

Assassins killing power shows at LSC lights

by C. Ricketts

Teams of assassins armed with flashlights and water pistols scurried through the Life Sciences Centre maze last Saturday at midnight. Their mission: to seek and destroy.

To make it more interesting, persons unknown flipped circuit switches in unlocked switch boxes. Over six hundred dollars of damage and disruption of experiments killed any future assassination games the Dalhousie Science Society might want to stage.

Three doors in the Biology wing

were kicked in and a crash bar torn from a door in the Psychology wing. Nearly one hundred dollars worth of sterilized stainless steel caps were scattered on the floor. A fire extinguisher disappeared, a public telephone was wrecked and washrooms left in disarray.

Dal Security received a call noon Sunday that electricity was not working in both Biology and Psychology wings. Electricians were called in and power restored by 2:30 pm, but for some of the research experiments requiring con-

stant maintenance of temperature, time and effort had been wasted.

"Electricity from the emergency power generator did not get through the closed circuits.

"If they want to play games like that they should join the army," said John Coach, administrative manager of the Biology department. He said he had been approached two years ago for permission to hold an assassination game in the LSC, but had refused. The game had gone ahead with no hitches when permission was

obtained from a higher authority

Director of Services John Graham and Head of Security Max Keeping both gave the go ahead on this year's game. "I gave them permission based on performance last year," said Graham. "Obviously it won't happen again," he said.

Psychology graduate student Bill Matheson discovered lights off on the first three floors of the Psychology wing, vomit in the washrooms and empty rum bottles on the second floor Sunday afternoon.

Because power was cut off to refrigeration units "Some serum

and tissue samples had to be discarded and drugs will have to be replaced", he said.

Dr. Shinshu Nakajima lost over a month's labour on an experiment with mice brain tissue. "It's difficult to say if the samples were damaged, but the data to be obtained wouldn't be valid," he said. He had examined samples, and although nothing appeared to be wrong with them, there was a possibility they had been refrozen.

Nakajima noted some of the animals used in experiments had to have environmental temperature strictly controlled. To his knowledge, none of the animals had been killed. "If they died, it would have been their assassination," he said.

Psychology Chair R.S. Rodger said one experiment had been underway for two years, at a cost of \$50,000-\$70,000. He hopes frozen tissue samples were not affected, and valid results will be obtained when the experiment is completed in a year's time. The tissue samples are in a "deep freeze" unit.

Lack of security was a major factor leading to the problems. Although the Science Society had distributed rules to the participants, only some of the teams were told not to cut the hall lights. Fifteen referees tried to keep the 110 players in line.

Non-participants also contributed to the mess. Assassination referee Michael Thompson said there were six male and two female students fooling around with fire extinguishers. "I didn't feel like taking on eight people so I just took away their toys," he said. He noted they were "feeling a little happy" and was concerned that a CO₂ fire extinguisher had disappeared from its rack.

DSS vice president Gray Giovannetti was an assassin in the game. He said there was no security, and no requirement to sign into the LSC. "People stay until after 12:00 am, when the security guard leaves, in order to study after hours. I've done it many times," he said.

Giovannetti said he was amazed at how open the LSC was. During the course of the game, he said he found an unlocked lab with a dissecting microscope sitting on the counter. Matheson said the Psychology department was left open most of the time for student use.

When asked if he thought alcohol had been a part of the problem DSS president Marc Trottier responded a few people had been drinking at the pre-game warm-up in the Biology lounge. The DSS had only nine flats of beer, which meant an average of two bottles per person, he said.

"Some people are just plain stupid, it's almost unbelievable that this whole thing happened," said Trottier. He plans to call a meeting of referees and participants to find out what exactly happened.

About six DSS members spent 1½ hours cleaning up after the game, although Coach said there was extra work for the cleaners next day.

Council positions to be left vacant

by Tom Morrison

Cathy McDonald

To impeach or not to impeach. Five student councillors were lined up in front of the firing squad at last Sunday's council meeting, for poor attendance.

Michael Solway, Administrative

Studies rep, George Fraser, Member-at-Large, Chris Hartt, Senator, all provided excuses for their absences. According to the constitution, if a councillor misses two consecutive meetings without giving acceptable notice to the chairperson, they are guilty of 'dere-

liction of duty' and can be impeached.

Dentistry rep Ed McMurdo and medicine rep Andrew Hamilton did not attend to defend themselves, although they had received impeachment notices by registered mail. Both were impeached.

Hamilton said later "personal priorities" got in the way of his council duties.

However, MacMurdo was confused by the whole process. He had excuses for missing two meetings but "didn't know that telling them (he'd be absent) was a problem."

"This isn't high school," he said. "We don't need notes from parents."

Apparently MacMurdo received the notice of impeachment thinking his seat had already been taken away, so he didn't attend last Sunday.

"If I had known I would have had a chance, I would have gone," MacMurdo said. He complained council meetings were too long and "have nothing to do with dentistry or medicine". He took the position as no-one else was running, he said. He sees his role as communicating between council and dentistry, and has offered to continue this function for dentistry students, although not sitting on council.

