

DRIFTing about aimlessly in a foreign country?

BY DAVE MACDONALD

Thinking about going overseas? Down to Central America? Or anywhere else in the world? If so, you might want to check out the Dalhousie Resource Information For Travellers (DRIFT). DRIFT is a brand new group from whom people can find out what to do and what not to do in foreign countries.

DRIFT was created in January by Jenna Devine and Lisa Moffat when they were visiting Cuba. They figured that it would be nice if people knew where to go to have a good time, where to shop, where to meet fun and interesting people, and definitely where *not* to go.

Devine and Moffat are there for people who don't necessarily want the 'tourist' experience, but instead want something more personal and rewarding. They feel that the idea of staying at a dirty hostel or a stuffy hotel is not even close to the experience people would get by staying with locals. Imagine getting first-hand insight into a culture to see what makes it unique.

They would also like to lend a hand to people who are not just leaving, but coming to Halifax. Just imagine the shock a travelling family would get if they went to the Lighthouse and found out that it was not a monument to fishermen. These are the types of things

DRIFT would let you know in advance.

However, they have a slight drawback. DRIFT needs more people to come and give information about their personal voyages. What they eventually want to have is a place where a soon-to-be traveller can go look at files from trips that other people have taken, get in contact with them and see what course of action they took and how it worked out. The information they already have is mostly from books, travel guides and maps, but they want the personal experience aspect to weigh in just as heavily, if not more so.

DRIFT does not want to be

confused with a travel agency. They won't design a trip for you, but instead will help and guide you. The most they want is a \$1 drop-in fee, or a \$5 yearly fee. In return you would have access to their files, experiences and knowledge that will make your trip the best it could be. This charge is to help procure more contacts and information.

Also, they don't want to limit themselves to Dalhousie. DRIFT wants anyone who is going anywhere to drop by. The group is currently talking with a similar organization at the University of New Brunswick and are trying to set up a web of resources to get as much information as possible.

At the moment, DRIFT is being operated out of the homes of Devine and Moffat, but they are hoping to set up base in the SUB next year. Their main goal is to help people, and to give them an idea of what to expect when travelling afar.

DRIFT already has some people who are involved, but they need more people to help get it off the ground. If you would like to join, help out with your own experiences, or are just curious, write to Lisa Moffat or Jenna Devine at: drift@is2.dal.ca. They would be more than happy to entertain any questions, comments or ideas.

BOOK REVIEW

Rollins book aggressive and impulsive

Many people know of Henry Rollins, either from his days with the crazy punkers Black Flag, from his socially maladaptive Rollins Band, or from his other twelve books. If you know of him, you know that he's hard, dark and very screwed up. All you have to do is listen to some of his lyrics to realize that.

The Portable Henry Rollins

Henry Rollins
Villard

The Portable Henry Rollins contains all of his best writing plus some pieces that have never been released. At least that's what the book jacket told me. Throughout the book there are his personal diary entries, poems and short stories, many of which were written from touring all over the world, and others while he slowly slipped into the world of insanity in the comfort of his own apartment.

From his "Black Coffee Blues" (never being able to get a decent cup of coffee anywhere in Europe) to the audience throwing beer bottles because he won't play the tunes they want, Rollins lets you know that he's pissed off and doesn't give a shit if you know it or not.

His short stories and poems are twisted and dark but at the same time make perfect sense. In order to fully understand what Rollins is trying to say, you have to take the view that these stories are his thoughts and are written that way, as free-associations. His stories are written as if in a dream-like state; he fucks human-sized cockroaches, pigs out on his father's heart and watches his mother blow her brains out. These dark nightmares are morbid and graphic enough to make Stephen King an insomniac, but Rollins seems to relish telling them.

After reading for a while you can not tell if Rollins is telling the truth or is making up another one of his stories. One of the most vivid short stories is of a woman who commits suicide behind a 7-Eleven by sticking a gun in her mouth. What is perhaps really difficult to imagine is the fact that Rollins went to the scene and found a piece of the lady's brain, picked it up, put it in a wrapper

and kept it. It makes you wonder if Rollins is mad or just a very good story teller. Maybe he's both.

This book made me feel that I was actually wandering around Rollins' mind trying to piece together what he was thinking. If you can find the figurative meanings behind the intense and extremely thought-provoking literal images painted by

Rollins, you can grasp the message

he wants you to hear. According to Rollins, the only person you can trust is yourself and the world is a very scary place indeed.

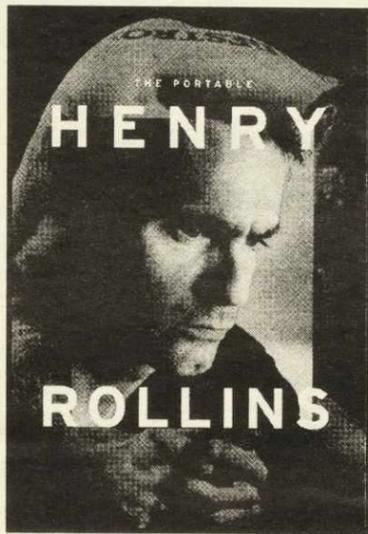
Rollins knows how to keep someone reading and how to get someone to realize they may be reading a manifesto of a potential

lunatic. In other words, if you listen

to any of Rollins' music and would like to find out what the hell happened to him to turn him into what he is, or just like to read

material written by a psycho, go pick up this book. Otherwise don't bother.

BY DAVE MACDONALD



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FEBRUARY 1998

TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
VANCOUVER	-	-	18:50	-	-	-	-
CALGARY	-	-	18:50	-	-	-	-
TORONTO	-	18:25	-	22:55	17:20 ¹	11:35	-
ST. JOHN'S	-	13:25	-	18:00	-	-	-

HALIFAX DEPARTURES TO USA

TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
FT. LAUDERDALE	-	-	06:00 ¹	-	-	-	-
ORLANDO	-	06:00 ¹	06:00 ¹	-	-	-	-
ST. PETERSBURG	-	-	16:50 ¹	-	-	-	-

¹ Begins Feb 9

AIRPORT STANDBY FARES: Are subject to available seats prior to departure. Passengers may register 2 1/2 hours prior to the scheduled departure of flight. Fares are subject to change without notice. Travel on any specific flight is not guaranteed. Payment (Cash or Credit Card only) must be made on departure. One way travel only.

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