

Rats still a menace

City gives inadequate control funds

by Ken MacDougall

The December 3rd edition of the GAZETTE ran a front-page story entitled "Stop the rats campaign now on". It was estimated at the time that there were from three to five million rats in the city of Halifax.

Well, this information really upset city fathers. This year the budget will allot over \$1200 to the control of the rat problem throughout the city, and of that amount, at least \$200 is going toward control in one area alone — the city dump.

To get the city to verify this amount required considerable effort. Cyril Henderson, Halifax City Manager, is an extremely busy man at this time of the year (so his secretary informed us) and couldn't possibly spare the time to talk to the GAZETTE about rats!

Dr. Margaret West of the city health unit, whose responsibilities include rat control for city parks and the dump, told us that in addition to the \$1200 allocated for materials, \$11,000 is spent annually on salaries for two men, whose sole occupation

is to enforce rat control regulations throughout the city. These men have had their positions for several years. Judging from the number of rats in the city, more than two men are required for the job.

West also said that the major problem area for rat control is the North End (where the dump is located). Landlords don't provide doors to fit homes, don't clear away rubbish, and leave homes in a general state of disrepair.

The answer to these problems is, of course, enforcement of the housing by-laws. Such action, however, takes time, West pointed out.

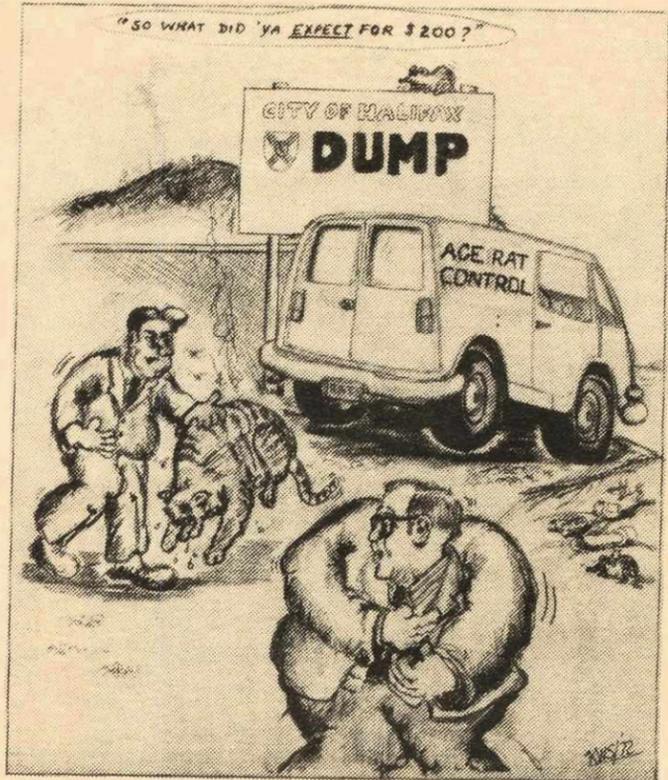
The real problem, though, is one of application. If baiting is such an effective method of controlling the rats, why are there so many of them in the city? If rats swallow conventional poisons in minute quantities, they only become ill, and they'll never go near the stuff again. The result is an upsurge in the rat population, or a migration to neighbouring residential areas.

Rats bite — children, mostly. Rats also carry varying forms of bacteria, from types causing food poisoning to types producing Weil's disease, which can cause jaundice, haemorrhages and meningitis. It is estimated that 45% of Halifax's rats are bacteria-infected.

Student Council President Brian Smith isn't particularly impressed with either the generosity of the city fathers, or with the city's methods of control. He is prepared to allow student council to allot at least \$200 to the STOP THE RATS committee or to donate the money to the city. Hopefully, this donation will prompt aldermen to do something about the rats, other than offer them free meals (which are usually refused, at any rate).

If this tactic doesn't work, perhaps someone will come forward with the telephone numbers, listed or unlisted, of the city aldermen. The GAZETTE will be happy to publish them.

