

Lost wishes:

BY ADEL ISKANDAR

Coming back to school last September felt quite different from the past four years. In the years I've spent here at Dalhousie, I have never seen such a marked change in so short a period.

With Harvey's in the Life Science building and Tim Horton's in the Tupper Medical building, the most remarkable change from last year is the remodelling of the Killam Library.

Over a period of several months, a glass roof was put in place over the Killam courtyard. As well, a Second Cup coffee shop was opened in the new Killam atrium. As part of these renovations a waterfall cascading down various levels of cement and through several pools was constructed for your aesthetic pleasure.

Mind you though, this is not just a stream of water; this water well has developed some degree of symbolic significance. For many of the library's "permanent residents" this pool of water has become a last resort for exam preparations. By simply tossing spare change into the water, the cascade has become a wishing well.

Whether or not one's wishes come true, one thing remains intriguing: who actually collects this money and where does it go? My investigation into the collected money's final destination began at the Killam Library's Administration office.

"I don't know where the money goes, but you could ask at Physical Plant and Planning," said one of the employees at the office. Off to the physical plant.

"I am not exactly sure what happens to the money," explained Peter Howitt, Manager of Engineering Services at the physical plant. Howitt further explained that the water is constantly recycled, filtered, and disinfected. Therefore, the well has not been cleared to date. He also mentioned how arrangements to collect change from the bottom of the well was not an issue when the well was under construction.

Where, then, does the money go? Despite several student reports of seeing money being fishnetted out of the well, there is no indication that the money is actually being gathered.

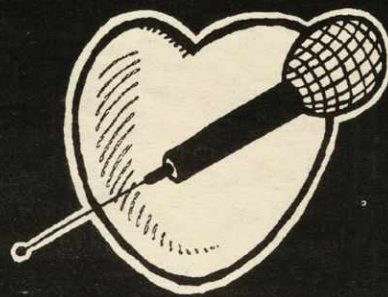
Another issue, that seems to worry Killam Library Administration, concerns requests to place fish in the well. If this is to happen, the coins in the well must be gathered and the act of throwing coins into the well will be strictly forbidden. This is because fish are very sensitive to the metals, such as nickel and copper, contained in most coins. So students must decide whether they want a fishbowl or a wishing well.

In the meantime, what happens to the coins, if anything, is undetermined. Hopefully, this money is ending up in the chests of charity funds or contributing to the welfare of students, while also fulfilling contributors' wishes for As on their exams.



An expedition to locate our lucky pennies.

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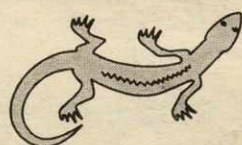


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