



Security laying charges to fight student mischief

VANDALISM AND incidents of students entering underground service tunnels has increase significantly this semester, according to A.J. MacLeod, director of the security department. The department has now decided to begin pressing charges on students found engaged in either activity.

According to MacLeod, incidents of vandalism such as students tampering with fire equipment, pulling false alarms, or damaging signs and buildings is "much higher this year." No specific figures as to the amount of increase are available yet.

Blanchard Hall seems to be where most of this activity has occurred.

"Blanchard has had a considerable amount of damage", said MacLeod. He speculated that the vandalism has been due somewhat to initiation stunts, but also to parties.

MacLeod could offer no reason as to why vandalism is worse at Blanchard Hall than at other residences or why destruction to university property on a whole has increased this semester.

"Perhaps we are dealing with a different breed of student this year", he said.

Students at Blanchard, since they are separated from the rest of the campus, may feel that the residence is not patrolled as often or paid as much attention to as Marian or Bernardine. This feeling of freedom together with the fact that students drink and party more during the beginning of the year may be contributing factors.

STUDENTS IN TUNNELS

Besides the problem of increased vandalism, there is the old problem of the service tunnels that link each building on campus. The tunnels carry heating pipes, telephone and electrical connections between buildings and

are large enough to crawl through.

Access to these tunnels is freely available to anyone who knows where one of the many entrances is located. In the past, student "Spelunkers" would often explore the tunnels through an entrance in Main Building. Once inside, one can find the way inside almost any building on campus, night or day.

MacLeod said that during morning patrols, security officers have found manhole entrances to the tunnels opened. He said that not only do the electrical and steam conduits in the tunnels pose a great danger to explorers but, by leaving the manholes open, there is the added danger of passers-by falling in.

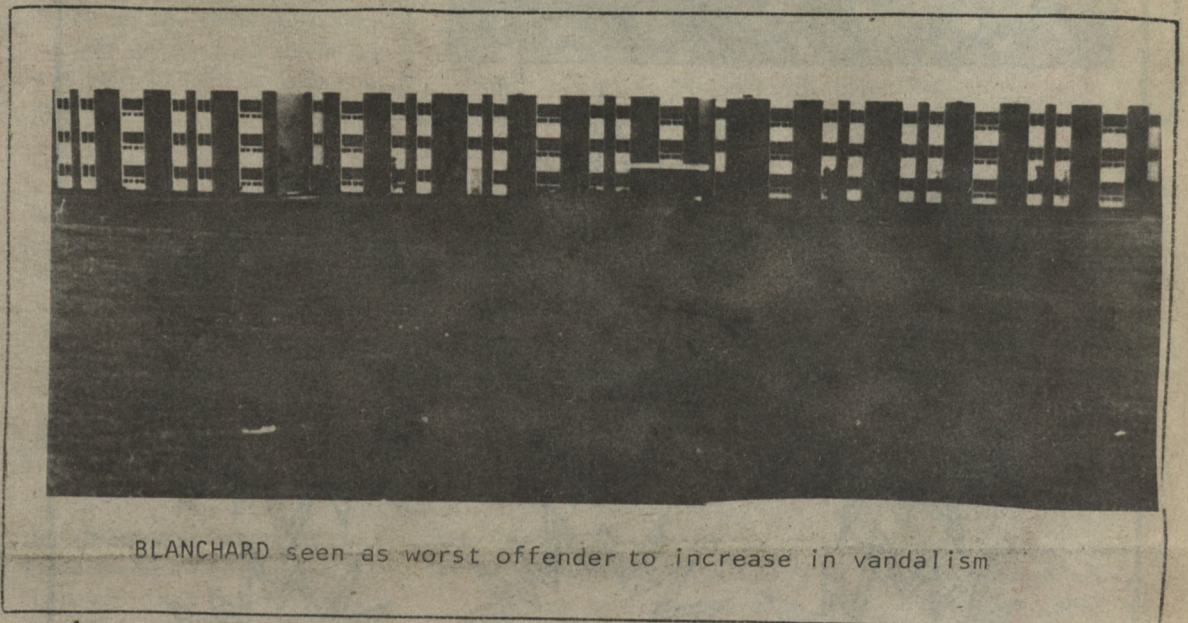
MacLeod stressed that the service tunnels have piping and wiring that are extremely dangerous to a person unfamiliar with them and that if the activity keeps up, he said, "Someone is going to be very seriously injured".

Tunnel entrances have only been locked at Marian, Bernardine, and AVC. When asked why all entrances have not been locked to remove the temptation from students all together, MacLeod said that it was impractical to lock other entrances. "We need to have access to them in case of emergency", he said.

However, the Security department last year placed locks on gates around campus to inhibit vehicles from driving on campus walkways. One assumes that there is a greater chance of emergency vehicles needing immediate access to the campus interior than of workmen needing access to the tunnels.

PRESSING CHARGES

To combat the problems of student vandalism, entering service tunnels, and other activities, MacLeod said that from now on, "the security



BLANCHARD seen as worst offender to increase in vandalism

department will be using the courts."

"It is getting way out of hand", said MacLeod. "I have to start laying charges."

Any persons found tampering with fire equipment, setting false alarms, or committing vandalism will now be prosecuted. Person found entering the service tunnels will face a charge of public mischief, which has a maximum penalty of 2 years imprisonment.

"All students should take a very serious look around before they decide to destroy university property," he said. "A degree will not be much value to them if they are supporting a criminal record."

In fact, MacLeod stated that offenses involving alcohol will also be prosecuted.

"Those people involved with liquor outside residences or in hallways or lounges... will be charged with illegal possession of liquor and dealt with by the courts."

In addition to laying charges for offenses, the Security department will be in-

creasing night foot patrols on campus from 2 to 3 officers. Patrols will also be made by the city police, who have "been asked to assist us with the vandalism taking place on campus."

MacLeod said he was disappointed by the behaviour of

student he has seen so far this term.

"These are high school deals", he said. He stated that he would expect students at a post-secondary institution to act in a better fashion and take pride in their university.

