

feature

Celebration of Dal's rainbow

by Shauna Stewart

Ada Christopher, a fourth year biology student, visited her family across the country during the summer of 1991. To her surprise, they did not want her to return to Halifax in the fall. Why? Halifax made national news that summer due to the race riots. I guess Ada had a few choices, never return to Halifax (in the hopes that the racism stops here), ignore the existence of racism (easier for some than others), or attempt to contribute to the elimination of racism. She chose the third, and created the first Dalhousie University Cultural Diversity Festival in March of 1992. Well, that time is here again and Ada, along with a committee of students and employees representing the diversity of Dalhousie, have organised the second (hopefully annual) Cultural Diversity Festival, March 15-20.

"Conceptualized as a Festival that celebrates and educates the Dalhousie Community and greater Metro population, the Cultural Diversity Festival aims to reach a broad cross-section of the community, via the promotion of anti-racism, cultural tolerance and awareness, and the celebration of our cultural mosaic," said Ada.

The student groups represented

from Dalhousie in the Festival as African, Armenian, Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students Federation, Bahai, Black United Students, Caribbean, INDISA, Malaysian, Indonesian, Singaporean Student Association (MISSA), Dalhousie University Aboriginal Student Association, Palestinian, Polish, Russian, Scottish and Sri Lankan. The head organizers, working with Ada

Our right and responsibility to learn

are Linda-Lee King, the Black Students Advisor at Dalhousie and Scott MacIntyre, the Director of Campus Activities at Dalhousie.

This is the time of year when a celebration is needed to release some stress. However, the priority of the festival is education, through learning about culture different from one's own and learning tolerance for those differences. The means used to educate enables both learning and celebrating through costumes, music, dance, drama, discussions, speakers, food and artwork.

A few highlights of the week are

the opening rally on Monday, March 15 in the SUB lobby, 11 AM-1 PM, featuring cultural booths, ethnic foods and the live entertainment of Samba Nova. "Endarkenment," a play written and performed by the Black United Students is taking place in the McInnes room at 7 PM on Tuesday. This piece explores the subtleties of racism found on a university campus. There will be a cultural fashion show in the Grawood on Friday from 5:30-7:30 PM displaying different cultures through dress and music. Following the show, the closing ceremony will take place in the Green Room commencing at 8 PM. In commemoration of the International Day to Eliminate Racism (March 21), a celebration party will precede the closing ceremony in the Green Room. A DJ and food from different cultures will be provided. Grawood bar service will also be available. Tickets can be purchased at the enquiry desk. According to Ada, she will be happy if a few people or even one person "takes the knowledge they've learned at the festival and uses it to react to the inequalities of our society." In our multicultural society it is both our right and our responsibility to learn about the cultures of our neighbours. So, come to the SUB and enjoy, as we celebrate our Canadian diversity and unity.

Longing for harmony

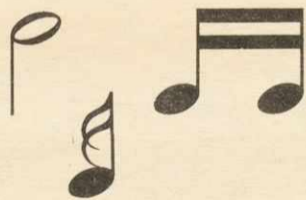
by Nader Sharif

Have you read the newspaper lately? It is not very uplifting. In every corner of the world, it seems people have trouble living together. From the horrors of Bosnia to the relative serenity of Canada, the schismatic powers of racism are tearing the world apart. Will the Peoples of the World ever resolve their conflicts and attain peace?

The answer is an emphatic yes. How to go about this will be discussed at a workshop titled "The Challenge of Unity in Diversity", sponsored by the Association for Bahá'í Studies at Dalhousie for the Cultural Diversity Week.

It will be held on Thursday, March 18, 1993 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm at the Dalhousie Student Union Building, Room 224/226. The programme consists of several short artistic pres-

entations, the workshop itself, and refreshments. We look forward to seeing you there.



Women's Centre Schedule of Events:

Friday, March 12

noon - 2:00 pm - **Bring Your Own Lunch** Join us for a relaxing lunch and chat!
3:00 pm - 5:00 pm - **Meeting** for Interested Volunteers

Wednesday, March 17

7:30 pm - 9:00 pm - **Trivia Night** Do you know your herstory?

Friday, March 19

noon - 2:00 pm - **BYOL**

7:00 pm - 9:30 pm - **Workshop 's Jean Patching**

Friday, March 26

noon - 2:00 pm - **BYOL**

4:00 pm - 6:00 pm - **Annual General Meeting** Dal Women's Centre Society

8:00 pm - midnight - **Coffeehouse** Domus Legis Society on Seymour St. \$2.00

Monday, March 29

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm - **Discussion** Lesbian Culture

Wednesday, March 31

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm - **Panel Discussion** Diversity Among Women

(Panelists: Mayann Francis, Bev Johnson, Marlene Martin, Mary MacLennan)

For more information call 425-5643.

All events are located at Dalhousie Women's Centre, 6143 South St. unless otherwise stated.

All Gazette Staff*

Elections for editor will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, March 16th and 17th. Please come to the Gazette staff meeting Monday, March 15 at 4 pm to witness screening of the candidates before voting. * (anyone who has contributed to three consecutive issues of the Dalhousie Gazette)



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