

# Fleece-covered and money-soaked

Hired gun reporter blows cover off King's

BY JOHN CULLEN

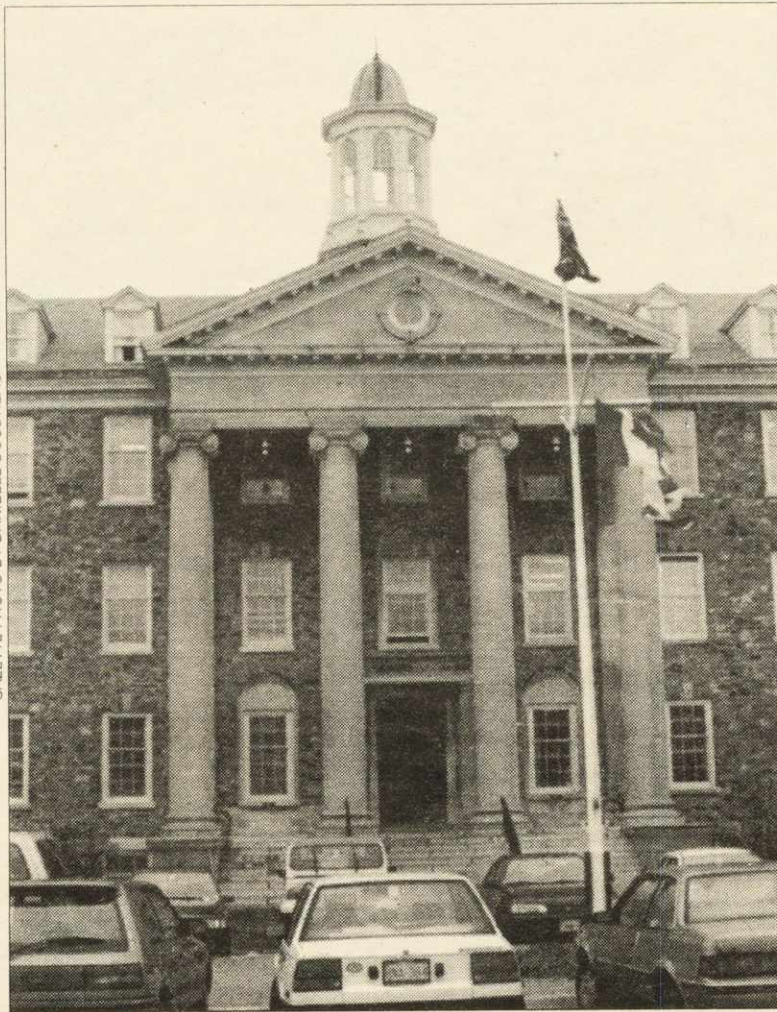
Most of my articles have followed the same format...I'm told to go somewhere and see if I like it. This usually involves large quantities of alcohol and lying. Once again I fell into this rut, but what Dal student wouldn't enjoy infiltrating King's? I would've cut off my arm for this assignment; luckily, I only had to sell my soul.

It's important to note that as a product of the private school system, I understand how these relics of the dark ages work — the recipe is all-important. One part WASP, three parts tradition, a teaspoon of mocking the weak, and a hefty portion of money. Mix well, and you've got a legion of golden children attempting to shuck their roles, at least until they need a job. Obviously some people like the formula, but there's no denying King's is a private school on Dal campus. It just leaves a bitter taste in my mouth. I don't hate King's students; I hate the idea that these places still exist.

I asked my friend's girlfriend if I could tag along to the Wardroom last Friday night. I'd heard that if anything could qualify as the epitome of King's, it would be there. I put on my fleece and got ready to play the part. Everyone I've talked to from King's raves about their Friday nights. I expected philosophy chit chat and cheap red wine; instead, I got beer and journalism. The girls I was with were very nice to me. One of them was a journalism student who had read something I wrote. Needless to say, she didn't like me or my writing very much but was quite diplomatic in trying not to hurt my feelings. I had to wait until the end of the first pitcher for the fun to begin.

The bartenders didn't recognize me. I guess strangers are obvious in such a tightknit community. They gave me my beer with a sort of disapproving smirk, intended to send those who care what other people think of them running for the door. I smiled at them and said I dug Shakespeare. Impressed and convinced that I was a new student, they gave me a high five and said the beer was "on the house." Back at the table though, my seat had been taken by this girl. A whole new group had arrived, quaffing before their trip to the Studio. I'd met some of them before, but barely recognized them. Dressed in tight pants and high cut 'belly button ring' shirts, these girls should have just skipped the clothes and hung neon signs around their necks flashing, "LOOK AT ME." I was pissed these girls had taken my seat, but was too polite to cause a scene. Meanwhile, the room was filling up.

I was still vexed over a comment in *The Watch* about Vancouverites being pot-smoking, granola-eating hippies. Here I was in the land of long hair and fleece, and this guy says westerners all look like we've just come in from a two-month hike. The hypocrisy! And about the pot thing, a King's



student caught smoking pot in residence only gets a warning, while in Howe Hall, you get two security guards to help you pack up and move out within 24 hours. Not to mention a phone call to the lovely folks at the Halifax Police Department.

While the Wardroom was pretty fun, I enjoyed my visit with the King's Registrar even more. I wanted to find out how many students at King's were Upper Canadians. After waffling around the question, she gave me some cold, hard facts. Roughly 33% of the University of King's College students are from Ontario. Out of the 167 schools they recruit from in Canada, only 28 are in Ontario. That seems fair; however, if you break it down, this small amount of schools (16% of the total) accounts for one third of the students. The registrar wanted to make it clear they don't only recruit from Ontario private schools, but the numbers don't lie. Ontario is keeping this school running.

