

UNB students now being taken to F'ton police

The Bruns, in its effort to keep students abreast of situations that exist in Fredericton, has looked into student relations with the local police. The following is an interview with 2 officers of the Fredericton City Police. To some it will appear to be the same old line. To the others I urge you to take what Bill Scott has to say at face value. I do. By ROLAND MORRISON

Just a short while ago some university students were out on a lark and tore down church signs. Professor Ken Windsor accompanied them to the police station where they were given a lecture by Corporal Scott of the city police. The boys straightened out and promised to repair the damage they had caused. Nobody got hurt, and everyone concerned was rather happy with the way the incident was handled. "I feel that the students will appreciate that they got a break, and that they'll not do this kind of thing again," commented Cpl. Scott.

Scott's attitude towards incidents of this kind is that university students don't know what they are letting themselves in for when they pull such stunts as this. He warns that people no longer regard these pranks as harmless. "They don't stop to think that it's a prank—they don't take it as a prank. I've handled students where they used to have the old game of painting Bobby Burns".

"I've been here 25 years with this game. So one day we caught them and we took them all down for pictures while they were cleaning Bobby Burns and they got their picture in the newspaper. They thought that was great. But today and previous years is different. You could break a \$5 window 20 years ago and no one would say anything—you'd get a slap across the head or a boot in the rear or something. But today, if you break a window and it belongs to a store or something like this, then you're in trouble, because people are thinking legally now. They're not thinking anymore of your welfare. All they can see now is, 'Who is going to pay for the window?—Money. That's what counts.'"

He also warns that there are many things that university students don't know, or don't expect could happen to them. For instance, "You loan your car to someone—he goes out

and tears up signs—then you are responsible for the action of that car even if you don't know about it. You may know the driver and think that you don't have to tell us who had the car. YOU DO. Under the Motor Vehicle Act you have to. Other than that, you don't want to tell—okay, you take the blame and we just hold the car."

Not so very long ago, Cpl. Scott received a telephone call reporting a bomb in the 810 Montgomery St. Co-op. He went up alone at 1:30 in the morning and found all the lights lit, a party going on in full swing, and students laying and staggering all over the place. He was able to trace the call to a hall telephone which was under a tenant's name. Because the telephone was in this guy's name, he almost got into serious trouble, even though he hadn't known of the bomb hoax.

Cpl. Scott explained why the telephone owner had what trouble he did because of the hoax. "When you get a phone in your name, you have responsibility for that phone. Like in these halls—a big long hall and here you've got one phone. So you could come out and phone this false alarm, this guy could come out—it could be anyone, eh? BUT, you don't know our system of tracing. We trace it right back to you. This phone is open, but you are responsible for it because it's in your name. But it's out in this great big long hall so anybody could call. So, to cover yourself and to keep long-distance calls under control, then keep it in your room so you know who is going to be responsible for using that phone."

Scott believes that most university students don't realize the extent of the consequences that could arise from these pranks. "In the matter with the churches," he said, "This boy could have been taken to court and charged with damage to property, but there were

three others with him. The police chased them—he plays the hero and tries to take the rap for the whole four. But they don't think of the end result. When he comes to go for a job—'Have you ever been in jail? Have you got a record? Well, you HAVE got a record. So here's three other guys who are scot-free for you being a hero. I let the boy go and he was decent enough. He came back with Professor Windsor. I feel confident that none of these boys I had in here and told what could happen would ever do this again. And I think they'll think. But it's the end result that counts."

The city police try to give students a break whenever possible, in order to keep them from ruining their lives through misadventure. But there is a limit. "If you get a guy up there who rapes somebody, or takes road signs and somebody gets killed, then she's a different baseball field," said Cpl. Scott. "That's not the same as going in churches and things like that. You can't expect to get breaks then."

According to Scott, a lot of trouble is blamed on university students that is caused by gangs of school drop-outs and the like, who hang around the campus "to see what they can pick up." "They're what we call our tramps," said Scott "and they're going up into these buildings amongst you people. I think that the Student Police should turn now and start asking questions. Find out about these guys. These are the ones you should get out of there."

Both Cpl. Scott and Sgt. Hovey agree that the city police

receive a high degree of cooperation from the student body as a whole. "We've had no trouble from the university. They are very cooperative," Sgt. Hovey commented. "There's a certain element you are bound to have in any town, but taken as a whole, the students give very good cooperation, in my experience anyway. There are no more violations... by students than in the ordinary run of people." Sgt. Hovey also dispelled the myth that hippies and the like caused more trouble for the police. "The hippy element has not caused us any more difficulties than other students, at the present."

The police expect this cooperation in return for giving breaks to deserving students. As Scott says, "Okay, you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." They expect students to volunteer information if they have it, but have no intentions of asking students to inform on one another. Scott did cite one incident where there was a lack of cooperation on the part of the students.

"This was in the summer. We went up there and we were looking for tape - recorders which were stolen out of a school next to 810 Montgomery St. We went in there and asked if they would kind of help, but... I don't think it was the regular classes (summer school classes). I have been on cases where the students have cooperated 100 percent. Matter of fact, the night of this bomb scare there was one little fellow, who although he didn't know who I was, took me right to the telephone where the call was made."

Many policemen have sons and daughters on campus, and many others have students boarding with them. The Chief himself has taken four students to board in his home. So, they are able to understand to a large extent the high-spiritedness of college students. As Sgt. Hovey put it, "No officer would have anything detrimental to say about students in this town." This shows how highly regarded the university body is by the city police.

But the police would like to be understood in turn. They too have their own problems and there is a tremendous amount of pressure on them constantly. Many of them operate under a social stigma. "There's no doubt about it," Sgt. Hovey commented, "the policeman is a lonesome man. He has a hell of a lot of work and it is the type of work that no matter who it is he's dealing with, he has to look at it one way—the objective way of the law. He has the idea that the whole populace is against him, but we try to teach this man that it isn't so. It's a lonesome, thankless job, but what would the country be without him? It's a great feeling to be able to go to bed at eleven and feel that the police officer is walking by the house."

Cpl. Scott concluded the interview by inviting students to come to the police with their problems or questions. "If there's anything myself, Sgt. Hovey or Detective King can do for you people, we'll be only too glad to; any time there's anything in the Criminal Code that you want to know

JUST ARRIVED...

posters

at the

campus bookstore

LEATHER that Makes it!



the most complete line of leathers, suedes & pigskins



the RED HANGER ROOM

ROYAL STORES Ltd.

75 YORK STREET

475-6122