

20 years ago this week

Student nearly deported for selling candy

A Saint Mary's University student narrowly escaped being deported after selling 15 cents worth of candy at his sister's take-out restaurant. Peter Kow Chang, 28, was ordered out of Canada Nov. 4 after he allegedly broke the terms of his student visa by working. Chang, who immigrated to Canada from Malaysia, didn't work for his sister, but had opened the restaurant for a milk delivery. But when two children came in at the same time and left 15 cents on the counter for candy, the Department of Immigration had a problem. A federal court supported Chang and ruled he was not in fact "working" but helping his sister.

under fire for hiring "scab" replacement workers to cross the picket lines and encouraging students to do maintenance work. Howe Hall representative Dick Matthews said the res was noticeably dirtier since the strike began — with silverfish and "gross little flies" he had never noticed before. But a department of health official said he found the residence cleaner then when he had lived there years before.

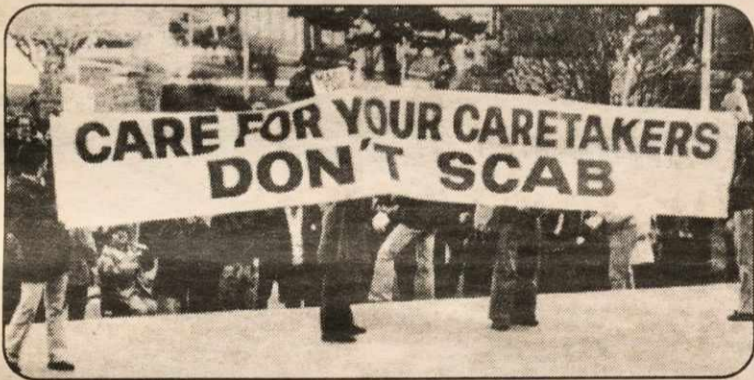
Junior high on strike for four day week

About 500 junior high students in BC walked out of their classes demanding a four-day school week. The strike began at Winslow junior secondary school in Coquitlam BC after a class about trade unions and shorter work weeks excited students enough to distribute opinion surveys to other students. But school principal Gordon House said he thought it was all theoretical, and that society wasn't ready for another day of kids running free. "There's just no way," he said.

One of the strike leaders, a grade ten student, said he didn't know how long the strike would last.

Proof that the 60s really were over

One third of the 60s folk band Peter, Paul and



Striking cleaners clash with police

A picket line was broken up by police with billy clubs and one protester was arrested during the third week of a legal strike by Dal cleaners. The cleaners were demanding an 85-cents-an-hour increase. The university offered 31 cents. Wages for union members ranged from \$3.82 to \$4.84 an hour. The strike was estimated to cost the university over \$7000 a day — mostly in overtime for the university administrators who were left pushing the brooms. The university was also

Mary came to Dal to try to prove she was more than one third of a 60s folk band. But no one was listening. Mary Travers sang to a nearly empty Rebecca Cohn auditorium to promote a new album. She sang her own songs, as well as those of Elton John and Melissa Manchester. She also sang the trio's trademark songs, "Leaving on a Jet Plane" and "Blowin' in the Wind". "I can make it on my own," she said. "But [Peter and Paul will] always be a part of me." Travers said she had a strong dislike for nostalgia.

Smoke detectors fell silent

Recent fire tests law requiring working smoke alarms

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Tenants say landlord Steven Metlege failed a test by fire after only one out of nine of his building's smoke alarms actually worked.

A municipal bylaw known as F100 requires landlords to provide a working smoke detector to all rental units, and to check the detectors once a year.

But Tom Silver, a regional fire inspector, said some Duncan St. units undamaged by the recent fire didn't appear to have working alarms — and tenants in some of the damaged units say their alarms weren't much better. In fact only one alarm is said to have detected the fire that burned the roof off three apartments in less than five hours.

Silver says it is the landlord's responsibility to make sure the detectors work, including replacing the machine's batteries, but that tenants are responsible for letting their landlord know if the detector is broken.

Landlords can be charged for not respecting the law. Silver says the Duncan St. case will be decided after the investigation is complete.

Steven Metlege runs the

building for his father, the official landlord. He says unless tenants took them, all the apartments had smoke detectors. And he says if the alarms weren't working, he didn't know about it.

Metlege also says he doesn't think smoke detectors — working or not — would have made much difference to the fire's outcome.

"The fire broke out so quickly that the ringing of a few more smoke detectors — would that have saved anything, realistically speaking? The fire was going no matter what."