Solway explained to Council that he was involved in prior commitments when he found out about the special meeting called to discuss Dalhousie's financial constraint, among other things, on Sunday, October 21. He was sick for the second missed meeting. Chris Hartt was ill for both meetings and had intended to attend until just before each meeting.

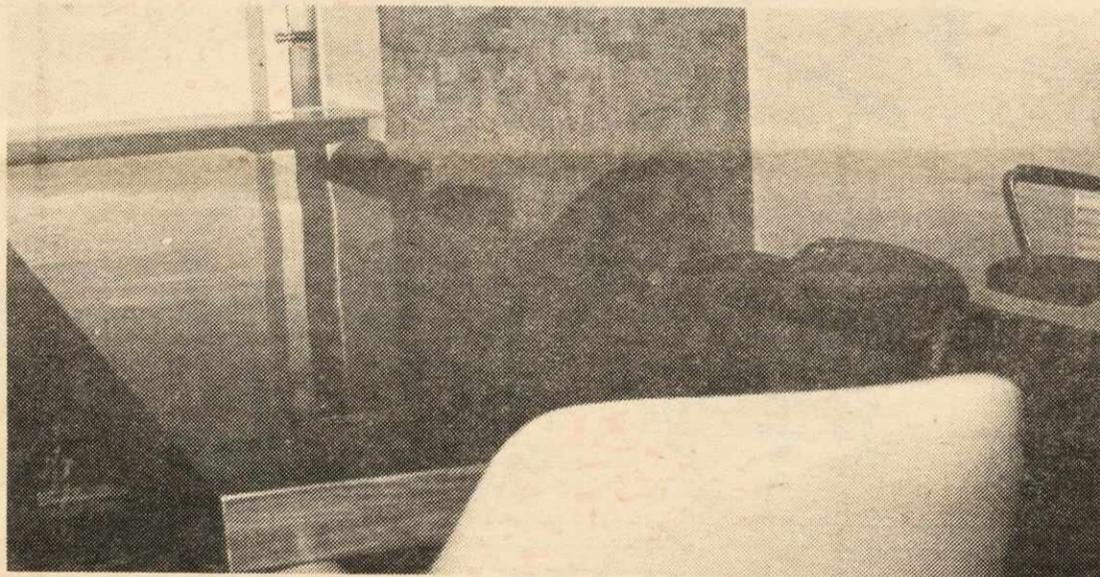
Fraser was sick for the first of the three meetings he missed, didn't hear about the second, and was in the United States for the third. He gave notice of his third absence, he said, but the message didn't reach the chair, Bill Walsh.

Shawn Houlihan, Treasurer of the DSU, said Fraser's excuses were vague, and accused him of at times leaving shortly after roll call is taken.

A vote to impeach Fraser failed, with many councillors abstaining. No motion was made to impeach Hartt or Solway.

Last Sunday's proceedings bring the grand total of vacant seats on council to five, two by resignation and three by impeachment.

Reps for dentistry and medicine can be replaced by their respective societies. The position of Senator, Board of Governors rep and Vice President External are to be appointed at next council meeting.



Priest/Dal Photo

Some people say smaller is more efficient. But if trends continue this could be the Dalhousie student council of tomorrow.

Fall election ruled out by Council

by Tom Morrison

Cathy McDonald

The hoped-for fall election to fill the vacant student Senator seat has been ruled out by Janine Saulnier, Chief Returning Officer. In her report to student council last Sunday, Saulnier said a fall election was constitutionally impossible. Council approved her recommendation for an early 3-day election in mid-February. Since former Senator Greg Fitzgerald was legally impeached on October 3, the Dalhousie Student Union constitution dictates that it is too late for an election, and the position must be filled by appointment.

In total there are five student positions on the Senate, the body responsible for Dalhousie's academic program, and two students on the Board of Governors, the highest university authority,

responsible for Dal's financial health.

There are now five vacant seats on student council, and the Recruitment Committee is in full swing to interview candidates for three of them.

Recommendations to appoint a Senator, Board of Governors rep and Vice President External will be ready "by next council meeting", said John Russell, VP Internal. Russell is the chairperson of the Recruitment Committee, which interviews candidates to make recommendations for council approval.

The Vice President External, a post created last year, is responsible for representing Dalhousie students to other student organizations and institutions. The person will be central to student political campaigns, and will be given a mandate to coordinate a campus survey on accessibility to post secondary

education.

Russell said the committee will be making sure candidates have enough time for the job and are "screened thoroughly. They can expect very pointed questions. We're looking for the absolute best."

Saulnier recommended general elections be early this year, to allow new councillors time to ease into their new responsibilities. Council approved the dates February 14, 15 and 16 for a three-day election.

Saulnier has experience in preparing for elections from two years working in the Halifax Municipal Office. The campaign period will be during Winter Carnival, which is the "perfect time", Saulnier said.

Whether or not there will be "travelling ballot boxes" moving from class to class, a concept that was pioneered last year, is still up in the air.