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Forum brings *Playboy* out from behind closed doors

BY SALLY THOMAS

Kellyn, with her hair swept up and short white dress glowing, was looking for a place to swing. And one night in October she went looking for it at a *Playboy* party. So did over a hundred other people.

Two-and-a-half weeks later there was a distinct lack of shimmer among the people waiting to hear what Dal's two *Playboy* reps had to say for themselves and the magazine they represent. They filed into the McInnes Room like they were on a mission.

On Nov. 10 the Dalhousie Arts Society hosted a public forum called 'From behind closed doors to public debate: diverse perspectives on pornography' that discussed the

issues involved with having *Playboy* representatives on campus.

The panel of speakers included Dr. Marjorie Stone, from the English and Women's Studies departments, Bruce Wark, a professor at the University of Kings College school of journalism, Dal's *Playboy* representatives Bruce Yip and James (B.W.) Wildsmith, and Larisa Hausmanis, president of the Arts Society.

"Shave my pubic hair, pump up my tits and stamp a bar code on my ass and I'm a Playboy model too"

Before the forum Yip said the *Playboy* vice president from Los Angeles, expected to attend, was unable to make it. Besides Yip and

Wildsmith, *Playboy* had no other representation.

Stone, who at one point early in her opening statement donned a kitten mask and pretended she was a professor from the "Hugh Hefner School of Applied Arts" says *Playboy* promotes violence against women and children and it does not promote equality between men and

women. "In *Playboy* there's always the male gaze, where there's one successful and wealthy male surrounded by a bunch of women... it promotes the 'Barbie' standard of beauty," she said.

Wark agrees. He says the problem isn't just having *Playboy* on campus but goes much deeper

than that. But obviously Yip and Wildsmith disagree.

Yip says he got involved with *Playboy* because he once saw an A&E biography of Hugh Hefner and was enchanted by "Hef", as he calls him. He says he wanted to be

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Muslim Arabs say they are under *Seige*

BY MUSHTAK WASITI

The film *The Siege*, starring Bruce Willis and Denzel Washington, has sparked a wave of anger among Muslim Arabs in Nova Scotia who say it's racist.

The film depicts Arab Muslim terrorists going on a bombing rampage in New York City, with the aim to kill as many innocent people as possible.

The film makes use of several Islamic rites, such as a bathing ritual used for prayer, and associates it with suicide. It also shows Muslim Arabs being tortured and imprisoned in internment camps.

Ahmed Najem, an Arab

Outraged by the contents of the film, Muslim Arabs of Nova Scotia have filed a complaint to the Nova Scotia Film Classification Board, asking them to ban the film.

The request was turned down. Cedric MacLeod, a member of the Nova Scotia Film Classification Board said the board's hand were tied.

"We did receive complaints [about the film] but we basically run under acts and regulations," he said.

"[And] based on the criteria of these acts and regulations we have no grounds to do anything."

Mohammed Sabe, president of the Dalhousie Arabic Society, is disappointed by the release of the film.

"When they refer to terrorists they always link it to Arabs and Islam," he said. "You never find Arab or Muslim good guys."

Several non-Muslims who watched the movie were equally shocked.

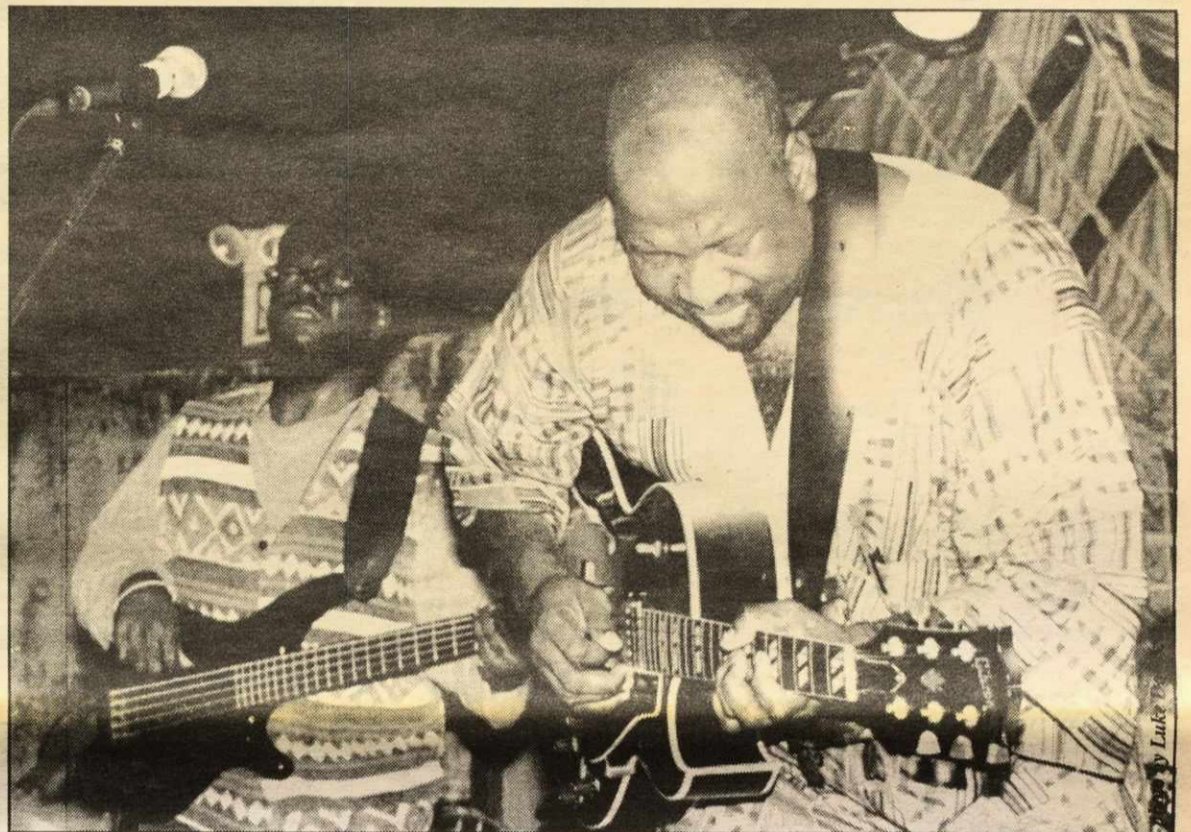
Dal student Caroline Thompson said she disapproves of the film and its message.

