

# HAH is no laughing matter

BY JOHN CULLEN

Humans Against Homophobia (HAH) is an interest group at Dal that has been getting some media attention over the past few months. I was asked to attend one of their meetings to see what was going on. In all honesty, I was nervous. I thought I'd be surrounded by a bunch of militant

straight-bashers, but was pleased to find out I was mistaken.

HAH is a working group of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG), and have been active since 1993. HAH's membership isn't limited to homosexuals, but is open to all who protest against homophobia.

One of their more public activities was petitioning a Nova

Scotia judge for rendering a homophobic decision on a convicted pedophile. Judge Cole ruled that the man could not be in contact with children under the age of 18 unless accompanied by a heterosexual adult, thereby implying homosexuals are potential pedophiles.

The group also became active in another issue closer to campus.

The owner of Café Amadeus, a popular coffee shop on Spring Garden Road, was accused of kicking a gay patron out of the store, as well as telling two other males to stop holding hands. I went to the meeting in which the plan of action concerning the café was discussed, and was surprised at the amount of thought that went into the strategy. Each member was concerned about harming the owner's business and any resulting backlash that could tarnish the group's reputation. HAH is not about protests, marches, or shocking the straight community; it's about public education for an increasing problem named homophobia.

Aaron Poirier, unofficial spokesperson for the group, feels that the group has had a good start, but they must see a shift in the future.

"Right now it seems we are being too reactive," said Poirier. "It is important to highlight homophobic incidents, but that's not the goal of HAH."

Poirier would like to see homophobia approached as an issue that needs to be discussed, not just something that pops up when someone discriminates against a homosexual.

The future for HAH seems bright. There are big goals on the horizon. An ongoing matter that has many gay activist groups miffed is the refusal by the Red Cross to take blood from homosexual males who have participated in anal sex since 1976. Poirier would like to see the donor clinic banned from the Student Union Building (SUB).

However these goals do not come without manpower.

"Right now we only have a few people working on this [HAH] full-time, so we have to be reasonable with our goals," said Poirier.

If you are interested in this group, the meetings are held on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd floor of the SUB.

## Dal Profile

BY TIM RICHARD

### Benjamin Chittim Stone 21

You will have a part in next week's Dalhousie Theatre Department's *The Good Woman of Setzuan*. Tell us about the play and your role.

It's about these gods who come down to the earth looking for a good person because they believe there are no good people left on the earth. So they find one woman and it's about her trials and tribulations of trying to be good in our world and how difficult it is to be good in our world. I'm playing the capitalist, millionaire barber, representative of all the high class people who don't help out the poor people. In the play, there's a real class distinction. The rich people just keep getting richer and richer, while the poor just keep getting poorer and poorer. It's the study of survival, economically, morally, and spiritually in Canada today.

In last year's play *Unidentified Human Remains*, you appeared in the buff. Did you have any qualms about appearing naked in front of an audience?

No, I really didn't. I remember I was in my first year and I went to see *The Art of Success* and this guy was naked on stage and I thought it was the coolest thing that he had enough balls to be out on stage naked. Then the next year I was. It's a rush. There are five things that are really cool to do on stage: smoke, die, kill, be naked, and have sex.

It seems that the theatre community is pretty incestuous.

Yeah. Friendships, sex, relationships — everything comes into play. However, we're trained to leave all that at the door and come in with a blank mind. I think we're really good at leaving the outside world at the door and come in and work.

What are some of the common misconceptions about actors?

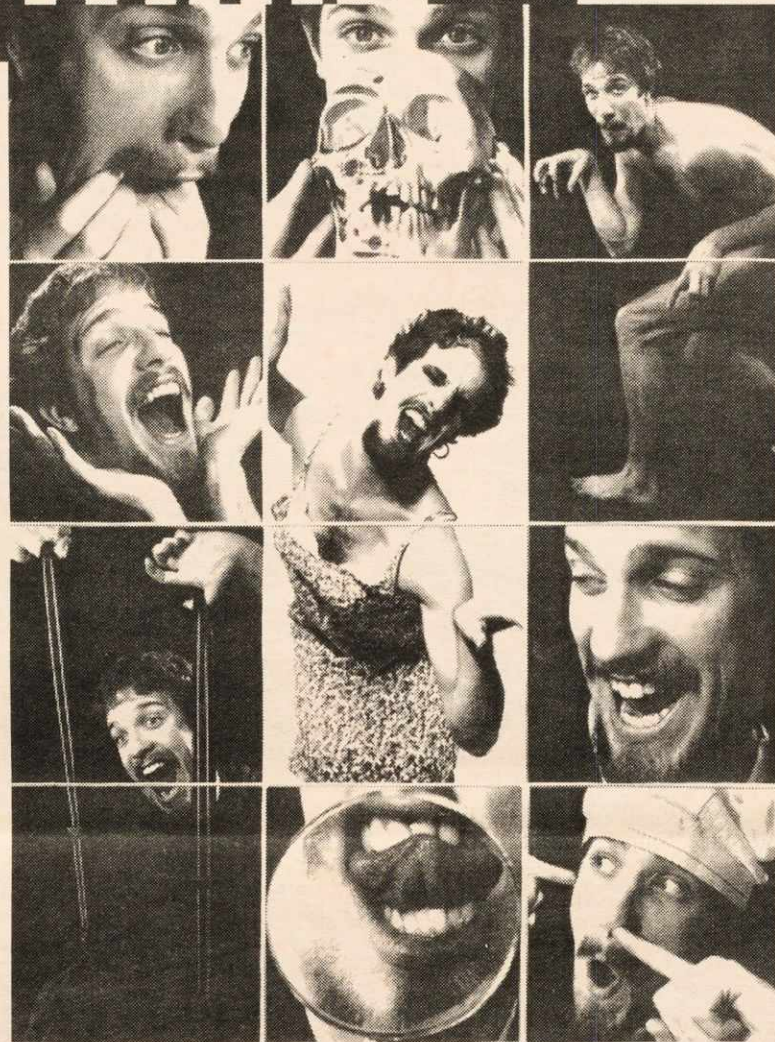
All we do is drink beer and fuck.