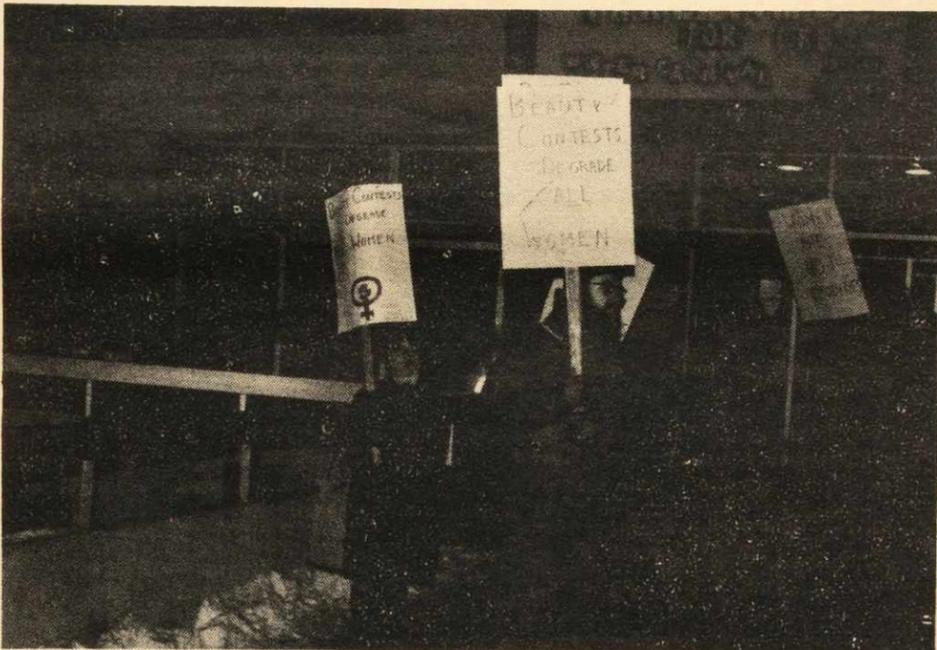
Then, perhaps, city fathers may start getting the message.



Our mistake

The GAZETTE wishes to appologize for the error in a recent issue concerning Wes Hubley's activities as a Campus Police assistant chief. The statement is incorrect and inaccurate and we sincerely appologize for any adverse reactions that may have resulted from this article.

Further information has also reached us concerning former assistant CP chief Terry Linden. He never worked in the Cohn Auditorium; he was in charge of the other CP's working the building. Therefore we also appologize to Linden for any harmful reactions that may have resulted.



dick kennedy/ dal photo

Part of the demonstration against the Winter Carnival queen contest.

FACULTY OF EDUCATION (Formerly McArthur College of Education) QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY AT KINGSTON, ONTARIO

Applications to the Faculty of Education, Queen's University, are being invited from university graduates throughout Canada. The eight month program leads to a Bachelor of Education degree and basic teacher certification at the secondary level; additionally, an elementary option is available.

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AROUND HALIFAX

FEBRUARY 12

— SUB Dance McInnes Room, SUB, \$1.50 with I.D.

— Halifax Community Concerts Jorge Moral Duo, Prince Andrew High School, 8:30 p.m. Membership \$8.80, students half.

FEBRUARY 13

— Norman Mailer, Lecture and film presentation of "Maidstone", adults \$4.40, students \$3.30.

FEBRUARY 14

— Atlantic Symphony Concert Series, Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, 8:30 p.m. Admission \$3.30, \$4.40, \$5.50, students half.

FEBRUARY 15

— 12 noon in front of SUB Celebration of Chinese New Year, lion dance and firecrackers.

FEBRUARY 16

— 8 p.m., Grace Maternity Hospital, "Family Night for Expectant Parents".

FEBRUARY 17

— 7 and 9 p.m. McInnes Room, SUB. Film Society Movie "L'Assassin Habite au 21".

FEBRUARY 18

— New York's Open Theatre, Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, 8:30 p.m. \$2.00, \$3.00, \$4.00, students half.

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