

"Get-tough" won't work on crime

by Shelly Galliah

Please put those electrodes down.

Fifteen thousand brain-sizzling volts cannot heal a convict, according to Dr. Paul Gendreau, a psychologist with the Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services. Gendreau spoke at Dal last week on the topic of *Curing Criminals: Rehabilitation versus Deterrence versus Justice*.

Gendreau said that rehabilitation can and does work if an effective program is established. However he added that governments have always preferred sim-

ple but costly punishment policy rather than the more complicated rehabilitation programs. Gendreau said no program works if the bureaucracy does not accept it.

Gendreau blames the problem of North America's packed prisons on the absence of rehabilitation programs that could identify the low-risk criminal, keep him out of jail and save the taxpayer money. For instance, Gendreau said that supporters of capital punishment should realize that processing a criminal from arrest to the chair costs 1.5 million dollars. Considering that the United States has 3,000 men on death

row, America could buy up half the third world for the same amount.



Gendreau said that workers in the field of "curing criminals" have to adapt to the changing strategies of the government; that the mental health "brotherly

love" approach to rehabilitation of the 1960's was "disastrous" but that the get-tough policy which replaced it in the 70's was hardly a better alternative.

In Canada, the implementation of the Young Offenders Act (YOA), which does not provide the option of ordering counselling for young offenders, had a negative impact on the crime rate. Gendreau's office studied the statistics and found that in 1986-87, under the YOA, 31 per cent of juveniles went to prison compared to only 18 per cent in 1981-82 before the YOA took effect. The rate of recidivism (reincarceration) also increased, said

Gendreau.

If punishment is inefficient and rehabilitation is difficult to implement, where is the solution? Gendreau advocates combining the two. He said a beneficial deterrence program should incorporate rehabilitation — one that "promotes pro-social values so the criminal can understand his problem."

Gendreau has found that an effective regime stresses personal contact, positive role models and behaviour modification. Gendreau said in the future, psychologists will have an even greater role in criminal treatment and assessment.

Carnival

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people wanted to get involved." Beattie says some members of the Executive blame Crawley for the Carnival's failure. She says there is "resentment because he didn't actually go to the events." Winter Carnival is included in Crawley's portfolio and Beattie says some members "felt abandoned by him."

deMont says that he and Juanita Montalvo, President of

the Student Union, must also take the blame. He says neither of them "recognized the problems soon enough". deMont says he is "proud of the way a lot of people chipped in to help", but admits "there could have been more spirit within the Executive."

Despite the problems, Sandra Thompson says she'd like to apply for the job of Chairperson of the Carnival again next year. She says now that she knows the "ins and outs" involved, she'd like to see the "Winter Carnival a success."

Anti-abortion rally to mark law's demise

by Michele Thibeau

Last Saturday, exactly one year after the abortion law in Canada was struck down, 1000 people participated in a peaceful candlelight walk from All Saints Cathedral to Saint Mary's Basilica, where Nova Scotians United For Life (NSUFL) then sponsored a "Rally For Life".

Sharon Harland, Sanctity of Life Convenor for the Catholic Women's League of Canada, explained how they educate people, informing them that the unborn have the right to inherit money, and sue after birth, but not the right to live. Helen Walsh, from Give Life Canada, talked about her efforts to get a law to protect the unborn. Last year she walked from St. John's Newfoundland to Ottawa to raise support.

Pat Tanner, NSUFL president said the organization is, "not a political-action one, our mandate is education", especially of young people. Referring to the possibility of Dr. Henry Morgentaler establishing an abortion clinic in Halifax, Tanner said (Morgentaler) "is a catalyst and whether he comes or not there are still 1,750 abortions done every year here already and this cannot be ignored."

The NSUFL are planning workshops on the issue, as are other groups around the city.

In 1969, abortion became legal in Canada, with some restriction. Parliament has not yet introduced a law to replace the legislation struck down last year.



Paul Grandy, Dal Photo

Concerned citizens "rally for life."

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Nominations close: Monday, February 20 at 4:00pm

Nomination forms are available from Room 222 of the Student Union Building starting Monday, January 30. For further information please contact Wayne Aspinall, Chief Returning Officer at 424-2146, or in Room 222, S.U.B.