"It's the kind of film that spreads hate and misunderstanding," she said.

The Muslim Arab community is planning to hold demonstrations about the movie outside various cinemas in Halifax.

At Dalhousie, the Arabic society's president is doing his part.

"The main aim of the demonstration will be to show our disapproval of the film. It is to also show people that the Muslim Arabs are not fanatic terrorists."



The Freedom Jazz Band do something groovy with their guitars for the Nova Scotia Music Week Urban Groove, organized by the Jazz Festival. See the pictures, read the story on page 14.

Program raises questions about corporate funding

BY KATIE TINKER

Tim O'Connell pays over \$17,000 for the privilege of going to school where other people get paid to work. And even though the name on his diploma will be Dal's, three corporate sponsors are bankrolling his studies. He says he wouldn't change a thing about it.

O'Connell is a Master's student of Engineering in Internetworking at DalTech. He says his training, the best available in the field, simply wouldn't be possible without the program's corporate sponsors.

The Internetworking degree, first introduced in the fall of 1997, receives no government funding. All the money and equipment come from its industrial sponsors — Cisco Systems, a manufacturer of hardware and software; the Telecom Applications Research Alliance (TARA), a local computer research lab; and the phone company MT&T.

This corporate funding, combined with the students' steep tuition, means the program doesn't cost the university anything to run — it's what's known as a "full cost-recovery program".

Bill Robertson is the head of

electrical and computer engineering at DalTech, and is in charge of the Internetworking degree. He says that right now, the program is just covering its costs, but as enrolment increases, he hopes the program will actually make money.

This is one of the main reasons the program was introduced in the first place — and also one of the reasons it had to seek corporate funding.

"We felt that if we started a program like this, eventually it would generate money to put into research, and that would in turn draw in more money to the university. It's essentially an effort to generate a momentum for DalTech, to help bootstrap certain other programs."

But Robertson says having corporate sponsorship doesn't compromise the program's integrity.

"Obviously [the sponsors] are not doing this for altruistic reasons," he said. "They are looking for people to use their equipment. But as to the academic content of the program, that's entirely up to the professors. We're not going to let [the sponsors] dictate the program."

Bob Singleton of Cisco Systems says his company's

presence in the program is part of what he describes as Cisco's objective to "penetrate all levels of academia — high school, college and university."

Singleton says teaching internet-related skills at the graduate level is something companies like Cisco would like to see more of.

"Our interest is in helping to develop a state-of-the-art curriculum, to help generate more skilled people, so that our companies and our customers are better able to hire people with the required skills."

But not everyone thinks privately funded degree programs are a good idea.

Amanda Dorte is the external commissioner of the University of Guelph's Central Student Association, and a strong opposer of corporatization in universities. She sees problems with every aspect of private sponsorship for degree programs like Internetworking.

"My first reaction is to question why students are paying that much money to be trained for a commercial industry," she said.

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Muslim living in Halifax says he was insulted by the film.

"It's a racist film based on stereotype. Muslim Arabs are shown to be violent terrorists and Islam is shown to be preaching terrorism.

"Islam is a very peaceful religion, which condemns violence and terrorism, this film shows us to be like animals that need to be tortured and imprisoned in camps," he said.