

Killam fire partially destroys gift of Russian texts

BY GINA STACK

Turn-of-the-century Russian books were among the losses after a fire ignited in a storage room in the basement of the Killam Library early Saturday morning.

"Thousands of books were water damaged and [library staff] are sorting through to see if we can salvage them on a volume-by-volume basis," said library employee Elaine Boychuk.

Boychuk was called into work at

7:15 a.m. the day of the fire.

"I got there as quickly as I could. The smell in the library was very bad. The smoke had risen throughout the building — it was sickening," Boychuk said.

"It was very sad to see all the material on the floor, charred, soaked and swelling."

Boychuk said that the damage is still being assessed, but a number of boxes containing university archival material were completely destroyed and parts of a collection of donations of Russian

materials were also lost.

Large donations to the library are stored in the basement of the building to be catalogued before being placed on the shelves.

Boychuk said the Russian material that was destroyed, or damaged, was in the process of being catalogued and added to the library's Russian collection. The books ranged in publishing dates from the mid-1800s to the 1980s. She added that the books most pertinent to Russian courses

offered at Dalhousie were catalogued first and already on the library shelves.

"The most essential books were catalogued first, so a large [amount of the collection] in terms of curriculum were already catalogued. We were fortunate that we catalogued the most important material first."

"The fire will not have an impact on the primary Russian language collection, but it will have an effect on the secondary [more specialized] part of the collection."

Boychuk said that staff, student employees and facilities management employees were a great help in the attempt to salvage water-damaged books. They worked together to remove the books from the wet shelves, spread them out and fan them to minimize damage.

The fire was sparked by a faulty outlet hidden behind a shelf stacked with paper-filled, cardboard boxes, according to Bill Louch, director of environmental health and safety.

"It was a smouldering fire rather

than one with lots of heat, so it took a longer time for the sprinkler system to be activated," he said.

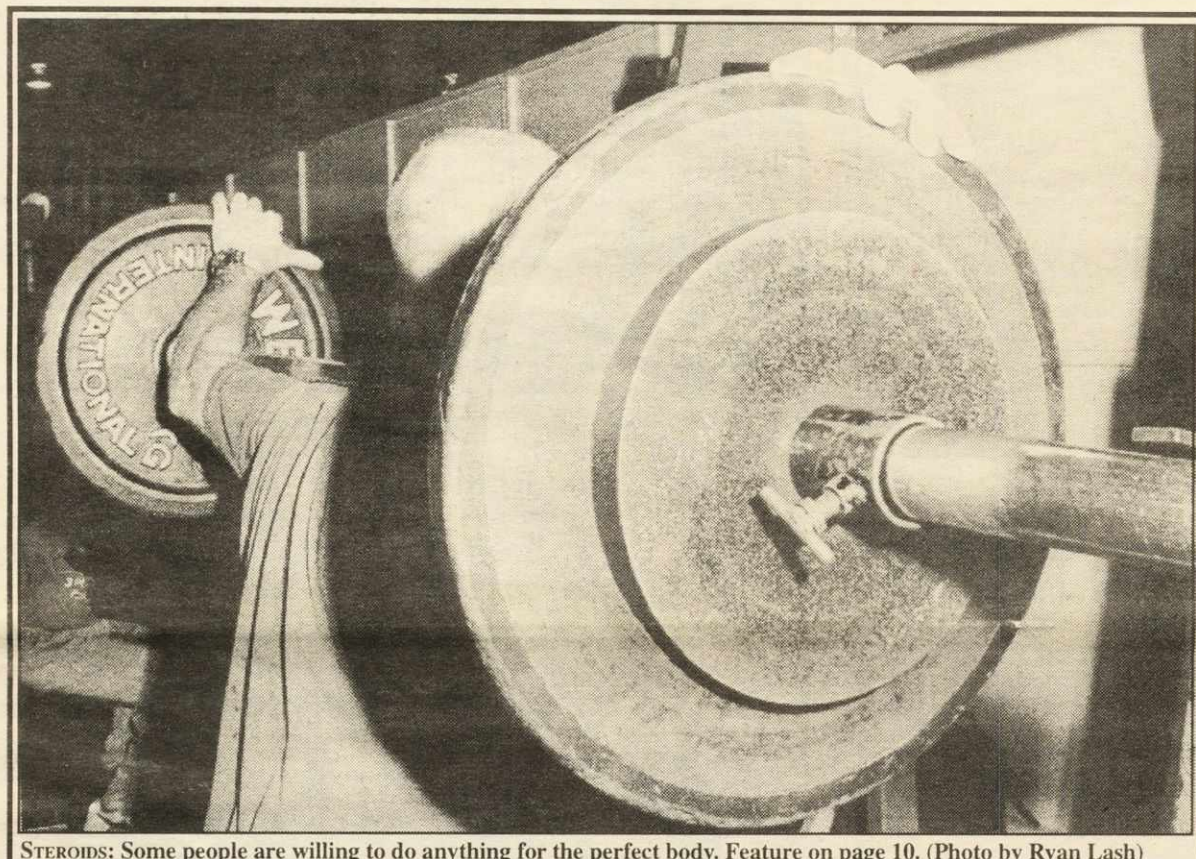
The fire alarms were sounded at 7 a.m., and according to Louch the Fire Department was on the scene almost immediately.

