

# THE GAZETTE

Volume 130. Number 5.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, October 2, 1997

## Dal among many at AIDS walk

BY AMBER MACARTHUR

Close to 2,000 people gathered at the Commons for AIDS Walk 1997 last Sunday. The day could

not have been more perfect with plenty of sunshine, entertainment and a wide variety of people.

The events began at noon with a warm-up rally for students,

registration and music by P.F. Station. The walk lasted for just over two hours and ran, for the most part, throughout the south end of Halifax. In total more than \$60,000 was raised, half of this amount coming from corporate donations.

After the walk there was a barbecue hosted by the Atlantic Superstore, followed by a two hour concert by local performers. The participants and volunteers ranged from the young to the old. A good portion of the participants were students, many of them from Dalhousie, all there for different reasons.

During the warm up rally, Larisa Hausmanis, a King's student, relaxed in the sunshine with other students before the walk began. Hausmanis commented on the overwhelming reality that AIDS can affect anyone.

This point hits her close to home, as she had an uncle who died of

AIDS. She wanted to participate in Sunday's walk because it helps raise awareness of issues related to the AIDS virus.

This desire to raise awareness was dominant throughout the voices of many of the participants. Doug Gordon, the DSU's nursing representative, wanted to join in this annual event in the hope that there will be "more awareness through Canada for the growing AIDS epidemic".

Besides awareness, another goal of this event was expressed by Bisexual Gays Lesbians Association of Dalhousie (BGLAD) representative Jason Delaurentis. Delaurentis views the AIDS Walk as "important fundraising for AIDS research and education in Canada".

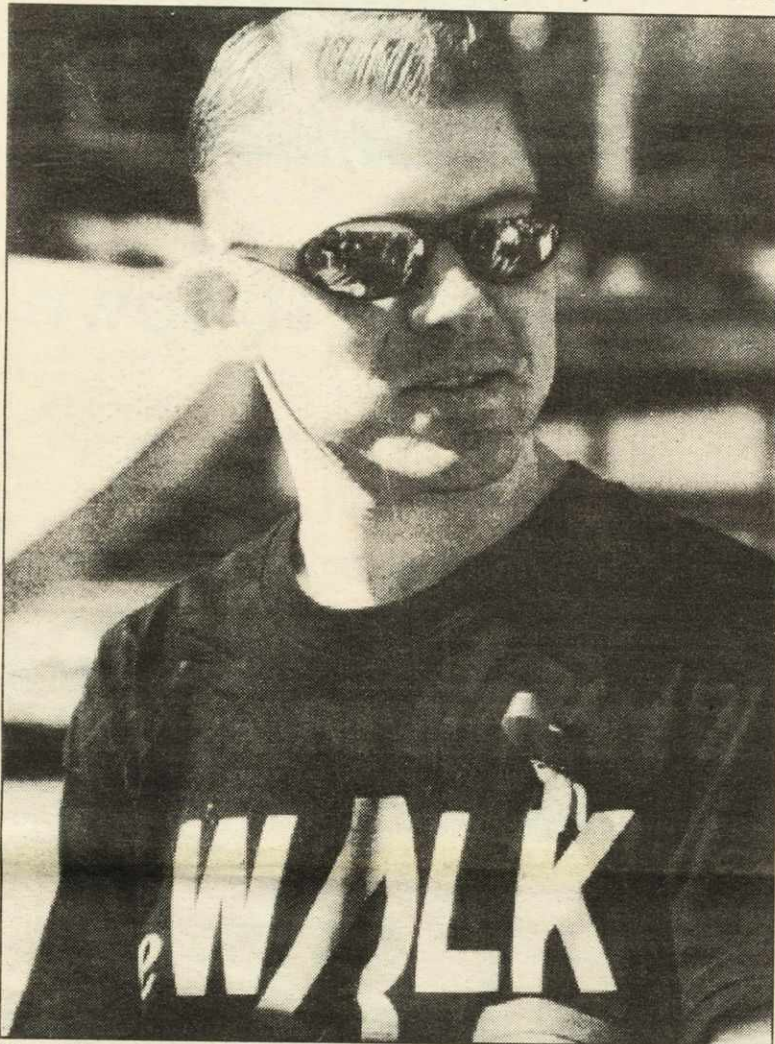
Dariusz Burzynski knows all about the importance of raising money as he is in charge of fundraising at the AIDS Coalition

of Nova Scotia and put a lot of work into this year's AIDS Walk.

