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Campus lighting still inadequate

Lights off, nobody safe

by Geoff Stone

The Dalhousie Student Union and campus security have nothing new to say about the problem of student safety.

But many Dalhousie students have raised concerns that the outdoor lighting on campus is inadequate.

Talking with various students, The Gazette was told of many places on campus which are not safe, including around the Arts and Administration building, outside the Student Union building and around the Rebecca Cohn auditorium.

Janet Noade, an employee at the Weldon Law library, said promises have been made by university officials to increase security, but the situation is still poor.

She said that considering the number of attacks on people last year, including flashers, something should be done now before more assaults take place. "Things like that (more lighting) are necessary before things happen," Noade said. "One is too many."

Max Keeping, director of Dalhousie Security, said that except for minor thefts and a few fights between students, it has been a "normal year" on the Dal campus.

Keeping said there has been no upgrading of the lighting on campus in at least the past 12 months, "but right now our cam-

pus is pretty well lit."

The Student Union recently discussed such possible safety issues as keeping the lights turned on at Studley Field throughout the night. The field, situated between the Dal arena and Shirreff Hall women's residence, has been the site of a number of assaults in the past two years.

During December 1985, a woman was stabbed and robbed while walking through the field.

The Student Union offered a walk-home service for students, but said it was not continued this year due to a lack of response.

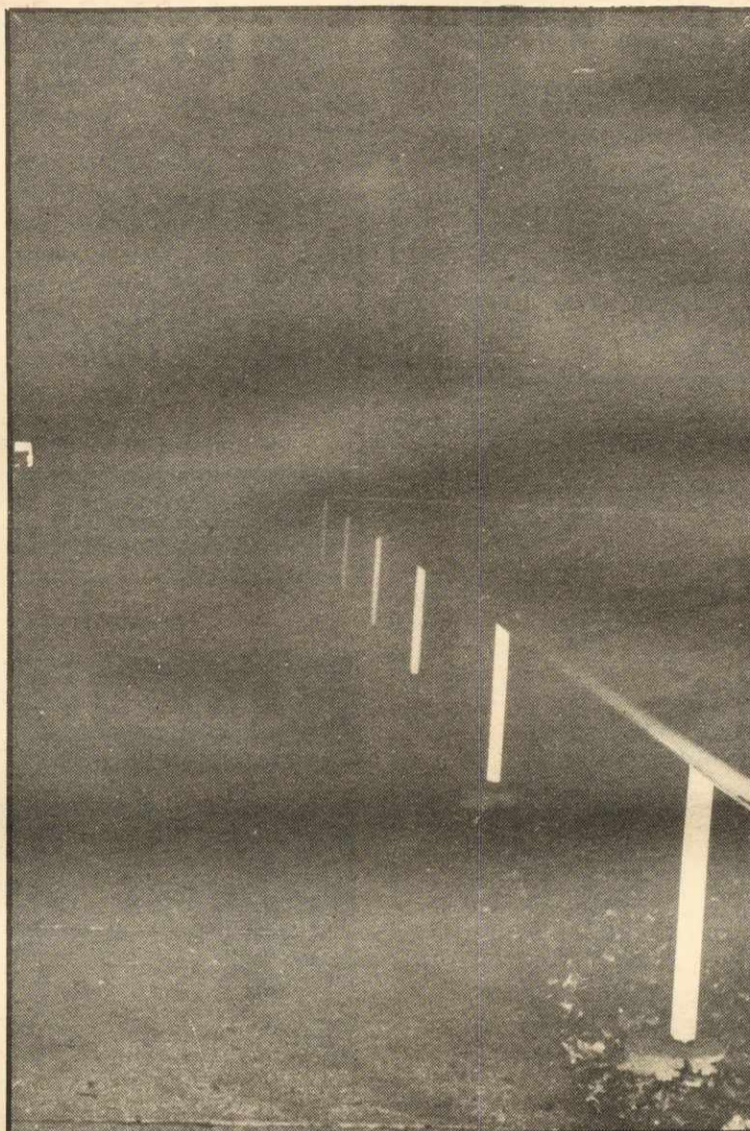
"No one seemed to take advantage of it," said Shane Feriancek, DSU treasurer.

