

"What Were You Thinking?"

One year ago the neighbors near the Dana off-campus houses reached out to the residents of the houses, mostly students. They passed out flyers which expressed their concern about parties that disturb the neighborhood. They talked specifically with the tenants at 990 and 991 Dana, which had been the source of increasing problems in past years. They offered to be available to these residents.

During the '08-09 year the neighbors saw some improvement compared to past years which had been characterized by large increases in calls to the police each year as well as drunken and dangerous behaviors which spread from the party source to the public streets and side walks as well as neighbors' yards.

Then on April 25, 2009 neighbors were dismayed to have a huge party spring up around 990 and 991 Dana. It spread to at least 2 other houses. Persons attending the party apparently felt it was appropriate to use the neighbors' yard as a bathroom even when neighbors were present.

Drunken persons were observed ambling back and forth across Dana. Fortunately, no one was hit by a car on that high traffic street. The neighbors have been concerned about this danger, as well as risks of rape, fire and fire deaths that can happen after such parties. In addition, this is a neighborhood and residents should not be disturbed by such loud, disruptive behavior.

The owner and residents of these properties chose not to meet with the neighbors who had reached out to them, despite a request that they listen to the neighbors' concerns.

The neighbors plan to reach out again this year to the residents of the off-campus houses. We hope to find responsible responses from the owners and residents in return. The neighbors are part of the NANA Rental Housing Committee and are working with the Xavier administration to promote a better relationship between the students and the neighborhood.

If you have any questions, comments or wish to be part of the solution you can contact Pauline Daly pdaly@fuse.net or 751-8334 for the committee.