

CUTBACKS IN SECURITY BLANCHARD EXPOSED TO VANDALISM

Since September of 1977, Commissionaires have been cut back at Blanchard Hall. A Commissionaire used to be on duty from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. every day. Now, Commissionaires are only on duty from 10:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M.

This cut-back was made because of cuts in the residence budget. Cuts were made in every area possible according to Administration personnel. Unfortunately cuts had to be made and security was the area they felt could be cut.

The loss in Commissionaire hours means many things. On the top of the list of the people who are concerned is the fact that for two hours everyday, no one is awake to be responsible for the building. This leaves the building open to possible trouble, especially fires.

Norm Larter, one of the two commissionaires that patrol Blanchard, is very concerned over this. He spotted three fires himself last year.

Jim Griffith, Director of Student Services, disagrees with this since the building, being made of cement blocks, is virtually fire-proof.

Mr. Larter, however, says that the problem is not the fire but the smoke. He recounted one story where a girl would have been asphyxiated. The fire was caused by a faulty toaster.

Mr. Larter went on to tell a story of some students who spilled over a fat fryer which caught fire. The students came down and asked permission to use the fire extinguisher to put the fire out. This would have caused a larger fire since the building is equipped with water filled fire extinguishers.

Threat of fire is not the only problem. The commissionaire is also supposed to make sure that non-residents are not allowed entrance to the building after hours, without the permission of one of the residents. He stated that last Thurs-

day alone, he evicted thirteen students who had entered the building without permission.

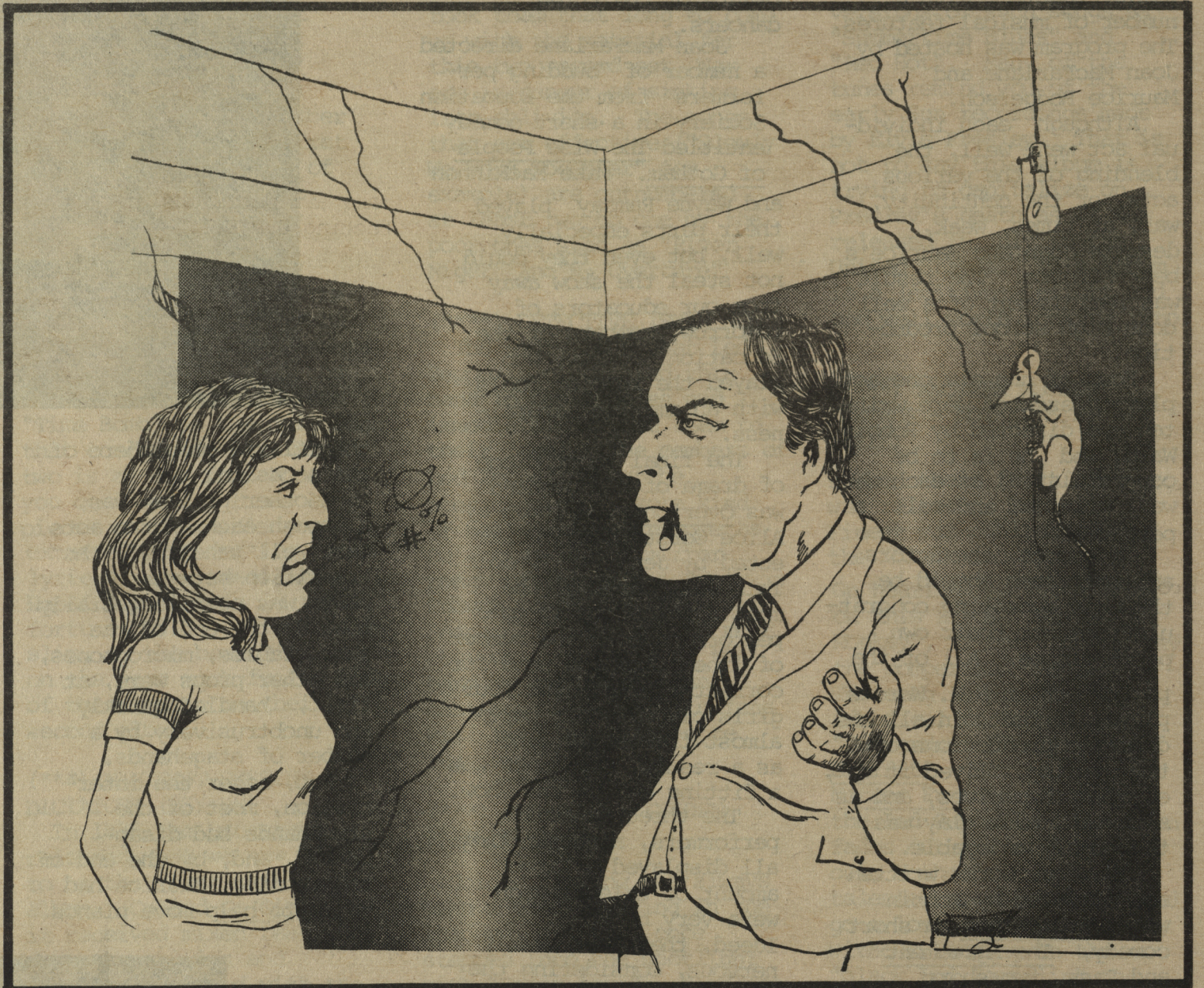
Jim Griffith and many student residents this reporter has talked to feel that the onus is on the residents in cases like these. They felt that if the students

Once again Mr. Griffith disagrees with this. He feels that the residents are completely capable of looking after themselves. If the students want a good residence they should be able to do it without strict supervision.

Marion Hall, the men's

that he doubted if any residence with over 270 students could be quiet.

Another factor that he sees as a cause of the problem is the design of the building. It does not allow the residents to mix and get to know one another. This same problem was also noted by the



cared as much as they should for the residence then they (the residents) would be more discriminatory when allowing people into the building.

People were also concerned over damage that would be done to the residence. The hours that the commissionaires are working are the hours that most of the damage would be done. Mr. Larter says that a large percentage of the damage this year took place when commissionaires were not on duty.

Many people feel that if the commissionaires are not put back on to their old hours, Blanchard will turn into what Memorial was known as - the Zoo.

residence, was cited as an example of this.

Commissionaires are not stationed there but it is one of the best residences the university has had. The reason for this is said that the students living there really care for the residence.

Mr. Griffith believes that many of the problems result from the large number of residents in Blanchard this year. This is the first year the residence was completely filled. He said most of the complaints are not about damage but about the noise level. Mr. Larter also said that damage was no more extensive this year than last. Mr. Griffith went on to say

other people to whom the reporter talked.

Without Commissionaires some people are afraid all these problems will become worse. Murray Stevenson, Business

Manager for the university, said that this "could very well be." But not everyone agrees that it could be a problem. Most believe that the problem is up to the students them-

selves. The problem does not seem severe enough to cause people to move, but as one student so aptly put it "Blanchard has the convenience of being on campus. That is the only thing it has going for it".