

Security sent walking

by Ken Burke

"It doesn't cut down on mobility, just the speed of mobility," said Director of Dal Security Max Keeping. Keeping was referring to a decision of his last Thursday to cut staff use of the Dal Security vehicle to all but himself or his delegate. As a result patrols to Ardmore Hall, Fenwick and Peter Green Place have been discontinued.

The action has raised serious concern over the speed and effectiveness with which Dal Security can respond to emergencies on campus.

Since Thursday, Dal Security patrols have been walking their beats around campus - both day and night shifts.

The decision has prompted anger and dissension among full-time Security staff. Many guards feel strongly that the move makes the campus less safe, especially during the night when a vehicle increases the speed with which Security can respond to calls. "For all intensive purposes, there is no security at night," said one guard, who wished to remain anonymous.

The guard said the vehicle helps to cut down reaction time when security has to respond to a call from across campus. He referred to the problem of reaching Shirreff Hall quickly from a location such as Dentistry if the patrol were forced to walk.

He also stressed the importance of the patrols to the off-campus residences. "We check fire lanes, and there's also the problem of car security in the Fenwick Parkade. The presence of the truck stops people from doing things," he said. "When

people see it roll by, they think twice about doing something. A foot patrol doesn't have the same effect."

Keeping admitted that the presence of the vehicle on campus does serve to prohibit crime, but said eliminating patrols from Fenwick, Peter Green, and Ardmore will not lower security on campus. He pointed out the patrol's duties at the locations only involved exterior checks, and that Fenwick

has two guards of its own for internal security, constantly in contact with Dal security.

Also very much in dispute is the intent behind the move by Keeping.

The memo cites recent damage done to the vehicle as the reason for placing it off limits. In particular, Keeping referred to a new, recently-installed seat which, "has been slashed and no one has had the guts to report it or how it was done."

The memo says a set of keys will be left with the supervisor at night, with the vehicle to be used *only in "emergencies, that is calls to off-campus complaints"* (Ardmore, Fenwick, Peter Green Hall).

The letter ends with the terse statement, "Those who do not like the above are free to seek employment elsewhere."

Keeping refused to comment on the incident prompting his decision, saying only that it was

an internal matter.

The guard, who sought anonymity to avoid possible repercussions, claimed that the seat was only second-hand, had been welded in too low, and "probably fell apart by itself". He thought the memo was an improper way for Keeping to control the staff. "He just wants to get his way," he said.

Because of the decision, morale is reported to be very low among staff of Security. Contributing to the morale problem is the policy of not replacing sick or vacationing patrol guards because of budgetary restraints. This has often resulted in only one person patrolling in the early morning.

Without access to the vehicle, patrollers who are injured on work will have to reach University Health on their own.

Response has begun coming in from the Dalhousie community on the decision. Some professors have complained about buildings not being opened on time by foot-propelled security people.

Ria Hodgson, President of the Dalhousie Staff Association, said, "I don't see how putting the whole community in jeopardy will solve the problem. It all seems so trite." Caroline Zayid, Science Rep and member of the Women's Committee, agreed that, "It looks like a petty matter." She added that the decision to limit use of the vehicle has repercussions for everyone on the campus.

Keeping was careful to point out that the change was not necessarily permanent. "This is something I'm testing," he said. "If it doesn't work, we'll try something else."



Here's Dal Security's fabled vehicle, shown under repairs for other than seat-slashers. Soon it'll be fixed, and ready to sit idle once again.

PHOTO BY DAL MISNER

15% tuition hike proposal

by Cathy McDonald

Dalhousie's administration is proposing a tuition increase of 15 per cent for next year, but students are arguing this as unacceptable. The final decision will be made by the Board of Governors.

The 15 per cent figure would apply equally to all faculties, and would seem to take the place of a differential fee for Arts and Science students, which was to compensate for laboratory fees. A 15 per cent increase would translate into another \$150 for Arts and Science students, ranging up to \$185 for medicine students.

The increase is essential in view of the university's present financial situation, said President MacKay in a letter to student union president John Logan, in spite of this year's efforts by Deans and others to try and reach a balanced budget.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Governors' joint Finance and Budget and Student Relations and Residence committees, student representatives outlined why students should not be asked to pay more than a ten per cent increase. Using as guidelines

the facts that since 1975, the average annual increase in the minimum wage has been six per cent, and a similar increase in student aid has been four per cent, Board representative Atul Sharma calculated that since 1975, student resources have increased at an average annual rate of 6.5 per cent. This compares unfavourably to a consumer price index increase of 10 per cent per year.

In Sharma's presentation, he said requiring students to pay 15 per cent more in tuition would be unrealistic, he said, and would serve only to make a

university education inaccessible to students of all but high income families.

Sharma went on to note that "in recognition of Dalhousie's financial difficulties, we too are willing to make concessions", concluding that students could reasonably support an increase of no more than 10 per cent.

Further figures presented to the Board show that Dalhousie has the highest tuition fees in the country, while Nova Scotians enjoy the lowest minimum wage and less opportunity to find summer employment.

"A student in Saskatchewan will make some \$600 more than

one in Nova Scotia. Speaking as a student, that is a lot of money; in fact it is one term's tuition," Sharma said.

Sharma, along with other student representatives, expressed concern for low and middle income families, pointing to the student union survey completed last fall which shows 48 per cent of Dalhousie students coming from the 21 per cent of the population with the highest income.

The committee seemed to be very sympathetic, but no vote was taken, Sharma said. The committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Governors on April 6.