

Diggers need \$

By Lloyd Buchinski

The Digger House, closed down to give its overworked volunteer staff a break from the seven days a week routine, will reopen on the 24th of October to start off its winter program. At least one of the major problems facing the treatment of speed freaks will be solved by using the Digger House only for speed problems and sending transients somewhere else. "The only people who can get along with speed freaks are other speed freaks," claimed an ex- "freak", now worker, and, in the past, work was hampered by conflicting priorities between the two groups.

One problem that will remain unsolved is the shortage of money. All but four of the staff are volunteer workers and most of the funds are donations. The government does not seem to realize the seriousness or the extent of amphetamine addiction, and is not supplying enough money either for treatment or for research.

As yet, there is no proven formula for curing speed addiction and additional problems often develop. For example, part of the treatment procedure used by the Merry-go-Round involves supplying tranquilizers to help speeders come down from a trip without the usual unpleasant experiences, and then trying to get them to quit the habit. Unfortunately, many of the speeders are abusing this treatment by using tranquilizers to come down on and then going back up on speed. The Merry-go-Round often results in a roller coaster ride, adding a dependency on tranquilizers to speed addiction.

Since so little research has been done with speed, the people who know most about it are the people who have used it, and in this respect the digger house has a very experienced staff. This creates a more genuine atmosphere for the speeder. He realizes that the staff members have been through everything he has and are trying to help him because they know speed kills and not because of some hypocritical anti-drug ideal that many social workers seem to operate on. The staff at the Digger House is fully aware of every benefit drugs can offer as well as the dangers, and have based their decision to help people quit on this knowledge rather than on up in the air ideals.

Some of the problems resulting from speed are hepatitis, syphilis, and gonorrhoea, (all spread by needles) malnutrition and a breakdown of resistance to infection caused by malnutrition. There is also a speed psychosis that results in an unreasoning fear; fear of police, fear of being busted even though he is clean, or a fear that people in general are out to get him.

Devils advocates in Paradise

Cops crash residence

Many people have been attracted to Paradise Lands this year, and the police department has been no exception. In fact, they have been rather frequent visitors, entering the residence in the early morning hours three times in the past few weeks.

The latest incident took place October 12, when two residents were awakened at 4 a.m. by two of Halifax's finest, standing in their doorway, shining a light around their room. The police had no search warrant, but wanted to know what the place was. They claimed they thought the building was a hospital, although two pairs of their comrades had been in to inquire the same thing the

previous week.

When the students told them that the building was a Dalhousie residence, the cops, now four in number, said that the house was not registered. (Before being turned into a Dal residence, the building served as an army barracks.)

Once informed that the building had been registered, and an occupancy permit obtained several months previous, two of the officers departed, while the two remaining made an attempt to check out the rest of the building.

When the residents who were awake at the time made vehement protests, the cops settled for asking the names

and ages of those standing around. They were also refused this information, and after a bit more polite conversation a Dalhousie professor living in the building gave them the names of Dalhousie officials in charge of housing, and suggested that they might pick a better hour for their visits.

This ended the episode for the evening, but several days later a Dal sociology professor was stopped as he was entering the building, and asked his name, what his business was there, and what the place was.

The residents have sent off a letter to the City Police, asking for an explanation of these events, but at present time had not received an answer. Dalhousie Legal Aid Service is also looking into the matter.

Who knows where terrorism will strike next?

German course union formed

Needs support

By Dorothy Wigmore

The German Students' Course Union needs student support to ensure a non-elitist set up, says student representative Bev Yeadon.

"This year'll really show how effective it is," she says. "We need student support or else faculty can say 'who are you representing?' If we don't have any support, we'll be

lucky if we can keep the present three representatives on the committee."

Anyone taking German is in the course union and is eligible to be one of three students elected to sit on a committee with seven faculty members. There are representatives in each class. Departmental meetings are open to all students and they can freely talk from the floor.

