

# HALIFAX:

## the Seamy Side

Recently two members of the Gazette staff interviewed a Halifax entrepreneur. If his apartment is not one of the new monuments which are rapidly transferring the Halifax skyline, such is also the case with many another person, ambitious, self-employed and striving to break into business. If his hours are irregular, that too is a price one must pay for financial independence. One unusual facet of Joe P's profession marks him from the typical Haligonian--he is a professional procurer. The name "Joe P." is, of course, fictitious.

This word immediately conjures the image of a skulking little man of nondescript middle-age, of shabby dress, and greasy mentality. The distortion of this connotation needs no emphasis; however, the question remains -- what sort of individual can one expect to find in this profession? Although the Gazette does not claim that Joe P. is typical of his calling, what follows is the report of an interview which occurred within the last three weeks.

### COULD BE STUDENT

Joe is a young man in his early twenties, with a ready smile and a loud and engaging laugh. He dresses distinctively and has, in the past, been mistaken for a university student. He presented a ready and quick subject for an interview, and the discussion moved easily from one topic to another.

Q. How do you feel society regards your profession?

A. Society demands money and conformity. Society demands marriage and sells justice. If you've got money, Society doesn't care what you do or who you are. If I had a million dollars tomorrow I'd be one of the most prominent citizens of Halifax.

Q. What do you want of Society?

### WANTS TO BE ACCEPTED

A. I'd like to fit in Society, but I can't buy their rules. If you worry about what Society thinks, it'll drive you crazy. You've just got to put it out of your mind. I observe Society and profit from its mistakes. Students come to me and leave ashamed of themselves because they can't accept themselves as they are. I respect a man who admits what he is. I've lived with homosexuals when I was in my teens and respect them if they were honest enough to admit to what they were.

Q. Don't you feel that there's anything wrong with Homosexuality?

A. No, its there, and we may as well accept it. Worse than the homosexual is the man who pays me ten or twenty dollars for one of my girls and calls me dirty.

Q. Do you consider prostitution wrong?

### VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCE

A. Man is basically good, and nobody really wants to stay in this business. But we are what Society has made us. People are what other people make them. Nobody is really bad. We simply provide a service, in the same circumstances a policeman would do the same thing.

Q. Is prostitution in Halifax a prosperous business?

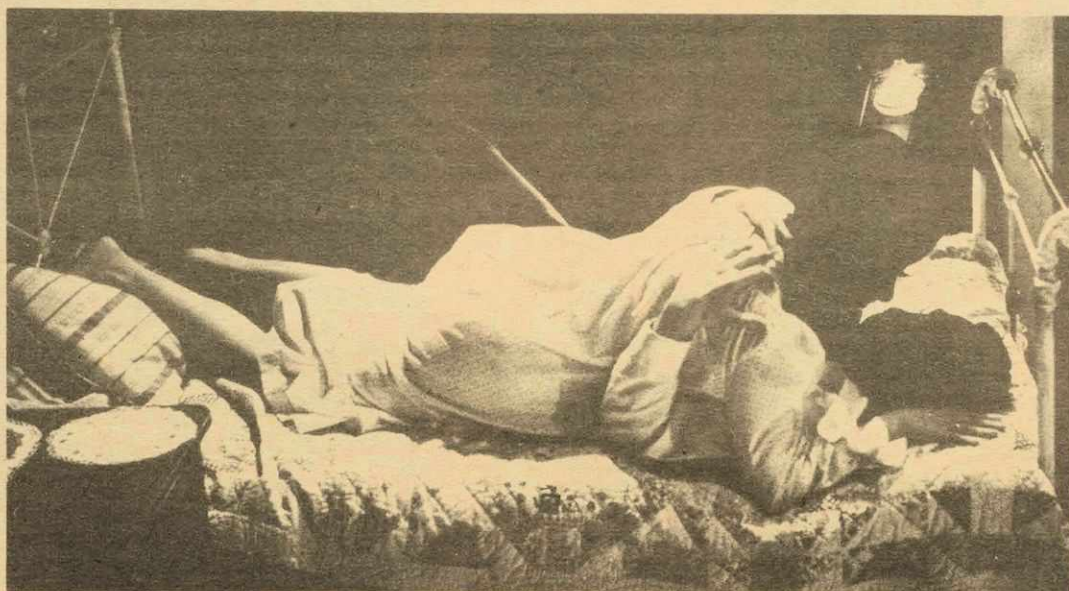
A. About 200 girls are freelancing in this city. Less than ten that I know will take anybody. These are most successful. On my level, there isn't much high-quality business.

