



Photo by Stephen Bettles

Above RCMP and Charlottetown Police in front of the K-Mart department store minutes after the armed holdup. Below middle Jim Duckworth being taken to hospital.

Armed Robbery

by James Connolly

Wearing dark clothes and ski masks over their faces, two people entered the K-Mart department store last Thursday evening just at closing time. One of the masked people carried a .22 caliber pistol with a long barrel, according to the K-Mart security manager.

"Don't anybody move! This is a holdup," yelled the man with the gun according to Nancy MacNevin, checkout supervisor. MacNevin said, "The security manager was standing behind the service desk, and we were just awestruck. We didn't know what to do, and he [the armed man] said, 'Don't anybody move! Stop looking at me or I'll shoot you... I'll shoot you in the legs and I'll blow your head off.'"

On top of the service desk were two canvas receipt bags for the night. The unarmed robber grabbed the bags of money and some bills from the cashiers' trays.

As the two thieves ran out of the building, James Duckworth, the manager of K-Mart, ran after them. The armed man ran under the store awning directly towards Belvedere Avenue while the accomplice holding the money ran

in the direction of the Burger King.

As Jim Duckworth got closer to the armed man, the thief fired several shots. Duckworth was hit in the left shoulder, but continued chasing the robber. Cory Duckworth, the manager's son, joined the pursuit. He finally tackled the armed robber in the parking lot of F.R. MacLaine. At this time, the thief began hitting Jim Duckworth on the head with the gun.

Eugen Tomic, a 15 year old who was passing by, helped Duckworth's son get the gun away from the robber. As Tomic stated in a television interview, "[We] grabbed a hold of him, held the arms behind his head, and we waited for his [Cory Duckworth's] father to get back up on his feet, and we took him back over to the main door [of K-Mart] and gave him to the police."

Nancy MacNevin estimates that the unarmed robber escaped with about \$2000. Police recovered some, but not all of this stolen money.

The robber who had carried off the money was apprehended by the police at 3:00am on Friday, January 20 at her residence.

by James Connolly

Disbelief followed quickly by surprise. That was the general reaction of UPEI students who were told that the armed robber was 21 year old Glen Charles LaLanne and the unarmed woman was 18 year old Shawn Marie Sutton.

Both robbers were UPEI students staying in residence. LaLanne, a first year science student lived in a second floor single room at Marion Hall. Sutton, a freshman arts student, lived in Blanchard hall with two other women. He is from Sydney, Nova Scotia, while she is from Breadalbane, PEI.

Sutton was arrested at 3:00am last Friday at her residence apartment. Police didn't find

the stolen money. When they searched LaLanne's room, they found 4 handguns, a sawed-off shotgun, and 22 rounds of ammunition. Police in Sydney, N.S. had reported the weapons stolen only eight days before the holdup at the K-Mart.

Both are charged with attempted murder, using a firearm while committing an indictable offence, and robbery with an offensive weapon. LaLanne has further been charged with possession of a prohibited weapon [the shotgun], and with possession of an uncertified handgun.

Shawn Sutton was recently described as a "flowerchild" by a residence neighbour. "She burned incense in her room. ...

She always wore black. She said she was interested in astronomy and astrology." Another student who knew her said that she was an exceptionally talented drawing artist.

Shawn Sutton was a very quiet, smiling person. She spent most of her time alone or with Glen LaLanne. When she lived in Bernardine Hall, she rarely ate at the cafeteria. A former friend who attended Bluefield High School with Shawn Sutton couldn't believe that she was capable of the robbery. Sutton had broken off ties with her high school friends before coming to UPEI.

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Shawn and Glen

... The UPEI Perspective

Robbery affects UPEI

Students were surprised to learn that the two robbers at K-Mart were going to UPEI. Many were frightened when they learned that LaLanne had a cache of guns in his residence room. "Does this imply lax security?" some students wondered aloud.

One student said, "I found out he lived in Marion. I was pretty scared. And I found out, well, I found out he had guns in his room. I was even more scared." When asked if she felt there should be more strict security, she said, "I don't really

know. We've never had this kind of problem before." Does this make her nervous? "A little, but I don't live in residence."

A girl living in Bernardine Hall said, "I just kinda wish that they had more security, like check on the rooms: make sure they didn't have that kinda stuff in the rooms I guess. And even the girl [Sutton], like, the girl was from UPEI too. She could have stayed here. I don't know. It is scary though."

A fellow staying in Marion Hall, exactly one floor above LaLanne's room, was an acquaintance of both robbery suspects. He said, "Shawn, she's in my English class. And Glen, like I used to say, 'Hi' to him most of the time, but, it surprised me. I really found out this morning [Fri 20 Jan 89]. I just, oh, couldn't believe it."

Did he get the impression that they were planning some-

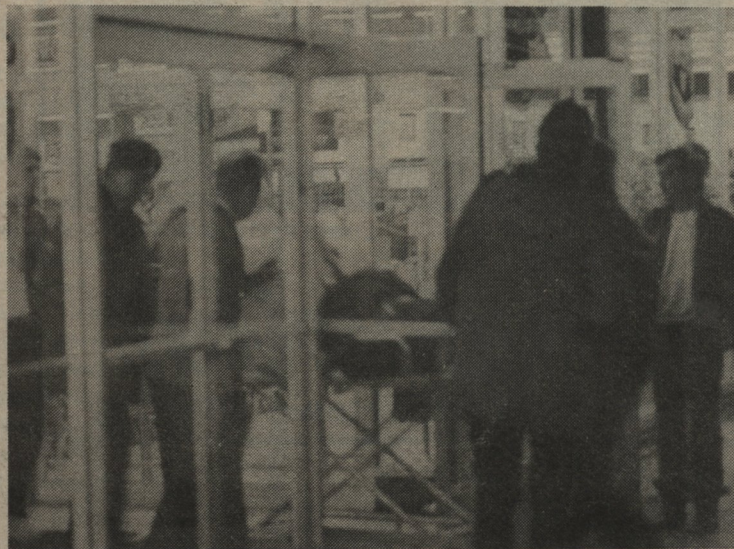


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