

NEWS → DSU restricts smoking in Student Union Building, p.3.

ARTS → Hurts so good with Neptune's *Gideon's Blues*, p.7.

SPORTS → B-ball Tigers win Rod Shovellor tournament, p.12.

the Gazette

Vol. 128, No. 13

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX, N.S.

Thursday, January 11, 1996

Dal student found dead

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

When residents of Howe Hall returned after the holiday break, they were confronted with news that left them both saddened and shocked.

On January 3, the body of Shannon Bright — a 26-year-old Dalhousie Transition Year Program (TYP) student and Howe Hall resident — was discovered dead.

Police have confirmed that foul play is suspected.

Bright was last seen in the late evening of December 23, when he left his girlfriend's home in Dartmouth's east end to go for a walk.

His frozen body was discovered 13 days after his disappearance. He was lying face down in the snow in a wooded area behind a mini-mall not far from where he was last seen.

Police did not begin their search for Bright until he had been missing for several days and some of his identification cards turned up in a nearby church parking lot.

Bright's death has affected many in the Dalhousie community, most notably the residents of Cameron house in Howe Hall and his fellow students in TYP. A single year program at Dalhousie, TYP is intended to help African-Canadian and First Nations students upgrade their academic skills to prepare for entry into university.

The lack of information surrounding Bright's death left many students confused and unsettled in their first day back at school, said Howe Hall Residence Council President John Killam.

"Many students hadn't even heard about Shannon's disappearance until the day the body was discovered. At that point we didn't even know if it was his, so we wanted to get everyone together and quash any rumours...it didn't help that ATV was phoning the

pay phones on each floor to try and talk to students," said Killam.

Bob Jones, Howe Hall residence coordinator, said that he, the residence council, and the staff at TYP are doing what they can to help students deal with Bright's death.

"There has been counselling set up by TYP for the many students affected by this. We have also provided it here in Howe Hall for those of our residents who need help dealing with their grief and shock. I think most of Shannon's friends are still in shock. This has really hit close to home," said Jones.

Last Monday, Howe Hall and TYP jointly rented a bus to provide transportation for students and staff who wished to attend Bright's funeral in his home town of Weymouth.

"We wanted to give the students a chance to say farewell to Shannon and to pass along their condolences to his family," said Jones.

TYP kept its doors closed on Monday in memory of Bright and so that students could attend the funeral.

At the funeral on Monday, Father John MacPherson took a moment to speak directly to the younger people who were present. He urged them to build for themselves on the positive aspects of Bright's life.

"Shannon was trying to build a life for himself...will you build on the good in his life? I would suggest that if there is any fitting response to the shock of your friend's death...it is life itself...your life," said MacPherson.

There is no official memorial being planned as of yet by the student council.

"I believe any future memorial will be handled by Howe Hall and TYP, but I would like to express my condolences on behalf of the students to the family of Shannon Bright," said Dalhousie Student Union President David Cox.

Crime, vandalism invades SUB

BY GAZETTE STAFF

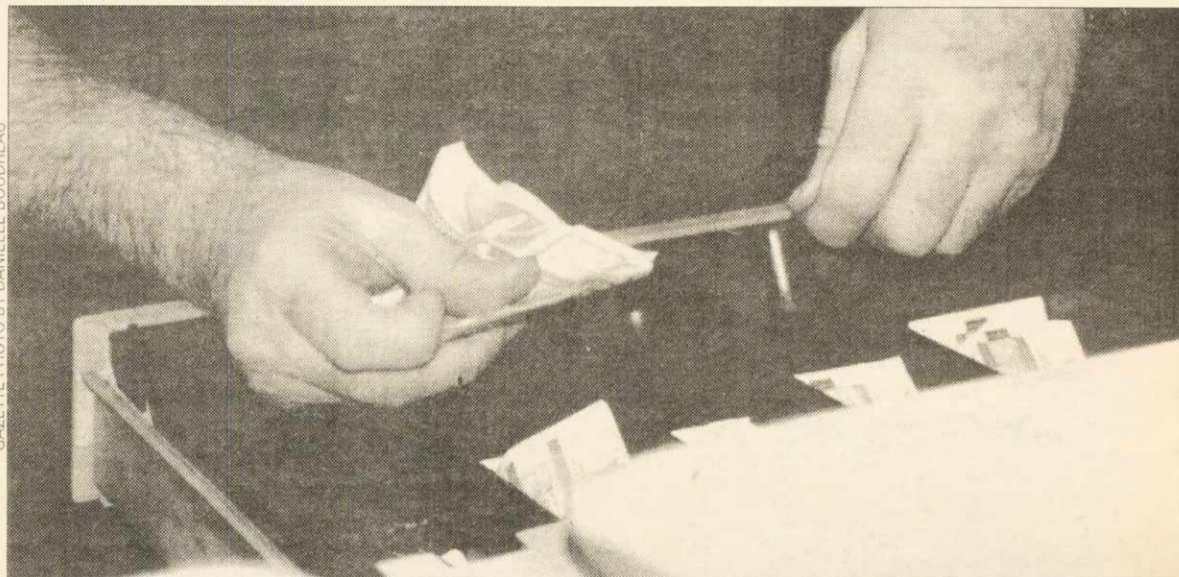
Halifax Police are investigating two incidents that occurred in the Student Union Building (SUB) on Sunday, January 7.

