

# Dal swimmers emerge from Cuba

by Kevin Charles Little

It has been six years since Prime Minister Trudeau addressed an eager Cuban audience with the words "Viva la Castro!" At that time Canadians were somewhat shocked at our leader's comment. Indeed, some Canadians share the same apprehension about Cuba as our "friends", the United States. Cuba's alliance with the Soviet Union is scary enough for Americans but Canadians have only to look at the Cuban missile crisis to see the potential threat of World War III.

While there is no clear answer as to how we should deal with the problem, there is clearly one way we should not deal with it - a cold war. We can only benefit from cultural exchanges. I think the

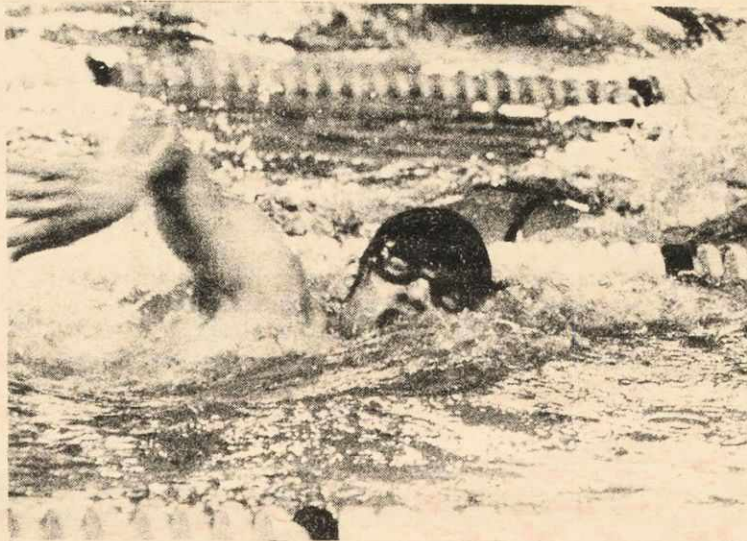
recent trip to Cuba by the Dalhousie swim team has in the least achieved some harmony with our Cuban friends.

The Dalhousie swimmers were in Cuba to train and not to com-

pete. In fact, when they did compete, they faced the Cuban national team. Dal swimmers used the facilities of a private school for 350 students. The funds to go were raised by the team itself. The Cuban students were accepted on the basis of their academic and athletic skills.

While the facilities were outdated, the Dal swimmers were very pleased with the hospitality of their Cuban hosts. The swimmers were allowed unlimited freedom of movement, assisted by a guide, with their only restriction in the form of a language barrier. (Cubans speak Spanish.)

The team was in the capital city of Havana as the Cubans were preparing for the anniversary of their revolution, officially January 1st. A team member pointed out that they saw fewer soldiers in Cuba than we see police in Halifax. I asked the team whether they were suspicious of the Cuban hospitality, but they said no, and suggested the mood of



Back from Cuba, this team member doesn't let a language barrier get in the way of his swimming.

the country was friendly and content. It should be pointed out that the team's opinions were limited as they did not have a lot of time to see the country and spent most of their time training.

Cuba has a much lower standard of living than we do, so it is hard to compare lifestyles. Many Cubans still drive 1959 cars, although their standard of living has since improved. It seemed to the swimmers that the Cubans generally loved and missed the American culture.

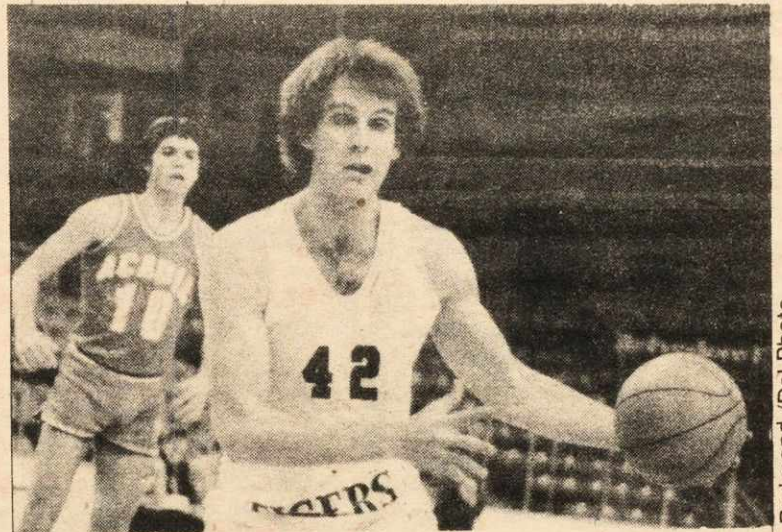
Cubans listen to reggae and disco for the most part (the disco is Cuban, and Reggae is Jamaican). Many items such as the Rubik's cube are just as popular as in Canada and the U.S. As for Havana's night life, the swimmers' opinions were limited because their training kept them too tired to explore the evenings. However, those who managed to make it out said the night life was almost non-existent, somewhat like Dartmouth I suppose.

As for resentment of Americans, the swimmers told me they saw very little. As well as many Cuban radio stations, Florida can also be picked up. In the newspapers, resentment of Americans was limited to a few comments on El Salvador. There was, however, one symbol of ill feelings the Cubans have for the U.S. - a billboard depicting Uncle Sam with a bayonet in his side and the words "We are not afraid!" beside.

Coach David Frye told me the Cubans were anxious to try out their English on the 21 swimmers from Dalhousie. The swimmers also used American currency, not desiring to use their own. When they did compete with the Cuban national team, the Dal swimmers won four of twenty races, which was about as well as they had expected to do.

To those who have lost hope in peace, I suggest they observe our young people when they intermingle. While there is language and political and social values which separate countries in the world, there is one thing that unites us - a smile. That's the one thing the U.S. and Soviet Union cannot take away, despite their hardest efforts. Perhaps if Canada can demonstrate some objectivity instead of just echoing whatever the U.S. says, with Cuba echoing whatever the Soviets say, we will start a new movement toward world peace.

"Affection sits there standing in a corner, saying to itself I wish I had something to do." - Jonathar Richman, 1979.



Dal edged Acadia 80-77 last Saturday at the Metro Centre.

## Tigers edge Axemen

by Llewellyn Butterfield II

Last Saturday afternoon at the Metro Centre the men's basketball team edged Acadia by the score of 80-77. The Tigers lacked intensity against a team which is still without a victory this season. On the brighter side the victory caused Dal to break out of its mild slump.

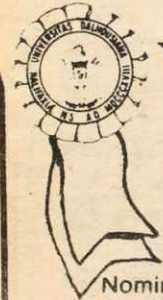
Acadia were the aggressors from the opening tip-off. Midway through the first half the Axemen had opened up an eight point lead. This woke up the previously dormant Tigers to the extent that they had closed the gap to one by the interval.

The Tigers came out flying in the second half. Steve Lambert was the catalyst leading Dal's fast

break. He played a captain's role by providing some much needed scoring punch, and by setting up his teammates with some deft passing. Stan 'the man' Whetstone also came alive in the second half with 14 points.

Dal had problems on defense, allowing Acadia's centre Phil Coldwell to dominate. Moreover Acadia's guards penetrated Dal's zone with ease. In this manner, the Axemen were able to keep to within a basket of the Tigers. The game remained close down to the final few seconds when Phil Howlett clinched the game with two free throws.

Leading scorers were: Lambert 16; Screamon 14; Whetstone 13 and Crowell 14.



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