Can you break down those stereotypes for us?

Yeah, we drink wine. And most people think all actors are arrogant, but really all the actors I know are probably the most insecure people in the world.

Are you insecure?

It depends on the show and how I feel about the show; like, the past two shows I haven't felt very good about at all, I'm in a bump in my training. Last year I went through this amazing growth where I just started learning all



this stuff and I got better and I could feel myself getting better and learning things. Then I had the summer where I did *Shakespeare by the Sea* and it felt so good to do it and I was feeling I was doing good work and then I got back to school and just stopped and I didn't go anywhere and I don't know why. Possibly lack of motivation. I think I've reached the point where I'm starting to concentrate more on the technical aspects. When I get technical I totally lose the emotional side, so I've been losing a lot of what the character is really about.

What's the most disgusting thing you have ever done?

I shot a jellyfish with vodka; it was a dare. Then I looked it up in the encyclopedia and it turns out jellyfish have little to no nutritional value.

Do you dream of one day being a great stage actor or Mr. 20-Million-Dollar-Jim-Carrey-man?

Definitely a stage actor. I have no ambition to go into film or TV. Shakespeare attracts me a lot; fantasy plays, mystical and mystery plays really attract me. By the time I'm 30, I hope to have had enough training and experience to open my own theatre company in rural Nova Scotia and see if I can't rejuvenate theatre. My plan is to go and train and specialize myself in physical theatre. I'd love to go to clowning school. I want to get certified as a stage fighter, I want to learn to fence, to sing

better, do more Shakespeare and more puppetry.

Do you feel theatre is selling out?

The real commercial theatre world is. I realize that theatre is an industry; however, I feel like it's turning into a capitalist industry, as opposed to an artistic industry, and it's really upsetting. I'm not going to audition for a play that I don't think is a good play, and I'm not going to audition for a play where I don't think the director is very good and that really limits my chances here in Halifax because there is so little good theatre. I'm really excited by *Shakespeare by the Sea*. It makes Shakespeare accessible to everyone. The problem I'm having with theatre is no different from television and the movies. I don't respect theatre that I could sit home and watch on TV instead, and I think most Neptune shows are like that. It's the theatre selling out so they can make money.

Tell me something no one knows about you.

When I was five I stole 20 dollars from my mom, told her that I found it on the side of the road. She took it and called all the neighbours and when nobody claimed it, she bought me a present, and it was her money!

Are you sure you want your mom to find out this way?

Sure, that probably would be the easiest.

*The Good Woman of Setzuan* runs from Feb 7-10, 8 p.m. nightly.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DANIELLE BOUDREAU

New CKDU Station Manager Karen Marchand

## A New Face at CKDU

BY KAVERI GUPTA

Welcome to Karen Marchand, the new station manager at CKDU. Marchand has been at CKDU for about a month, replacing Jo Ann Citrigno.

Marchand's first challenge is the CKDU Funding Drive, Feb. 2-11, in which CKDU aims for their goal of \$45,000 (30% of their operating budget). The Funding Drive will have a kick off on Thursday, Feb. 1 with live performances in the Green Room and live broadcasts. The phone number for donations is 49-HAPPY. The "Small Room of Big Prizes" for people donating \$25 and more includes CD's, while grand prizes this year are year-long passes to Birdland and Wormwood's.

Previous to the three years that Marchand has been in Halifax, she was with CJAM in Windsor, Ontario. She has worked with

Campus Outreach, International Educational Center, and in developmental education.

Although Marchand is still fairly new, she has already established in her mind one of her professional goals: to pour energy into CKDU programming.

"People aren't aware of the diversity CKDU has to offer," she said.

Personally, Marchand is looking forward to working with the many volunteers and becoming more knowledgeable about the actual technicalities of radio station equipment.

Marchand is happy to see such incredible talent and abundance of energy and ideas with the staff and volunteers at CKDU and she wants everyone to be aware of this.

"Every student at Dalhousie is a member of the CKDU society, CKDU is accessible and a venue for learning," she said.