Q. Who are most of your clients?

A. I get most of my business from men who have been at sea for some time -- sailors, fishermen, merchant seamen.

Q. Are students good business?

A. No, they talk too much and are likely to lose their heads.



"Necessity acquaints a man with strange bedfellows"

Q. Do your prices vary according to your customers or the girls in question?

A. Girls' in Halifax will go for as low as \$2.00, if they're hungry. My own have a minimum of \$10.00, but for an older man, specially if he's had a few, as much as \$50.00.

### PROSTITUTES CAREFUL

Q. Is disease a problem?

A. V.D. is a great problem to prostitution, worse than the cops. But prostitutes try to keep clean. It's the pick-ups who ruin the business.

Q. You mention the police. Do you worry much about penalties?

A. It hasn't stopped me yet and it's not going to.

Q. But surely the Police must exert some influence on your activities?

A. They sure do. They're the reason why there's no real street-walking in Halifax.

Q. Do you have a regular job? How much of your income do you get from that, and how much from procuring?

A. Yes. I get my rent and my food from my job. Clothes, spending money and that sort of thing I get from Hustling.

Q. How much of this apartment belongs to you?

A. None of this is mine. I can get out of the city in half an hour.

Q. What have you done with all the money you get from procuring?

A. When you make money illegitimately, you blow it because you haven't worked for it. You can always go back to straight work.

### HAS A REGULAR JOB

Q. What kind of work are you most interested in?

A. Right now I push a mop, but I'd like to set up a tattoo shop.

Q. What is your long-term ambition?

A. I want to be an independent businessman.

Q. How do you propose to go about this?

A. I want a university education.

Q. What do you feel you would gain from this?

### FEELS EDUCATION IMPORTANT

A. To get anywhere you have to have an education. I'd like to be a social worker.

Q. Why in that field in Particular?

A. I know I can help people because I know how they live. With both a rich and a poor man's education, I can understand the people and how to help them.

Q. Do you expect help from anybody?

A. I've got the brain for a college education. The government should pay me to get an education.

Q. Do you feel that you are being of any help to people at this time?

A. Yes, because I am providing a necessary service to Society.

### AMBIVALENT ATTITUDE

Throughout this whole interlude, his ambivalent attitude to Society was plain, varying from the almost frantic attempt to justify himself, to "Society means nothing to me. They never gave me nothing." His intelligence is high; he regards himself as being both innocent and guilty, "I am what they made me... I am a victim of circumstance."

His background is a story of instability; his father's inability to hold a job led to the once-lucrative business of bootlegging, to the breakup of his home, to his consequent experience in supporting a family, and finally to his leaving home. Less than 17, he was already a veteran of bootlegging, and had even employed a rudimentary B-girl system in his operation.

Q. Do you have any religious ties whatever?

A. I just don't know.

Q. Where do you get your ideas? From yourself or do you have some other source?

A. I use my eyes. I understand people, and I read books too. Don't look so surprised. I can read you know.

Q. What authors have you read?

### ERUDITE TASTES

A. Tolstoy for a start. "War and Peace". Steinbeck, Miller, Thurber, Tennessee Williams, and Grace Metalious. I think that "Peyton Place" is really true to life. That's just how people are.

Q. Do you feel that you are condemning Society unjustly? Perhaps you're too cynical.

A. I don't think so. I'll open up my heart to anybody once. I'll feed a man until he steals, then I might kill him. I would revert to my animal nature. I take every man for what he is, I accept his good and bad points.

