

# SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

## Good coffee in cyberspace

BY ERIN SPERLING

There are signs up all over the computer labs at Dalhousie: No food or drink allowed. Who would have thought that breaking this rule in a different setting would become entertainment.

Paul Gordon is a fourth year computer science co-op student at Dal. His computer operations expertise and his affinity for poutine, along with my love of coffee, lead us to the Ceilidh Connection Internet Café.

At the Ceilidh Connection, the atmosphere is comfortable, whether you are there for a bite to eat and a bottomless cup of coffee, or to take advantage of one of their ten computer terminals. For \$6.75 an hour (show your student card for a 10% discount), there is access to a variety of games and software applications on their network.

The internet applications included Microsoft Internet Explorer, which is based at the Sympatico homepage. Javascript, however, was not available through the network.

The internet service is solid as Gordon explained, "the connection is a 14.4, which is good enough to have fairly good sound and video."

The Eudora Light program provides an E-mail account through which you may send mail. Unfortunately the Telnet program did not let us have access to our Dalhousie accounts.

"It would also be nice if they had newsgroups or IRC," commented Grodon. The entire system is connected through a proxy server. "This is a firewall for security purposes, to protect against outside tampering," Gordon explained.

"If you bring in a disk, we will scan it for viruses and then unlock

the disk drive for you to save documents" said Ceilidh co-owner Fiona Merry.

The Ceilidh Connection does not endorse the downloading of games, programs or pornography from the internet. As for word-processing and spreadsheet software, they have available Corel Wordperfect 7.0 and QuattroPro, which are both more

than adequate.

Fiona Merry and Moira Lloyd are co-owners of the café. When asked why they had opened the Ceilidh, Merry said, "If I had my choice I'd open an internet café. Business is picking up every day since we opened it three weeks ago. People say that the atmosphere is comfortable here. I am not

computer literate either, so I can relate to people if they need help."

"[Apparently] Nova Scotia has the most internet users per capita...and the best connection in North America" said Merry.

Internet aspect taken care of, the menu at the Ceilidh is impressive too. Nothing on the menu is over \$5.95 and the chicken gravy option on the poutine is mouth-watering. The Ceilidh is also licensed and is in the process of getting a lounge licence.

The decor is bright and cheerful, painted boldly in the Sympatico colour scheme. The people working there are friendly and approachable, should there be any problems with the computers.

Although the possibility of losing conversation between friends to the use of computers may seem scary to some, there is always the Chat option.

*The Ceilidh Connection is located at 1672 Barrington Street and is open seven days a week.*

## 200 year old harbour disaster

BY GLENDA MACLEAN

It was the second biggest nautical disaster to occur in the history of Halifax, yet it remains virtually unknown. More than 240 men, women and children died when the ship HMS Tribune ran aground at the mouth of the harbour November 27, 1797.

This story of an ignorant captain, a money-hungry pilot and a nameless thirteen year old hero is the topic of this year's Carl C. Coffin Lecture.

The lecture is an annual event hosted by the Dalhousie Chemistry Department in the memory of Carl Cowan Coffin (1903-1954). Coffin was an eminent professor and researcher at Dalhousie, with interests lying in chemical kinetics, calorimetry and physical chemistry. He was elected a member of the Royal Society of Canada at the young age of 32 for his contributions to Canadian Chemistry.

This year's presentation will be given by Rod MacLennan, a Dalhousie alumnus, who is quick to point out that his lecture will be in the form of an "informal, illustrated talk".

MacLennan's personal interest in the disaster stems from a piece of land at Tribune Head near the wreck

site that has been in his family for over half a century. His love of the tale has turned into a collection of artifacts and artwork, much of which will play a role in the interactive lecture.

It is particularly interesting to note that the story of the wreck has strong ties to Dalhousie through the late Archibald MacMechan. MacMechan was a respected Dalhousie English professor whose research on the Tribune and other sea stories developed into the book "At the Harbour Mouth" (Pottersfield Press

1988).

In addition to being part of the history of Halifax, the wreck has gained acclaim within the scuba-diving community. It is hoped that the site will soon be protected as an underwater dive park. History buffs, art aficionados, and divers are welcome to attend.

MacLennan has mentioned that the talk will contain an "interesting surprise...something will be heard that has never been heard before".

*The lecture will be held October 17, 1997 at 1:30pm in room 226 of the Chemistry Building.*



Photo by Ryan Lash

### Irving shrugs responsibility

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fairly good response.

"We've had a lot of honks, people have been taking our pamphlets...there's been no real problem," said Lynch.

Protests also occurred in Sydney, New Glasgow, and Charlottetown where turnouts ranged from 9 to 18 people.

Koleszar said that though these protests have been happening in PEI since the beginning of the year, this month the Alliance Against Pollution plans to expand all over the Atlantic

provinces, with protests planned in Newfoundland and New Brunswick.

The government will take some weeks to examine the Irving statement of defence, and then both parties will move into a discovery phase, when relevant documents are examined on both sides.

"At some point in the future it will go to court," said Turner, "but we are going to be very clear that we are prepared to talk to them at any time and work towards an out of court settlement."

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## SCIENCE BRIEFS

### SEAT SALE AT CONSERVATION ONTARIO

Conservation Ontario is offering corporate donors voting positions on their board.

A change in policy made in May means that for a \$750, 000 donation, corporations can buy a seat on the board which oversees more than 138,000 hectares of parkland, wetlands, floodplains and forests in Ontario.

Seven such seats are available on the board. If all are filled, the board will have a total of 45 members and the corporations will be just a small minority.

The first corporation to take advantage of the offer was Dofasco Inc., a Hamilton steel company. Dofasco was named one of Lake Ontario's biggest polluters last year by Environment Canada.

Conservation Ontario intends to use the donations in an image-enhancement campaign.

### AND MEANWHILE ON THE HOMEFRONT...

The Nova Scotia government is accepting proposals to explore for oil and gas on lands in the northern mainland region of the province.

There are seven areas available for exploration, most along the Northumberland shore, from Amherst along to Pictou and New Glasgow. There is also a block north of Truro and another along the Minas Basin shore from Londonderry to Advocate. "If there is interest in exploration of these areas, it will help determine whether there is any potential for onshore oil or gas development in Nova Scotia," said Natural Resources Minister Ken MacAskill.

The Department of Natural Resources will be accepting proposals until November 10. Results will be announced within 90 days of the closing date.

If issued, exploration agreements will be for three year terms.

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