

# etceteraetcetera

# Scales smashed . . .

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### PLAYS

John Whiting's "Saints Day" will be presented by the Department of Theatre in the Studio Theatre, Library Annexe on December 2-6 at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free, and tickets may be reserved at the theatre house, 6188 South Street.

### BIRTH CONTROL

The Health Education

Department at Dal is sponsoring a discussion on "The many ways to prevent pregnancy", Monday, December 7 at 8 p.m. in the Killam Library Auditorium. Panelists will be Dr. E. Belzer, Prof. Ruth Engs, both members of the department, and Dr. J. Johnson, of the Dalhousie Student Health services. Everyone is welcome.

### LOST-OR-STOLEN

Dal leather jacket, size 44, Commerce 'D' on front, D-A-L on back. Please contact Steve Wright, Dal Photo Department, third floor of SUB.

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they refused to apologize; the effects this would have on their families, on top of the hardships already sustained during the seven-month strike; the effect of their actions on the trial of trawler fishermen, on the same charge scheduled for Dec. 29; and, finally, the possibility of again arousing labour support for their cause. Leo MacKay, Vice-President of the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, recommended that they apologize. Why rock the boat for the sake of a few

words for which no one would blame them anyway?

So the fishermen decided to apologize. Even then they attempted to work out a statement which would not compromise them completely and at least leave them free of the lie that they did not know what they were doing. Justice Cowan accepted the apology and freed the fishermen, reiterating for a final time his lament that he had never wanted to prosecute them at all.

The compromise was minimized as much as possible, but it remains a compromise. It was a compromise of the human dignity of the three fishermen to have to apologize and so become part of the hypocrisy of the Court. It also implied a compromise of the whole labour movement on the subject of court injunctions.

Justice Cowan attempted to defend the use of the injunction in the fishermen's strike on the grounds that it was not, as has

been maintained, an ex parte injunction. The fishermen had been informed that the injunction was being applied for and so it was not ex parte. What Justice Cowan omitted to say, however, was that the fishermen had lost their regular legal counsel and had to engage a new lawyer from Port Hawksbury one day before the injunction hearing. There was little time to acquaint him with even the most fundamental aspects of the strike.

On the grounds that he had not had the time to gain sufficient knowledge of the strike on which to base a defence, the lawyer applied for a postponement of the hearing. His appeal was denied and the injunction granted.

Not an ex parte injunction — by legal definition. But it is equally effective in placing fishermen in the position of "criminals" for having done no more than fight for their rights as working people.

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