

DSU blames student apathy, ignorance

'Rowdy hooligans' bash wall, trash Grawood johns

by Donald MacInnis

A seemingly isolated incident of mischief in the Grawood this past week has come to underscore a major problem facing the leaders of the Dalhousie student body; lack of student awareness of and participation in the Student Union organization and its extra-curricular activities.

Late last Friday, a gaping hole was punched in the wall just outside the doors of the Grawood. In addition, the bathrooms were trashed and insulting graffiti was written all over the walls.

Kathy Shirley, a Grawood supervisor, says the incident was an isolated one, not requiring major concern. "More attention will be paid to security at the doors, with someone almost always on watch there," says Shirley.

The issue of a possible security

problem was raised at last Sunday's council meeting. Executive Vice President Terry Crawley says the Grawood incident was a case of "spontaneous vandalism," where a few rowdy hooligans, out of an otherwise sensible student population, decided to have some fun or take out their frustration.

Crawley insists current security staff can deal with the situation. "The combinations of staff which look after security are now, and have always been adequate. There is no need to go to the extent of employing something like a full time campus police organization, as in other universities. That would certainly be resented by many students as intimidating and inconvenient. Crawley says meetings have been held with night managers and SUB staff to see what extra

security measures can be taken but, adds that students at large should be more alert and concerned. "All they would have to do is be on the lookout for anything suspicious and they could inform one of the staff, who would take things from there," says Crawley.

Crawley says he's relying on students to take action now they know the score.

SUB General Manager Steve Gaetz agrees. "The SUB is the students' facility. The damage has been done and it will be repaired, but all students should realize that it is their money which helps finance operations such as the Grawood. Consequently, the funds which could be spent more positively in creating new or improved services must instead be used to repair a senseless mess."



Kathy Shirley relaxes for a moment to enjoy the improved view and extra light.

Susan Haliburton: Dal Photo

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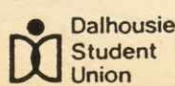




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