The national and local sponsors were out in full force on Sunday. They included huge names such as Air Canada, ATV and MT&T, to name only a few. Burzynski was very pleased with the number of sponsors as well as the number of volunteers. He and three other people worked on organizing the AIDS Walk full-time and were joined by over 60 volunteers on the day of the event.

Burzynski was also pleased with the number of participants as he feels there is a need for more awareness surrounding the AIDS virus. He recognized one of the biggest misconceptions of AIDS as the fact that "there are still a lot of people who perceive it as a gay illness". He also spoke of the "changing faces of the AIDS Virus".

*continued on page 3...*



One of the many supporters of this year's AIDS walk. Photo by Ryan Lash

## Faculty credit card fraud

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Some professors at Dalhousie have been racking up unpaid credit card bills — for cards they don't own, and things they didn't buy.

The issue of credit card fraud, and the breach of university personnel information that may have caused it, was raised at the September 8 Dalhousie Senate meeting. To date, at least two faculty members' names and relevant data were used on fraudulently obtained credit cards.

Professor Michael Bradfield, who is also a Senator, says he brought up the issue after hearing about two separate incidents of the fraud. The professors had been contacted by the credit card company for unpaid bills on cards registered in their names that they had never applied for or used.

Concerns are specifically centred around the security of employee information, such as salary and social insurance numbers, which may have been used in the fraudulent applications.

Dalhousie vice-president of finance and administration, Bryan Mason, says the fraud was discovered after the bills, mailed

to a post office box, went unpaid.

Mason says that although the university had concerns, after contacting both the credit card company — who Mason says has accepted full responsibility — and the police, there is little the university can do about it.

*"Hey, it's not our problem, it's your problem."*

"There's no evidence that there was unauthorized use of personnel records," said Mason.

"It's not clear that any information that's not pretty widely available was used on the applications."

He also stresses that the university may only be one in a series of unrelated places a credit card thief might target.

"If I was someone interested in fraud I'd go to a place where [there are] professional people...I wouldn't go and take the name of a first year student and say his salary was \$60,000 because it probably wouldn't jive."

Professor Bradfield said that

the professors had raised their concerns to the administration individually, but the university had ignored their concerns, and that when he mentioned them again during the Senate meeting it was as if it had never been discussed before.

"They were told, 'Hey, it's not our problem, it's your problem,'" he said.

According to Bradfield, the administration claimed anyone could have obtained faculty salary figures and social insurance numbers by stealing someone's pay cheque out of departmental mailboxes.

Bradfield also questions the university's interest and depth of investigation into the fraud charges.

"It's a little bit disturbing that [Mason] should say there are only two cases...since I can come up with three off the top of my head."

Bradfield said the security of personnel information is particularly relevant since the university suffered a \$125,000 fraud in the accounting department last year.

"No, I'm not totally happy with the response," Bradfield said. "I suspect in the minds of the people scammed it hasn't [been resolved]."

## Per-class tuition

BY LAURA GRAY

Changes in computer technology at Dalhousie will see all students, regardless of their discipline, paying the same amount for the same class.

The new fee structure would mean that instead of paying a set fee for a specific faculty (eg. arts or science), students would pay for each class. The structure could be implemented as early September 1999.

The changes would help eradicate inconsistencies in the current tuition structure.

Currently, a science major taking an arts course pays more for that class than the arts student sitting next to them.

In some programs, like psychology, students can graduate with either a Bachelor

of Arts or a Bachelor of Science degree.

"You get students in the same course paying different fees," says director of Financial Services Ian Nason.

Nason says the current system was developed because different programs incur different costs, including "the recognition that there is a higher cost for operating labs".

Vice-president of Student Services Eric McKee says that the current system has a long history and the changes have been in discussion since the mid 1980s.

McKee said the administration's motivation to change the current system is based on fair distribution of course costs. He referred to the differing costs for science and arts students, as

*continued on page 3...*

### Pre-packaged ponderance

"Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson

### NATIONAL NEWS

Canadian Federation of Students releases document touting free tuition, page 5.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien plans to sink \$1-billion into scholarship fund by year 2000, page 7.

### FOCUS

Taking back the night...women organize march to fight violent crime against women, page 10.

### SPORTS

Men's soccer triumph in weekend action, page 17.  
All the news on the Dalhousie cross country teams, page 18.

### ARTS & CULTURE

In case you missed it, a review of the Halifax on Music Festival, page 13-15.

Interview with Vancouver hip-hop crew Rascalz, page 13.

Atlantic Film Festival reviews, page 16.

### SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Friends of McNabs Island bent on ridding parkland of garbage, page 12.

BC's Klaskish Valley, one of the last rainforests left on Vancouver Island, is slated for logging, page 18.