

# RCMP seize ATV newsfilm

by Ian MacLean

RCMP seized television news film from CJCH-TV Friday December 31, in an attempt to gather information about vandalism at a Shelburne fish plant earlier in the week.

ATV News Director Dick Pratt told the Dalhousie Gazette: "The seizure was an infringement upon the freedom of the press... The RCMP have a difficult job to do and we do not want to hinder them. But it is not the duty of the media to gather news for the police. It makes the job of gathering news more difficult." He added that the appearance of media collaboration with the police is created.

Inshore lobster fisherpeople in the Shelburne area planned a peaceful demonstration at the Continental Seafoods plant in Shelburne to protest what they saw as offshore lobster fishing depleting inshore catches. The Continental plant processes offshore lobster.

The demonstration culminated in the destruction of several thousand



The RCMP recently seized ATV film from the Halifax studios. They are using it to identify the participants in a recent protest in Shelburne.

Dal Photo/Mooney



Dal Photo/Mooney

dollars worth of property and equipment belonging to Continental.

An ATV film crew had been dispatched to cover the demonstration, and portions of the film showing the vandalism were later broadcast on ATV news. Subsequently, three RCMP officers arrived at ATV headquarters and requested permission to view the film. Pratt complied.

The RCMP officers requested possession of the film, but Pratt

declined to co-operate. One of the officers produced a warrant authorizing confiscation of the film.

Sgt. Dodds of the Shelburne division is currently in charge of the investigation although the decision to make the seizure was made by local RCMP officials. When contacted, Dodds said that he regarded the move as being normal in such an investigation and stated that the procedure depends upon the cir-

cumstances of the particular case. He felt that the events surrounding this particular case were such that seizure was justifiable.

Sgt. Dodds confirmed that RCMP officers were present at the demonstration.

Recognizing the potential conflicts it faced, ATV's management instructed its crew to shoot its film from a distance in such a way as to avoid clear profiles of individual

demonstrators. Despite these precautions, RCMP were able to identify four persons, against whom charges are pending, and have sent the film to their lab for enlargement in hopes of identifying more participants.

This seizure was not an isolated incident. Several years ago similar action was taken to obtain an ATV film of a cock-fight involving Dalhousie students.

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# AFS, NUS referenda Feb. 16

by Rick Collins and Val Mansour

At Sunday night's council meeting, a motion was passed to hold both NUS/UNE and AFS/FEA referendums on the Dalhousie campus.

In February of this year, Dalhousie students shall cast a decisive vote on either the continuation or rejection of financial support of the National Union of Students and the Atlantic Federation of Students.

With the approval, two years ago, of the National Union of Students fee raise, from thirty cents to one dollar, payable at registration, the NUS has proven itself active at a federal level in monetary matters such as student funding and tuition.

Established in 1974, the Atlantic Federation of Students has since been suffering the pangs of inadequate funding. Organization and provincial issues, never properly dealt with at a federal level, were slated to be handled by the Atlantic association.

Increased direct responsibility and accountability of the AFS/FEA to Atlantic students, together with greater communication and in-

creased services to Atlantic students, as well as more effective ability in representative student concerns to provincial and regional governmental bodies, came into being at a November Conference to resolve the structure and financing of AFS/FEA.

Student Council approved The Dalhousie Gazette's request for funding for the recent Vancouver CUP conference. Two Gazette staffers attended the week-long Canadian University Press conference although only one fare was originally paid by council. Council treasurer Patrick Stewart had previously said that the money could have been taken out of miscellaneous funding since the Gazette budget did not allow for this.

Appointments made at this meeting were Gerry McKinley as a student representative on the parking committee and Brenda Shesnick as communications chairperson.

It was announced that the yearbooks are being mailed out on January 21st. Wayne Cross, for office services will be delivering the

books to those in the metro area, while out of town copies will be mailed directly from Winnipeg.

An enquiry was made as to whether the \$700 fine for compensation to Ken MacDougall will be paid by council. Former SUB night

manager Ken MacDougall was fired last year and at Sunday's council meeting both Patrick Stewart and Gordie Neal at separate times said "I'll take full responsibility for that!"

### Inside This Week

**Feature: The real dope on aspirin  
Laval faculty strike ends**

**Hockey: Bickerton continues to star**

### Coming Next Week

**Coffee: your worst best friend  
Winter Carnival Information**

Production and writing  
workshops Saturday and Sunday afternoons.  
Dal Gazette office, room 334, SUB.