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Security cuts cause concern

By **KIMBERLY WILLIAMS**
and **LOIS CORBETT**

DALHOUSIE HAS CUT \$50,000 from its security budget, pulled the Life Sciences building night guard, eliminated the department's assistant director position and decided not to employ students to patrol campus events.

The cut reflects the administration's struggle to balance the books this year but many students and university employees, especially women, question the restraint.

Catherine Blewett, Dalhousie student union president, says the administration originally planned more drastic cuts.

"They wanted to cut one patrol all together. They wanted to eliminate the four-to-midnight shift. That stinks," says Blewett.

After some argument, Blewett says, the administration left the 4-12 p.m. patrol intact, but went ahead with the other personnel changes.

Nancy Cameron, a member of the Dalhousie women's committee, says the administration is "cutting, cutting and cutting," and risking the physical well being of students.

"Security has been an issue here for years, ever since a female student was attacked in the Killam library with a hammer," says Cameron.

Cameron says the safety of women at Dalhousie is not an administration priority.

"It's men who make decisions like these. How often do men get raped by men? It really pisses me off," says Cameron.

Cameron says rapes are "hushed up" on campus, and adds, "there are a fair percentage of them (rapes) around here, but you don't hear about it. Problems about women being followed are really hush-hush."

Ann Keith, executive director of Services for Victims of Sexual Assault (SVSA), a Halifax organization that receives crisis calls from rape and incest victims daily, says there is nothing new in saying that when people compete against politics and economics, they and "especially women" suffer.

Keith says the number of reported rapes in Halifax are up from 1984, and SVSA has received 25 rape reports in the last 10 weeks.

Violent rape is also on the increase.

"I've seen rapes this year that involve guns, knives and severe beatings, and the police I've talked to say the same thing," says Keith.

While Keith can't pinpoint areas where rapes have occurred because of the anonymity involved with SVSA, she does say the south end of Halifax is vulnerable, "since all the women's residences are there and there is a high nucleus of women in one area" making it a higher risk.

The new security budget provides a night shift of three men and two cars reporting on campus buildings from the outside. The Tupper and Dentistry building will retain an inside, night guard.

The two buildings are a priority "because of their sensitive nature," says Max Keeping, director of campus security.

Both buildings store drugs, expensive equipment, and the Tupper also houses various lab animals that require supervision.

Jane Parpart, president of Dalhousie women's faculty association, says she would like to see an analysis of security on the campus with a focus on women's safety.

See "Security," page 3

Tools packed for Nicaragua

By **DAN FELDSTEIN**

ONE NIGHT LAST WEEK A half a dozen people loaded crates near the docks in Halifax.

This may not seem unusual, but these people were loading medical, agricultural, fishing and other supplies to be put on a ship bound for Nicaragua. The people are members of the Nova Scotia chapter of the North American-Nicaraguan solidarity group, Tools for Peace.

