

Frequent flashers on campus

By KEN FALOOD

THREE REPORTS OF FLASHERS so far this school year have prompted Dalhousie security staff to issue overtime and set up stakeouts, with no results.

"People often cannot get to a phone quickly enough," says Max Keeping, Director of Security and Traffic. "If there is no phone close enough to report this sort of crime immediately, the culprit gets away."

"Stakeouts can be effective, but you can never be sure where the criminal will turn up," says Keeping.

Through contacts with other universities, women's groups and the local authorities, Keeping has assessed the unsafe campus as "no worse than any other university campus of this size," although he says this does not make it acceptable.

"I need more staff," says Keeping. "There have been times at night when there is no one patrolling the campus grounds. Although this does not happen often, it should not happen at all."

Keeping says he is pleased with the efforts of past walk-home services, but says the success rate is poor because the set times of arrival and departure cannot be convenient to all people.

Some residents of Shirreff Hall say there is a group trying to

organize such a group with more flexible hours.

Keeping says although Dalhousie security is not a walk-home service, security staff will help if there is no other alternative.

Although Keeping says sexual crimes are the most serious problem security staff must deal with, the number one crime on campus is theft.

"Everyone leaves their door open, they leave equipment lying around," says one department secretary. "They think they won't get robbed, even though practically every house around us has fallen victim to thievery."

Keeping has dossiers full of names and faces his security staff are on the lookout for. He says 95% of these are professional criminals and not students. They fit into the busy campus, stealing lab and office equipment, purses, radios, and anything people leave lying around.

Keeping says of the recent theft of two light boards valued at \$20,000, the biggest theft on campus in five years, "It could have been somebody with a key, but more than likely it was caused by someone who didn't lock the door."

"People on campus can decrease theft dramatically by just being more aware of the problem."



When does 1500 equal 1025?

Gov't backtracks on housing

By TOBY SANGER

THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT has backtracked on its budget promise to provide 1500 units of new social housing during the 1986/87 year.

Last March, after sustained pressure from such groups as Mothers United for Metro Shelter (MUMS) and the Housing for People Coalition, the government promised to initiate the construction of 1500 new units during the next year and 5000 over the next 5 years.

Now it appears as if the most

the government can promise this year is 1025 new units.

Two of the new programs, intended to account for 475 of the new units, involved making mortgages available to first-time homeowners with no stipulation that they buy a newly-constructed home.

Under these two programs, the "second mortgage program" and the "family benefits program," the government will make mortgage credit available to low- and moderate-income applicants at a rate of under 12 per cent a year.

Denis Kerr, director of pro-

grams and property management for the Nova Scotia Department of Housing, says they did not restrict the programs to the purchase of new homes because they want the programs to be flexible.

A market analyst with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation says if credit for homebuyers becomes more readily available, other things being equal, house prices will increase.

Kerr does not dispute that this may be one effect of the government's housing program but says, "We don't anticipate that happening."

Dalhousie to aid homeless youths

By CATHY KRAWCHUK

THE DALHOUSIE STUDENT union is hoping to fund Phoenix House, a halfway house for youths, as its community charity for 1986/87.

Phoenix House is expected to open its doors soon, pending zoning approval from the municipal council.

The number of "street kids" is increasing as a result of social problems including family breakdown, abuse, housing evictions, rent increases and unemployment. There were an estimated 1223 homeless youth between January and June of 1984.

Pauline Leppard, a member of the Board of Directors of Phoenix House, is hopeful it will serve as a long-term emergency outlet for homeless youths.

Unlike most emergency shelters in the area, Phoenix House will permit youths to stay for up to two years. During this period, residents must try to change their lifestyle, find other accommodation and begin to plan their future. Skilled counsellors will be available to help the youths in these areas.

Other agencies providing specific support services will be made available to the kids during their stay, as well as after their departure from Phoenix House.

The House itself will lodge up to ten youths with separate areas for male and female residents. The Board of Directors had originally applied for sixteen beds in the shelter but were forced to settle for ten. This may have to do with the fact that some nearby residents had reservations about the establishment of the home in their area.

Support for Phoenix House has been growing. A twenty-minute video discussing Phoenix house has been circulated among church, youth and other community groups with much success.

Phoenix House will be financed by a cost-sharing program established between the municipal and provincial governments. However, this program will cover only 40% of its operating costs. The remaining 60% must be generated through private donations and fundraisers which Leppard believes will be "quite a challenge."

Memorial loses five star status

By JEFF PADDOCK & BETH RYAN

HEALTH OFFICIALS ARE investigating the possibility of an outbreak of food poisoning at a Memorial university residence dining hall.

Students who had eaten at the hall a week Wednesday were ing from nausea, stomach cramps, diarrhea, chills, body aches and fever.

Dr. Wayne Ludlow, dean of student affairs at Memorial, says he discussed the matter with the director of food services but says "there is no conclusive evidence

as to what the outbreak of sickness is."

Ludlow says an investigation into the situation is going and he will be able to comment further when it has been completed.

The investigation is being conducted by Gordon Noseworthy, a regional medical health officer with the provincial government. Noseworthy has been interviewing students who became ill last week after eating in the dining hall.

Noseworthy says he won't report his findings until the details are complete.

