

Howe Hall Column

The wasteland: home sweet home

by L. Paul Zed

The 1976 Howe Hall Home Wreckers Award was clinched last weekend by the overwhelming enthusiasm generated on what remains of Fourth Floor Henderson House. Runners-up are Cameron and Bronson respectively but it is doubtful whether they could ever hope to achieve the ignorance and total disregard of university property as displayed by fourth floor. It's puzzling what stimulates their desires to destroy, disfigure and degrade the place they inhabit but it appears the only justification for their actions is the simple retort "Well we're paying it!" No truer words are spoken except we are ALL paying for it.

In times of rampant inflation, and the high cost of just the essentials let alone unnecessary damage, there will be no one around next year that will be able to afford residence.

The problem stems from an immature, deceitful and deprived minority who have nothing better to do than to wreck our residence.

At this very moment they are reading this article and yelling war whoops that they made the Gazette but perhaps they should hide their heads in shame and start to at least pretend they are in university and not in grade primary.

Disappearing toilet seats and bathroom doors beyond repair, magic marker and chalk marks up and down the walls of the floor from end to end reminding one of the obscene graffiti on the Bronx walls of New York.

If you have ever walked down University Avenue on a windy fall afternoon and watch things go blowing by, it might remind you of strolling or should I say stumbling through the hallways of 4th floor. Waterlogged carpets, smashed ceiling tiles and rolls of toilet paper strewn ever-which-way, not to mention the cigarette butts and boxes, candy wrappers, old pizza boxes and crusts, cookies and crackers ground into the fibers of the rug and broken and empty beer bottles. The area is a wasteland of refuse.

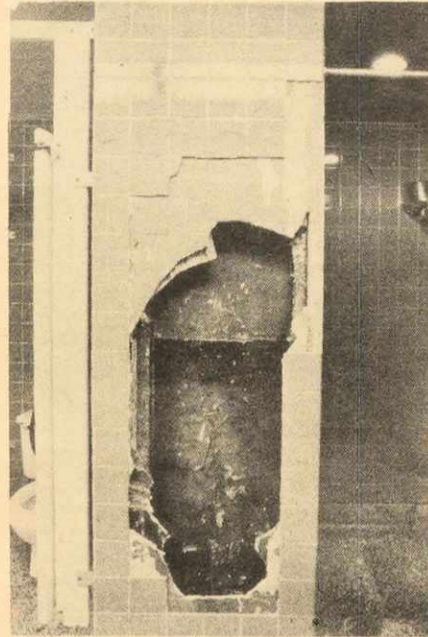
The T.V. lounge contains what is left of a new T.V. and refrigerator and also a graveyard of chairs that aren't even fit for firewood. Exaggeration; doubtful, look for yourself but watch as you walk up the stairs in case some alien objects should land on your head. Specifically human saliva, beer bottles or maybe a 3 ft long fluorescent bulb that makes a great mess and smashes upon landing.

Objectively though, a small minority in Henderson cannot take full credit for damages as Bronson and Cameron have their mavericks too.

The boys in Bronson seem to have a fetish for breaking windows while in Cameron it is fortunate there are no rugs, as beer bottles don't break quite as well.


Lunches appear to be popular in Cameron house as is evident by the various stains found on the stairwell walls which include spaghetti, cherry pie and grape pop. Besides plywood, where windows might be, and no tiles where the ceiling should be the popular trend recently is wall and door burning. The experts will be at it again and dream up some new way to destroy the structure, presupposing there will remain a structure to destroy.

At any rate the damages in Howe Hall regardless of where or what are senseless acts performed by a handful of juvenile simple-minded individuals. It is because of them and their thoughtless acts that Howe Hall is termed with derogatory phrases by other students at Dalhousie. The reputation of Howe Hall is literally battered to pieces, each year by a handful of ignorant animals that have no respect for property, the law and themselves.



