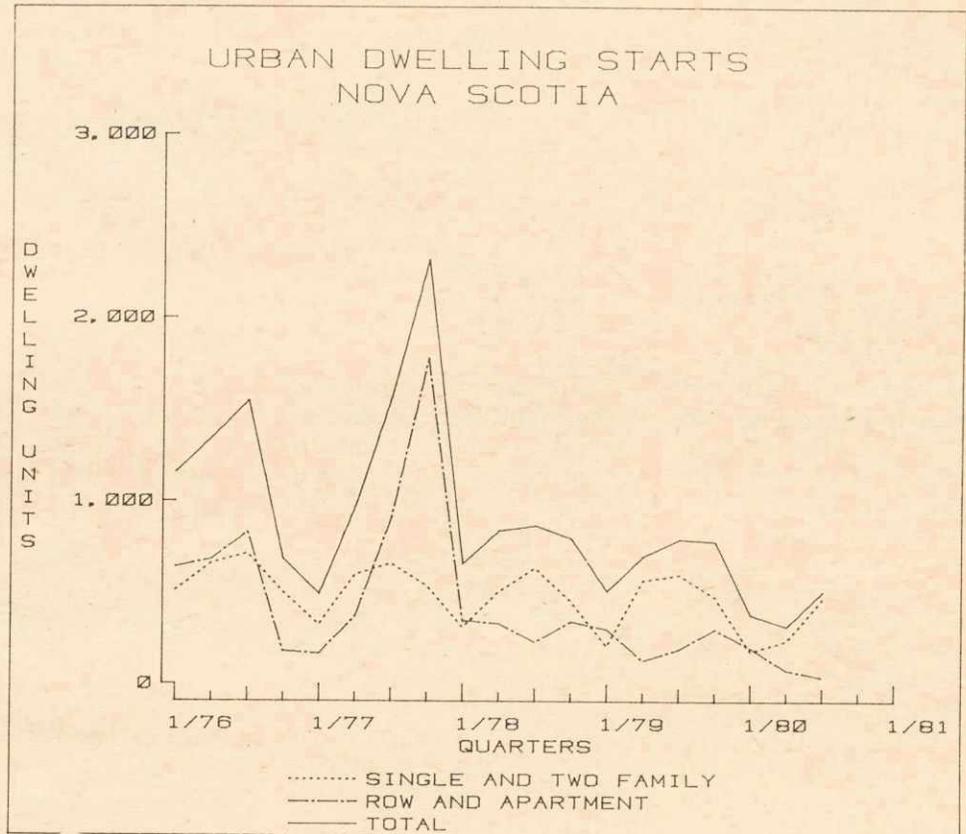


Student housing crunch goes on



continued from page 1

accommodations will be that much more intense.

Another cause for alarm is the trend by landlords around the university to convert apartments into Home Ownership Corporations (in effect condominiums which do not violate zoning laws). So far three local buildings have been thus converted and it is rumoured that more are in the works. Because few students have the resources or the inclination to purchase their own home, these conversions are further shrinking accommodations available to them.

Does all of this amount to a housing crisis?

"Not in the sense that students are out on the streets," says Peggy Matthews of Dal Off-Campus Housing, "but whether their living conditions are desirable or not is another matter. Students are doubling up in bachelor apartments and living farther out from the university. It's hard for them."

Andrew Pavey, a lawyer with Dal Legal Aid, says there definitely is a housing crisis but it affects all kinds of people, not particularly students. Increasing costs are causing landlords to overload the Rent Review Board with requests for rental hikes. He says he knows of instances of landlords raising rents as much as 300 per cent. As well,

he says Dal Legal Aid is receiving increasingly frequent complaints from tenants who have had their rooms padlocked shut and their possessions seized after failing to make their rental payments.

Landlords, points out CMHC's Carveth, are as much the victims as they are the villains in these austere times. Increased costs for building supplies and staggeringly high mortgage

rates force them to hike rental rates. "Like all people in business, landlords need a return on their investment to get bread on the table," he says.

Students, he feels, will only get a break when the stagnant construction industry picks up again. And this will probably not be until interest rates drop substantially enough to make building profitable again.

