

Campus Police gets disguise

by Glenn Wanamaker

A newly constituted internal security force for Dalhousie is being set up with the primary function being "service to the university". The 30-page report of a Senate Ad Hoc Committee, was adopted almost in toto by the University Senate, providing new guidelines for the former Campus Police in the areas of responsibility and administration.

The new force, Student Campus Security, will concern itself with the protection of persons and property of the university, as well as assisting with crowd control at campus events. However, it "should not attempt to actively enforce the detailed provisions of the external law or those of the discipline code or University regulations unless the violator is caught in the act and University interests are adversely affected."

The report also stresses that under no circumstances should members of the force engage in undercover activities. This, however, does not preclude the presence of external police officers on campus.

The actual need for an internal security force was justified by the committee with the observation that the university has grown into a community within a community with a student population of about 7,200 persons. As well, the addition of several new buildings, "housing expensive equipment" has brought about the "need to protect university property and equipment and the desirability of preventing interpersonal or inter-group conflicts".

It was felt that external police forces on campus would not be favourably accepted by students and faculty, and that there would be minor breaches of law that the university would not wish to act upon. Thus the committee concluded that student security would relate better to students than would a professional external force.

At present, Campus Police work in the Student Union Building, the Life Sciences, the Arts Centre, the Gym and Fenwick Towers, with professional security guards in other university buildings. This set-up will continue until adequate training and proper administrative organization is achieved. In the future, it is possible that students will take over all security duties at Dalhousie.

The functions of the new security force, as outlined by the report, will generally be to protect persons and property. The Criminal Code gives the security force, power to arrest any person committing an unlawful act. However, the committee felt that the

university would not always want an arrest to be made.

"The question whether to turn the culprit over to the external police authorities or to report the matter to them is often a difficult one to answer. Each situation will have to be judged separately with only the general principle as a guide that serious breaches of the discipline code and the external law should be dealt with by the external authorities."

The options open to the campus police are such that with serious offences, external police may be called in or the internal police may intervene physically. However, the action will be determined by the type of offence.

"In situations where it is necessary to intervene physically, they will be governed by the general law which confers upon them the legal authority of agents of the landowner; this authority is only slightly greater than that of an ordinary citizen."

Two types of situations in particular, could arise and provide difficulties. In the case of prohibited political activity, presumably to be defined by the soon-to-be-completed discipline code, the external police will be called in, as student security would be placed "in a highly undesirable situation involving loyalties".

The other case is the use of drugs. The use of marijuana is not specifically prohibited by any regulation of the university, though it is by the external law. The practice in the Student Union building, has been to turn the person suspected of illegal use of drugs or alcohol, over to the night manager. It has been up to him whether or not the person should be turned over to the external law. Specific policy is expected to be contained in the new discipline code.

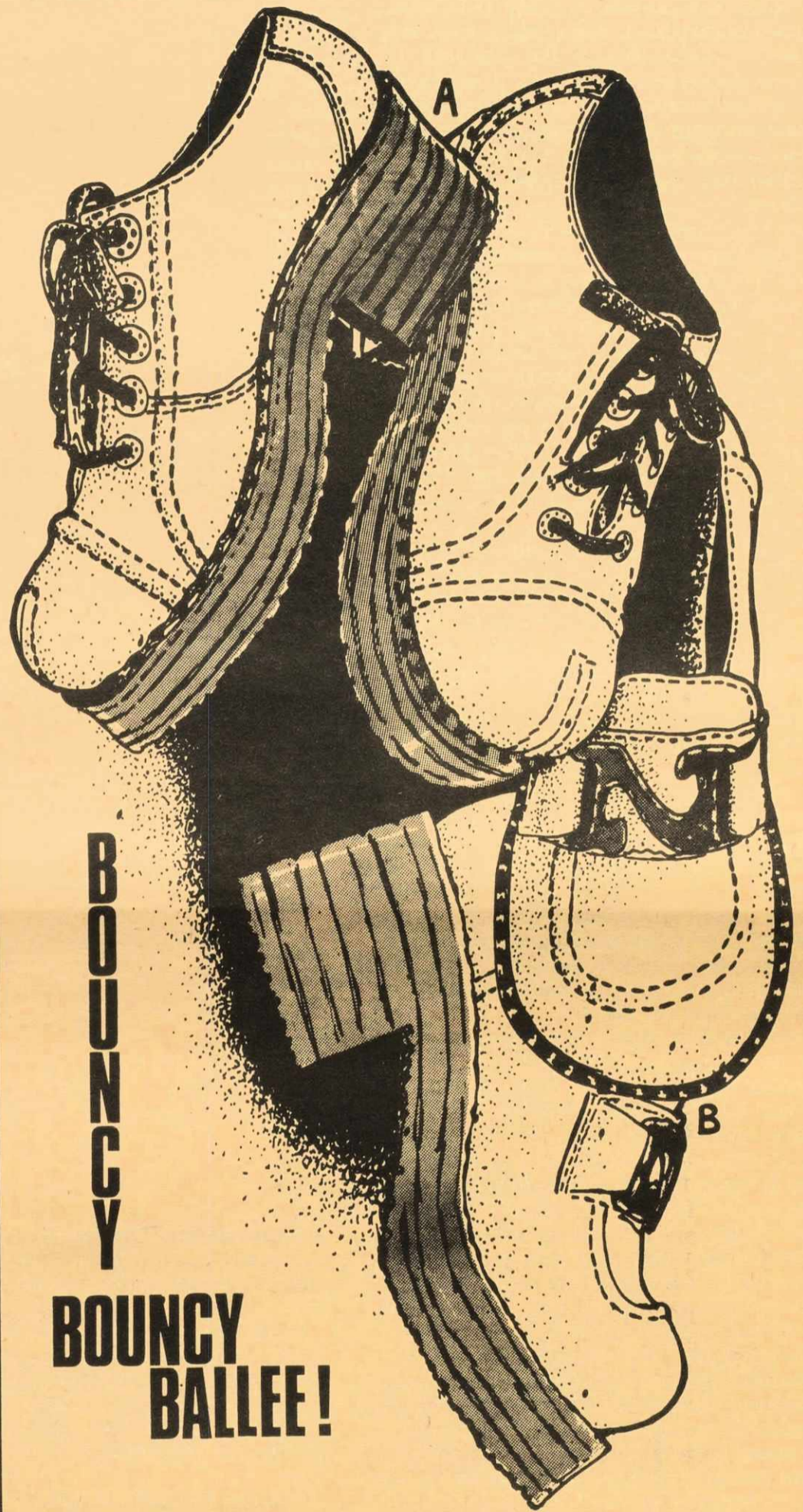
ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES

The major administrative change is the creation of a Board of Management, to comprise three members representing students, faculty and administration with the Dean of Student Services as Chairman. A full-time Director, replacing the position of Chief, has already been appointed.

Doug Schaller, former SUB Night Manager, is heading the force. The Board of Management will also serve as an appeal board to review complaints by a student against a policeman. This will serve also to handle internal complaints by members of the force.

Each member will have to undergo some training in human behaviour, self-defence, first aid and the applicable law. Adequate insurance coverage is also being worked out for members.

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