

# Argyle haunted by Mardi Gras

"We'll just put some bleachers out in the sun and have it out on highway sixty-one."

-Bob Dylan

by Chris Lambie

The city of Halifax played host to its annual Mardi Gras party on October 27.

The downtown core came alive on Saturday night when over twenty-five thousand people filled Argyle Street. The city police force were working overtime; more than four hundred rowdy goblins were carted-off to spend a chilly night in jail.

An officer of mammoth proportions said "it's really for their own good. We're protecting these people from themselves more than anything else."

Despite a huge increase in ar-

rests this year, attendance was down at the Hallowe'en extravaganza.

There was a definite polarization between those who came dressed in costumes, ready to have a good time, and others who only seemed interested in brawling, pushing and other violent confrontation.

While this aspect of the evening laced the event with a slightly depressing aftertaste, most of the celebrants appeared to be having a great time.

Wendy, a Saint Mary's University commerce major, said she "really liked the idea of an outdoor blow-out. It's become an important part of my past five years at school in the Maritimes."

Dressed as a devil, she expressed her concern over Moosehead's kind

provision of a number of 'port-potties' at the intersection of Barrington and Blowers streets. "I hope they aren't planning to recycle that stuff or anything," she said with a wry grin on her face.

The city was reluctant to provide any such facilities for the spooky revellers. In fact, they even considered cancelling the traditional event all together. This anti-fun movement was quashed by a city council vote, however, and the late-night adventure went on as scheduled.

The "lack of focus", which concerned Walter Fitzgerald of the Halifax city council, was apparent in the absence of any indoor party at the trade and convention centre.

The promoters were unable to find a sponsor for the night due to an escalation in both the levels of downtown violence and the bad press the event has received in recent years.

A young man, who identified himself only as a TUNS student, was adamant in his demands. "If the Mardi Gras is going to grow, Halifax is going to have to grow along with it."

## Killam is too stuffy

by Paul Webster

Conditions in the Killam Library were especially bad last week due to installation problems with new controls for the air system.

Commenting on air conditions in the building, Science Librarian Rosemary Mackenzie said, "the extreme heat and airlessness is a problem not just in the reading room but also in the staff work areas. Its been 90 degrees there all week. We do our best but its just not possible to work effectively in these conditions".

According to Peter Howitt, a senior physical plant employee responsible for air conditions in the 109 buildings on campus, "The new controls should really help by providing a computerized response system to control air quality in the building".

The Killam Library was built in the late 1960s when energy concerns led to the design of hermetically sealed buildings, with air systems designed to constantly recirculate temperature controlled air. This obviously saves on heating costs. Unfortunately it also means that if somebody sneezes or farts on the fourth floor at lunchtime, the folks on the second floor might be breathing the same air for dinner.

The library has two intake fans on the roof. One fan draws air for the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th floors while the other provides for the basement and the 1st floor.

According to the building's air control technical expert, Randy MacDonald, the building was "air



Dressed as James Brown, he said "all this stuff about the Mardi Gras having a negative effect on the city is ridiculous. What other night of the year can you walk downtown with six and a half foot tall drag queen on your arm and not get beaten to a bloody pulp?"

A woman dressed as some kind of mushroom and a man who claimed to be Art Garfunkel were delighted with their "first of what [they] hope to be many more Mardi Gras to come."

Garfunkel said that he "hasn't seen anything this entertaining and kinetic since that Jimminy-Himminy Hendrix concert we caught in January of sixty-eight." He added the experience had been "so intense that [he's] going to have to melt-down in [his'] hot tub for a few hours and watch the sun rise before getting to sleep."

The woman in the fungi costume concurred; "it's been a long strange evening" she said, but I would definitely come again. It was excellent!"

## CUP Briefs

### Fraternities sexist?

VICTORIA (CUP)—Fraternities and sororities at the University of Victoria are trying to circumvent the student council in a bid to get campus recognition.

After repeatedly trying and failing to get recognition from the council over the year, the groups have asked the administration to step in and grant them campus group status.

Meanwhile, a student council executive opposed to the groups because of their discriminatory membership requirements, is trying to establish a policy that would prevent the council from being affiliated with the clubs.

Leon Vanderpol, president of Phi Delta Theta, said he wouldn't argue with the belief that fraternities discriminate on the basis of sex.

"But we are not any different from many other things occurring around campus that are acceptable," Vanderspol said.

"The men's rowing team doesn't allow women. On residence men and women don't live on the same floor. It's pervasive in our society that men and women do things separately."

At an October 11 student council annual general meeting, council vice-president Gary Hartford brought forward a motion that would have prevented the council from dealing with groups that discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, religious beliefs, socio-economic status or age. Affirmative action groups would be exempt.

"If my opinion matters at all, I don't think it would be fair to our members to condone a group that discriminates on the basis of its membership's sex," Hartford said.

### De Klerk unwelcome

OTTAWA (CUP)—South Africa's ambassador has been invited to speak at Carleton in November, a year after being spurned by some of the university's students.

Students groups who opposed his last scheduled visit are vowing to fight to keep Ambassador J.H. de Klerk from speaking at the university Nov. 15. They say an agreement signed after last year's invitation was rescinded has been broken.

Last year, opposing sides agreed de Klerk would be invited to Carleton only once the situation in South Africa changed.

Three conditions were specified: the lifting of the state of emergency, the removal of bans on outlawed political organizations and the opening of meaningful constitutional discussions aimed at achieving democracy.

Scott Milne, coordinator of Carleton Anti-Apartheid Action Group (CAAAG) said he was "stunned" the Political Science Forum (PSF) has again invited de Klerk to speak at the university.

"This blatant disregard can only contribute to the notion that, whether in South Africa or at Carleton University, the signatures of certain individuals cannot possibly be worth the paper they are written on," Milne said.

"I can guarantee you that there will be a fight."

balanced" when it was first built. Since then the addition of stacks and numerous renovations have thrown up walls which have disrupted original circulation patterns. In short, the building is no longer air balanced.

When talking about the origins of the problems, Howitt remarked "A lot of things have been found to make one wonder if the building was ever air balanced in the first place."

## Rae speaking out

by Karen Hill

TORONTO (CUP)—The treatment of native peoples is an example of "our very own homegrown Canadian colonialism," says Ontario Premier Bob Rae.

Speaking at a University of Toronto lecture on native health issues Oct. 23, Rae advocated native self-government as a solution.

"How do we come to terms with this colonial experience, except to realize the rights to self-determination, and to recognize that the patterns that we've created between and among people have to be re-made?"

Canadians have a long and discriminatory history in their dealing with native peoples, he said.

"We have to come to terms with our own institutional racism. We have to come to terms with attitudes that have no place in a modern Canada."

The premier said both provincial and federal governments have to

Over the years a lot of people have complained about the building, and a lot of work has been done to study and improve its air quality. Howitt, however, points out that the real cause of the problems is still apparently eluding investigators. "We feel that the duct arrangement may specifically be a problem regarding air flow. At this stage, though, we just don't know

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consult with native peoples in order to make sure they receive adequate housing, employment and health care. There are communities in northern Ontario lacking such basics as running water and decent shelter, he said.

"The conditions are very difficult. The housing is quite simply, appalling."

Joe Miskokomon, Grand Council Chief of the Union of Ontario Indians, said in his speech that problems facing native Canadians have "been studied to death."

"Very little has been done to look for remedies and answers on those questions."

The government needs to take immediate action, Miskokomon said. But, he added, solutions will take time to implement.

"The sense of despair and worthlessness did not come overnight and it won't go away overnight."

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