

Residence room in deep freeze

BY STEPHANIE PIERI

Monique Carson and her roommate have been living without sufficient heat in their New Eddy room since early November.

In October they noticed that the room was very cold, and that a breeze was coming in through the seams of their window. They filled out a maintenance form and submitted it to the front desk staff at Shirreff Hall.

Since then they have filled out four others. The maintenance crew have responded each time, but the solution has not yet been found.

The problem is not isolated to this room. According to Dianne Courrier, the new Facilities Coordinator for Shirreff Hall, the corner rooms, like Carson's, are "our problem rooms."

Carson claims that the radiator in the room isn't working properly.

"There isn't much heat coming out of it," she said.

During the second week of January, a plastic sheet tacked down with duct tape was placed over the window. Although the residents of the room said they believe that this has helped, some of the cold air is still getting through.

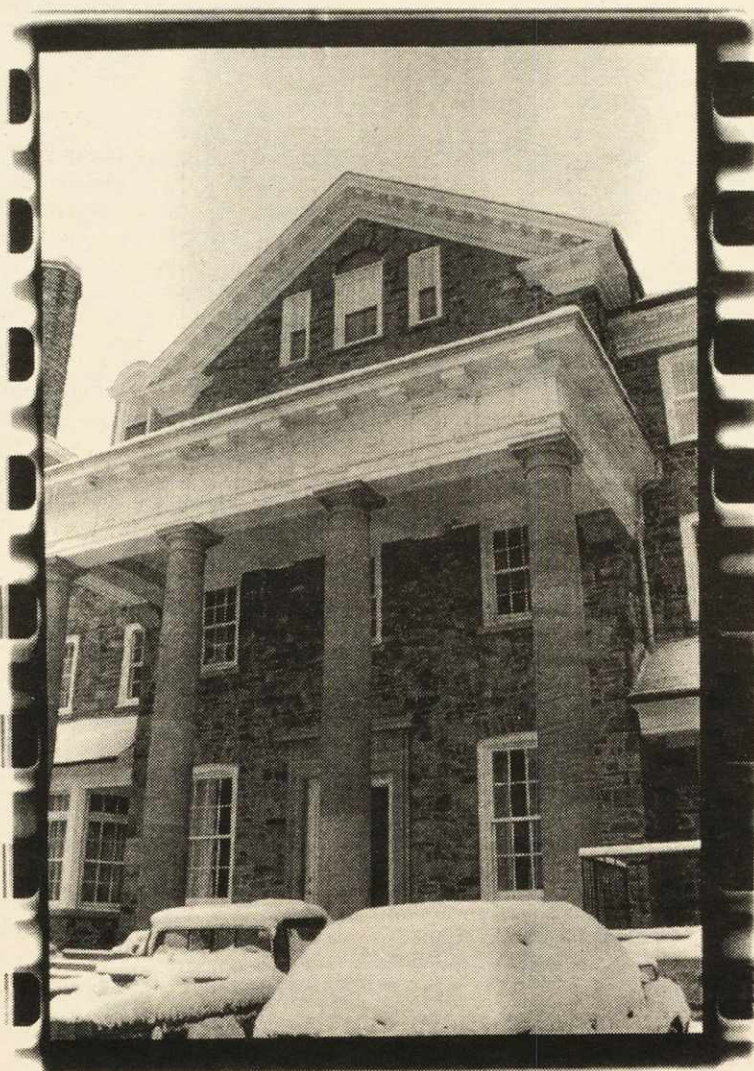
Carson said she has been wearing jogging pants, a turtle neck, a heavy sweater, and socks to bed every night and she still has to pull her extra blankets up high to keep her head warm.

Her roommate, who wishes to remain anonymous, has been studying in the New Eddy Study Lounge; and for the past week, she has slept in another room.

On Monday evening, in order to make the room more bearable, Carson and her roommate were given two small heaters by the Front Desk Staff. Carson said that this has made a difference, but that she wants the primary heat source of her room to be fixed.

"We just want the problem to be rectified," said Carson.

Courrier said the problem was brought to her attention on Monday night, when Carson's Resi-



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 — Anne Bartlett, Shirreff Hall Residence Coordinator

"We are currently replacing thermostats in New Eddy and we have invested \$20,000 just to change these over in order to improve on the comfort level of that particular area. We are aware that there is a problem in the comfort level in that area," said Courrier.

Anne Bartlett, Residence Coordinator for Shirreff Hall, said that there are plans to install a second radiator this summer when the work will not disrupt students.

"Every year we put thousands and thousands of dollars into this building because it is such an old building; however, you do not always see the changes," she said.

Projects for this summer include working on the radiators and replacing some of the windows.

dence Assistant went to her directly with the problem. Since then, she has provided the room with additional heaters, and she has been in contact with a plumber who is a specialist with radiators.

