

Cars overturned, damage in thousands

by Margaret Little

Pranks are only fun to the pranksters and owners of three vehicles left in the Dalhousie University parking lots Thursday night will be the first to agree.

Sometime in the wee hours of Friday morning (between 3 and 3:30 a.m.) Dalhousie Security discovered a 1980 Honda and a trailer turned over on their sides. Not far from these vehicles was a 1979 Volkswagon Scirocco on its roof.

Although it was a great joke to the pranksters, the damage done was costly—more than \$3,500 in total, according to Director of Security Max Keeping's estimations.

Although both security staff and Halifax City Police are investigating the incident, there seems little hope of discovering the pranksters.

"There had to be a group of six or better to turn over those vehicles", said Keeping.

"It seems so senseless... There's just no purpose in such pranks," was Steve Martin's reaction to the \$3,000 damage done to his 1979 Volkswagon.

Security staff found Martin's car on its roof near the Dalplex with oil leaking onto the cracked windshield, a dented hood and roof, and bent

fenders.

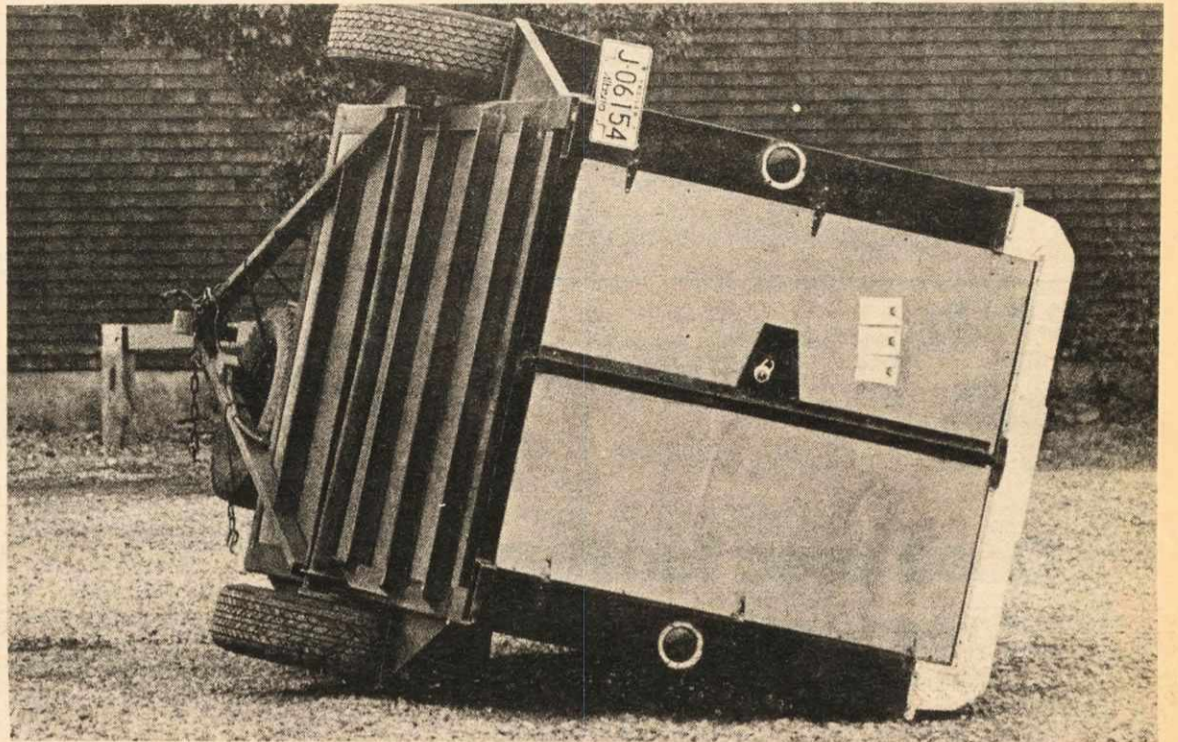
Tracey Phelan, a second year Dalhousie Arts student, ran out of her house on LeMarchant Street Friday morning to find her little 1980 red Honda on its side in the LeMarchant-South Street parking lot.

"It seemed comical for the first moment when I saw my car on its side, but the aftermath is certainly not funny," she said.

"Security staff estimated \$500 damage to the Honda and \$500 is not so funny—even if the insurance company will cover it."

