

HUB alarms harass tenants

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injury would occur in a building protected by a sprinkler system, outside of the scenario of an intoxicated person not being aroused by the building fire alarm."

But safety in case of a real fire is no more a priority for most HUB residents who are receiving rude awakenings after midnight at least once a week. A typical example is Wednesday, October 19, when the alarms rang three times between 12:30 a.m. - 1:00 a.m.

It is no coincidence that at the same time, patrons from Dewey's Pub are also passing by at least two pull-stations on their way out of the mall through any of the 56 exits. Residents have always blamed Dewey's for all late night alarms. After many meetings between the HUB Community Association, Dewey's and Housing and Food Services, the Fire Protection officer has finally come up with a plan to replace the two pull-stations in the 8913 stairwell (between the two sections of Dewey's) with one pull-station for each of the apartments in that stairwell.

Richards concedes that this plan can not be carried out in all 56 stairwells because of the price-tag and it is very easy for vandals to move to some other stairwell to set the alarms.

Residents have their own solutions. Hareton Leung of the current HUB Community Association executive believes that a glass-enclosure will deter the vandals. Richard believes otherwise. He says to install approved double-action pull-stations would cost \$256 for each of the 112 locations and \$20 for each glass broken. He does not think that the false alarm rate would decrease significantly by a simple glass enclosure.

Robert Lamb, the HUB Residence Life Coordinator, wants a fifteen minute local alarm before "the whole four blocks come alive." Richards insists that the fire code allows a maximum of five minutes local alarm while at the same time there is a building-wide pre-evacuation signal. He does not believe that the length and unique design of HUB can qualify for any concessions.

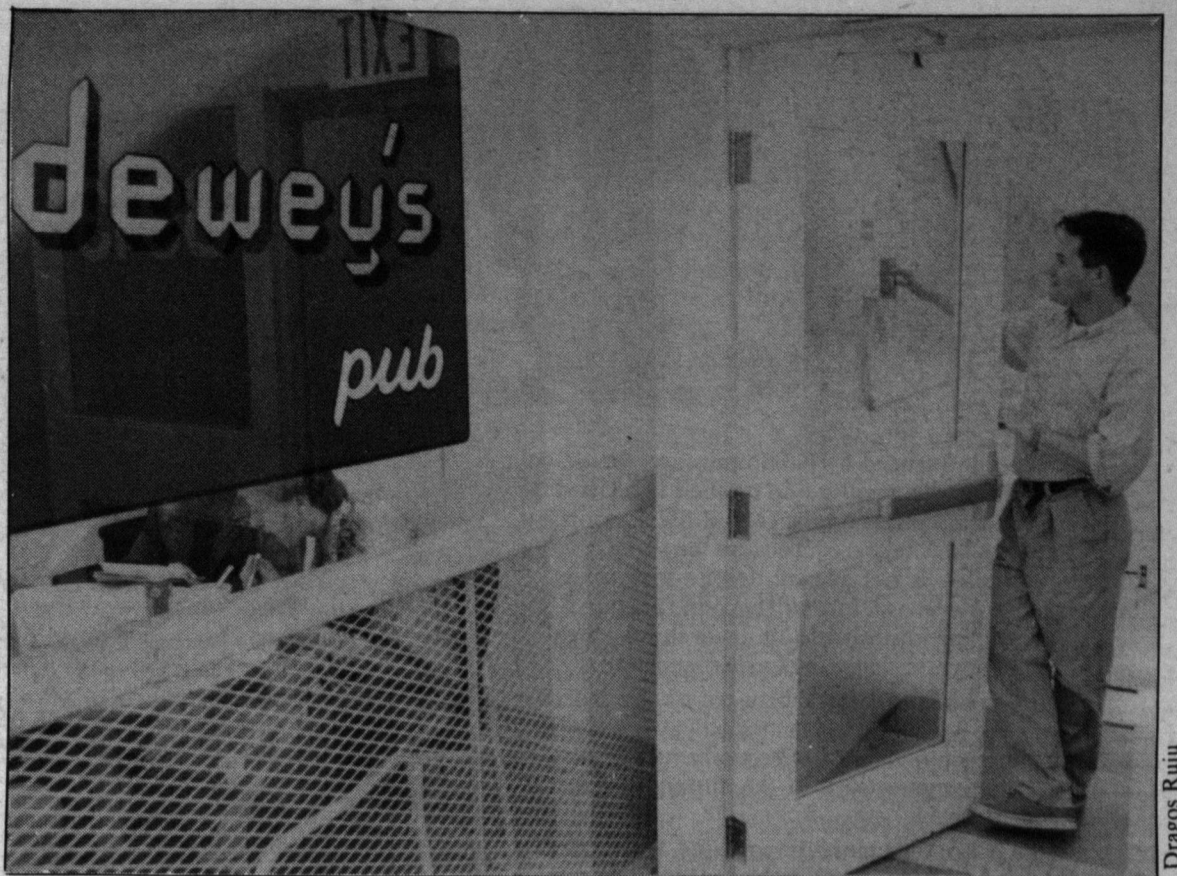
Richards has his own solution. He would like to lock all the exits from the mall, except the Dewey's stairwell, at a convenient time like any other campus building or commercial mall. Richards envisions a lock mechanism which will allow any residents to use their keys to get into any stairwell. Guests can still come in from outside into the stairwells. "We can direct the pub patrons outside without tampering with the alarms and that's exactly where we want them."

