

Downtown violence increasing

by Chris Lambie

The number of fights in downtown Halifax has increased over the past two months, according to Walter Fitzgerald. Fitzgerald, who represents Ward 2 on the Halifax City Council, says "there has been a definite increase in the number of night-time conflicts." While the police have assured Fitzgerald that "there has been no major or significant change in numbers", evidence seems to point to the contrary.

Fitzgerald says the Argyle street phenomenon "encompasses such a very small area, on most

occasions there are at least a few fights." He also states "there are definitely a lot more big brawls;

the downtown situation is getting worse, not better." Fitzgerald said there "seems to be a lot more drinking and the bars are much more crowded than they used to be." He says "a new tension has developed in the city; it's produced by everything from the declining economy to escalating racial problems." He also says "because of the competition, they [the bartenders] aren't cutting people off as soon as they used to."

In reference to the upcoming Mardi Gras, Fitzgerald says "the city will have to make its presence felt; every available police officer will be on duty Hallowe'en night, at a cost to the city of nearly thirteen thousand dollars." He adds that "many young people are getting nervous about going downtown. Halifax has always been considered a safe city; all you need is a sequence of brawls to erase that image of safety from people's

minds. There are some real crazies out there, and that can ruin it for everyone."

Mike Delano, a bouncer at the

Seahorse, claims most of the violence is "more a racial thing." He says in many bars "the bouncers promote it or urge it on

"There are some real crazies out there"

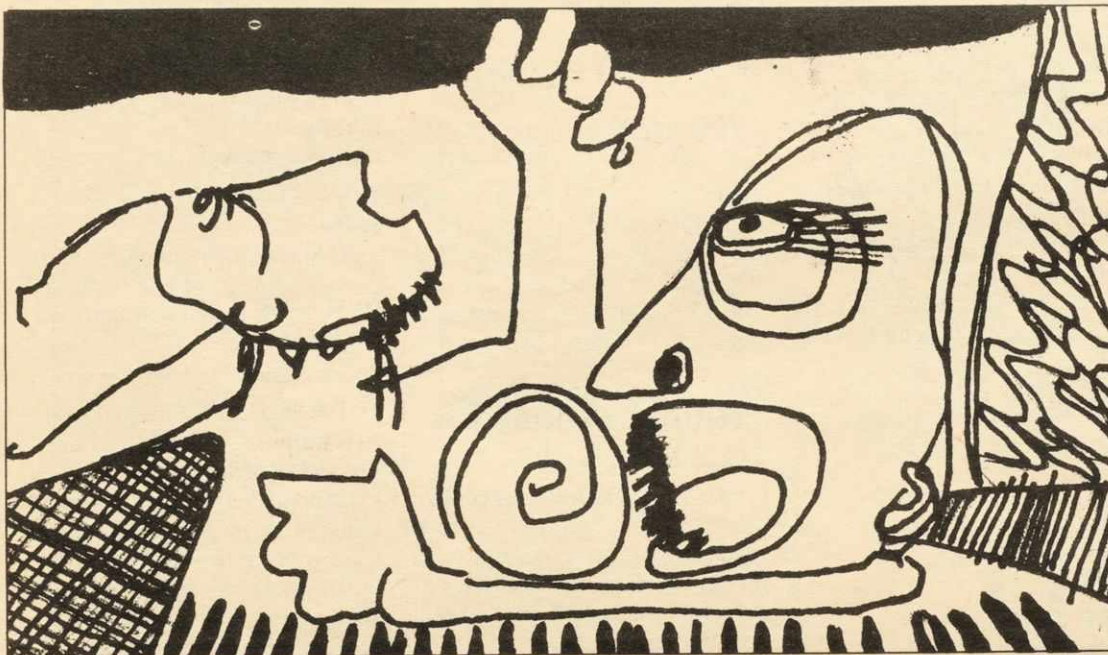
have to throw someone out, but we always try to calm them down first. That's the best deterrent. Occasionally we have to get physical, but only when talking fails." Tzaneteas appears to agree with Delano about the origin of the conflicts on the street and in the bars which he says are "are racially motivated. It's all part of a deeper problem; you get groups of people in Halifax that just don't seem to mix well."

Nick - the owner of the *European* on Grafton (you know - the place where everyone scarf's pizza at three A.M.), says "it [violence] could be a big thing, but out of the hundreds of people that come down here, ten or fifteen are bound to cause trouble." He says "from eighteen to twenty are crazy years, but sometimes people get too crazy. Everybody's busy, including the police. I hope that it won't affect business in a negative way."

