

Alcoholism - a Dalhousie problem

by Robert Putnam

If you are like a lot of people at Dalhousie you probably enjoy a drink now and again. Alcohol is very popular at social gatherings, indeed at some campus locations it's difficult to drink anything but alcohol.

While we always survive the occasional hangover the morning after, the disease of alcoholism is another effect of alcohol which is far more dangerous and difficult to deal with.

According to Dr. J.C. Johnson, Director of the University Health Service, alcoholics are difficult to point out in a crowd. Contrary to popular belief, you do not have to drink all the time to qualify as an alcoholic. They are normal people who develop a pattern of drinking over which they have no control. Unfortunately they are usually the last people to recognize they have a problem, says Johnson.

Friends of the person may ignore the problem or even worse some

try to help them by covering up for their mistakes. The wife calls work to say her husband is not well and will not be in, or students exchange answers for assignments.

These actions isolate the alcoholic from the reality of their problem, says Johnson. It causes the problem to go unchecked, making treatment more difficult, if and when the person finally seeks help.

Alcoholism is a problem for everyone, he says. The Victoria General emergency department treats

victims of alcohol-induced violence every day. A position paper by the Dalhousie Student Union cites alcoholism as part of the cause for high first year drop out rate among Dalhousie students.

Treatment is available to help someone with an alcoholic problem. Johnson says the first step towards treating an alcoholic is their recognition that they need

help. Once this has happened the person can start to seek assistance.

Dr. Johnson says the Health Services clinic offers treatment and help in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Commission on Drug Dependancy and Alcoholics Anonymous. The Health Service is located in Howe Hall and is available to the entire university community.

BC universities nailed twice

VANCOUVER (CUP) - The University of British Columbia learned September 29 that it must cut \$7.2 million from its current operating budget, but administrators won't say where the cuts will be made.

"I don't know what the situation is," said academic vice president Michael Shaw. "You're trying to

make a story out of nothing."

UBC has already cut about \$7.5 million from this year's budget but further cuts will be necessary because the Social Credit government has decided to take another \$12 million from B.C.'s three universities.

The \$12 million mid-year cut is one of the many the B.C. government has made in a sudden effort to drastically slash spending. Provincial revenues, particularly from natural gas sales, have fallen as the B.C. economy has gone into a nosedive.

The Universities Council of B.C., an intermediary body between the government and universities, decided how much each university would be cut.

The University of Victoria was hit with a \$2.1 million reduction which will likely come from the salaries of faculty, administrators, teaching assistants and markers, according to academic vice president Alfred Fisher.

Fisher said the university's Board of Governors will make final decisions on the cuts at its next meeting October 18.

Administrators at Simon Fraser University, hit with a \$2.4 million cut, could not be reached for comment.

Chilean student

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body of Letelier-Ruz's university marched into one of these lectures mimicking the Nazi-like march of the military. "They were very angry, but they couldn't suspend the whole student body," he recalls.

Letelier-Ruz hopes to return to Chile someday. In the meantime he says he will "continue to work for my people." Letelier-Ruz wanted to communicate names of people held by the authorities.

These are only a handful of Letelier-Ruz's friends now in custody:

- Echeverria Correa, Laura Elena
- Ehijo Gutierrez, Ana Man'a
- Ehijo Gutierrez, Rodrigo
- Ehijo Moya, Eliana
- Eichin Roiman, Vladimir Pablo
- Eichin Zambrano, Fernando
- El Dueik Bergen, Omar
- Elgueta Guerin, Humberto
- Elsesser Garciz, Charles
- Encinz Monamez, Jose Francisco
- *Jorge Munoz Espinoza

*This man is a relative of the last democratic socialist president of Bolivia.



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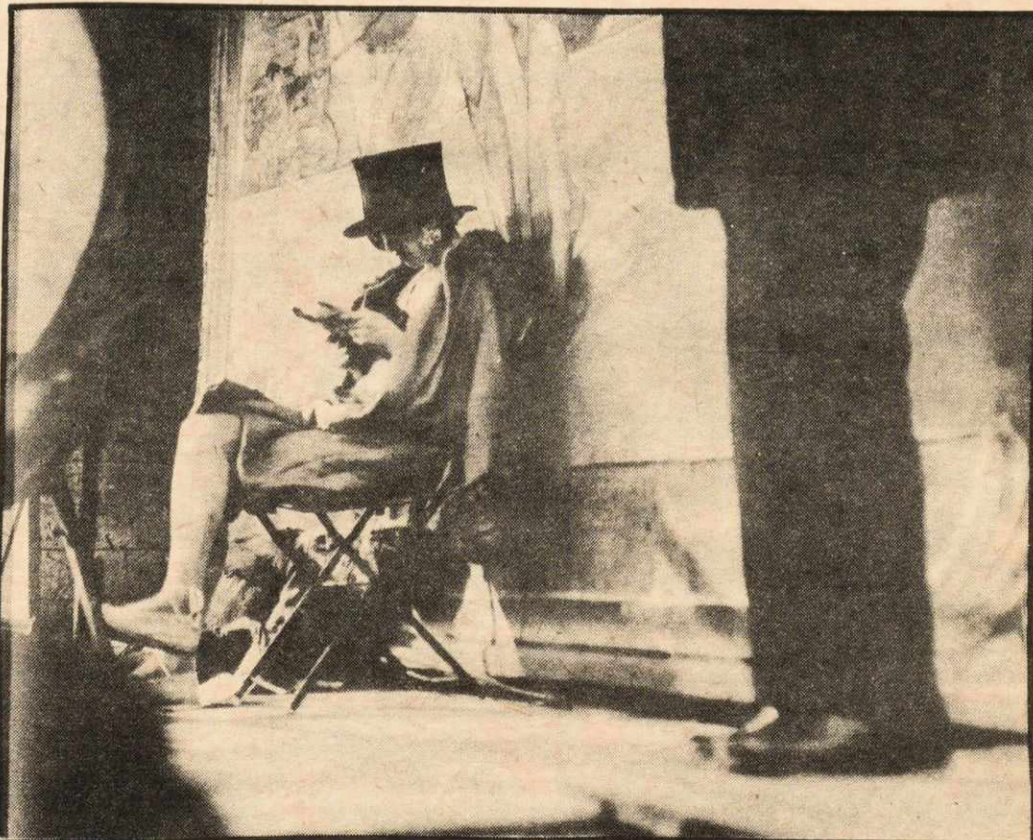
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