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the Gazette

Vol. 129, No. 20

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, N.S.

Thursday, March 6, 1997



VOTE, or we'll shoot this dog!*

*Apologies to National Lampoon. No animals were harmed in the production of this issue.

THE GAZETTE'S PULL-OUT DSU ELECTION SUPPLEMENT STARTS ON PAGE 11.

Is Campus Copy covering up?

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

A former Campus Copy employee is blaming Dalhousie Student Union politicians for what he considers a wrongful dismissal.

Steve Whelan was handed his notice of termination January 30th. It was effective immediately and he was given a week's pay in lieu of notice.

Whelan claims he was given no warning that his work was unsatisfactory, and when he asked for an explanation of his termination, the only reply from Campus Copy manager Joanne Knox was, "We have our reasons."

Personnel information is confidential, so the DSU was unable to comment on the issue. However, DSU president Brad MacKay said, "There are two sides to the story."

"You're hearing one, and we're not free to tell the other."

Whelan claims that the reason he was terminated lies in an incident he played no part in, other than to question the morality involved months after the fact.

According to Whelan, in November of 1996, Katherine

Hannah, executive vice-president of the DSU, requested of a Campus Copy employee that he copy a textbook for her. Knowing that this violated Copyright Law, the employee allegedly refused. Whelan further claims that Knox overheard the conversation and assured Hannah not to worry, that the copying could be done.

Whelan said that Knox then went on to order a new employee to copy the text, and he did, for fear of losing his job.

Whelan was not involved in or even a witness to this incident, but as a representative on the Student Union Part-time Staff Association, he was approached by staff in mid-January and asked for his opinion on the matter.

He set up a meeting with Knox on January 27th, during which he claims she flatly refused to discuss the incident. Whelan said that he accepted this answer, and they went on to discuss other matters. The meeting ended on what Whelan thought was a positive note.

"There was no indication that Ms. Knox was having any trouble with me as an employee," Whelan said.

Three days later he was handed a notice of termination

and not given any reason for his dismissal.

Whelan filed a grievance with the Employment Resolutions Committee of the DSU which was turned down on the grounds that he was no longer an employee of the DSU, and the problem was not under its jurisdiction.

Even if it had been, the Union claims his accusations are invalid. Knox was able to provide a list of eight different reasons why Whelan was terminated, in-

cluding closing Campus Copy early, using his shifts at Campus Copy to complete freelance work, and persistently questioning management decisions.

Whelan insists that any reasons listed are either fabrications, or incidents he was led to believe were cleared up long ago. His employee file was empty of any complaints, except one incident when he closed Campus Copy early in December of 1996.

"I received a letter of reprimand for those actions, and I was assured upon my signing of it that the matter was considered closed, and there was nothing to worry about," said Whelan.

Dalhousie Security has investigated the alleged copyright violation by Campus Copy and Hannah. The report was completed on February 28th. It is now in the hands of vice-president of student services, Eric McKee, who is currently on vacation.

Payback time at DAGS

BY MONICA GILLIS AND GINA STACK

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students has been ordered to pay back an \$1800 federal government grant received last summer.

After completing an audit on the society, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) determined that the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) had not properly handled its grant money and must pay it back to the government.

The positions for whose salary the funding was requested were those of Marketing/Public Relations Development and Financial Accounts Administrative Assistant for the Association.

The two reasons HRDC gave for recalling the money were that the signature on the grant application by Alexander Ross (the former president) was forged by current president Fred Redden, and that the work done in the positions did not follow the description given to HRDC.

In Ross's interview with HRDC he stated that he had not given Redden his permission to sign the application.

When asked about this, Redden said, "I called Ross and asked him to come in and sign the form. He said he was busy studying for

a test out in St. Margaret's Bay and that he couldn't come in, so to sign the form for him."

The \$1,800 grant was applied for during the 1995-96 school year at the end of Ross's presidential term. It was to be used to subsidize the hiring of two summer employees. Since the Association was late applying for the grant, they did not receive the money in time to hire people for the position.

Redden, who was working for the society temporarily filling these positions, was supposed to be paid by DAGS. According to the DAGS accountant, however, when the grant for \$1,800 came through, and she discovered that DAGS was not in as good a financial position as expected, the money was used to pay Redden.

When he had agreed to begin working for DAGS in the summer, Redden said that it was on the condition that he would earn \$6,000 for the summer (the same amount he would have made at a job he already had lined up). The Association auditor finished her report after Redden had already taken the DAGS position. It was only then that he and current DAGS treasurer Nick Hayduk learned that DAGS was not in a position to finance Redden's salary.

Redden said that he started work the first week of May and

received \$1,800, the first instalment of the grant, in one lump sum in mid-June. Redden said that no deduction for CPP or EI was made from the payment.

"We received a check from Human Resources Canada the first or second week in June for \$1800," Redden said.

"That money was paid to me, given to me, for the work that I completed for the month of May and part of June. I think that covered my time."

Redden said that he began looking for another summer job at the time when he realized that DAGS did not have the money to pay his salary.

During the HRDC investigation Hayduk was asked why Redden was paid in such a bizarre manner.

"There was no reason to believe the work would not be done," Hayduk said.

In its audit of DAGS, HRDC also discovered that there was no record of work kept, no record of employment or a record of pay. What money Redden received was given in one lump sum of \$1,800.

The only record of employment that was kept was in Redden's own day planner and was not considered accurate by the HRDC. Redden admitted that he filled it out after the work was completed.

! Polling stations across campus will be open from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday, March 10th through Wednesday, March 11th.

Stations at the Killam and Kellogg libraries, and the Student Union Building, will be open later.

And be sure to catch the last election forum tonight at 7 p.m. in the Shirreff Hall cafeteria.