

Fenwick scene of 'Massacre'

Paul Clark

"They used to call students in the St. Mary's highrise animals, now Fenwick's getting that reputation", says a resident of Fenwick Towers.

The student, who wished to remain anonymous, complained of over-rowdy parties where drunken revellers spilled into the hallways and elevators, widespread vandalism and theft, and instances of assault on Fenwick staff.

The weekend the CIAU basketball championships were held in Halifax was a striking example of this, she said.

She said she went down to talk to a night manager at the security office and he told her, "Go up and look at the 11th floor, there was a massacre there last night."

"I went up and didn't even have to look past the elevator door. There were broken beer bottles all over the place. That's not a party, that's destruction!"

That same night two night managers were attacked.

Ken Davidson, one of the night managers on duty, said two men entered the security office requesting a student's room number which he was unauthorized to provide.

The other night manager made a joke that offended them, he said, and shortly after the two individuals came at them. The manager who made the joke was struck in the head and almost knocked out while Davidson was skirmishing on the ground with the two aggressors, when a taxi they had called arrived and they fled, he said.

He said Dal security, who had been called earlier, "arrived after my first cigarette".

The student cited earlier said not only do the roaring parties in Fenwick cause damage and disturb tenants, they also make her feel unsafe.

"If you are alone with someone really drunk in an elevator you don't know when he is going to jump on you."

People throwing things off of balconies is also a real problem—it's dangerous and costs the nearby bowling alley as much as \$10,000 a year in repairs, she said.

In order to make Fenwick a more civil place to live in, she suggested first, that night managers be reinstated with the authority to turn off the power in rooms where parties get out of control and, second, that there be a stricter security system at the building's entrance to prevent thieves and troublemakers from entering.

Morley Middleton, the manager of Fenwick, said while parties sometimes get out of hand at Fenwick, "they don't get too far out of hand".

There are back-up security who live in the building and the police can be called in, he said.

He said there is a band of thieves who regularly roam around Howe Hall, Victoria General and Fenwick.

"They've been arrested three times in this building," he said. "They steal to make a living. The police know them, but the courts can't prove it. That mentality is very hard to reason with."

And it is almost impossible to catch people throwing things off the balcony, said Middleton.

Dal Photo Patrick



Night Managers at Fenwick Towers were attacked after parties become scenes of destruction. An estimated 15 to 20 thousand dollars of damage occurs every year at Fenwick.

He said he has tried posting people checking entrants into Fenwick but it was not effective.

"When you get a big 19 to 25 year old with a bellyful of beer it is easier to let him go than to stop him."

More important, he said, students do not want it.

"They want freedom of access, to do as they please. Most of the activity in Fenwick takes place between midnight and 4 a.m."

He said that police, detec-

tives and security can all be called in, but until students make an effort to look for troublemakers, vandalism will continue.

"If seven thousand students all become policemen I'll be the happiest man in the world."

John Graham, director of housing at Dalhousie, estimated that 15 to 20 thousand dollars worth of damages were incurred every year at Fenwick.

He said, however, this is a perennial problem with any

major housing complex.

"Whenever you have 600 people gathered in one place you are going to have a good number of difficulties", he said.

He noted that damage expenses at Howe Hall are even greater than at Fenwick.

As for charges that security is lax, he said security is a problem in any building.

"We do the best we can with the money available and the people willing to do the job."

New constitution aids ISA Engineer House closed till April

by Paul Clark

New constitution invigorates International Students Association

"Before the International Students Association (ISA) was a dead body, now it has really come to life", says new ISA president Dumisani Gwebu.

Gwebu says the change results from a new constitution passed on January 16 which makes the ISA an "umbrella" organization, embracing other international bodies like the African, Arab, Caribbean and Chinese Students' societies.

The new constitution stipulates that the ISA's executive committee, in addition to the president, vice-president, treasurer and secretary, be made up of all the presidents of these societies. Individual international societies fees will now be distributed through the ISA.

The powers of individual societies are in no way restricted, Gwebu says, the new constitution will just help to coordinate activities.

"It will make sure African night doesn't occur the same evening as Arab night", says Gwebu. "But, for example, if there is an issue one society doesn't agree with, their dissent will be mentioned in the press release."

The umbrella organization is a way of making small societies active and will strengthen the ISA itself, he says.

There was a fear the powers of individual societies would be restricted, Gwebu says, but this is unfounded because the new constitution will just help to coordinate activities.

In the February 14 elections which made Gwebu, a Swazi native, who is a Public Administration student, the new ISA president, Dawn Russel, a law student from Fredericton, was elected vice-president.

Paula Pearce, a math student from Ireland, became the new treasurer and Dianne Moore, a biology student from the United Kingdom, was elected secretary.

Gwebu perceives one of

their biggest roles to be working with Overseas student coordinator John Orkar and the Dean of student services, Ted Marriott.

For example, Gwebu says one priority is to work with Orkar on orientation, making sure foreign students quickly find housing accommodations and helping them adjust to changes they may encounter.

"When I arrived at Dalhousie this fall, I walked the streets for two weeks before I found a place," says Gwebu, "If it wasn't for the overseas student coordinator, I wouldn't be here today."

Currently, Gwebu says, the ISA is involved in looking into the problem of grad housing at Dal. He says the rates are too high and the houses are in bad condition.

Other activities include a fund raising campaign for some charitable organization, similar to the recent one which collected \$1,000 for Oxfam, public talks and a film series.

by Tom Regan

The Engineering House at Dalhousie has been closed to all engineering functions for the rest of the year.

The decision by the executive of the Engineering Society was reached at a society meeting on Tuesday and was confirmed by engineering president Keith Wellband.

The Engineering House, which is also the home of several students, was apparently the scene of one too many rambunctious parties during the year. The decision, which is not popular with all members of the society, takes effect immediately and will last until at least the first of April when the new executive takes over.

Wellband said the decision was made by the executive because members of security and clean-up groups were not doing their jobs.

"Earlier in the year we

designated groups to carry out these functions," said Wellband. "I am one of those people who live in the engineering house. Well I was away this weekend and when I came home they still hadn't cleaned up after the party. And this has been happening all year. It really had gotten out of hand."

Wellband said the society had been told earlier in the year that if they did not live up to their responsibilities, the house would be closed to all events.

"We feel it was the proper thing to do," said Wellband. "We want to keep the house and we feel keeping the house up insures us of keeping it for next year."

Wellband said it was unfortunate that some members were upset with the decision but that they had been warned this would happen in the beginning of the year.