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## New security system for Fenwick

by Ralph English

Students living at Fenwick Place will rest easier this year thanks to a new security system.

In response to tenants' concern about a rash of petty thefts and vandalism, most of which occurred on the parking levels, building manager Ms. J. Irving proposed tightened security. This was approved by Financial Services and implemented by Dal Security.

Up until now Fenwick Place, the largest apartment building east of Montreal, did not have locking security doors.

In a few days Fenwick's main entrance will present guests, welcome or not so welcome, with an obstacle. Between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. the inner doors will be locked.

With the doors installed, visitors will now have access to a

vestibule, from which they can buzz the accommodations office and speak with the night management via an intercom. Also, they can use the newly installed pay phones and call the resident they wish to visit. Only tenants have keys to the door.

Access to the parking levels from within the building is limited to those with the appropriate key. Improvements in the lock system for the car entry and exit doors have also been made.

Ten students are employed as night management. They will be busier this year with the frequency of their security rounds being double that of last year. The student staff are in contact with Dal Security via radio.

Gauging tenants' response to the increase in security, Ruth Rollins of the accommodations office indicated that people

were, "generally happier with it than without it." Some find it a nuisance, but many others, particularly women, have expressed their approval.

## Money mouth

OTTAWA (CUP)—Lucille Lacelle isn't worried about the cost of tuition fees this year.

She talked her way into university.

Lacelle, entering first year at the University of Ottawa, won a regional high school French debating tournament organized by the Societe de Debats Francais at the U of O.

The first prize was a year's free tuition at the university provided by an Ottawa based insurance firm.

## Student aid doesn't change much

by Brian Cox

Changes to student aid have not solved the financial problems many students face this year.

Pat is a case in point. Last year while living at home Pat received a loan allotment of 1700 dollars. Because Pat's parents moved, she had to take an apartment in Halifax this year. Under the new student aid regulations Pat received 1200 dollars in student loan, not even enough for her tuition.

"Right now I'm trying to figure out if I can afford to stay in school," said Pat.

Student Aid director Gerald Knickle explained that when a student is classified as dependent but lives away from home (as Pat does) the parents are expected to pass savings on family expenses on to their child.

Pat would be classified as independent and eligible for the maximum loan of 3400 dollars if she worked for two consecutive years, if she married or if her parents died. Pat blames blind bureaucracy and government red tape for her plight.

Changes in the student aid program have seen a shift in financial responsibility according to Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS) executive officer Peter Kavanagh. "The province is shifting the financial emphasis to the

federal government," he said.

While the federal government increased the total student loan to 3,400 dollars this year, the provincial government froze its bursary contribution. Constitutionally, education is under provincial jurisdiction, but the province supplied a maximum of 33 per cent of student aid.

The increase of the loan portion of student aid has Kavanagh concerned. "Lower and middle income families may be deterred from applying for a loan for fear of building a large debt load" he said.

Bursaries enable students from this kind of background to go to university he added.

One change that will affect many students regardless of student aid classification is the "five mile rule". This states that if the students' parents live within five miles of the institution the student is attending, that student is ineligible for a bursary. Last year the qualification was fifteen miles. Sharma said "The rule doesn't discriminate. The student could be 17 and doing a B.A. or 27 and in Dentistry."

Other changes in the student aid program include a six per cent increase in various allowan-

