

the dalhousie gazette

OCTOBER 2, 1975.

NUMBER 4

VOLUME 108

Violent crimes on increase 71%

by Ron Norman

The Halifax Police Department's Annual Report for 1974 shows an increase in crime of 10%. The report is published at the end of each year and any information from the police before its publication is virtually unobtainable. In the search for statistics and/or information on crime for the first eight months of this year this reporter ran into a surprisingly firm police department.

After shuffling from person to person I was at last able to speak to an Inspector Devine. He would only say that, "We don't have any information compiled as of yet, but in our spot checks it seems that crime this year is about the same as 1974."

That statement means that either the number of crimes is the same this year as in 1974, or more probably, that the rate of increase for this year is the same as last year's - 10%. Dealing with the police department was like dealing with the residence committee on housing - lots of rhetoric and very little information.

Looking at the 1974 report a number of items are highlighted, the most significant one being the considerable increase in the number of violent crimes committed - 71%.

Why the huge increase in violent crimes? The police report alluded to "a direct relationship between the use of drugs in the city in the past year and the increase in the crimes of violence (and crimes in general)." Inspector Devine reinforced that attitude, explaining that drugs have a twofold effect on crime.

In the first case he cited personal experience where a drug had acted as a direct element in a "man's urge to commit a crime" (ie. "a drug gives the person 'courage' to stand up to us when he usually wouldn't.")

The rash of pharmacy store robberies are another instance of drugs' effect. Pharmacy stores are now more frequently robbed for their drugs rather than their money. This is a major crime in Halifax, and a crime not seen ten years ago," said Devine.

However, with the huge jump in violent crimes and only a marginal rise in the number of drug cases handled (8%), drugs cannot be the sole factor in the 71% rise in violent crimes. Inspt. Devine admitted that drugs were not the sole factor in the rise of violent crimes, yet he was unable to cite any other factors. It seems, then, that some unknown elements play a role in the current upswing in violent crimes.



Violent crimes were not the only crimes on the increase in 1974. The report states that thefts over \$200 were up 35.9%; sexual offences were up 45%. The report states "crime is steadily increasing in this city."

Inspt. Devine states that little can be done in the way of police

prevention. When asked if it was a matter of needing more men and more money he said that always need more men, but even with more men crime would still operate: "You can stake out eight places and they hit the tenth, what can you do?"

St. Mary's in trouble

by donalee moulton

St. Mary's Student Union is currently experiencing a severe shortage of funds. There will be little available money until mid-October when the administration has agreed to come across with some. Student Council's over the past few years have squandered what money they had leaving this year's Council to face huge debts. Of the \$48,000 that the Union received from student fees \$28,000 (according to a reliable source) is needed to pay bills; leaving approximately \$20,000 for the Union to run on and no Union can continue to exist on that amount. Last year alone \$10,000 was lost on running the Winter Carnival while Dalhousie lost only \$4.00 over what they had budgeted to lose.

Due to the financial straits which St. Mary's Student Union is bound certain functions had to be shelved. One of these was the student newspaper-The Journal. The yearbook and radio station were allowed to continue, although on mini-funding. At the beginning of the school year, however, Council agreed to let the newspaper re-open on two conditions: 1. The general consensus of Council is that the newspaper could and should be self-supporting and 2. the election of editor rest with Council.

Neither of these conditions can be met. To date there are only two student newspapers in Canada that are self-supporting, both in large

colleges in Ontario. Pat McLaughlin (who ran there money-losing Winter Carnival) however feels that he can make the Journal a profitable enterprise. The second condition raises serious questions about the power of Council.

The constitution of the Journal and the S.R.C. (Council) state that the editor of the newspaper can only be elected by the staff of that newspaper. Last year Rob Orr was elected by this procedure and succeeded in putting out a few editions near the end of the year. When he approached Council this Sept. he was informed that there would be no more funding. Mr. Orr then resigned and has since left the university altogether; thus leaving the paper without an editor. The S.R.C. then decided to re-open the Journal and at the Sept. 21 meeting also decided that they should appoint an editor. A large sign rests in the building lobby to announce positions open within the Union asking those who wish to hold any of these positions to have their application in by Oct.1, and one of these openings is for editor of the Journal.

The irony of this situation is that while the placement of applicants into desired positions seems well thought out and administered it is illegal. Council does not have the right to elect an editor. And Journal staff refuse to recognize as editor any person who obtains the job through the applications committee. The

staff are also holding a meeting this week to elect their own editor through the proper and legal channels as set up in the constitution.

One of those running is Sarah Gordon who feels that she can run the newspaper with \$4000. Her main competitor appears to be Mr. McLaughlin who is seeking to obtain the position through Council. He feels he will not need any money because the revenue from advertis-

Response to tuition increase

by Stewart Metcalfe, Arts 1V

The Student Union does not want to be lulled again. In response to last spring's surprise tuition fee increases, planned and presented without any prior notification to the Student Union, Student Union representatives successfully have urged change.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Governors, President Bruce Russell of the Dalhousie Student Union introduced the following motions:

Regarding any consideration of tuition fee change at Dalhousie University in any given year, be it resolved that

(1) University officials at an early opportunity advise the President of the Dalhousie Student Union, in writing, of the University's proposal (if any) regarding tuition fee change, as reflected in the University's annual early September submission to the MPHEC.

ing will be sufficient. To make advertising pay for itself he proposes to cut circulation from 4500 to 2000 while charging \$180 for a full page ad. That is the same amount as the Gazette charges and we have a circulation of 10,000.

Neither the Journal nor the S.R.C. are prepared to concede, and it appears that by next week the Journal will have two editors, with one claiming the position through an illegal appointment procedure.

(2) The Dalhousie Student Union have the opportunity to make representations, before and at the scheduled meeting for decision, of the Board of Governors or Executive of the Board.

(3) The President of the Dalhousie Student Union receive written notification of intent and amount considered, at least fifteen (15) days before the scheduled meeting for the final decision.

(4) Every possible effort be made to achieve a final decision re: tuition fee change, by or at the March meeting of the Board of Governors; and that notification of Dalhousie students, of any resultant change, be effected by two weeks after this meeting, through the joint co-operation of Dalhousie University and the Dalhousie Student Union.

(5) The Board of Governors as a whole make the final decision regarding tuition fee change; and

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