Ed McKenna had parked his trailer in the rink parking lot while practising the Don Messer's show at the Rebecca Cohn Thursday night. Security staff claim the sturdy fiberglass construction of the trailer prevented it from any damage other than paint scrapes when it was turned on its side.

Car owners Phelan and Martin are awaiting final estimates from their insurance companies. Both are praying their insurance companies will cover the entire damage costs. If their insurance companies refuse to pay the damages, the costs will come out of their own pockets. Dalhousie University is not responsible for any



HIGGINS/DAL PHOTO

thefts or damages to cars, according to the message the administration has neatly printed on the fluorescent yellow signs around campus.

"An accident like this is probably an isolated episode and may never happen again," said Director of Security Max Keeping.

If it is up to Phelan, she will

not be the brunt of a practical joke another time. "I'm going to park my car between the Dalhousie buildings rather than in an open parking lot from now on," she said.

Neither security staff or car

owners have a solution to such pranks. "The onus is on the individual. If they don't have a sense of social conscience, then such pranks are impossible to stop," said Phelan.

Halifax housing scarcity easing

By Paul Creelman

The usual critical shortage of student housing eased up a little this year, according to statements made by Hillary Hanblaing, Housing Co-ordinator for Dalhousie University.

"One surprising fact was that the average rent this year went down from about \$35 a week to about \$30 a week," says Hanblaing.

"There were more students looking for housing this year, but we managed to find a place for everybody, so the situation certainly wasn't any worse than it was last year."

Hanblaing couldn't say how many people use the Housing office, which is located in room 120 of the Student Union Building.

"This place is a mad-house for two weeks before school starts, and then the rush is suddenly over."

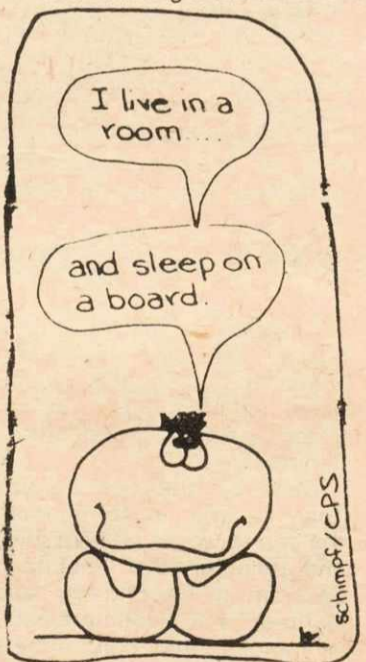
However, she did have statistics on the housing service for foreign students, which is one of Hanblaing's pet projects.

"I really feel that our service for foreign students is excellent. What it involves is correspondence with foreign students through John Orkar, the Overseas Student Co-ordinator. We arrange a place for them to stay, and even to meet them at the airport when they arrive."

The housing office has handled 159 students from

over 44 different countries this year.

The housing situation in the



Women's Residence was very tight this year, states Director Christine Irvine.

"There was a very large demand for accommodation in all of the women's residences," says Irvine.

"We still have a waiting list, although most people were looked after. It was nice to have the St. Mary's and the King's Colleges residences to fall back upon."

For a short period, Irvine even billeted students in makeshift beds in the TV rooms in Sheriff Hall.

"This is something that we

do every year," says Irvine.

"These are people who will take anything they can get in the way of a room. What happens is that some people will fail to show up at the beginning of the school year, making available rooms for others."

All of those placed in the TV rooms have since been assigned to other accommodations.

Clem Norwood, Dean of Men's Residences, says that there was a marked increase of third year and higher level students applying for residence this year.

"Many of these students were even willing to go as far as taking a double room, which is highly unusual. We also had a large number of 'no-shows' this year."

Howe Hall still has a few accommodations available for those willing to share a room.

Students who don't pay their rent on time or cause trouble in other ways may make things harder for themselves. Housing Co-ordinator Hanblaing says that their office has received a few complaints from landlords last year.

"In each case, the student had left without paying his rent. All these people are doing is making the housing situation that much worse next year, as I don't even imagine those people will be too keen on taking in anymore students."

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The Dalhousie Student Council is looking for interested Dal students to serve on the following Student Union and University committees:

- Entertainment committee
- Finance committee
- Course evaluation committee
- Students Union of Nova Scotia committee
- Sport and Recreation committee
- Parking committee
- Library committee
- Book Store committee
- Dalplex Advisory committee

For more information contact your Student Council representative or drop in to the Council offices, Rm. 222 Dal SUB. Appointment of committees will be made at the Student Council meeting, 7:00 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 28.