Q. What type of entertainment do you like?

A. I like to watch "The Breaking Point" and "The Eleventh Hour" on T V.

Q. Is there any one thing particular that you value?

A. I think the greatest thing for a man is to have a woman he can trust.

On professional matters he was a walking repository of information and mis-information. On the practical level, the data could hardly be faulted, but, ironically enough on the more "theoretical" side of things, despite his experience and level of self-education, was the victim of more than one amusing misconception.

Q. How many girls do you have available at any time?

A. I could get any number within reason, for any occasion at all.

Q. You said earlier that you were providing Society with a service by your activities. How do you justify this?

A. The conventional approach says no sex until marriage. A man gets into bed with his wife on their wedding night, he has about one chance in a thousand of satisfying her, especially if she's had no experience either.

Q. Earlier you mentioned V D as a threat to your business. Would you care to expand on this?

A. Inspections cost a lot of money. Then if you're unlucky and somebody does get a "Dose", they'll often tell just where they got it. Students are especially bad for this. Of course, you don't even have to . . . . (engage in relations), to get it, you can catch it from . . . . (masturbation).

### STUDENTS WELL OFF

Q. Have you anything to say about people in general, and university students in particular?

A. Yes, I sure have. Most of you come from sheltered homes. You've never had to wonder where your next meal is coming from; never had to hope you'll find a homosexual in a generous mood, or, if you're a girl had to walk the streets or starve. When I hear of you complaining about how hard your professors are on you with work, it makes me sick. And I've heard it; I've been at parties and other places and listened to some of you, and others who came before you. Take it from someone who knows. You're getting an education that will make you somebody, and you're getting it pretty damn easily. You don't know just how lucky you are.

That was the end of the interview with Joe P.. Whether or not he returns to school, enters university and successfully leaves his present existence is difficult to judge. He nevertheless made at least one very true statement about university students. "You don't know how lucky you really are."

### BRIEF ON AN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

(Continued from Page 4)

off-campus facilities. Unfortunately, the foreign students lack the resources necessary for this undertaking.

3. WE THEREFORE PROPOSE: a) that the University give, rent-free, one of the houses it now owns to the foreign students for the establishment of an International House.

OR b) If the University is unable to give this house rent-free, that it make available one of its houses at full or partial rent.

OR c) If no University house is available, that the University financially assist, in whole or in part, the rental of a non-University property in the vicinity of Studley.

### 7. LIST OF HOUSES UNDER CONSIDERATION:

1. 1320 Seymour Street: A fairly small house on the North-west corner of University and Seymour, currently rented out by the University.

2. 6219 University Ave: A fairly small house at the extreme West end of University, on the North side, currently let out to Prof. Braybrooke of Arts and Science.

3. 6086-6090 University Ave: Two adjoining houses on the South-West corner of University and Henry Street, previously scheduled for radiation labs.

4. 6062-6074 University Ave: A block with five low-rental apartments. These houses are currently owned and rented out by the University. They could be given to the foreign students.

This is a partial list only. There are at least two other houses in the vicinity not owned by the University which would be suitable. Approximate rent: \$300 per month.

It is hoped that rental expenditures will be considerably reduced by the letting of rooms to foreign students, the number depending on the size of the house. Summer rentals are also contemplated.

### 8. WHAT WILL AN INTERNATIONAL HOUSE DO FOR DALHOUSIE?

1. It will encourage joint participation in campus activities by foreign and Canadian students.

2. It will provide a social and cultural meeting-place for foreign students, which is not now available to them.

3. It will promote friendship between the nationalities, and in particular will help to improve relations between Canadian and foreign students.

4. It will provide some living space for foreign students. (This is not, however, a primary goal).

5. It will be a centre for cultural exchange.

Thank you for your consideration. Submitted by: Leland MacLean, President, Dalhousie International Students' Association; John Akabutu, President, Dalhousie African Students' Society; Hollis Whitehead, President, Dalhousie West Indian Society; Leo Hall, President, Dalhousie Chinese Students' Society; George Cooper, President, Dalhousie Students' Council.

**Dalhousie Annual Badminton Championship**

**OPEN TO ALL:**

*Male or Female*

**Entry Deadline Feb. 15/64**

**Playoffs start Feb. 18/64**

**Contact Richard Speight**

**422-4220**