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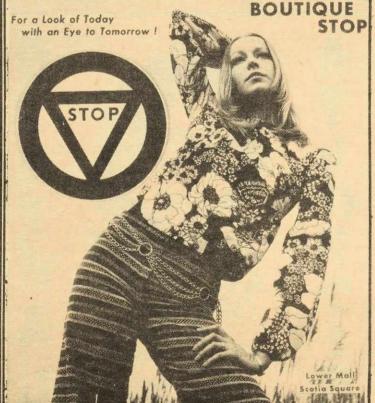
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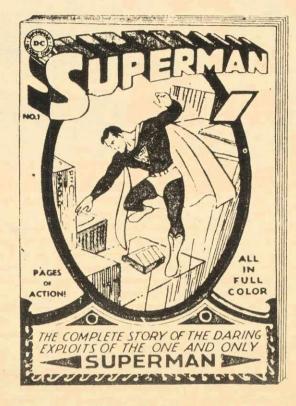


## Comics at the Killam

Whatever happened to those old comic books you used to have -- Superman, Flash Gordon, Spider Man, the Hornet, Plastic Man, Tarzan! Threw them away when you outgrew them, right? A shame, because for some years now old comic books have been selling at surprisingly high prices. The first issue of Action Comics, which originated the popular Superman, is currently selling at \$1800.00; less spectacular, but nevertheless noteworthy, is the going price for the 1938 black and white issue of Donald Duck -- a tidy \$100.00.

Nostalgia and sociology, together with an admission that comics can be fun, account in part for the collectors' enthusiasm and the subsequent demand for older material. Student John Fraser, part of whose 8000 item collection is on display at Killam Library, has been a comics buff since his youth when he started his collection. Now, he says, material published in the 1940's can sell anywhere from \$2.00 to \$2000.00.

The comic book has a seventy-five year old history. The greater part of this history can be traced in the Killam display, starting on the fifth floor for the early strips and comics and ending on the ground floor with comtemporary French comics. Out of the daily comic strip featured in newspapers, such as the familiar Mutt and Jeff, Little Orphan Annie, Steve Canyon, and Lil' Abner, grew a million dollar



industry with interesting spin-offs, most notably, the Big Little Books Pulp Magazines and Columbia and Universal's feature length films of costumed superheroes. In the 1940's, even a few Canadian publishers made the comics industry a viable business proposistion. Of the "Canadian Whites" (so named because they were printed only in black and white) which flourished between 1941 and 1947, some of us remember the Penguin, Nelvana of the Northern Lights, and of course, Johnny Canuck.

After a minor setback in

the 1950's, when comics were banned as injurious to youthful minds, the in-

dustry set itself new goals in terms of production, versatility, and quality. Surely one of the most sophisicated and clever comics of all times must be the popular Asterix. Indeed all of the contemporary French comic books on display show an artistry and imagination that one does not usually associate with this medium.

Thanks to John Fraser and Bill Meakin, the Dal community now has the opportunity to see the development of the comic book phenomenon. Some of us will no doubt rush off to our attics to discover what collector's items we might have mouldering away in obscurity.

### Rape crisis centre

OTTAWA (CUP) - A Rape Crisis Centre which will function as a place for rape victims to go for immediate aid, counselling and psychological support, opened in Ottawa on December 15.

There are now no facilities in Ottawa to help a woman over the trauma of being raped.

Emergency telephone line volunteers will provide immediate psychological support to the victims and make her aware of the help available. They will suggest that the victim contact the hospital and police for a physical examination but will not insist the rape victim contact either.

"We will not force her to do anything she doesn't want but will provide moral support," one worker said.

The centre will also organize ''rap groups'' for victims where they can talk out their feelings.

Groups will also be established to help women recently raped while another group will counsel those who went through the experience before.

There will also be a group for the husbands, boyfriends, and fathers of the rape victims to help them understand the victim's needs.

"The attitude of a boyfriend or husband can make a big difference in how well the woman handles the stress of being raped," said the worker.

The centre will also operate an information and education program for the general public and concerned professionals.

The centre has the backing community.

of the city's police and doctors who are involved in training the three full time staff members and 40 volunteers who will be involved with the centre.

The centre will be initially financed by a \$14,898 LIP grant but hopes that they will receive donations from the community

#### Housing Problems

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Officials at two of British Columbia's three public universities have plans to build large student residence additions within two years. But the largest, the university of BC, doesn't have any such plans, it was learned Jan. 8.

Both Simon Fraser University of Victoria asked the provincial government for loans and grants to create at least 800 new rooms at the December BC Universities Council hearings.

UBC representatives also attended the closed-door budget hearings but, while agreeing housing is a significant problem, the representatives said residence construction can come only after current academic and service building plans are fulfilled.

More than 1,600 students were turned away from

UBC's residence last September and hundreds of others needing accomodation didn't bother putting their names on the long waiting list.

UBC's enrollment of 20,000 is larger than the combined enrollment of both SFU and UVIC. UBC deputy president William White said this week that residence construction isn't necessarily a fower priority at UBC than at the other two universities but "so many other needs are pressing at the present time."

Officials from both SFU and UVIC said they consider the housing problem serious enough to warrant immediate action.

A spokesman for UVIC's Board of Governors said the board has recommended to the Universities Council

cont'd on pg. T-7