as heavy the following day. I later saw the man who had stood behind me in line. He was not served until 4:20 p.m. He had entered the line with me at 10:30 a.m.

Not only do I feel the technical arrangement were faulty, but I was also put off by the public relations side, as the house manager was ineffective; he made no effort to help, individually, the situations of those in line.

I can understand that overcrowding and understaffing is not intentional, but this does not mean it is something to which the public should resign itself.

sincerely,
Mary Handlin

Outreach tutoring

To the Gazette:

A sincere thanks to the Outreach tutors who devote their time and energy in helping the students of the North End Schools of Halifax. More tutors are needed. Lend a hand! For example, one school requires additional tutors for their Remedial Reading Program. This would require the tutor to have Tuesday, early evenings, free.

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Sincerely,
The Co-ordinator,
Tricia Archibald.

be charged for use of the dryers but this is not a result of any benevolent action on the part of the administration. Coin slots are not installed on these machines because they are home models and cannot be outfitted with coin slots. Dryers in other residences that were able to be outfitted with coin slots had these installed last week. It seems that as soon as dryers in Howe Hall are worn out they will be replaced with coin operated ones.

Residence Council at Howe Hall has not launched any official action. President Peter Bloxam stated in an interview that he does not feel that with rising costs that the increase is "out of line". His feeling is that "If

I'm going to pay then I want them to work". Outside of Residence Council there has been talk of boycotting the machines and many residents are currently signing a petition protesting the high cost and poor service.

Many residents of Howe Hall, especially those who have lived here for some time, see this move by the administration as the continuation of a trend. In recent years services to the students have been cut somewhat. Last year residents lost out when maid service was cut by two thirds. This year washing machines have gone up in price. Cutbacks by the university are not generally accompanied by any monetary compensation.



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