



Moshner/Dal Photo

Our trusty security people working night and day

No plot against security

by Doug Simpson

"There is no Machiavellian plot to get rid of our full time security guards," says Mr. Robbie Shaw, Vice-president of Dalhousie University.

Shaw, VP in charge of administration and finance, made this statement Friday in response to questions concerning the security system at Dalhousie and to rumours that because of budget restraints, permanent guards were being laid off.

There are rumours that guards are losing their jobs, and that there are not enough guards for a campus the size of Dalhousie.

However, full-time positions that become vacant will be filled by part-time students this year, said Shaw.

"We will have to monitor the situation carefully," said Shaw. "It is a temporary move and we are making temporary moves in a whole series of things. We have to cut down on a five million dollar deficit."

In the past, if a permanent guard left the force, for some reason he would be replaced by

another permanent guard.

One former full time security guard said there definitely should be more security, and that Dal needs more permanent and that compared with other universities, Dal is understaffed.

Max Keeping, head of security at Dalhousie, said that there should be more protection for a campus of this size.

"I would like enough people to zone the campus, but that takes money," Keeping said, "however security is adequate at the moment."

The security system at Dal has approximately 42 students, 17 full time guards and nine commissionairs. The students are used mainly as building guards and dispatchers while the permanent staff are used to patrol campus.

A student security employee said they do not have enough permanent men and that the university is trying to phase them out.

Keeping said the students are performing their jobs in a satisfactory manner and that he does not think security is

affected by the students. He added that although the permanent staff is not as large as last year, they are not to the point of being understaffed.

Shaw noted that security is providing more service than a few years ago but it ends up on how much they can afford to provide.

"My feeling is," Shaw said, "that with proper organization, a satisfactory degree of security can be provided with the existing full time and part time staff that we have. In light of the university's overall financial situation it would be difficult to rationalize spending much more on security."

"We are going to be seeing restraint on expenditures in all areas of the university of which security is but one."

However he added that security is a necessary service on a campus and that the security of students is more important than other services. "Life safety is of greater importance than anything else and nobody will be laid off or fired for financial reasons," Shaw said.

Amnesty International supports innocent victims of oppression

by Bob Kozak

In September, 1973, the constitutional government of Salvador Allende fell. Eight years later, Amnesty International continues to try and "draw attention to the situation in Chile," says Michele Cleary of the London based human rights group.

Citizens suspected of "non-violent opposition to the present authorities still risk torture, imprisonment or banishment," according to a release from the local Amnesty group.

One method of bringing attention to the Chilean situation is "to try and get publicity in other countries," said Cleary. "Articles in newspapers are mailed to Chilean diplomats in Canada and Chile."

Each amnesty group, in the world-wide organization adopts three "prisoners of conscience," who they are then responsible for, sometimes in conjunction with another group. Members send increasingly expensive

cables and letters to "heads of governments, civil authorities, and heads of police," says Peggy Mathews of group 15 in Halifax. It is the "number of letters that affect your chances of helping the prisoners," she noted.

One of the Halifax group's adopted prisoners is Sr. Fernando Salazar Alarcon, who, according to Amnesty, is being charged under the draconian "Law of Internal State Security." Salazar, charged by the government with being a member of an illegal socialist party, has been adopted by the Halifax group in conjunction with a group in the Netherlands.

Amnesty estimates that approximately 1500 people have disappeared between 1973 and 1977 in Chile. Although, according to the human-rights group, "there is no longer the epidemic of disappearances of earlier years, there have been several reports over the past year of people killed after arrest or

abduction."

Torture is a systematic part of official policy in Chile, according to Amnesty. And there are an estimated 250 people imprisoned or banished into internal exile on politically related charges.

A new constitution came into force on March 11, 1981, which says Amnesty, has given wide powers to limit personal freedom. Human rights activists and students have been exiled to isolated villages. Others, says Amnesty, have suffered physical and psychological torture.

Amnesty estimates that in 1980, about 2,700 people were arrested for political reasons, although all "but about 1000 were released after a few hours or days."

The local group has about 150 members, says Mathews. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Amnesty International in 1977 for their work in helping to bring relief from repression wherever it is found.

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