Residents are receptive to the idea. The HUB Community Association and the Fire Protection officer are willing to lobby for the locks to the Housing and Food Services.

Richards believes that fire safety is still a personal responsibility although proper information programs, coupled with less false alarms, should make the residents take the alarms seriously.

Richards believes that fine tuning the operation of the present system should restore public confidence but "eventually someone has to see if a Pub is compatible with a residence."

Residents, however, are fed up with the fine tuning going on for a long time that has not reduced the number of deliberate false alarms. They want drastic changes to ensure that they can sleep at midnight.



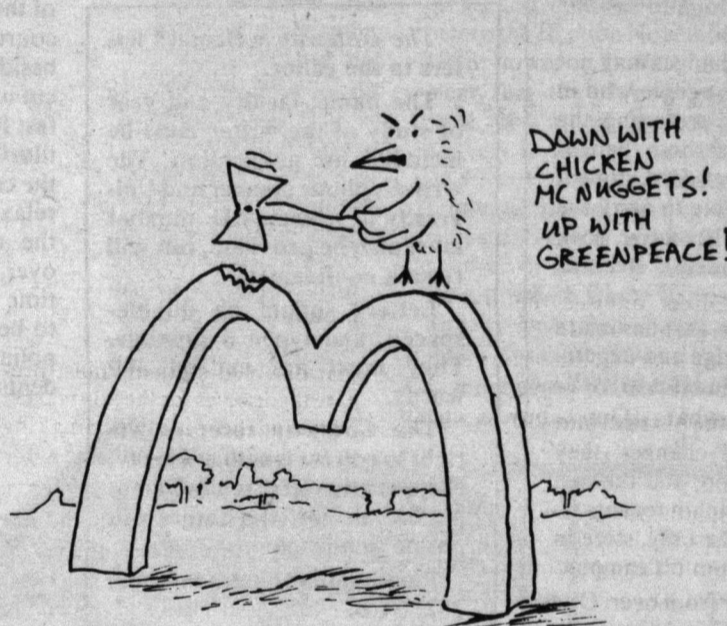
Dragos Ruiiu

Gabino Travassos, 3rd year Arts student, shows a problem fire alarm location next to Dewey's Pub. Some less than mature Dewey's patrons are ignorantly pulling the alarms.

Animal defence league attacks McDonald's

The Animal Defence League of Canada supports Greenpeace's (London) move to focus worldwide attention on the McDonald's chain of fast food restaurants on October 16th.

The Defence League claims there are over 9,000 outlets in 45 countries. This hamburger empire is built on the unimaginable misery of the animals they exploit, and on the annihilation of rainforests to create cattle grazing pasture. This deforestation affects the entire ecological balance in the immediate area and beyond.



Colin Northcott

Peter Lougheed awards U of A science student Suresh A. Mustapha with a scholarship named after the former Alberta premier. Ten U of A students were honored for their academic, community and leadership activities Wednesday.

WANTED:



Any information about alien, bloodlusting, demonic, frothing, day-glow pit bulls gobbling the ghost of Elvis.

Please report all leads to The Gateway news department.

If you don't know anything about pit bulls, aliens or the ghost of Elvis, drop by The Gateway anyway. We're always looking for reporters, writers, artists, photographers and layout people.