

That's one long trip to the bathroom!

By **Bruno Matarazzo Jr.**
Staff Writer

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SALEM — A trip to the men's room took a bit longer than expected for one Salem man over the weekend.

A 26-year-old man ended up spending the night in the Gulu-Gulu Cafe bathroom after he got locked inside when the popular night spot closed at 1 a.m. Saturday.

It probably wasn't the way the Salem man wanted to spend his Friday night. He was freed when staff at the Gulu-Gulu arrived to open up at 8 a.m. Saturday.

"He was very apologetic and he wanted to pay his tab and leave," Gulu-Gulu manager Laura Walton said. "We don't really know what happened because he left so quickly."

Walton said a staff member discovered the patron when he heard rustling and thought someone was trying to break into the Essex Street cafe/bar/eatery next to Lappin Square.

The employee called police at 8:18 a.m. saying he heard a "man banging" on the door.

Patrolman Kevin Gillan responded and found the patron in the hallway leading to the bathrooms.

The officer opened the hallway door and found the patron, flushed with embarrassment.

The three bathrooms at Gulu-Gulu are accessed through a common space. There's a door leading to the hallway. The bathroom side has a handle, which was locked, and the cafe side has a push bar.

There was no property damage to the bar and the patron told police he was "comfortable" during the night.

Police told the employee to have staff check the bathrooms before leaving and locking the door.

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