The entire Halifax Police Department was unavailable for comment ... busy breaking-up fights I guess.

by being aggressive themselves. Most of the time it stems from a few guys horsing around, and it just blows up from there." He adds that in most bars the management "just want us to get it outside and be light-headed about it, but there are a few places which ignore those rules."

Chris Tzaneteas, a manager at Bogarts, says "occasionally you



Fees

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In his "Dissenting Views", which were included as an appendix in the FSC report, Shannon said "the personal financial situation amongst Dalhousie students is already precarious." He cited minority groups as being "particularly vulnerable to a decrease in accessibility because of tuition fee hikes."

Eric McKee, Dalhousie's Vice-President Student Services, is more optimistic.

Though he said he foresees "lots of change in our bursary allocation policy" McKee said he believes most students will be able to return to Dalhousie despite the rising cost of an education.

McKee cited the example of Acadia university, which has introduced substantial tuition fee hikes in the last two years and which, he said, had not experienced a significant drop in enrolment.

The FSC report, which had already been adopted by the board in principle, urges the university to aid accessibility, and to lobby the federal and provincial governments for more student aid.

DFA wins COLA

by Alex Burton

The tentative contract between the Dalhousie Administration and the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) was ratified by Dalhousie's Board of Governors on Tuesday.

The three year contract includes one of the major financial concessions the DFA was seeking.

"They got COLA (cost of living allowance) which was their main objective" said Patti Dow, Dalhousie Student Union Vice-President.

"We were very happy to recommend to the Board to ratify the contract" said Bryan Mason, Dalhousie's Vice-President of Finance.

"The fact it is a three year contract is good for everyone" he said.

At press time the DFA had not set up a timetable in which to ratify the contract. However, the DFA office said a vote date was expected to be set Wednesday night.

Complete details of the agreement are not being released to the public until both sides have ratified the new contract.

"It seems both sides were treated fairly and they both got what they wanted" Dow said

Both Mason and Dow expect the DFA to ratify the agreement.

"We understand the bargaining team of the DFA is recommending ratification...so is the DFA leadership" said Mason.

Mason said he felt students were properly informed during the negotiation process.

"I believe the contract negotiations, conducted under the labour relations act, are between two parties, not three or four" he said. "While I understand the concern of many students, I think some people jumped to some mistaken conclusions."

The 1990/91 university budget, passed last spring, accounted for an increase in salaries for faculty according to Dow.

"...we were just playing the waiting game because we knew the money was allocated" she said.

It is not yet clear where the revenue will come from to cover the increase in salaries.

"What they're (faculty) getting is more than what was allocated for...we don't know where the extra money will come from" said Dow.

"We feel the first year of the contract will not have a significant impact on the university's budget" said Manson.

by Paul Webster

"We have to coexist. We have to develop a new way of dealing with each other. And we all have to develop respect." These were the general observations which framed the specific issues raised by the Vice President of the Assembly of First Nations, Ovide Mercredi, at a forum of over two hundred people last Friday in the Henson Auditorium.

Mr. Mercredi's speech at the forum was memorable for a number of reasons. Above all, it was important as an indication of the force and persuasiveness of the arguments being made by a new generation of educated, articulate and passionate native leaders across Canada.

Speaking with the measured tones of a trained lawyer experienced with the constitutional negotiations of the early 1980s and the Meech Lake hearings, Mr. Mercredi insisted that "the people themselves, the Indian people, want their collective rights for freedom, for unity, for self-government, for self-determination. These are expectations not unique to people from Europe."

Mercredi, who also serves as the Vice Chief for Natives in Manitoba, presented a coherent synthesis of the political goals of natives in the post-Oka period.

These are, he maintains, twofold: to work toward self-government and self-determination in accordance with the principles outlined in the United Nations Charter on the right of Self-Determination, and to continue the struggle for "civil, legal and political rights within the life of the dominant [Canadian] society and state."

In answering questions Mr. Mercredi was cautious neither to endorse nor deny the legitimacy of "illegal" or violent action in the struggle to achieve these goals. He argued Native struggles are part of the struggle necessary for all underprivileged groups in Canadian society, specifically women, blacks, gays, and lesbians and the working and unemployed poor, to force government and people to "pay attention".

In summing up his assessment of the Oka crisis, Mercredi said, "Oka is a classical historical example of dominance exercised in the name of the human family by one chapter of the family over another".

Mr. Mercredi's presence is an indication native people may be successfully building the political organization that will be twice as likely as other Canadians to die before the age 65, seven times more likely to lack central heating, 16 times more likely to live in overcrowded housing.