

ROBBERY

Lock lack not factor in crime, police say

There was no front door lock at 105 Cheyenne Ave. where 15 people were terrorized.

By Ron Steele
The London Free Press

Front door locks on a trouble-plagued apartment building at 105 Cheyenne Ave. would not have stopped four robbers from gaining entry to the building Saturday night.

"With locks there would have to be some sort of buzzer system," London police Superintendent Don Andrews said. "If you press enough buzzers (to individual apartments) someone is going to let you in. Or you can stand at the door long enough and someone going in or out gives you a way in."

The armed robbers terrorized a group of 15 people attending a party at the apartment of Chhon Tong. They took money and jewelry, then fled. Police are still looking for the bandits.

STANDARDS BYLAW: The city's building standards by-law doesn't require common areas of apartment buildings to be locked. The building's front door has no lock.

The apartment building, and its sister building at 95 Cheyenne Ave., have been in a swirl of controversy in recent months over their condition. Landlord Elijah Elieff had been tardy about paying \$6,000 in fines for defying a city order to make repairs. However, as a result of payment a writ against each building, filed by the city, has been removed.

The repairs are not yet complete, said city building control officer Bruce Henry, but Elieff has hired help to speed up the work. The city and the Middlesex-London health unit plan an inspection next week to see if repairs are progressing according to a court-imposed schedule.

Elieff has until the end of May to complete the upgrading of the interior and exterior of the buildings.

RACIAL COMPLAINT: He also has another problem. One of his tenants, Chipheng Hom, has complained to the Ontario Human Rights Commission about alleged racial slurs uttered by Elieff. Most of the tenants are recent immigrants from Cambodia.

Rick Harrington, an officer with the commission, said that a copy of Elieff's response to the complaint has been sent to Hom for her reply. Hom had not received the document yet on Wednesday.

Elieff could not be reached for comment.

The commission cannot reveal the contents of the complaint or the response, Harrington said.