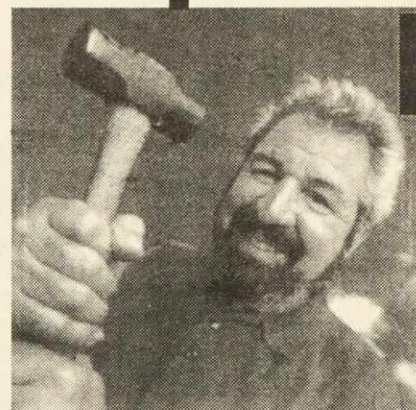
Ever since I was kicked out of private school, I've wanted to see them all disappear, and this extends to King's. They are proud to be a 'progressive' school, but most of their traditions do not support the adjective. I think it's quite sick. On opposite sides of the quadrangle are the 'girls' and 'boys' dormitories. Next thing you know, they'll be having panty raids reminiscent of old Gordon Korman books and cheesy frat house movies.

This English-style prep school mentality should have been abandoned when Canada became its own country. This is my wish, but I know it will never come true. Since I've been there and done that, I also realize that private schools harbour the sons and daughters of Canada's elite. There are too many high-powered parents out there that would rather witness my public hanging than see a wrecking ball take a chunk

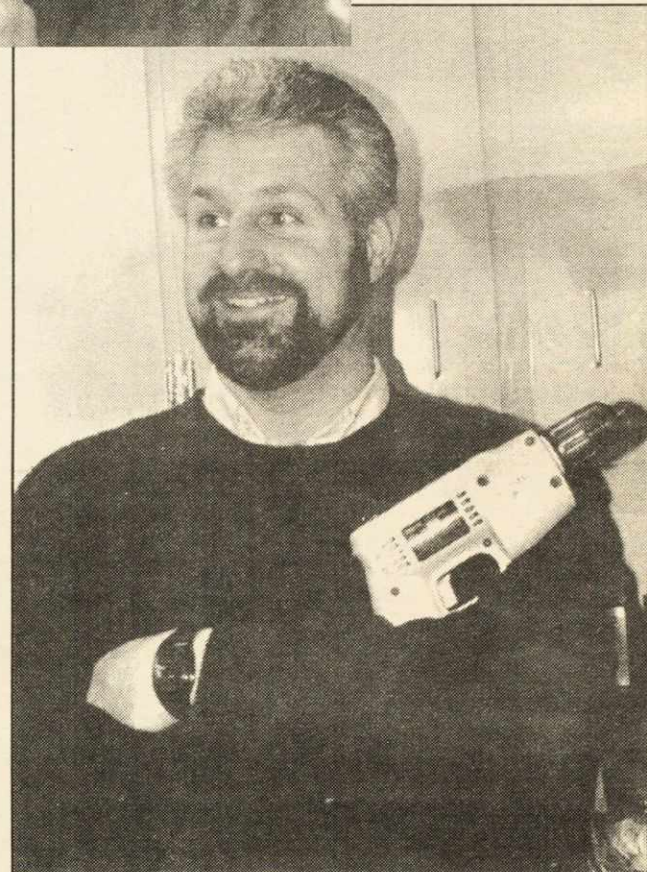
out of their beloved schools.

Al Pacino said in *Scent of a Woman*, in reference to a private school, that if younger, he'd "take a flamethrower to this place." For what it's worth, that is the opinion here.

# separated at birth?



Home improvement impressario Bob Vila and Student Union Building Technical Director Pat Martin



# Ex-VP receives award for crime prevention

BY KATHARINE DUNN

In the winter of 1994, Tiffany Jay was busy campaigning for the position of Executive Vice President of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU).

One of her aims was to supplement the existing Tiger Patrol walk-home service with a shuttle bus operation. Jay, an anomaly in the world of politics, fulfilled her promise after only a few months in office. On November 14, 1994, the Tiger Patrol Shuttle Bus Service was up and running. Since then, both Jay and her "brainchild" have received attention in the Dalhousie community, the province, and beyond.

Two weeks ago, Jay accepted one of 14 Crime Prevention Awards presented by the Crime Prevention Society of Nova Scotia. She was honoured for her indefatigable efforts in developing, promoting, and implementing plans to expand Dalhousie security services beyond the realm of the campus itself. Jay was nominated by Dalhousie Chief of Security, Sandy MacDonald, who said she was "the driving force" behind the project.

"Tiffany was responsible for initiating the program," said MacDonald. "She devoted countless



hours of her time promoting the bus...[and] it has had a significant impact."

Significant indeed. Jay gained international attention when an issue of the Dalhousie Alumni magazine, which included an article concerning the Shuttle Bus, made its way to Japan. Upon learning of the existence of the program, a local radio station in Nagoya interviewed Jay, MacDonald, and current Executive VP Lilli Ju on a live broadcast in October,

1995. In addition, MacLean's magazine lauded the Shuttle Bus operation as one of the "six positive attributes" of Dalhousie in its 4th Annual Rankings of Canadian universities.

The Shuttle runs five times a night, Sunday through Friday, to 12 scheduled locations around the city, and has been very successful thus far. Since its inauguration in 1994, the bus has moved almost 5,000 people, an average of 23 per night.

Jay has since left Dalhousie after graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Music last May, and is now attending Mount Saint Vincent University, pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Public Relations.