

# Thefts at Dalplex "dried up"

by Paul Creelman

The problem of thefts from lockers at the Dalplex appears to have abated, according to Max Keeping, chief of security at Dalhousie.

"We did have a rash of thefts over a period of time at the Dalplex. We hope that we've successfully dried up these thefts now. We'll know better once the new term has started, but it has been pretty quiet for some weeks now."

Dal security has posted warning notices and disclaimers of responsibility in the locker room, but the main method used to prevent these thefts was "removal of the source" according to Keeping. While refusing to mention any details, Keeping indicated that security had done some investigation into the probable cause of the thefts and dealt with the problem circumspically.

The complaints of thefts at the Dalplex came to a peak just before Christmas last term, when Health Representative Marie Gilkinson wrote a letter to the Gazette expressed outrage at the thefts.

"Over the past weeks and months, there have been an alarming number of incidents where patrons personal property has been stolen from locked lockers, locked team rooms and locked offices," wrote Gilkinson, complaining about a personal loss of over a hundred dollars worth of jewellery. Others had had running shoes, watches and in one case even a slide projector stolen from lockers. Even

the professors and athletic personnel in the Dalplex were not immune to the pilfering, and a number of incidents were reported by those who had items stolen from their offices.

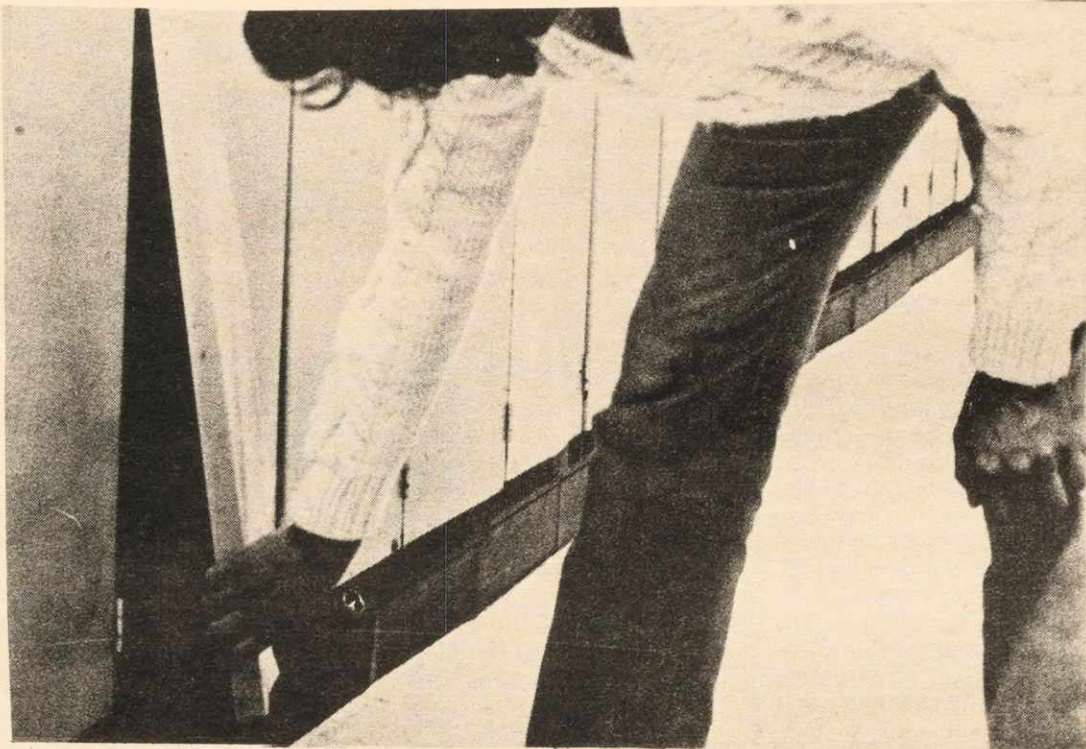
Dave Nells, the Dalplex building manager, says that they have been aware of the problem for some time, but haven't experienced any trouble for a while.

"We have had signs posted in the locker rooms and started regular checks at lockers and are looking at a number of alternatives for prevention if we have any further troubles," said Nells. Although there hasn't been any consideration of a check in facilities for valuables, Nells says that they are considering the rental of lockers on a term basis.

"About the only thing I can say to students is that you don't have to take your valuables with you. You don't need a valuable watch, wallet and a lot of cash to get into the Dalplex. All you need is a card. When I go to a rink for hockey, I only take my keys and a couple of bucks with me," said Nells.

Now that the thefts seem to be under control, people like Council Representative Gilkinson are more complacent about the situation.

"I was just informed tonight that almost as soon as my letter was printed that warning signs were posted in the locker rooms last year. To my own knowledge, no one that I know was heard of any thefts so far. I just hope it stays that



We are told that theft at the Dalplex, which had reached critical levels before Christmas, is on the downswing.

way," said Gilkinson.

However, the thefts at Dalplex are only a small part of the larger problem of university security, according to Max Keeping.

"We have problems in an open University in that we can't really tell the difference between someone who is a typical student or someone who is just coming in off the street looking for things to pick up. In the Dalplex, we do have some control over the entry into the building. However, we still have incidents like the one we had this year where an individual bought the \$3.00

pass for one day to get into the Dalplex, went through one sweep in the locker room to pick up everything he could, and then left through a door he shouldn't have. He was later identified as a known thief, someone that we've had problems with before.

Keeping also blames some of the recent problems on personal laxness on the part of patrons of the Dalplex.

"I think that some people may get the idea that they are on hallowed university grounds here, and that what happens out on the streets in other parts of the city can't happen here. If they get under

the protection of the dome of the Dalplex, and relax personal tensions or whatever, then they don't have to worry about things like thefts. But we can't keep the public out of this university very well," said Keeping.

Keeping also notes that it isn't clear whether or not people actually remembered to shut the locks on their lockers in some of the cases reported to security, although an arrangement has been worked out with the Dalplex staff to check the locker rooms regularly and close any locks that have been carelessly left open.

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## Gray days ahead

by John Cairns

Have you ever striven hard for something, succeeded, and then had to fight again? Did the new beginning leave you frustrated or even depressed? These questions may apply to the student who conquers Christmas exams only to soon experience further academic warfare. Before long, the battles of exams and written essays loom as large as ever.

This kind of feeling appears in *The Dalhousie Gazette* of January 27, 1927. The author is suffering the mid-winter blues, but he struggles to make the best of "these gray days". In his words:

"We are starting the gray days of our college year. We have been here long enough for the full novelty of our courses to have worn off. The thrill and the content of the Christmas holidays are but memories which might be years away.

"Because of the sameness of these days, they are almost monotonous. Especially is that so this year, since the weather has prevented any enjoyment in winter sport.

"But for all that, the gray days have a charm which is

entirely lacking those earlier, more interesting ones. There is practically nothing worthwhile doing in them but working and thinking. And they are apt to be the basis of any satisfaction we have with our college year. What we do in them, we feel to have been done because, for once, work was the most attractive thing that there was. Those in charge of societies and activities find it a hard period, particularly of those from which the individual student can only gain a benefit proportional to the effort which he is willing to put forth.

"But here again, it is in this very period, with its gray days, that these activities justify their existence. Because then, students do not appreciate them for the sake of their novelty or entertainment, but for their real worth.

"Let us try and get the most out of these gray days. They are solid gray rocks, on which foundations may be built."

Do the "gray days of our college year" reappear annually? Must we all endure them? One would suspect that they are on their way.