The course union was organized last spring. The department offered to open meetings to students, and the students picked it up from there. They have a say in all decisions made in the department. So far, they have been instrumental in getting rid of the textbook used last year in German 100 and 150, and in reducing the emphasis on the final exam. It now counts for 30%, as compared to 65% last year.

"It is an effective set-up," says Yeadon. "We have full voting privileges and can be on all standing committees." The students also have a say in the texts used, labs, tutorials, and class hours. Grips are channeled from the class reps to the three student committee members, to the committee. The students have not asked for a say in firing and hiring. "However," explained Yeadon, "last year someone came to be interviewed by the department and we had a vote on whether we'd hire him or not."

Discussion is often the best method to solve problems. (the students have found.) No extreme problems have developed yet. "I don't think there need be confrontation between students and faculty," stated Yeadon.

The course union is aiming for equal representation. When it comes is dependent on student turnout and support.

Concerts look good

Music and mime, opera and ballet will be presented this year as part of the Dalhousie University Concert series, which will initiate the new Arts Centre.

The series provides something for everyone, with a wide variety of musical groups presenting modern times. Many of the concerts are free, the costs for the others are minimal. Student tickets for all events are half price.

The highlights of the series include The Ensemble Syntagma Musicum, with a program of medieval music played on original instruments. The selection of secular and sacred music dates from 1050 to 1650. A Beethoven Festival, featuring the Vaghy String Quartet, the Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, the New York Chamber Orchestra, pianist Abbey Simon and a chorale concert with the Dal Chorale and the Atlantic Symphony will be presented from the 19 - 29 of November.

Later in the season, the Canadian Mime Theatre, now in its second season, will give two shows. The Mozart Opera, "Cosi Fan Tutte" and Les Grands Ballets Canadiens are also on the agenda, as well as other soloists and groups.

A complete list of events, and prices can be obtained from the Central Box office at Dal., or by phoning 424 - 2298.

The next event in the series will be the Ensemble Syntagma Musicum conducted by Kees Otten. The concert will be held Sunday, November 8 at 3 pm. Admission is free.

Varma digs Vampires

By Beth Neily

During the Renaissance, a light spread over the darkness of Europe as man began to explore new lands and new horizons of learning. With this level nearly exhausted, he turned his quest towards the heavens in the Space Age. But there had to be a third dimension to man's curiosity and he began to turn inward to explore the mysteries of the soul and mind. This is the Age of Aquarius when men are experimenting with the bizarre - hallucinogenic

drugs, the occult and astrology.

Dr. Devendra P. Varma, professor of English at Dalhousie University, is presently exploring the possibilities of filming Ann Radcliffe's famous novel, "The Mysteries of Udolpho." The Mysterplay will be produced by the Hungarian producer of "The Time Machine" and "War of the Worlds", George Pal. Starring in the film will be one of the greatest exponents of the Gothic macabre, Vincent Price. Price, who

may be best known for his roles in "The Fall of the House of Usher" and "Mask of Red Death," will play the part of Montoni in "Udolpho." However, Dr. Varma says that it will be several months before anything definite will come of the project.

Dr. Varma is an eminent world authority on the Gothic literature of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. In 1968, Varma published the Seven Horrid Novels mentioned in Jane Austin's book, "Northanger Abbey," which were exhumed only after several years of research.

The Count Dracula Society, devoted to a serious study of Gothic literature and films, presented Dr. Varma with the Radcliffe Award in 1968 and the Horace Walpole Gold Medal in 1970 for his outstanding contributions in the field.

Much of Gothic literature dwells on the world of unseen phantoms and supernatural beings. Varma feels that too much emphasis has been placed on the productions of "Frankenstein" and "Count Dracula" themes while some of the great masterpieces of Gothic literature have been ignored. What better way to bring these works to public awareness than through the silver screen?



dal photo

Dr. Varma caught tweaking Dr. Hicks' carotid artery in an unguarded moment.

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