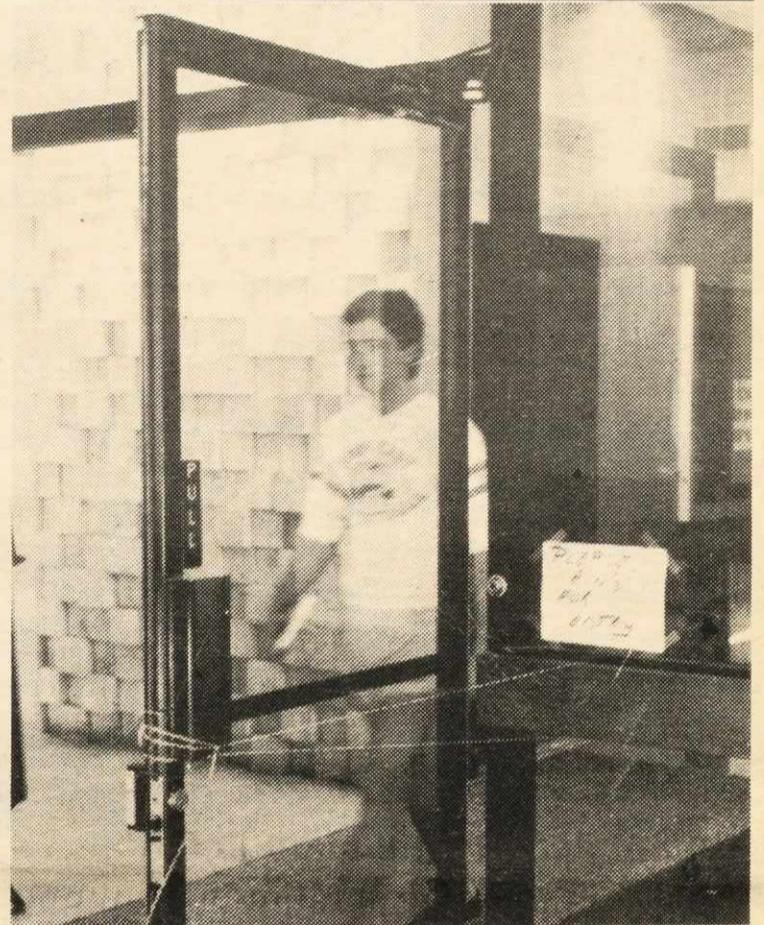
ces, among them transportation and book allowances. But this is the first increase in two years.

Atul Sharma, Student Union VP External calls the increase "non-realistic" and an "arbitrary figure". "It doesn't reflect real costs or student resources" he said.

Kavanagh went on to say "The provincial government priorities aren't straight. They could sell their private plane and recover one third of this year's eight million dollar student aid budget." Student aid director Knickle said "If you have the need, the bursary is there."

Knickle could offer no explanation for the five mile criterion, and commented "Why should government support students when they can live at home?" Knickle said there is a higher appeals board and each case is judged independently.

*The Dalhousie Awards Office offers emergency loans and bursaries to students in financial dire straits. To qualify, students must apply directly to the office in the A&A building. Financial counseling, budgeting advice and a list of scholarships and awards available at Dalhousie is also available through the Awards Office.*



Up until now, Fenwick Towers, the largest apartment building east of Montreal, has had a wide-open open doors policy.

## College students fight housing scam

TORONTO (CUP)—More than 50 Humber College students who were defrauded of about \$20,000 in a housing scam are taking civil and criminal actions to recover their money.

The students, some from Africa and the Caribbean, paid the first and last month's rent for apartments in six area houses. They were told the houses were fully equipped and they would live in single or double rooms.

When they arrived, after paying \$440, they found unfurnished rooms occupied by up to nine other women and men.

In one case, the students who had paid for the overcrowded unfurnished apartment found there were no utilities either, and lived for several days without water or electricity.

The students complained to a Humber College official and police subsequently arrested a 39 year old Toronto man, Ernest Selenti, Sept. 16. Selenti has been charged with 14 counts of fraud.

The houses had been rented from six local landlords for \$700 a month. Rooms in the houses were then rented to the students for \$220.

The students said on one occasion Selenti, after receiving complaints, arrived at a house with a table and mattress that looked as if they had been salvaged from a garbage dump.

Humber students and staff have rallied to help the defrauded students. The college has hired lawyers and will take Selenti to small claims court in an attempt to recover the money.

The Humber Students' Association has set aside \$1,400 for emergency loans to the students. The administration has made an undisclosed amount of money available, and teachers and administrators have made private donations.

Some of the students have decided to remain in the houses at the rent they agreed to pay when they moved in. The rest have been put up in a hotel about two miles from the college.

Students will pay no cost at the hotel until the end of September, after which they will be allowed to stay at the same rent they would have paid in the houses, said Humber vice-president Jim Davison.