Some students believe in destroying their homes. Dal Photo / Walsh

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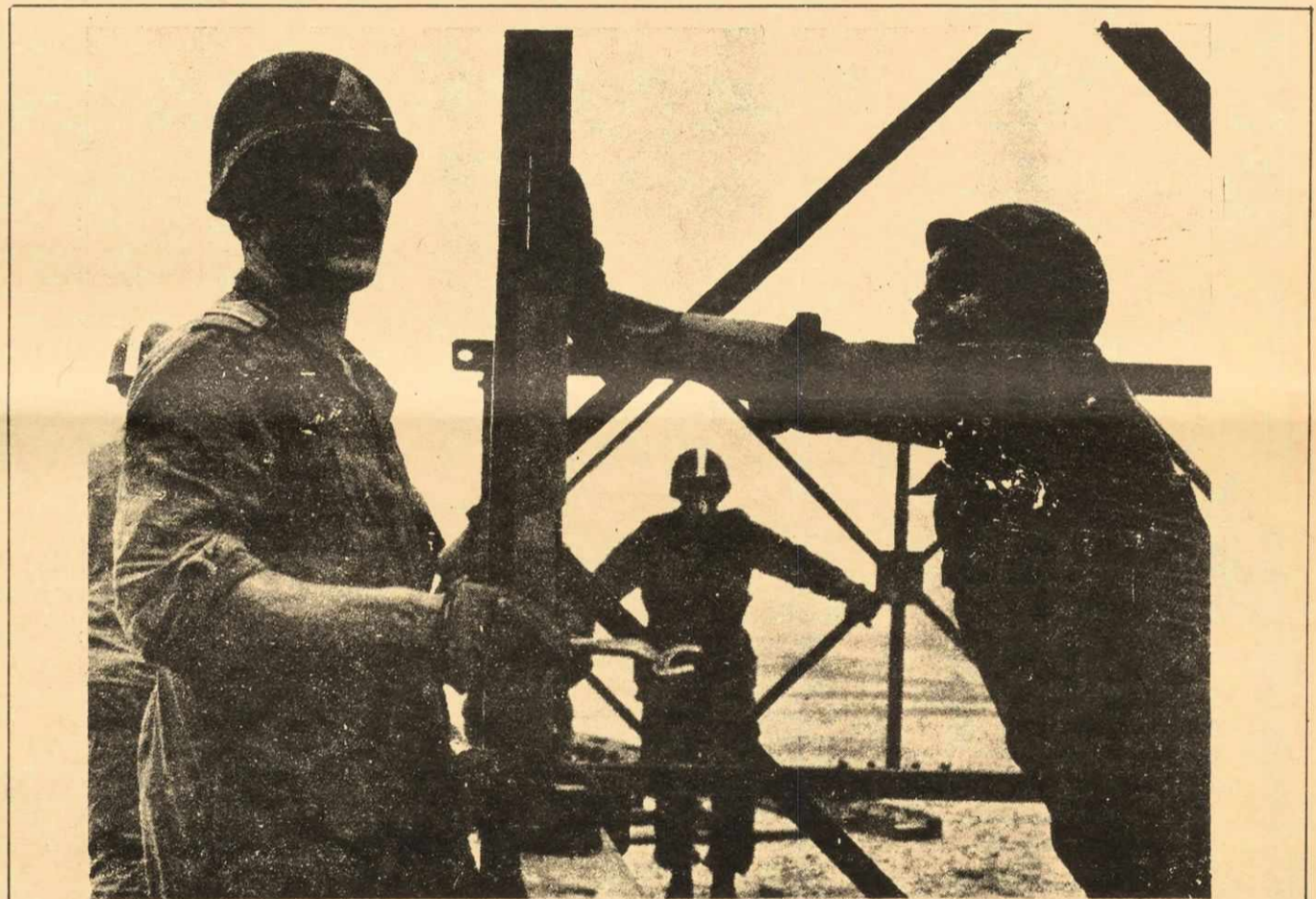
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