Corey Skinner, a Dal student and one of the building's tenants, disagrees.

"Fire alarms... could have alerted the police earlier," he said. "They weren't even

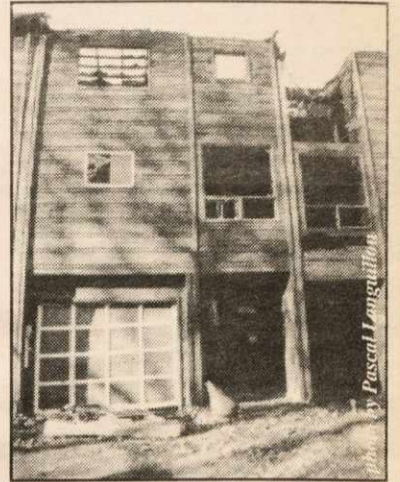
aware of it until the fire was well going... 'til the dog was barking."

Skinner says his apartment did have a smoke detector, but that it never worked.

"It was actually on our list of things to be repaired. [Metlege] knows about it."

Jason Kenny also had a smoke detector in his apartment.

"If that dog... hadn't been there God knows how many people would have been killed or hurt."



He and one of his roommates also say it never worked — instead it just hung there broken.

Raymond Tynes, another building resident in a different apartment, says he had the only working fire alarm in the entire nine-unit complex. He found it loose in his closet and, the night before the fire, hung it above his sink. Tynes' alarm did go off, but he didn't hear it until he got further into the hallway.

Tynes is also the owner of what everyone says turned out to be the most reliable smoke detector — his dog Luke.

And Corey Skinner says Luke saved lives.

"If that dog... hadn't been there God knows how many people would have been killed or hurt."

Heroic dog saves tenants

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under their parent's plans. As well, there is apparently a chance that if the fire was caused by a wiring problem that the building insurance could cover all the losses.

Steven Metlege acts as the building's landlord.

"Obviously I feel bad about it," he said. "The tenants lost their homes and all their belongings. We lost places we had years of work in."

Support of all kinds has poured in for the now homeless tenants, but after three free days at the Holiday Inn they're all looking

for places to live.

Corey Skinner is a second-year Dal student who, arriving home from work after the fire had mostly been put out, went in to his

"If you're the person who lost everything but their life obviously it's pretty severe."

apartment to sleep. He was later woken up by an angry fireman who said the building wasn't safe. Two floors above, there was no roof.

Skinner says he got off with

relatively little fire damage to most of his belongings, but says he still doesn't know where he'll live next or what to do about school.

"I don't know even what's damaged," he said. "I haven't even been to class since Monday and I have two English papers and [an essay for] International Development Studies."

The fire was discovered when tenant Raymond Tynes woke up to his dog's barking and was surrounded by smoke. Tynes said he was just glad his dog Luke was safe.

Dal pleads for adequate funding

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colleagues said they were looking for was much-needed government money to repair dilapidated buildings and build bigger ones.

Mount Saint Vincent University president Sheila Brown said she had dreams of getting one of her school's buildings up to the five floors its elevator boasts. Currently it stops at two.

But Dal president Tom Traves says the money isn't just about bigger and better constructions.

"This is not about an 'edifice complex,'" he quipped. "This is not about building the most beautiful buildings. This is about five people squished on a lab bench for three people."

Dalhousie Student Union president Ted Chiasson agrees. He says new buildings are often the focus of capital fundraising because they are "fun and sexy." But he says there are more immediate concerns, and that the university is going to have to lobby the government to get

those concerns addressed.

"Every politician loves cutting the ribbon and all that shit but the reality is unless the university is going to start issuing every student an umbrella... they're going to need to start fixing roofs."

Susan Clark is the director of the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education (NSCHE). She says everyone agrees the money would be nice, but wonders how the province would afford it.

"Money is needed," she said. "But \$380-million is a heck of a lot of money."

"In this day and age we're probably not going to get [that kind of money] very quickly."

Clark says the universities and the government will have to decide which projects are the region's biggest priority.

Any money the universities do get will be earmarked for capital expenditures, as opposed to operating costs, which means it won't have any impact on program

funding or tuition.

Capital expenditures, for example, pay for the lab bench, while operating costs pay for the test tubes.

The universities said if they can't get the money from government they'd have to go somewhere else — but that it just isn't feasible to look to increased tuition fees.

But Traves says just because it's not affecting students' bottom lines doesn't mean it's not affecting students.

"We're talking about all the elements that go towards a successful learning environment."



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