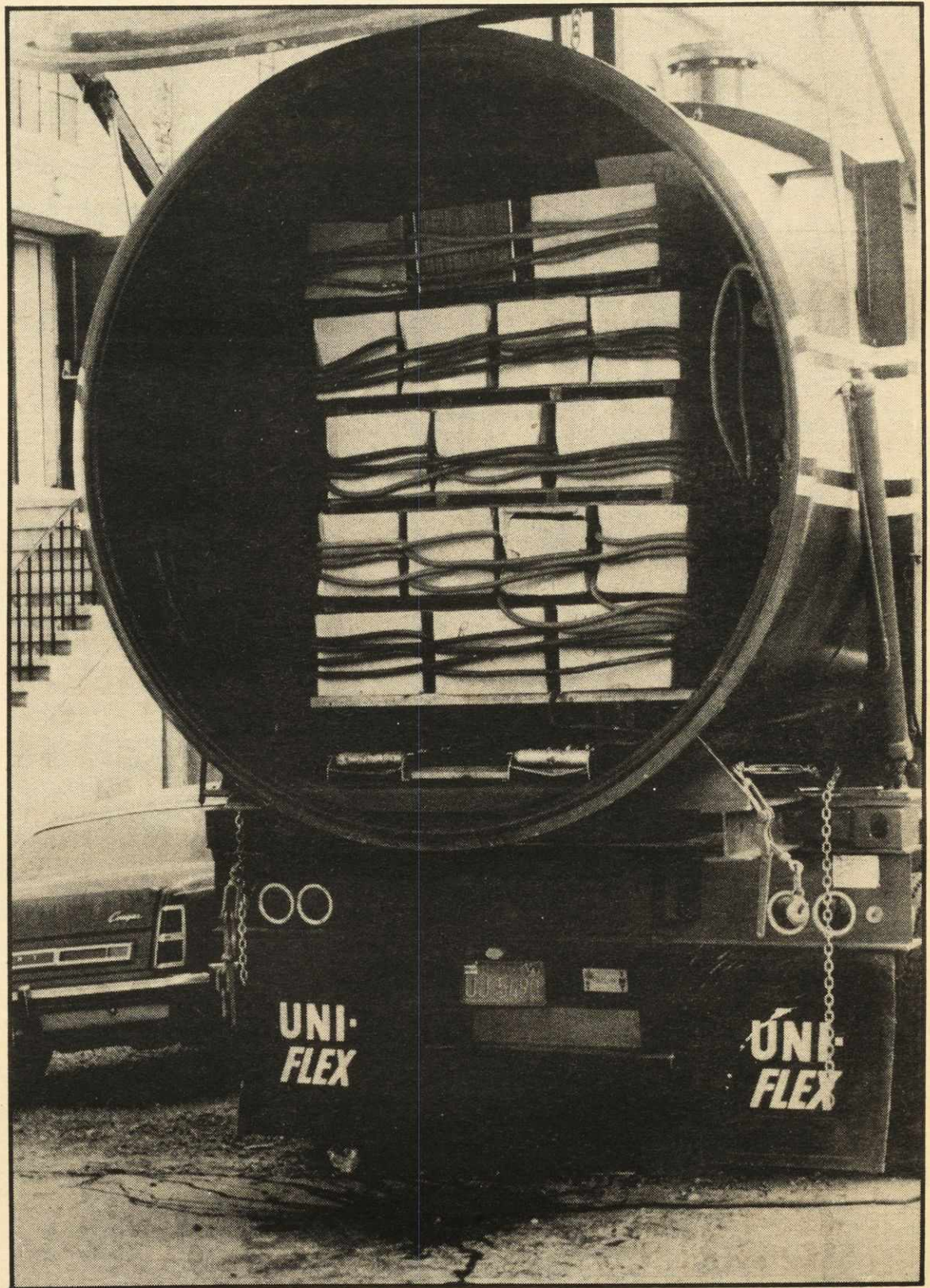
Leonard Buckles, a representative of the local chapter, says local committees of the group have been set up in Sydney, Pictou County, Mahone Bay, Amherst, Wolfville, Halifax and Truro. "We're trying to regionalize," says Buckles.

Buckles says the purposes of the organization are to provide material aid to Nicaragua, and to act as a tool to educate Canadians about Nicaragua and "destroy the American myth."

Buckles says he believes many of the problems faced by Nicaragua are caused by the American propaganda campaign aimed at discrediting the Nicaraguan revolution.

The material aid part of the campaign tries to focus on the specific needs of Nicaragua, says Buckles.

See "Nicaragua", page 3



Law books come off the critical list. Dal Photo — Mary Ellen Jones.

Books and journals saved

By **IAN MACLEOD**

MORE THAN 20,000 VOLUMES of water-damaged law books and journals are being returned to the make-shift law library in the Studley gymnasium this week after being freeze-dried for a little over two weeks.

The freeze-drying process was carried out in a special mobile unit operated by Document Reprocessors of San Francisco, California. The unit has been parked between the gym and the Dal arena.

The restored books and journals, many bearing water stains and some charred around the edges, are otherwise in excellent condition — dry, readable and as strongly bound as ever. A period

of re-humidification is necessary before the books can be placed on the library shelves.

"I think they came out marvelous, simply marvelous," says Eric Lundquist, who developed the freeze-drying process.

"A book like this would have been destroyed by mildew if it was left to dry on a shelf," says Lundquist as he displays a restored volume of several thousand pages.

Although no one seems able to put a price tag on the restoration of the books, it is estimated that the cost per book will be between two and three dollars.

During the freeze-drying process, materials to be restored are placed inside a large reinforced-steel cylinder. Rubber hosing connected to a water supply is

wrapped around the stacks of boxed materials and the cylinder is closed.

Air inside the cylinder is then pumped out in order to create a vacuum which causes a drastic lowering of air pressure inside the cylinder. At this reduced level of pressure the boiling point of water drops to about 10 degrees celsius.

Warm water is then run through the rubber hosing inside the cylinder, supplying the heat necessary to vapourize the water in the materials. The water vapour is continually pumped out of the cylinder during the 15-20 day process, leaving the materials bone dry.

"The process usually takes 17 days," says Lundquist.