"By the time the [firefighters] had arrived the sprinkler system in that area had basically extinguished the fire."

Louch said the fire inspector declared the building safe for re-entry at 8 a.m. But the university decided to wait until 1 p.m. to open the building because of heavy smoke throughout the building.

Louch said the faulty circuit in the library has been disconnected. He added that the library and other buildings on campus are being checked to ensure that no other outlets are being blocked, especially by flammable materials.

"The fire didn't do a whole lot of damage, but it's hard to put a price-tag on some of the items destroyed."



STEROIDS: Some people are willing to do anything for the perfect body. Feature on page 10. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

Security department under fire

Security officer suspended amid allegations of harassment

BY MARK REYNOLDS

Dalhousie security has been rocked by allegations of sexual harassment and assault by one of its officers against another.

The incidents, which occurred between September and October of 1997, resulted in a three week suspension of the accused security officer.

"He was suspended for inappropriate behaviour and sexual harassment," said Joy Day, the alleged victim of the assaults. "I was told there was a zero tolerance policy in our collective agreement; assault is grounds for dismissal...he smacked my arse. That's assault," Day said.

As a result of the alleged

incidents, Day has resigned. She has worked as a security guard for 14 years, and began working at Dalhousie on September 3, 1997. At that time she was one of two female security officers at Dalhousie. She claims that the harassment started almost immediately.

"It started the day I worked with him," said Day, adding that her co-worker would continually verbally harass her while on the job.

But Day used to work with Corrections Canada in a male detention facility "I dealt with druggies and rapists, I'm used to harassment," she said.

It was only when it allegedly progressed to physical contact that Day finally complained to her superiors.

"I went to my supervisor, just to let him know what was going on."

The same day she complained, her co-worker allegedly made another advance, and touched her neck. This was after clear statements by her that such contact was unwelcome.

The two were then scheduled to work different shifts, but the harassment continued, culminating in an incident where the co-worker allegedly slapped Day on the rear.

As a result of this incident, Day filed a six page report detailing her allegations against the other employee. Though this report was received near the end of October, the suspension did not occur until December.

In addition to being too late, Day

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Pharmacy program strapped for cash

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Dalhousie's ability to grant pharmacy degrees is in question, and while no one's worried about the academic program — funding is a concern.

The Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP) regularly evaluates the country's nine pharmacy programs. Dalhousie has begun the evaluation process, and is expecting a visit from CCAPP's executive director this February to be followed by an on-site evaluation this Fall.

Concerns centre around CCAPP's recommendations made during the last evaluation.

"[CCAPP] felt the funding of the college was inadequate to maintain the standards we had set," said Dr. Frank Chandler, director of the College of Pharmacy. And he says funding hasn't changed since those recommendations were made four years ago.

Susan Wedlake, registrar of the Nova Scotia Pharmaceutical Society and a board member of CCAPP, says that Dal, in particular, has obstacles to overcome.

"[Dalhousie is] at the bottom of the

heap for per capita funding and they have to work harder," she said. "They have to convince CCAPP that there's going to be enough money to keep the program afloat for at least five years."

If Dalhousie doesn't get accredited Wedlake says it can have grave implications on the future of the program.

"[Loss of accreditation] sends a message to the students...I wouldn't think people would want to apply, and I think it would be tough for the program to survive," she said.

But Wedlake stresses that the college's biggest hurdle to accreditation is lack of funding, not academics.

"Dal, despite the fact that it's at a financial disadvantage, seems to be a leader in pharmacy education."

Dr. Wayne Hindmarsh, CCAPP president and director of the faculty of pharmacy at the University of Manitoba cautions that the two are related, but remains hopeful that something will be worked out.

"[It] doesn't matter how good a program is, if you don't have the funds to deliver [it]," he said. "I think there's great concern [over Dal's accreditation], but when [Dal]

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 —Oscar Wilde

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