SHAFTED

BY STEPHANIE PIERI

Eight students who were cramming for a genetics exam on Monday, Feb. 5, got an hour-long reprieve when their elevator stopped mid-flight.

The students, who were doing some last minute studying, boarded the elevator in the Killam Library at 6:50 p.m. as they were on their way to the Dunn building for their 7:00 p.m. exam.

Between the first and second floors of the Killam Library, something went wrong. The elevator stopped, and it remained

stopped for close to an hour. Kwabby Oppong, one of the trapped students, said, "I thought it was kind of funny at first, but after fifteen minutes..."

Cries for help coming from the elevator shaft and the sounding of the emergency bell prompted Patricia Lutley to rush to the elevator. Lutley said she was able to determine the problem and immediately called security.

The eight students managed to remain in good humour for the duration of their predicament. A doorstep was used to pry the doors open to give them air.

Through this two inch crack,

it was possible to look down upon the students in the elevator. They were unharmed, and one of the trapped students joked, "I'm suing everyone!"

As the minutes passed, the voices of the students could be heard throughout the second floor as they sang "Kumbaya."

After a harrowing 3360 seconds, the students were finally freed from their steel cell. A security guard who had been with them from the start of the ordeal escorted them to their genetics exam.

Despite the fact that many of the students quipped that they were suffering from emotional and psychological distress as a result of their confinement, the students were still expected to write the exam.

They were given additional time to complete it.



Frat to get new pad

BY PATTI WALLER

Dalhousie will soon replace a familiar landmark.

The Phi Delta Theta Fraternity recently revealed that plans for demolishing its house are tentatively set for April, 1997. A new house is scheduled for construction during the summer and should open the following academic year.

The cost of the new house is estimated at \$250,000. The new building will most likely be a multi-level complex named after distinguished alumni George Robertson.

Walter Fitzgerald, a frat alumni and current mayor of Halifax, states in the organization's report on the building campaign that this commitment to build is "our most crucial campaign ever...to survive, we need a new house."

"We started this campaign last year...we could start building at half the projected cost, and we figure we're near halfway," said past president James Nightingale.

All of the funds raised or do-

nated have come from the Nova Scotia Alpha Chapter's alumni. The alumni count about 800 members since the Dalhousie chapter's inception in 1930.

"We're trying to improve our chapter...the active brothers want to show the alumni that we're making an effort, by winning awards [from the national headquarters], getting new guys out, and getting more involved on campus and in community services," said Nightingale.

Phi Delt's most significant contribution to the community is their annual Hallowe'en Black Friday Party, where all funds are traditionally donated to UNICEF. Nightingale was quick to point out that their efforts are expanding.

"Starting this year, we've been doing a lot with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease, named for the late baseball all-star, who was himself a famous Phi...hopefully we'll be doing that some more," said Nightingale.

Also in the works is an individual literacy program that will service both children and adults.

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Racism pervades judiciary — report

The commission not only provides statistics to support existing claims of racism in the legal system, but also offers recommendations to help end it.

The commission recommends the establishment of training programs and education for crown attorneys and judges in order to promote restraint in sentencing. The report also recommends alternatives to imprisonment, like serving sentences in the community.

Assistance for people in police custody to understand their rights and options is called for, as are modifications to courtroom procedures that would restrict references to race, immigrant status, or country of origin.

David Cole, provincial court judge and co-chairperson of the commission, says the recommendations are practical and cost effective.

"It costs \$135 per day to keep somebody incarcerated in this province," he said. "But it only costs \$6 [per day] to keep someone supervised on a bail program."

Toni Williams, the other commission co-chairperson, says one of the most significant recommendations involves eliminating references in the courtroom to race or immigrant status.

"It's important that [these references] be stopped, that judges and lawyers monitor each other and ask questions about the references to immigrant status, place of origin, or race," she said.

Williams says the recommendations provide "ways of making the criminal justice system better for everyone."

John Ohisa Oyemu, president of the University of Toronto African Canadian Students' Association, says close attention should be paid to finding solutions to the problem of racism in general, and not just to finding solutions to racism in the justice system.

"Let's look at the roots — are these young black kids getting employment or the right education? Unless we look at the root causes...the social problems will not diminish and that's a sad commentary," he said.

Oyemu also says he thinks the report will not go very far in the hands of the provincial government.

"[Premier Mike] Harris said he's not so sure whether the report is far reaching," said Oyemu. "He basically dismissed it. Given what he said, I think the Harris government is not going to do anything. I think he thinks everything is hunky-dory."

Pike says he is more hopeful, however, that the report will have an effect in eliminating racism in the criminal justice system. He advocates setting up a system of accountability for police officers, crown attorneys, and judges to make sure the changes are being implemented.

"If you have no way of measuring [the changes], then it is not really effectual," he said. "I think if the political will is there and if the recommendations are implemented, but not only on paper — if the spirit is there — then I think there is the potential to have some impact."