Around 2:30 p.m. — while Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) council was in session — an unidentified man was stopped by Night Manager Coordinator Ronnie Farrell while the man was leaving the DSU offices on the second floor. Nearby was the DSU microwave in a garbage bag. As he was not in possession of the microwave when he was stopped and the doors to the offices were open, he was not charged. SUB staff escorted him from the building.

Some time later in the afternoon, a fire extinguisher was apparently used to smash a window of the Student Employment Centre on the fourth floor.

"It's possible that the man caught in the afternoon is the same guy who broke the window," said Farrell.

At the end of last term in the early-morning hours of December 6, a safe weighing one tonne was removed from a storage room on the first floor of the SUB. Unconfirmed sources claim \$6,000 was stolen. Police are still investigating.



Money woes for the student union: Grawood audit reveals discrepancies

Grawood manager suspended, inventory 'unaccounted for'

BY PATTI WALLER

A suspended manager and unaccounted for inventory and cash has the Grawood abuzz.

Deborah Brown, manager of Bar Services for the past eleven years, was suspended with pay for an indefinite period in mid-December.

A preliminary report of a forensic audit by the accounting firm of KPMG Peat, Marwick and Thorne was received by the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) on December 14. The report revealed that inventory totalling \$20,375 in liquor and \$1,330 in cash were unaccounted for. The final report received by the DSU on January 2 verified the findings of the preliminary report.

David Cox, DSU President, would not comment on a connection between Brown's suspension and the missing inventory and cash.

Wayne Cross, manager of Campus Copy and the Corner Pocket, has been appointed manager of Bar Services in the interim.

The Grawood receives an annual spot audit by the accounting firm of Ernst and Young, who conduct random-product counts to determine inventory shortages. The firm of KPMG Peat, Marwick and Thorne was brought in by the DSU upon advice from legal council for a more complete forensic audit.

"We began to realize that the level of inventory didn't coincide with the level of cheques that we were writing...it didn't make sense," said DSU Treasurer Bret Leech.

The decision to suspend Brown was made by Cox at the end of the first term. "Council was briefed on the contents of the audit, and I sought the input of the council," said Cox.

The Halifax Police Department (HPD) were called in to investigate on January 3.

Investigating officer Sgt. Greg Marshall would only say that a report had been filed, and that the matter was currently under inves-

tigation. He suggested that a suspension may be the DSU's attempt to "...keep Ms. Brown out of the limelight" and alleviate any undue pressure on her pending a resolution of this matter.

The audit completed by April 30th 1995, at the end of the last fiscal year, did not detect any significant financial discrepancies.

Although month-end reports were submitted to student council up to 45 days late, Leech contends that the problem could not have been built up from one fiscal year to the next.

"KPMG [Peat, Marwick and Thorne] and the interim manager [Cross] are working to improve the inventory system," said Leech.

When asked if Cross may be stretched thin with increased management duties, Cox said he had "...complete confidence in Wayne's abilities."

This incident should not increase worry that other DSU-run businesses may experience the same kind of discrepancies, said Leech.

"The Grawood is unique in the volume of inventory it deals with...that is our highest sales volume we manage ourselves..." said Leech.

Hours of operation and prices should not be affected, Cox said. He downplayed staffing problems as "premature," and said that the managerial switch would naturally cause some initial confusion.

Staff 'in the dark'

However, some Grawood staffers are less than impressed with the turn of events so far. Many staff were reluctant to discuss the situation and feared reprimand through "bad shifts" if they discussed the matter. One bartender stated that he had been re-scheduled from two of the busiest nights of the week to Monday nights, despite his six years of bartending experience.

Grawood bartender Owen Smith, stated that there "was mismanagement on the part of bar managers," but contends that, "...the majority of responsibility

must fall on [the] DSU executive."

Management changes are needed to establish better control over inventory and the way the DSU is going about it is wrong, said Smith.

"In my three years on staff, I have never witnessed any theft of liquor," he said. "It is entirely possible that shortages may come about in several different ways."

He pointed out that draft is a very hard commodity to control, and in pouring a hundred glasses, spillage of quantities that would equal ten glasses would not be uncommon.

In addition, liquor deliveries may occur during the busiest times of the day. Often no one is available to count newly arrived stock. On one occasion, Mr. Smith stated that he was "just in the bar eating lunch when some inventory arrived. The staff that were on were too busy, so I offered to count it."

On this delivery, Smith contends that the order was ten flats of beer short, which would represent a loss to the Grawood of approximately \$300. Smith states that he is not implying that the delivery personnel are involved with these shortages, it is simply another juncture where inventory could become "unaccounted for."

One supervisor, Tom Kochanoff, resigned from the bar after four years. Kochanoff was informed that his status as a non-student made him ineligible to work there, even though he had worked last term and his status was the same.

"I wasn't even allowed to see the [new] schedule. I was completely kept in the dark. Certain people told me that they were going to keep me around for a couple of weeks to clean up the mess and then fire me anyway, so I resigned. Most likely because I've been here the longest and because I was the closest with Debbie," said Kochanoff. "My problem is not with Wayne Cross, it's with the people that are running Wayne Cross."

Ms. Brown could not be reached for comment.