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Shirreff "slasher" likely a rumour

by Heather Roseveare

The presence of a "slasher" in the vicinity of Shirreff Hall seems to lack factual basis.

The "slasher," a middle-aged man, has supposedly been approaching women and asking them if they have seen his white poodle. When the woman extends her hand to accept his telephone number in case the poodle is seen, the man slashes her wrist.

Erin Steuter, a Shirreff Hall resident, says the women there are quite concerned, "especially when the name 'slasher' is attached."

Dal Security and the Halifax Police Department were unable to confirm the existence of a man who slashes wrists. They know of

a man who approaches women, complaining of his lost poodle, however, they say he is harmless.

Shirreff women are now being briefed on self-defense, encouraged to use the Dal Security escort service, and are approaching city officials to see if a bus can be rerouted to stop in front of the residence at night.

Dean of Women, Christine Irvine, says she doesn't know if the "slasher" exists. Rather, it seems to be carried over from an incident last year when a nursing student was approached by a man requesting her to warm his hands.

Shirreff council rep, Liz Vibert, says "I don't know anything about it," and adds that self-defense lectures at Shirreff are just routine.

Feds freeze summer job funds

(CUP) -- The federal government has frozen the amount of money allocated to summer job creation, but officials say the shrunken student employment program is "better than nothing".

This year's grant to help students find or create summer jobs is the same as last year's \$100 million figure. But the rise in inflation over the past year will erode the program's purchasing power.

Of this grant, \$3 million is to be spent on creating summer jobs in Nova Scotia's public and private sectors. This should create about 1,000 jobs for Nova Scotian students, according to the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission.

In May of 1981, 13.8% of Nova Scotian students were without work, compared to a rate of 10%

for all Nova Scotian residents and 7.1% unemployment in Canada during the month. June saw the student jobless rate climb to 15.2%, while 7.3% of all Canadians didn't have jobs during the same period.

Survey

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keep fees at a fixed level. MacKay said students anticipate tuition to increase with the cost of living, as do other commodities.

Saint Mary's student union president Mike McNeil, said increased enrollment is not simply an indication of ability to pay, but occurs during high unemployment where people unable to find a job stay longer in school. Also, if they cannot get a high paying job, it is less of a financial loss to spend a year in school.

Zayid said in Nova Scotia the survey attempts to challenge some commonly held views. While many people think there are too many university students, and too many universities, "We want to show who are the students."

The argument that if someone really wants to go to university, they can make it, is disproved by this survey, Zayid said. Replies to a another question show that 47 percent of students 'cost' was a discouraging factor to enrolling as opposed to 13.8 percent saying program selection, 17.6 weighing the probability of obtaining a job upon graduation, 19.3 selecting 'other' reasons and 19 percent having no deterrents to enrollment.

Zayid said 477 replies were obtained, representing five percent of Dalhousie students. Surveys were distributed during Orientation, and were made available at the enquiry desk and other places.

Remi Bujold, parliamentary secretary to employment and immigration minister Lloyd Axworthy, insisted the program was "better than nothing". He said present economic circumstances mean some programs had to be cut back.

Despite the decrease in funds, Bujold predicts more students will be placed in summer jobs by Canada employment centres for students. He calculates placements will rise from 285,000 to 296,000, and says this is because the private sector will hire more students, who will work for shorter periods, "say eight or nine weeks instead of ten".

Most post-secondary students have 16 to 20 weeks available for working during the summer.

Last summer, of 23,615 Nova Scotian students registered in Canada Employment Centres between April 1 and the end of August, about 14,047 were placed. This, however, is an improvement over the summer of 1980, when 24,543 students applied at the centres and only 10,821 people were employed.

Another jolt to the existing job creation system is the federal government's shifting of emphasis to creating jobs with career potential.

"We will help students obtain the experience they need to ease their integration into the work force," said Bujold.