Feriancek said the Student Union organized teams and publicity but there was no response. "Women seemed to be using a buddy system more," he said. "But if someone says they want the service, it could be restarted," he added.

Other incidents on campus have included break-ins at Domus Legis and at the Dalhousie Arena.

A flasher was reported this past weekend behind the Life Sciences Centre. But Keeping said this event was the first one for quite a while.

Two years ago a number of flashers were reported on campus, and Keeping said many other cases went unreported.



So it doesn't look that intimidating because it's on the front page. You get the real picture when you're walking home at 2 a.m. Alone.

Cat killers evicted

HALIFAX (CUP) — Two students at Saint Mary's University were evicted from residence after they allegedly shaved a seven-week-old kitten's fur off, painted it with correction fluid, drugged it, and threw it out a twelfth-floor window to its death.

Charges have been laid against Steve Stokes, 18, and a minor who, due to the young offender's act, cannot be identified.

Cruelty to animals is punishable by a \$500 fine or a jail term not exceeding six months.

The kitten, obtained from a local pet shop, was discovered by SMU student Angela Penney last Wednesday. She was studying in her fourth-floor apartment when the kitten landed outside her window. Penney picked up the remains and disposed of them in a garbage bag.

Keith Hotchkiss, the university's director of student services, said the students were evicted Friday.

The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is investigating the incident.

This summer two students from Dalhousie University were fined \$350 for unnecessary cruelty to a cat after a similar incident in December, 1986. The two were expelled from residence.

PHOTO: ROCHELLE OWEN

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Engineers to boot up with English

by Janice Bloomfield

The Dalhousie English and Engineering departments are entering a unique agreement to use a standard computer system for students.

The system, called CoSy, has computer aids in grammar, writing, and rhetoric.

This system was a project set by Alan Kennedy, computer enthusiast and Chair of the English Department. Together with David Lewis, Chair of Engineering, a standard computer for students was sought that would provide for both fields. Their criteria: a cost less than \$1000, large power capacity, and a broad range of uses.

This sparked a joint experiment involving English and Engineering departments as

well as University Computing and Information Services.

Supported by President Clark, the Alumni Association, and a generous donation of eight Atari 1040s by Atari, the Departments of English and Engineering now enjoy computer centres in their own building.

Though most people would not associate English and computers, English professor Dr. Ron Tetrault says, "the computer keeps pace with the speed of our thoughts. It encourages people to write better — to polish, refine, work with tighter organization." And indeed, the computer's word processing ability allows easy and inexpensive revision.

But Tetrault said he wants to explore the database too. "I hope that as Engineering students use

our terminals and we use theirs, we will become familiar with the statistical possibilities of these machines." His class files appear on screen. "I can tell you how many of my students come from PEI, NB, other provinces. I can list the students who hand in assignments late. I enter the grades and information and the computer simply sorts it according to the specifications of my program." In an age when budgetary decisions are based almost solely on statistics, Tetrault said, this is a great asset to the future of English.

The system is also used as an outpost to Dal's mainframe, so students can communicate in out-of-class discussion. Thirty-five of Kennedy's 42 English 100 students are active in an on-line seminar. About fourteen

new messages appear daily, discussing ideas, asking questions, proposing alternate viewpoints.

The class is alive and, according to Kennedy, shares an unusual community spirit. "They find on CoSy that their instructors talk directly to them. Shy students participate with greater ease. There's less risk than in the classroom." Hopes are high in the department for personal Computer Aided Instruction in grammar, writing technique, and rhetoric — topics often brushed over in the classroom situation.

It is ironic that the computer, so often shrugged off as impersonal, should bring back a personal touch to the university classroom and that students, certain of English's uselessness, should regain interest through a technological tool.