



Campus vandalism hits all time high

by Jimmy Olsen



They're stealing everything. . . including the taps from the kitchen, er, bathroom sink.

Acts of vandalism will cost the University of Alberta \$40,000 this year and have officials concerned about the safety of campus buildings.

Armed with screwdrivers and wrenches, vandals are taking an almost endless list of items, severely straining funds for building maintenance, says Ron Phillips, physical plant director.

Representatives of the university community met Tuesday afternoon to discuss ways of coping with vandalism.

One proposal was to install direct telephone lines in each building in an effort to catch vandals in the act.

The group included the provost, the deans of men and women, graduate students' and students' union representatives.

They will reconvene at a later date.

The university is at a loss to explain why it is plagued with vandalism.

"There seems to be latent vandalism under the hides of most people," says Provost Al Ryan. "When it comes out, it comes out."

Some cases, such as removing signs, door knobs, washroom partition doors, may be called 'pranks'.

Other so-called "pranks" border on the macabre.

Phillips reports that last month bolts were removed from a metal joint that secures a wooden railing in the Central Academic Building.

A fall of some 40 feet to the floor of the CAB cafeteria would result if someone crashed into it.

This incident was preceded by a wave of stalled elevators in a three-week period prior to December.

They resulted in several cases of people being trapped between floors for up to 20 minutes, says Phillips.

"This type of thing has never happened in all my years at the university," says Phillips, who has worked on campus since 1938.

Rollers in elevators in three buildings were removed and the doors wedged so that the elevator would jam shortly after someone took a ride.

"I don't expect students would do this sort of thing," Phillips said. "As a rule, they are not that malicious."

The vandal must know something of elevators and have access "to tools the average person wouldn't carry."

Total cost to the university to repair the damage reached about \$3,500, not including the free maintenance provided under contract by the Montgomery Elevator Co. Ltd.

So many rollers were removed that Montgomery ran out of spare parts and some elevators had to be closed down.

One day seven elevators were out of service, an "unprecedented" total, says Phillips.

A majority of the incidents took place in the Chemistry Building, but they also occurred in the Physics building and new Rutherford Library.

Since then only one case of tampering has been reported, that of a broken electric door closing device.

Other less serious but nevertheless wasteful "pranks" include:

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Plastic, unbreakable globes on outside lights near SUB are being removed with a special two-pronged screwdriver. Faced with having to replace the globes on several occasions, physical plant decided to abandon the light standards.

Lights in the stairwells of the carpark have been kicked in. Physical plant retaliated by protecting the lights with plastic hard enough to injure the would be vandal.

Partitions are buckled (it costs \$160 to replace them) and door locks removed in washrooms. In SUB alone, the university has spent \$450 since Dec. 31 to repair damage from preceding months.

A variety of signs:

continued to page 3

China Week

For many of us, New Year's celebrations have already been completed, the messes cleaned up, and the empties taken to the depots, but the Chinese are just getting ready to usher in the year of the Tiger, which falls on Jan 23.

China Week celebrations from Jan. 19-26, include many happenings, and are open to all.

The Chinese Folk festival, Jan. 19 at 8 p.m. and Jan 20 at 2 p.m., at the SUB theatre will include folk songs, dances, musical performances, drama and a Kung-fu demonstration, as well as a traditional recitation.

This part of the Week's activities kicks off the celebrations and entertains the largest number of guests.

Daily from Jan. 19 to 25 from 1-5 p.m. in the SUB Art Gallery will be the Chinese Cultural Display. Interested persons can come and see objects of Chinese art, handiwork, and antiques, some items being for sale.

New Year's Day, Jan. 23, is the date for the Chinese New Year Celebration. At 6:30 p.m. in the Dinwoodie Lounge, a buffet lunch of Chinese food will be served, to be followed with entertainment, and a dance.

Tickets for members of CSA are \$2.50 and available from the executive at 439-2840, Mark Chan; 433-6669, Pin Suen; 439-0223, Mind Kwok, and at the Chinese Library (Old Rutherford 202).

Non-member tickets are \$3.25 and are available at the SUB Information Desk, or My Lai Gardens, Jasper Avenue.

Two films about China will

be given two showings each on Jan. 25, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the SUB Theatre. "Peaks and Caves of China" and "The 31st Table Tennis World Championship" will be shown to all interested.

The China Teach-In Jan. 26, at 1:30 p.m. TL-11 Tory Building, will feature 3 speakers on various aspects of China. The

continued to page 3



Brewmaster

We have a winner! Bob Goldbeck, Arts 1 is the winner of the Gateway Beverage Contest. He correctly identified the picture in the last issue as taken in the Copenhagen Zoo.

Bob said he stumbled into the zoo coming out of the Carlsberg Breweries in Copenhagen, after a guided tour which included "refreshments." Enjoy your beer, Bob

drop-in

frankness.

About forty volunteers man the centre at different times, where students can walk in, pull up a cushion and rap with people who care about, and want to listen to, students with or without problems.

It is hoped that the new image of the centre will attract a greater participation from the students than before, enlarging the service that the centre offers.

Bruce Bailey and Wanda Tennant relax in the "new" Drop-In centre, which recently underwent renovations, giving it an informal look, a triumph in internal design as compared with some of the other offices occupying the second floor of SUB.

A thick green shag carpet covers the cold linoleum. A sprinkling of hand-stitched cushions, fishnets on the ceiling, and the inevitable posters add to the Drop-In atmosphere of informality and personal