Housing raised 7%, Commons increased
By Mark James
Housing rates will increase by nearly 7% and commons meal rates by 7% for the upcoming school year. Both increases are slightly smaller than the 8.4 percent housing and 6 percent dining increases of last year. The January 1978 drop in the Massachusetts meals tax, from 8 to 6 percent means that students will end up paying 4 percent more including tax than last year. Aside from the rate increases, no other changes were made in the housing rate structure or in commons plans.

Dormitory Council President Tom Potter '79 said that housing and dining rates were presented to house presidents at a meeting held March 10. Students at the meeting were told that the new rates were necessary to offset inflation and that there was nothing that could be done about the increases, according to Potter.

In past years students were involved in the process of reviewing these rates, although they were not allowed to look at cost figures — they were merely allowed to distribute among students the increases needed to offset cost increases.

Potter said he felt that students should have access to the cost figures, although he added "I don't think it will do any good." He said that since students did not have access to cost figures, last year's rate review was "a waste of time."

A report on the new rates, which was distributed to students last week, notes that "no single item dominates" the housing increase, but that a new sewer tax and an increase in dormine rates to reflect the "true cost" of the dormine system contributed to the hike.

The most expensive dormitory, Macgrecor House, will cost $1140 per year, 96% more than last year. Random Hall, the last expensive, will cost $752, an increase of 66%. "Quality Differentials" between different dormitories will not change, so that all rents will increase by the same percentage. The 19 meal plan will raise $1386 from the pockets of students seeking up for both terms and IAP. The 200 points/no seconds plan will cost $452 for the same period, up 52% from this year.

A student living in MacGregor House and using the 79 meal plan will pay $752 for room, board and tuition.

The Housing and Dining System is intended to be broken even, according to the report, Ad.

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Students riot at BU over tuition increase
By Jordana Hollander
In a scene reminiscent of the late 1960's over 900 Boston University students trapped the Board of Trustees in the Sherman Student Union last Thursday in protest over the planned $400 tuition and $150 room and board raises for next year.

The trustees were holding their monthly meeting when the students began to gather outside the building. The crowd was called "peaceful but determined to have their point heard" by Terri Taylor, a writer for the Boston Phoenix.

The trustees eventually agreed to meet with the students, according to Dean of Student Life John Madson.

The students were allowed to speak with Silber and Metcalf but the meeting was interrupted by a group of about 25 students demanding to see Silber. This larger group claimed that the four who were with Silber did not represent the full range of student opinion. Madson said that at this point Silber refused to meet with a larger student group until a later time.

He did offer to hold a meeting to explore the tuition raise on March 26 or 27, to be broadcast on radio and television. Before the date could be set the students entered the building and forced the trustees back into the meeting room.

After about 35 minutes Boston police cleared the building, allowing the trustees' meeting to continue. The meeting was adjourned with the trustees completing all items on the agenda.

The tuition raise was not discussed, however, because the trustees had already approved it. The voting was held through the mail because the last trustee's vote was needed to pass it.