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Groups warn students of date-rape drugs *Preventative brochure distributed at Dalhousie*

BY LEE PITTS

The creators of a new pamphlet on date-rape drugs hope the information makes its way around Dal before the drugs do.

The brochure, called *It's all fun, games and a good time until someone gets drugged* warns about the date-rape drugs rohypnol and gamma hydroxybutrate (GHB).

It was produced by the Dalhousie Women's Centre, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) and the Avalon Sexual Assault Clinic.

The pamphlets were distributed in frosh packs and around campus — including the sexual harassment office, Counselling and Psychological services and Security. The pamphlets will also be distributed

throughout the city.

Patricia Thomson, director of the Women's Centre, says it's important to warn students about the drugs.

"We want to be proactive and [inform] both women and men that these things take place," she said. "We must make people realize we don't live in a bubble here at Dal."

While there are no confirmed cases of the date-rape drug used at Dalhousie, there have been several cases at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario.

McMaster has since devoted a website to informing students of the drugs.

Brian Kellow, executive vice-president of the DSU, says these pamphlets are Dalhousie's way of getting on top of the situation before anything happens.

"It's important to act before it happens rather than after," he said. "I didn't want us to respond after the fact and maybe not [prevent] something we could have."

Thomson says the brochure had nothing to do with the arrest of William Shrubbsall, who was charged with several incidents of sexual assault dating as far back as last October and ending on June 22.

The date-rape drug GHB was reported to be in his possession.

Const. Gary Martin, a spokesperson for the Halifax Regional Police, is pleased with the initiative to inform students about the drugs.

"The best way to combat [the use of date-rape drugs] is through education," he said.

And Martin says while there

are no confirmed cases of date-rape drugs in Halifax, he believes the drugs are here.

"We'd be pretty naive to say that it's not here," he said. "There have been reports from time to time of people believing they had been drugged."

On one occasion, Martin says

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Smoke signals

DSU against tobacco money, but rocks with Belvedere

BY MARY KUNA

Smoke is rising over the student union's stand on cigarettes and tobacco companies.

About a month ago the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) stopped selling cigarettes in the Student Union Building (SUB) and said it wouldn't accept money from tobacco companies.

But two weeks ago the SUB's walls were plastered with posters for Belvedere Rocks performances by Big Sugar, the Matthew Good Band, and Pluto. The bands were sponsored by Belvedere, a subsidiary of the tobacco company Rothman's-Benson and Hedges. Also, Belvedere cigarettes were sold at the concert.

Brian Kellow, executive vice-president of the DSU, says there is no written policy stating the DSU won't accept money from tobacco companies, but it's just not done.

"[Cigarettes are] a product that makes our staff at the Grawood who choose not to smoke sick. There's no need for us to sell them," he said.

He says there are a lot of other stores around campus where cigarettes are sold.

"We're not making a choice for people... we're just saying we don't want to make money off it."

The DSU says letting Belvedere sell cigarettes in the building wasn't a conscious exception, but that it was part of the Belvedere contract. Cigarettes will not be sold at future shows.

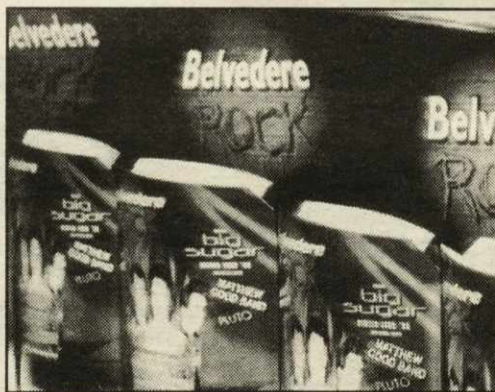
Kellow says while he is

personally opposed to sponsorship by a cigarette company, his professional feelings differ. He says the arrangement benefits students.

"We shouldn't take money from them, but it provides revenue which provides jobs. For some people, it makes it possible for them to go to school... I wish there was another way."

But not everyone has mixed feelings on the issue.

The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) is against corporate sponsorship at universities in general, and



Belvedere ads at a recent Big Sugar concert.

