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Sweet little lies...

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# THE GAZETTE

Volume 131, Number 18.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, February 11, 1999.

## "Hef" abreast of Dalhousie Playboy outrage

### Dal's reaction to Playboy is far harsher than at other schools, reps say

BY SALLY THOMAS

For the past year and a half, *Playboy* magazine has been setting up university reps all over North America, but the two Dal reps are apparently the only ones getting any flack.

There are 11 *Playboy* representatives across Canada, but Alison Raleigh, the co-ordinator of *Playboy*'s campus representatives, started the program over a year-and-a-half ago. She says *Playboy* wanted to up date their image.

"We had to develop a broader youth market, and the college marketing reps are important," she said.

And Cindy Rakowitz, corporate vice-president of promotions at *Playboy*, says the

heat the Dal reps have been getting has even caught the attention of *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner.

"Hef has a big interest in what's going on," she said. "He always has."

"He always felt that controversy is the heart of intellectual debate and what better place for debate than a college campus."

**"From what [Yip and Wildsmith] tell us... Halifax is conservative."**

Other schools with reps include the University of Western Ontario, Queen's, McMaster, McGill, and the University of Saskatchewan. Smaller colleges such as Fanshawe in London and

Centennial in Toronto also have their own rep.

The Dal reps, Bruce Yip and Bruce (B.W.) Wildsmith, say they wanted to make an impact on student life. And both say *Playboy* stands for freedom of speech and expression.

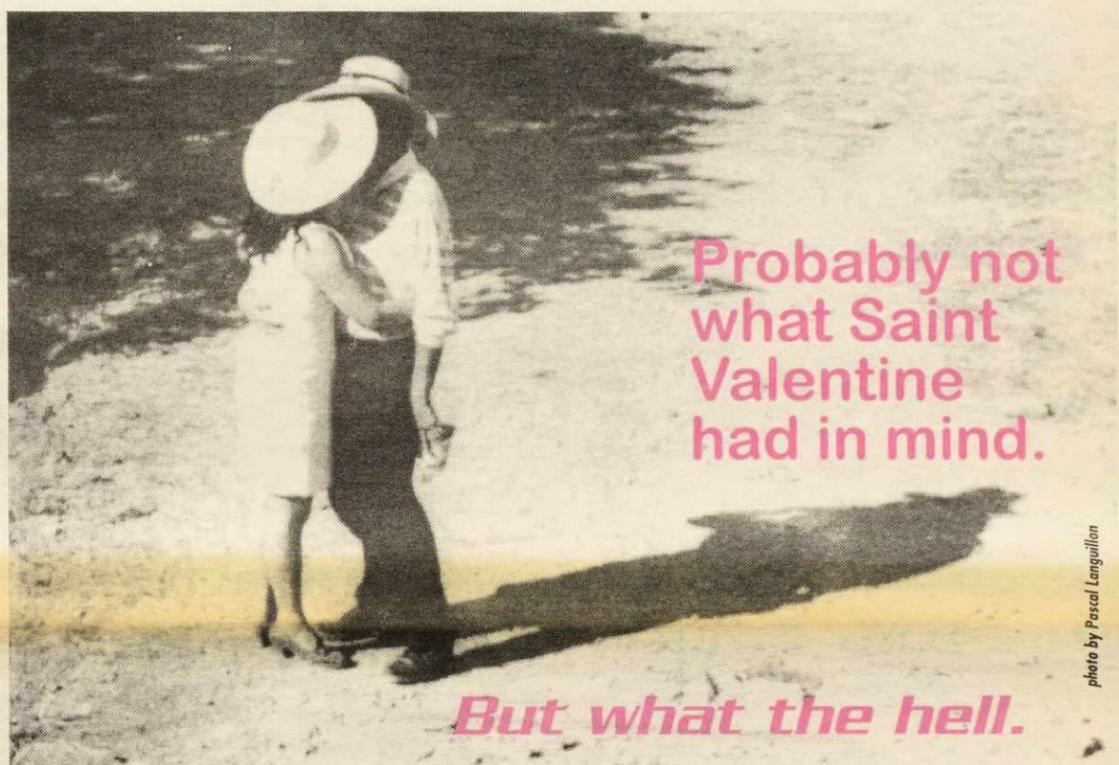
At the very least they spawned a lot of expression — generating opinion pieces and letters, for and against, to the *Gazette*.

Yip and Wildsmith were also both panelists on a *Playboy* panel discussion hosted by the Dal Arts Society. The forum saw the two face

a stream of angry and vocal students who said they disagreed with what *Playboy* represented and what, as a result, Yip and Wildsmith were promoting.

Samir Vattompadam, the

*continued on page 3*



Probably not what Saint Valentine had in mind.

But what the hell.

photo by Pascal Langillan

## Mt. A students sue university, faculty

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

Students at Mount Allison University are suing their school — and their teachers — in response to a three-week-old faculty strike.

