

Cheyenne amenities not exactly plentiful? Jan 25/93

Regarding Dominic Mendes's letter, *Cheyenne apartment proposal uneconomic* (Dec. 29).

I was a little surprised — and pleased — to see that someone had actually taken the time and trouble to go out to Cheyenne Avenue to see the conditions of these apartments. However, I would like to know how close he got to them. When he stated they did not have the usual amenities of better-run complexes, I began to wonder if he saw the correct buildings — and if he actually went into them.

Why? Because I lived there from July, 1983, until November, 1985.

Amenities to me include being able to use the toilet without worrying if raw sewage will come gushing out, instead of it being flushed away.

Amenities to me include a window in my bedroom that does not have a crack so big that, during the winter, the snow would come in through it (although once the frost covered the crack it kept out the wind and snow).

Amenities to me include having a kitchen sink that does not leak so badly you had to keep a bucket underneath to catch the water and empty it daily.

Amenities to me include having a patio door with a screen door that was not rotting and constantly fell off, nor the plaster around the frame crumbling.

I moved because I could no longer handle the way I felt. I took the landlord to court because the sewage pipes backed up and into my apartment so often that it ruined many of my belongings. I also won my case, which angered him greatly. After that, I was treated even worse than before.

There was no other reason to move. My neighbors were my friends, the school my son would have been going to was close by and the location, over-all, was great. For the good of our health — physical and mental — we moved.

Perhaps Mendes should have gone into the buildings to see that there are more than just "the usual amenities" missing at 95-105 Cheyenne Ave.

I am lucky enough to be living in a housing co-op now. Ironically, this one was built in East London because the group that started the board six long years ago was unable to sway the ministry to allow it to buy the Cheyenne Avenue apartments. I know because I was on that board.

I hope the ministry of housing will accept its application to buy and extensively renovate these apartments. It is long overdue. I hope the City of London keeps pressing landlords such as Elijah Elieff to properly maintain their buildings before another such disgrace occurs again.

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