

# Pornographic laws obscene

by Eric Simpson

Joe Doherty, manager of the Cove Cinema on Gottingen Street, has been charged for "knowingly and without lawful excuse selling to the public obscene matter . . . the dominant characteristic of which is the exploitation of

sex."

Two policemen from the morality squad entered the Cove Cinema with a search warrant on Friday, January 26 and confiscated two feature length 35 millimeter films entitled "Love Slaves" and "Calendar Girls."

The two films were screened on Tuesday, January 30 in the offices of the Nova Scotia Amusements regulations board on Granville Street by members of the police department and the crown prosecutor. It was decided to lay charges against only one of the films—Love Slaves—but both of the films will be kept by the police until the court case is finished.

Don Trivett, chairperson of the Amusements board, said the two films had been screened by the Board earlier in the year and classified as "restricted".

"We heard from the government that all films were to be screened, classified and released," Trivett said. "The power of censorship, which includes actually cutting out portions of a film, has not been used in N.S. for over two years."

A recent Supreme Court of Canada decision overruled a Nova Scotia Supreme Court decision which had denied the provincial amusement board's right to ban films. Although obscenity is dealt with under the criminal code, which is federal jurisdiction, the ruling in the McNeil case concerning the film Last Tango in Paris restored the Provincial amusement board's right to edit and ban films.

Ontario has recently begun to use its censorship powers again, Trivett added.

Harry How, Attorney General of Nova Scotia, said he might introduce a motion to cabinet asking for limited use of censorship powers. He said that if the contents of films could be construed as offensive to the general public then they should be censored.

Last June in Sydney, N.S. the film Hot Nasties was seized by police after a

complaint by citizens. The owners of the cinema were fined \$500.

The assistant manager of the Cove Cinema said that all films they receive are screened first by the amusement board. The films are distributed by Cinepax, a subsidiary of Famous Players Limited. The Cove Cinema is owned by Cinema International.

Trivett said that 18 of the 35 films screened since the first of the year have been "stamped Cove"; all of these were primarily preoccupied with sex. In the last two years, restricted films accounted for 67% of all films shown in N.S., Trivett said.

Trivett said that \$282 million was spent by Canadian movie theatres last year on American produced films. Since other provinces are beginning to clamp down on hard core pornography, the pornographic film industry may be dumping material on Nova Scotia, he added.

Trivett said the ambiguous definition of obscenity in the law and the increasingly pluralistic nature of our society causes difficulties in developing a clear position on censorship.

Trivett said that he is looking for direction from the government on the matter. He added that the amusement board should be composed of

a cross section of community tastes and therefore represent public opinion.

Superintendent Kinsman said that the amusement board has all the power they need. He added that it depends on the interpretation of the law by the courts whether the board is given "the teeth to enforce the law".

He said that the police have to deal with each individual case as it arises but the decision of each case affects the extent to which the police can act. "It is a question of community standards versus individual rights."

"I don't like to tell people what to see and what not to see, but someone has to protect the public morals. If you had seen these films you would know what I mean."

Kinsman said it is in the interests of the police for the defendants to plead not guilty in the case because it would allow a clarification of the court's position on censorship. "A solid decision would let us know where we stand."

"If a trial were to take place it would not be for a couple of months at least", Kinsman said.

While a summary conviction would call for a fine, a conviction on an indictable offence would be liable to a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment.



Del Photo/Silverno.

Vice-president Andrew MacKay addresses cleaners at Rebecca Cohn on return to work

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keep with the university's decision to extend the academic year thirteen weeks as well as give students greater pre-Christmas holiday time. The motion was tabled.

Student senator Norm Epstein told *The Gazette* he believes the only way a senate majority would vote in favour of the motion would be by seeing that a great number of the student body supported it. That is the reason for the petition.

"If there's only six student senators there's only so much power we can exercise. If we could show there were four or five thousand students behind it, we might have some power," Epstein said.

The student senators' proposal has also been taken to various academic bodies in the university where it has received support. These include the Faculty of Health Professions, Graduate Studies and Arts and Science.

The petition will be delivered to Senate at its next meeting, February 12th.

## DSA

# Contract to be renegotiated

by Jennifer MacLeod

The Dalhousie Staff Association (D.S.A.) will begin bargaining in May for revision of its present two-year contract, due to expire in June.

A committee began work in September, 1978, issuing a general questionnaire to and soliciting feedback from the 630 D.S.A. members, committee chairperson Dalphine Edmeads said.

No specific demands have yet been decided on by the association but major concerns include revision of the job evaluation procedure, over-time pay, a possible change from being a voluntary to a compulsory union, and wages.

As of January 1, D.S.A. members are receiving wages ranging from \$5,602 per year for technics lab or shop keepers, to \$18,592 for

technologists. Clerical workers receive \$6,479 and information and public relations officers \$14,249. The majority of DSA members—secretaries and laboratory assistants—receive from \$8,500 to \$10,000.

DSA president Jane Mersereau said the association has had continuous problems in reaching its demands in the past. Requests for a 17 per cent wage increase over a one year period were met by a 10 per cent increase over a two year period in the last contract negotiations.

Strike action has never been a serious issue, Edmeads said, during the four year history of the association's unionization.

The contract committee is continuing to "put a package together that will make some difference," she added.

## Hostels still empty

by Richard Samuel

The two houses on University Avenue next to the Dalhousie Student Union Building which were operated as temporary student hostels during September, have remained empty since early October.

Jim Sykes, director of planning for Dal, explained that "plans for a new home for the Institute of Public Affairs utilizing these sites are now underway". The Institute of Public Affairs has been operating out of the building on the northeast corner of LeMarchant and University Avenue on a make-shift basis in anticipation of the eventual move.

The space vacated by the Institute of Public Affairs will be used by the language departments for a more efficient language laboratory program. The language lab is now in the basement of the Killam library.

The direct costs for maintaining the vacant houses over the last four and a half months have been negligible, because they haven't been supplied with heating, water, and electricity. The only outstanding costs have been civic taxes of less than \$1000 per year. The cost in lost revenue for these large houses, as well as the potential convenience to visiting or transient students, has not as yet been computed, however.

Sykes' assistant, Martin Giddy, said that the buildings haven't been used since the temporary hostel closed down because the university needed time to prepare for the renovations.

The problem of temporary student housing during the school year for visiting and resident students has not as yet been considered for examination. John Graham, Dalhousie Student Union general manager who's also in charge of student housing, said that "the information of available temporary housing sites will not be made available to me until June".

Without any prior knowledge concerning the location of temporary student housing, the arriving student is placed in the uncomfortable position of looking for a temporary place to stay in order to adequately search for a permanent residence.