Dalhousie Staff Association contract

by Bruce Galloway

After eight months of negotiations the Dalhousie Staff Association (D.S.A.) and the university's administration reached a tentative contract agreement last Wednesday night. At the close of Wednesday's meeting both sides signed a memorandum of agreement which, barring a rejection vote by the D.S.A., will give its membership a new two year contract.

The tentative contract, retroactive to July 1981, will give D.S.A. members wage increases of between 24 - 27 per cent by June 1983. The increases will come in three steps, the first, an 8 - 10 per cent jump (depending on a person's position) effective July 1, 1981, the second a 7 per cent increase in July 1982 and finally a 6 per cent hike on June 1, 1983.

Although relieved that the long negotiations are over, Delphine du Toit, executive director of the D.S.A., is not particularly pleased with the conditions of the new contract.

"We gave up a lot more than they (the administration) did," said du Toit. She noted the areas of contention in the tentative contract as the present system of job evaluation, freezing

of replacements and layoffs.

Negotiations between the D.S.A. and the administration began last May, two months before the expiry date of their previous contract. In November a government conciliator, Len Ryan, was called in by the D.S.A. in an attempt to get the stalled negotiations going once more.

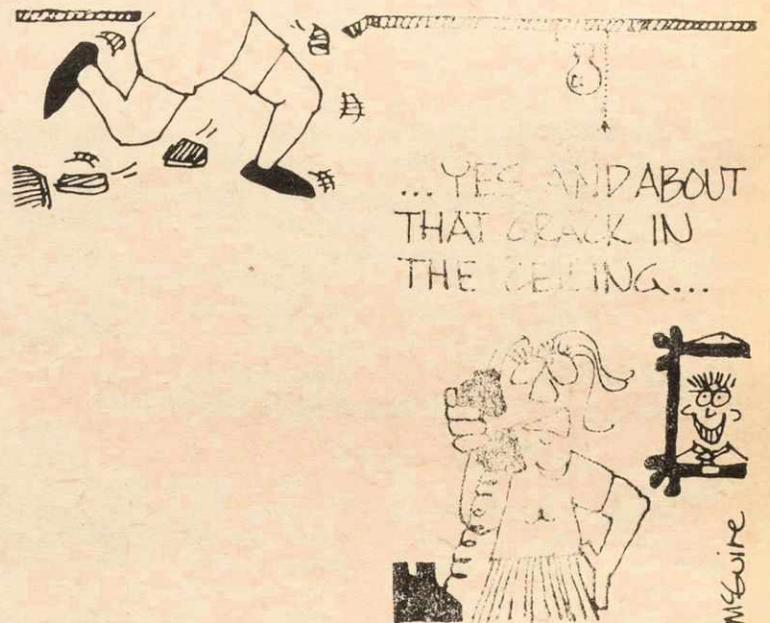
"The attitude of the administration negotiators changed immediately upon the arrival of Ryan," said du Toit. "They became more co-operative and negotiations proceeded much more smoothly."

The tentative contract will first be reviewed by the D.S.A.'s contract review committee and will then be presented to the membership for a ratification vote.

"This ratification vote," du Toit said, "will probably not occur before the end of January."

Allan Cameron, spokesperson for the administration negotiators did not offer any opinions on the tentative agreement.

"I'm not saying anything about it until the principles (the D.S.A. membership and the administration) have had a chance to look at the agreement," explained Cameron.



Slimy book of profit

WINNIPEG (CUP) -- If you're into getting around labour laws or making your kickbacks tax-deductible, has the Financial Post got a book for you!

The Financial Post is the Canadian financial community's weekly guide to who's doing what in business, and where the smart money is going.

Recently it mailed an advertisement to its readers plugging

The Business Book of Knowledge. The mailout summarized some of the things readers could learn from the volume, including:

- 20 ways to prove an employee is ineligible to receive overtime pay;
- legal ways to pay less than the minimum wage;
- four ways to get out of an "ironclad" lease;

- when kickbacks are tax-deductible;
 - 14 ways accountants can make failing companies look good;
 - how business owners can defer taxes on up to half of their income;
 - "legal" ways for employers to influence union elections.
- Sales are expected to be brisk.