

“Tramp-a-Thoners” to invade Halifax Shopping Center

BY MAGGIE SCHIFFERER

Close your eyes and imagine for a moment a group of young men performing gravity-defying, mind boggling and hair raising acrobatic feats while soaring gracefully through the air — between a set of escalators at the Halifax Shopping Center.

Starting Friday, October 31 at 6am and running until Saturday, November 1 at 6pm, the Sigma Chi Fraternity will be holding its 19th annual “Tramp-a-Thon”. The “Tramp-a-Thon” is a fund-raiser in support of the Children’s Wish Foundation.

“I hope to see a large turnout of Dalhousie students at the Halifax Shopping Center on October 31 and November 1 in support of this event,” says Dave Finlayson, president of the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

The fraternity members have agreed to trampoline for a continuous thirty-six hour period in return for pledges. The trampoline will be placed on the first floor of the mall, just below the food court in the area between the escalators.

Over the past three years, Sigma Chi has raised \$6,000 in donations through this event. Last year the fraternity won the Swede Johnson Award, an international fraternity public relations award, for its work on the “Tramp-a-Thon” and other programs throughout the year. Among other things, this money has sent one terminally ill child to Disneyworld in Florida and fulfilled another child’s wish of owning a complete stereo system. In 1996 alone, the fraternity raised \$3,120 (\$1,500 was alumni and corporate sponsored and \$700 was donated by students and mall patrons on the

day of the event).

This year’s goal is to top last year’s record total, and raise between \$3,500 - \$4,000. This would allow Sigma Chi to fulfill two children’s wishes instead of one.

In addition, to help offset the

rising costs associated with staging such an event, the fraternity will be selling raffle tickets on campus this week. Sigma Chi hopes to purchase a new set of springs for the well-weathered trampoline with part of the money raised by the raf-

file to ensure that the event continues in the future.

Each ticket costs fifty cents, and several prizes such as sports bags, t-shirts and gift certificates have been donated by various local businesses.

Provincial by-elections on the way

BY LAURA DAVIS

Three candidates will be vying for the Halifax Citadel riding in the upcoming provincial by-election.

On November 4, Liberal candidate Edwin Kinley, Progressive Conservative (PC) candidate Kate Carmichael and New Democratic (NDP) candidate Peter Delefes will battle it out at the polls.

Kinley is a native of Halifax whose roots include attending Queen Elizabeth High School, as well as medical school at Dalhousie University. He is currently a practicing heart surgeon at the Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre.

“[My] major concerns are health care, education and youth employment,” said the Liberal candidate.

He says his “strong

commitment to the community of Halifax combined with his background as a surgeon, teacher and researcher qualify him in these areas.”

The PC candidate, Carmichael, received her education from Mount Allison University as well as some training from Ryerson. She has worked in public relations offices at Dalhousie and the CBC. Carmichael is the current director of the Halifax Business Commission, but has taken a leave of absence to run her campaign.

Carmichael says her primary concerns are education, youth employment and the welfare of Nova Scotia’s health care system. She says that tuition needs to be capped in the province, and more government support is crucial. In the area of

student loan repayment, she argues that it should correlate with the graduated student’s income.

Delefes, the NDP candidate, has lived and worked in the South End of Halifax for his entire life and has been involved with the NDP for 20 years.

Delefes received Bachelor of Arts, Masters and Bachelor of Education degrees from Dalhousie. He is a retired principal and teacher, and is currently the chief executive officer of the Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Delefes could not be reached for comment.

OSAP defends plan

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every year,” Zisser said.

“In fact, we distribute some \$800-million in loans each year. We spend some \$349-million each year in grants to reduce student indebtedness. This includes the loan forgiveness program. Under our program an Ontario student will only accumulate a maximum of \$1,400 in actual debt each year. The rest is forgiven.”

Zisser said that although conforming with the CSL standard was a bonus, the main reasons for this policy shift were the demands of the National Association of Career Colleges (NACC) and their Ontario association.

OSAP agreed with NACC concerns that students were being given too much money, and they couldn’t handle it.

The NACC backed up this sentiment.

“A number of the students who attend our schools (private institutions such as CompuCollege) are from single support families, and have asked that we hold onto the money for them. They come from these environments and just aren’t prepared to handle a lump sum of cash,” said Paul Kitchin, NACC spokesperson.

“I can’t think of any other

government support subsidy where we give the money in just one large instalment. Not [Employment Insurance], welfare, worker’s compensation or anything. We’re not just protecting the interest of the students but also the taxpayers,” he said.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Atlantic rep, Kevin Lacey, doesn’t agree with OSAP’s decision.

“[Students] are smart people. They can decide how to spend their own money. The issue here is whether the government should have control over students money, or whether students should,” Lacey said.

“That is fine for the students who will put the money away and save until its needed,” counters Kitchin. “But there is a reason why OSAP is called the Ontario Student Acquisition Program. I was once a student, and I remember how when February, March, April come around, things can get pretty lean.”


Ted Chiasson, treasurer of the Dalhousie Student Union agrees.

“It is not an idea which will hurt. It doesn’t hurt those that can manage money, and it might just save those that can’t,” he said.


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