

# IHTIMES

February 28 2004

The Head Turner in the Newspaper World

**TODAY**

**IH FEES SET  
TO ROCKET**

**FEE PROPOSAL**

**DECISION DUE  
WEDNESDAY**

## IH RESIDENTS WILL BE 'SHAFTED' AS FEES SOAR

**Residents arriving at IH in September 2004 face the prospect of living in possibly the most expensive UK university hall of residence.**

North and West wings face a 20% fee increase, with prices for the new flats going up by at least 15%. UL requires an additional 20% (£600,000) a year from intercollegiate halls in order to pay for increased maintenance costs across them all.

Halls will raise this by moving to 38-week contracts next year. This change has already been implemented at IH meaning residents are already paying an extra £848.40 for 2003-04.

Despite having already contributed an extra 20% from moving to 38 weeks this year, IH is now expected to contribute a further 20%: either by increasing fees from £4029.90 to £4835.88, or raising by 2.3% *and* removing the meal plan.

To add insult to injury the UL is arguing that those at IH should be paying a 'premium rate' to reflect the conditions and facilities of the hall. Of course, this is on top of the £848.40 extra that everyone at IH already pays compared to other intercollegiate halls.

At Thursday's Hall Council meeting external members from Staff of other intercollegiate halls were damning in their opinion of the proposal. One commenting that this would be akin to 'shafting' students at IH.

Ms Noelle Vickers, Chair of the Council noted that the increases will make IH more expensive than Goode-nough College, widely considered to be the most desirable and prestigious hall in central London and with facilities equal to or better than those at IH.

This ignores that for years IH was the most dilapidated of all the intercollegiate halls with an external member of the Hall Council describing it as having been 'shite' and yet residents still paid the same fees as other halls. Even this year £4000 is a lot for a mice-ridden, poorly-heated hall complete with expensive bar, dismal bathrooms, unsafe squash court, at times 2 tumble-dryers for 600 residents, inadequate kitchens, substandard food & the list goes on.

Furthermore, the increased revenues will not be put towards any immediate refurbishment of the below par

shared bathroom facilities on each floor. There will also be no renovation of the inadequate tea-kitchens, deemed under the Residents Handbook to be 'not equipped for full meals'. Under the pay-as-you-go system those preparing 'snacks' will fight over the hall's 10 kettles and 11 microwaves provided for 414 residents. So much for 'premium rate' facilities.



**'Compared to other halls IH was  
for years considered shite'**

**A final decision will be reached on Wednesday** at the Intercollegiate Accommodation Committee chaired by Vice-Chancellor Sir Graeme Davies. Club President Nigel Sellers will attend to challenge these proposals on behalf of IH residents and with the full support of the Hall Council.

ULU, NUS, the media and college Union have been contacted and have already offered substantial support. IH Times cannot entertain the notion that such an increase has arisen through improved facilities. It is more likely that UL is looking to unfairly cash in on the residents under its care, through a process which has been both opaque and perplexing.

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## 'UNDERVALUED' FLAT FEES TO INCREASE

Residents of the new flats can expect to see significant price increases as well. It has become clear that the rent for the flats is currently 'undervalued'. Each of the flats has been re-valued and increases will be at least 15%.

The Hall Council was also dismissive of the idea that these prices were competitive. Again comparisons were made with Goodenough.

No cleaning is provided and rubbish gathers in heaps at the end of each corridor where each resident is invited to spend time with an IH supplied mouse. It is unclear how the new flats came to be undervalued or exactly how much has been lost as a result.

### REIMBURSEMENT AT EASTER? FORGET IT!

As if to rub salt into the wounds, UL has admitted that it does not have the money to provide a rebate for residents who will not be in residence over Easter. Director of Student Services, Dr Dennis Buckley has even admitted to Club President Nigel Sellers that this is unfair!

Next year other halls on 38-week contracts will be allowed to offer such a rebate for the meals residents miss while away from hall for more than 5 days. IH residents cannot expect anything similar this year despite being the guinea pigs for the testing of the new contract system.

A rebate of £2.75 per day for the 4 week Easter break would total £77.

## WHAT IT ALL MEANS

**20% fee increase:** Proposed fees will amount to £18.18 a day, £127.26 a week, £4835.88 for minimum 38 week contract.

**Pay-as-you-go dining option:** 2.3% fee increase = £15.50 a day, £4122.58 per year. Meals at £2.75. 7 meals a week for 38 weeks = £731.50. Total = £4854.08.

**New flats:** We have been informed that there are 15 different rate increases. The average is roughly 17% increment on your current price.

**No rebate:** £2.75 a day or £19.25 a week. If you were planning to leave for 4 weeks over Easter you might have been able to claim back £77. It would have been a nice present to have another £77 over Christmas, but like Santa, it's now long gone.

<b>MAXIMUM British student loan next year</b>	<b>c.£5,050</b>
<b>Full IH fees next year</b>	<b>c.£4,835</b>
<b>Difference</b>	<b>£215</b>
<b>Weekly Budget (38 weeks)</b>	<b>£5.66</b>

Any student living off these means may have to choose between having lunch or doing two loads of washing (possibly without powder).

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH THE CLUB COMMITTEE THIS SUNDAY 8PM IN THE BAR

(Your chance to interrogate the club members on their performance)

## Alvin's Advice on paying premium rates at IH

YOU'RE  
ALL SCREWED!