Mount Allison's student association accused both the university and faculty association of neglecting their responsibility to teach the school's 2,200 students, in documents submitted to the courts.

Student association president Sam Millar says it is an unacceptable situation.

"We're very serious about this," he said. "The longer this strike goes on, the stronger our case gets."

The student association is claiming damages on behalf of students for loss of tuition,

administrative and residence fees, and for loss of scholarship. They are also seeking further damages for loss of opportunity, loss of future income and future income earning capacity.

And while Millar says the lawsuit will gladly be dropped if classes resume in the next two weeks, he says after that it will go forward regardless of any settlement.

Professors and librarians at Mount Allison walked off the job in January when contract negotiations broke down over salary increases.

Professors are looking for a 26-percent increase over three years, but the university is only offering 16 percent.

There has been only one meeting between the faculty union and the university since the strike began, and both sides remain

inflexible.

Trisha Estabrooks, a fourth-year honours student, says the two sides don't seem to share her sense of urgency.

She's trying to write a thesis this term, but finding it a challenge with her advisor walking the picket line. So she says the lawsuit is an effective way to pressure for a settlement.

"We can go out and march around campus, or lobby the government, and get nowhere," she said. "It's very, very frustrating to feel so helpless."

Berkeley Fleming, the faculty

association's strike co-ordinator, says they expected to be named in the suit, but don't think there is a case against them.

"We're in a legal strike position," he said. "We understand there are students who are upset with us... but as long as we take care of students' needs after the strike, that animosity will dissipate."

University administrators have been unavailable for comment.

But the student association's Millar does acknowledge that the school may also have an easy out of the suit.

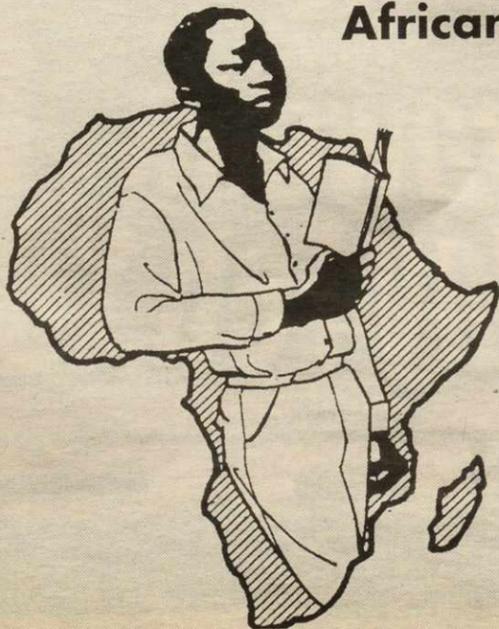
Mount Allison has a 'limited

liability' clause in its academic calendar which stipulates the university cannot be held accountable for strikes. But Millar says even though the university may consider the calendar a contract, it's not something that students sign, or are told about.

"The university doesn't make students aware of their rights," he said. "It's very much open to interpretation."

The provincial government has just stepped in and appointed a private sector conciliator. Both sides are preparing to return to the table for the first time in over two weeks.

## African Heritage Month Events



"African Heritage Month is a period dedicated to the recognition, learning and celebration of Black history in North America.

The month-long celebration emerged from Negro History Week, which was started in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, a Black historian, educator and publisher from New Canton, Virginia.

February was initially chosen because the birthdays of US President Abraham Lincoln and the emancipator and orator Frederick Douglass fell on Feb. 12 and 14.

In recent years the name has been changed from Black History Month to African Heritage Month. But even with the change of name the focus will always be to celebrate the richness and diversity of the African culture in North America."

—the Black History Month Association

### Schedule of Events:

**Thursday, Feb. 11**  
**African Heritage Month Celebrity Quiz IX** — Sponsored by the Halifax Regional Library. 7pm, Halifax North Public Library.

**Monday, Feb. 15**  
**No More Secrets** — a video premiere sponsored by Maroon Communications and the African Baptist Women's Institute, 7pm, Dalhousie Art Gallery

**Wednesday, Feb. 17**  
**Black Women and the Media** — With Sherri Borden. Sponsored by the North Branch Women's Group, 10am, Halifax North Memorial Public Library.

**Young Entrepreneurs Panel Discussion** — Sponsored by the Black Business Initiative, 11am, Rm 238, Queen Elizabeth II Health Centre

**A Celebration of Black Arts in Nova Scotia** — Sponsored by the Halifax Regional Library and the Black Artists Network of Nova Scotia. 7pm, Halifax North Memorial Public Library.

**Thursday, Feb. 18**  
**Race and Equality in Institutional Development** — Sponsored by the Halifax Regional Library, The SMU IDS program and SMU Continuing Education. 7pm, Halifax North Memorial Public Library.  
**Chrystal Clements: Home is Where the Heart Is** — Exhibition opening, 8pm, Dalhousie Art Gallery