

# Falling from Heaven

Many people have the erroneous impression that sport parachutists are army paratroopers who just can't stop jumping out of airplanes, even on their days off. It's probably true that sport parachutists just can't stop jumping out of planes but, instead of off-duty paratroopers, they are more likely to be anyone from university co-eds to grandfathers, or your next-door neighbour.

You may wonder, "Why do they do it - for adventure and a challenge?" Both are partly true, but sport parachutists do it mostly for fun and the unique thrill of having the sky completely to themselves.

Training on the fast growing sport is given by a licenced Canadian Sport Parachuting Association (C.S.P.A.) instructor and includes lectures, as well as, practice in everything from packing to landing. Although skydiving is not an overly dangerous sport, students are given careful instruction on safety procedures, such as how to cope with water landings and obstacles such as wires and fences.

Once the initial training procedure has been completed, the student is ready to make his or her first "static line" descent. A static line is a device which insures proper opening of the parachute, regardless of the actions of the jumper.

As soon as the student is able to demonstrate competence in deploying the canopy on his own, the static line is removed and he attempts a "freefall". In freefall, the skydiver exits the aircraft and falls predetermined distance, often more than 7000 ft., before pulling the ripcord to release the main canopy. A skydiver having advanced skills may engage in "relative work", that is, joining up with others during freefall or "accuracy"-trying to land on a small disc from an altitude of 2200 ft.

1975 marks the third year of operation for the Dalhousie University Sport Parachute Club (D.U.S.P.C.), an affiliate of the Canadian Sport Parachuting Association. To date ninety-two students jumpers have been trained and monthly courses are

scheduled till April. In charge of student training is D.U.S.P.C. president, Paul Curren. Paul also represents the club on the board-of-directors of the Nova Parachutes and the Nova Scotia Parachute Association.

This year a grant of \$200 was received from the Student Union to promote student training, assist in equipment purchases and to help finance student competitions as well as general operating expenses.

The D.U.S.P.C. is presently using Waterville airport (just the other side of Kentville), as its "drop Zone" and anyone interested in finding out more about the sport, firsthand, is invited there on any clear weekend-yes, even in the middle of winter.

Little has been said in this article in answer to the oft-asked question, "What does it really feel like to jump out of an airplane at 9000 feet?" That question can't be answered here, but the Dalhousie Sports Parachute Club will welcome you if you want to find out for yourself. (Since safety is a primary concern during

the training program, the number of student jumpers per course generally has to be restricted. However, every effort will be made to accomodate, at some time, all those interested. Club application forms can be picked up from the bulletin rack next to the SUB enquiry desk.

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## Women's J-V Basketball Successful in Playoffs

by Cathy Campbell

The Dalhousie Ladies' Junior Varsity Basketball Team under Coach Nancy Tokaryk and manager Terry Bontempo placed first in their playoff tournament last weekend, and thus venture forth to the Maritime Intercollegiate Championships.

**Dal vs Agricultural College Friday, Feb., 21 2 p.m.**

The JV's trampled the AC team 99-22 on Friday at King's College. After the first few minutes of play, the Tigerettes knew that they were in command of the game but did not loosen their grip or hustle. judi Rice, high scorer of the game with 23 points, displayed her experienced by her consistency on the score boards and by her various interceptions throughout the game. Dal's Janet Ellis and Tish Pertus also could not be hindered by the AC squads defense, scoring 17 and 15 points respectively.

**Dal - Smith 10, Pertus 15, Brenton 11, Ellis 17, Dobson 11, MacTavish 4, Vaughn 6, Petrites 2-99; AC - Wheatley 3, Jungesbut 2, MacDonald 5, Dickinson 2, Dork 2, MacLaughlin 2, Bubar 2, Coates 2-20.**

**Dal vs Mount St Vincent Friday, Feb., 21 6 p.m.**

In another Dal dominated game the Tigerettes downed MSV 69-31. It was obvious throughout the first half that Dal would continue their undefeated re-

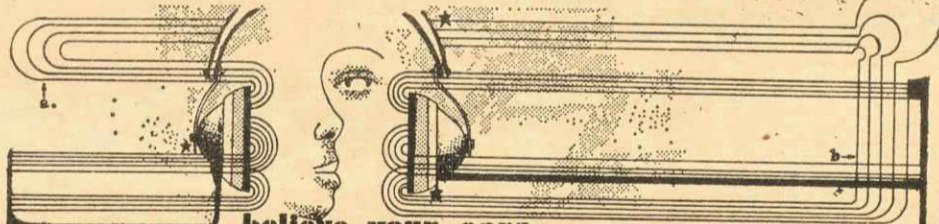
cord for the tournament. With the powerful rebound strength of Sue Brenton and Melanie Dobson, the Mount were literally restricted from the boards. Judi Rice and Sue Brenton led the Tigerettes with 18 and 16 points respectively. Milley led the Mounts with 18 points.

**Dal - Smith 11, Pertus 13, Breton 16, Allan 2, Rice 18, Ellis 5, Dobson 1, MacTavish 2-69; MSV - Milley 18, Kelly 4, McNeil 2, Macall 3, Olive 2 Hebb 2-31.**

**FINALS Dal vs NS Teacher's College Saturday, Feb. 22 11 a.m.**

The first half, resulting in a 26-24 score in Dal's favor, revealed some exciting basketball. The Tigerettes missed crucial baskets while the TC squad used these opportunities to balance the score. Right from the start of the second half, the Tigerettes began to widen the two point gap through various defensive interceptions. The tables turned during the second half and TC were troubled by low shooting percentages from outside jump shots. Ms Smith was high scorer of the game with 20 points.

**Dal - Smith 20, Pertus 7, Brenton 4, Rice 9, Ellis 14, Dobson 2, MacTavish 1, Vaughn 2-59; TC - Raaymakers 8, Forshner 10, Stewart 2, Cook 2, Campbell 7, J. Levy 5, L. Levy 5-39.**



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