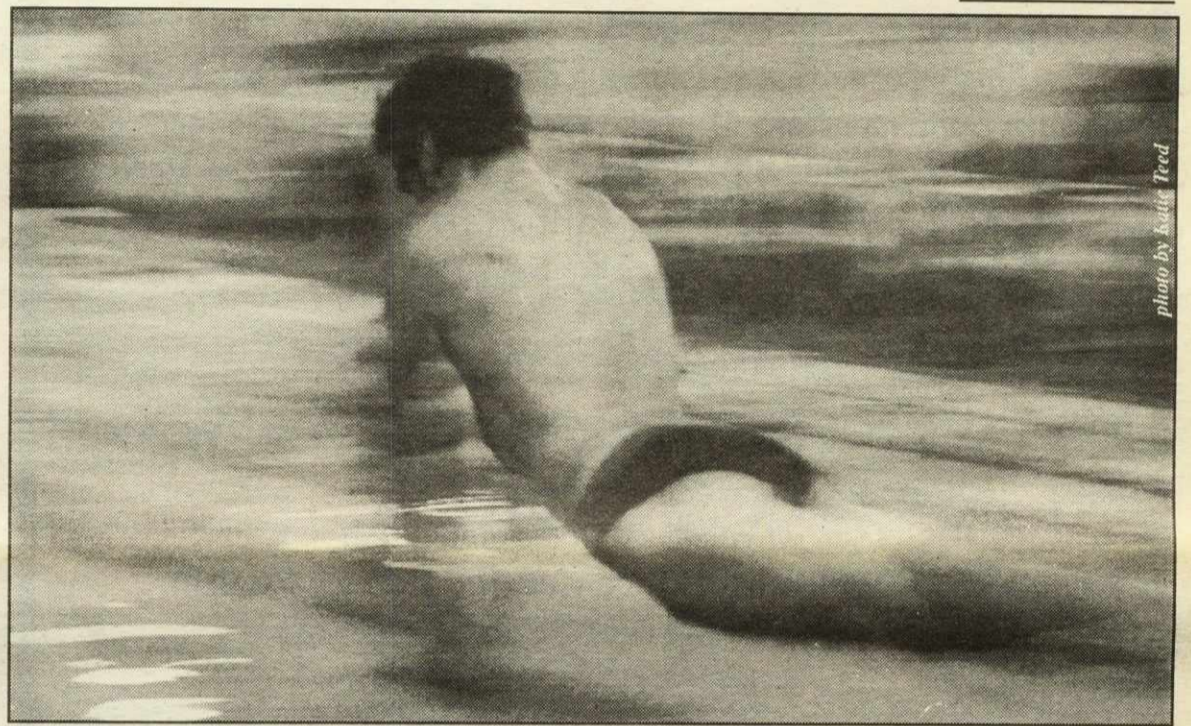
definitely opposed to sponsorship by a cigarette company in particular.

"Even indirectly taking money from a cigarette company is wrong," said Linda Pannozzo, executive director of the group.

"I can't believe a university would do that... it's mind-boggling. Cigarettes kill people."

But Andrea Gagliardi, in charge of marketing and promotions for the DSU, says sponsorship is much more helpful to students than it is harmful, since it means the DSU is able to put on shows it wouldn't

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The Dalhousie men's and women's swim teams got off to a fast start this weekend. While the women won their match, the men suffered a narrow defeat. See story page 17.

Student employment a difficult balancing act

BY KATIE TINKER

On top of classes, school work and wrestling, Logan Ward expects to work about 28 hours at his part-time job this week.

He represents an increasingly common trend: students are putting in more hours at part-time jobs to support themselves, even though it means limiting their involvement in the very experience they are paying more for each year.

Ward has had to learn to balance a full-time course load with a part-time job. And while his hours vary a lot — 28 hours is unusually high — he estimates he works an average of 16 hours a week.

"It's hard," the third-year kinesiology student said. "It's kind of a catch-22. If I gave up working, I'd have to give up wrestling too. Student loans only cover the bare minimum — tuition and board."

Catherine Cottingham, manager of the student employment centre, says part-time jobs can be beneficial for full-time students — but only if hours are kept to a minimum.

"We've found that, as a general rule, if students work more than ten hours a week their grades begin to slip," she said.

And Logan Ward admits he could probably get better marks if

he wasn't trying to hold down a job.

"I'm not as bad off as some people, though," he said. "At least I have a loan — some people don't even get that."

Most on-campus employers are not permitted to hire students for more than ten hours a week, but there is no way to regulate off-campus jobs. Consequently, a lot of students seek work away from campus to boost their hours.

"We recognize that some students need and can cope with more hours," Cottingham said. "It's one of those hard choices... I know students struggle with money a lot — but it's so important to have good grades."

"[Job] recruiters tend to want at least a B average. They also look at involvement in extracurricular activities. Having a part-time job with a lot of hours can really limit you."

Although 10 hours a week is what the university recommends, recent statistics show that most students who have jobs are working a lot more than that.

A survey of Dal students done in 1996 — the vast majority of whom went to school full-time — showed that 46 percent of students were working part-time. Of these, the average number of work hours per week was 15.7.

Eric McKee, the university's vice president student services, says students have to be careful with part-time jobs.

"Obviously students need to work to support themselves," he said. "[Jobs] can interfere with your studies, [and they can] limit your involvement in university life."

Audra Lynn, a third-year biology student, has just started a part-time job at Ronald MacDonald House — one 24-hour shift a week.

"I could get through this year without a job," she said. "But it wouldn't be a very fun year."

Lynn estimates that most students with part-time jobs are working to cover the extras, the hidden costs of university.

"Student loans — they pay the rent, they feed you, and once you pay your tuition and buy your books, that's it."

Lynn says it comes down to a choice between focussing on school or being financially secure. Having both at the same time is becoming a rare luxury.

"It's kind of ironic — in order to have the money to do something fun on the weekends, I have to give up one full day of my weekend."

But she says the sacrifice is better than the alternative.

"To be worrying about money all the time — it's detrimental to your health."