

Arnold Mosher

The Roving Photographer

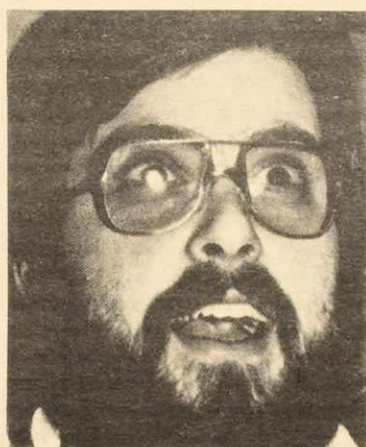
Question: What do you want for Christmas?



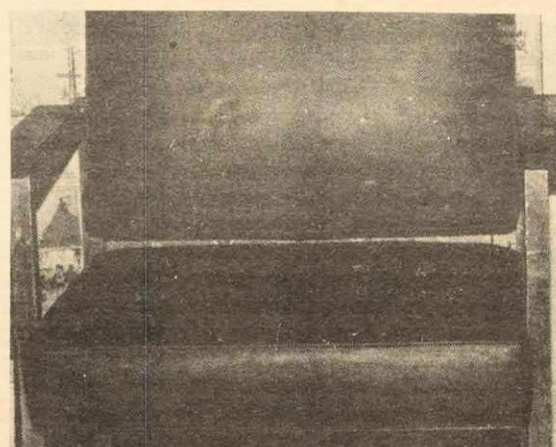
Phil Embrett, First Year Commerce
Real Estate!



Connie McLeese, Education
I don't want anything for Christmas, I'm probably one of the world's few thoroughly contented human beings.



C.A. Minkoff, Engineering-Commerce
I'd like to have my picture on the cover of the Rolling Stone.



A chair, third floor SUB.
I want fewer assholes around here next year.

'The Gazette has caught a red herring'

by Bruce MacGowan

The Dalhousie Bookstore profit figure is a red herring. Two weeks ago I asked Jeff Champion, member of the bookstore committee, to acquire a copy of the income statement of the bookstore so that the Finance Committee could, in its watch dog capacity, study it to determine if any excessive profits were being generated. Jeff got the income statement and announced at the council meeting of November 23, 1980 the profit figure. Everybody was "up in arms", I even said to myself, "we've caught the university red handed taking advantage of the students". However, as soon as I saw the income statement I began to have second thoughts. In fact, the more I studied the state-

ment, the more convinced I became that the owners of the bookstore [Dalhousie University] are not out to rip off the students.

This point of view is somewhat contrary to the position taken by the *Gazette* in the two articles written about the bookstore in last week's issue. In those articles, I feel that the *Gazette* was trying to fabricate a scandal. Using expressions such as "healthy profit" and "fat profits" to describe what in a business context would be a very low return [4.6%] for the level of sales involved [almost \$1.2 million]. I urged the *Gazette* writer who contacted me to wait until the Finance Committee had a report ready before printing anything involving the bookstore income. Apparently they

felt that the public had a right to know as soon as possible about the bookstore's profit, even if this meant not doing any research to substantiate expressions of "healthy profit" and "fat profit".

Well, the Finance Committee has done its homework and as committee Chairman I will comment on what we have found. Closer analysis of the profit figure shows that almost all of this profit came from the sale of trade books [books not required for a course], stationary and school supplies, and sundries [T-shirts, records, posters, etc.]. The bookstore does not have a monopoly on these items, so any sales made were because the students chose to buy them there, in contrast to the near monopoly situation in

the case of text books. In fact if the bookstore had sold only textbooks it would have lost about \$10,000 last year.

I think it is very important to emphasize that the bookstore is not out to make a profit. I examined the budgeted income for 1979-80 and the bookstore was budgeted to lose close to \$14,000. As it turned out, the bookstore sold much more in the non-textbook items than expected, and this caused the profit of \$55,000 [keep in mind that any profit generated by the bookstore stays within the university].

In light of the fact that the *Gazette* misquoted Jeff Champion with regard to the bookstore mark up scheme, I feel that the actual policy

should be mentioned here. All non-text items are marked up 40% over what the bookstore pays. All textbooks are marked up 25% over the price the bookstore must pay, NOT 25% over the list price as misquoted by the *Gazette*. As an interesting aside, if the bookstore charged 25% over the list price, its income for 1979-80 would have been in the range of \$295,000.

To conclude, the whole intention of reviewing the bookstore income figures was to keep them honest, to let them know we are watching them. I think we have accomplished that, and so we can let them off the hook. Too bad *Gazette*, the big fish you thought you had, turned out to be nothing but a red herring.

'Outrageous' thefts at Dalplex unpublicized by administration

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter to you in the hopes that you will investigate the outrageous thefts that have been occurring in the Dalplex. Over the past weeks and months there has been an alarming number of incidents where patrons' personal property has been stolen from locked lockers, locked team rooms and locked offices. There has been considerable concern expressed to me by students who use the facility about a master list that was in the equipment control centre. This list had each locker issued beside the corresponding combination. It seems anything from watches and cameras to leather jackets and brand new sneakers have been taken from lockers with no sign of the lock being broken or otherwise tampered with to gain entry. The same story applies to the missing items from offices and team rooms — no sign of forced entry. From the stories I have investigated, the majority of these thefts have occurred overnight.

It is not my intention to accuse anyone but simply to express my indignation with the administration for not warning us about what has been happening. If I had known, I would have bought a new lock long ago and probably not lost \$150.00 worth of jewelry last weekend. I am sure many other students who have been "ripped off" feel the same way. In the last day and a half, by simply telling people of my misfortune, I have heard of at least ten other unexplainable thefts. I shudder to think how many have occurred! How much trouble does it take to post a few signs warning people of the security problem?

I feel it is my duty as a responsible council member to bring this to your attention. It is your duty as editor of this student newspaper to investigate the issue and provide the warning to the Dalplex patrons that the administration has failed to provide to date.

Sincerely,
Marie Gilkinson
Health Professions
Representative

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beards too, coach?

Dear Editor:

I would like to comment further on the last paragraph of "Council protests decision to cut volleyball player," which appeared in the *Dalhousie Gazette* December 4, 1980.

Before moving to the main point of this letter, I would like to say that I am a Decathlete, and am keenly interested in all other track and field disciplines, but because facilities for the decathlon (ten events) at Dal are very poor, and in some instances non-existent, I decided to try out for the volleyball team, volleyball being a sport that I like very much and have played and competed in extensively for

over a decade.

After about four days of intensive drills and exercise, each player was called aside individually by the coach. When my turn came, the coach said to me, "you have learned a lot in the past few days," and that I did some good things out on the court, but in terms of experience I will always be playing catch-up to the rest of the guys. The coach then proceeded to tell me where I would be able to find other volleyball competition if I was still interested.

Even today I still wonder what the coach meant by "experience" when I clearly coped with all that was

required of me in the practices, and in most cases showed just as much potential and fared much better than a number of rookies who were subsequently kept on the team.

After the problem involving Peter Jacobs being denied entry into the volleyball team because of the length of his hair, I began to wonder if I had been similarly affected because of having a beard of some length. The coach never told me this, but in light of my experience, I felt I was being deprived of being able to make a contribution to volleyball at Dal.

D.M. Fahie