

# 16-year-old youth drowns in quarry

By Ruth Strasser  
News Staff Writer

**NORTH HALEDON** — A 16-year-old Prospect Park youth lost his life Friday while swimming in the abandoned Sam Braen quarry, which lies between this community and Hawthorne.

It is the first drowning in the quarry, said Braen and Chief John Peine. They said the quarry is posted as an illegal place to swim.

Police suspect horse play in the death of Ghandi Abdallah, of 338 N. Eighth St., who might have been struck on the head by a large tree branch or log thrown from the top of a 10-foot-high cliff.

Two 13-year-old Paterson boys, witnesses to the tragedy, are being questioned by police.

Sgt. Anthony Padula, who is conducting the investigation, asked for help in finding two other boys in their teens approximately 5-foot, 9-inches, of medium build.

One has black hair with bangs, and was wearing blue bathing trunks and a white T shirt. The other has dirty blond hair, and was wearing white trunks with red piping. Their hair was shoulder length, Padula said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact North Haledon Police at 423-1111.

One witness told The News that Abdallah was swimming with a friend and was trying to climb up a rope when "this kid threw a log on his head," and later said

"I'm sorry."

The unidentified swimming companion was coming up for air, the witness said, when Abdullah fell on top of him and then disappeared in the water.

The witness claimed he heard the friend say: "Who did that? I'm going to kill him."

The two missing youths left the scene quickly, Kovalec said.

Hawthorne scuba divers, patrolman Robert Scully and Don Shannon recovered the body at 4:27 p.m. in about 20 feet of water, about an hour and a half after they received the call for assistance from North Haledon police.

The Abdullah family came to this country from Syria two years ago, living first in Paterson.

The grief-stricken 53-year-old father with tears in his eyes bent over and kissed his son tenderly, offering a prayer in his native tongue before the first aid squad covered the body and lifted it into a waiting ambulance.

Ghandi had finished the ninth grade at Manchester Regional High School, said his brother, Tolstoy, 17.

The father, Othman, works in Congress Textile Printers, Hawthorne. The mother, Bushr, also works.

They have three other sons, Imad, 19; Issa, 14, and Jalah, 10; and two daughters, Janee, 8, and Maryan, 5.

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