

Campus caravan comes to Dalhousie

BY DANIEL McKILLOP

An annual promotional event organized by Campus Canada magazine and sponsored by various private companies and corporations took centre stage at the Dalhousie Student Union on the afternoon of March 15. Prospects for students included the opportunity to win a car, a contest for an expensive mountain bike, and several free products given out to anyone interested.

"The Ford Focus Campus Canadian Caravan event is organ-



ized by Campus Canada Magazine," said organizer Chris Shea. "It is a cross-Canadian tour that visits campuses and colleges, and offers displays and demos by sponsors. The event brings valuable products to students for usually only one day out of the year."

Brian Kellow, executive Vice President of the Dalhousie Student Union, (DSU), said the event was beneficial for Dal students.

"I don't think it's any big deal," said Kellow. "The event brings in a significant amount of

money for one day, and it's only one day that it lasts. We're a community of adults," said Kellow. "This isn't a high school or an elementary school. These are university students, they are the brightest and best. A view that suggests the contrary illustrates a remarkably low opinion of the average student, which I don't have."

He elaborated to say that "many of those employed for the event are Dalhousie students, who are getting a day's work, which doesn't cost the student union anything. The advertisers have something to gain from it, or they wouldn't be here."

Students agreed with Kellow, saying the event was not a bad thing.

"Giving out free things is the only way to get students' attention," said Dal student Ryan Campbell. "I wouldn't pay attention if they just called me on the phone for my time. They should do it more often."



Sign-up lineup: Campus Caravan had no trouble tempting students with lip balm and deodorant sticks, plus the chance to wear both while driving a brand spankin' new car (left).

Lesra Martin at Dal

continued from page 1

began, and where he read the book, *The Sixteenth Round*, which would not only change his life but that of the author Ruben "Hurricane" Carter.

While walking through a used book sale, Martin came across Carter's autobiography and remembers being drawn to the scratched up book.

"There was something about that book when I first saw it — I had to have it" said Martin. "Stumbling through that book changed my life and I needed to tell the author how he'd affected me."

After reading the book, Martin wrote Carter a letter in prison. The two began writing back and forth and Martin visited Carter in prison soon after their letters began.

"As I stepped up to the stone wall [of the prison], I was visibly shaken, but absolutely frozen in my step," said Martin. "He hugged me."

The correspondence between Carter and Martin, along with the determination of the Canadians, ultimately resulted in Carter's release from jail.

Yet Martin explains that, even before meeting Carter, he had come a long way from the ghetto in Brooklyn.

When Martin first met the group from Toronto, he was the top third student in his English class of 40 students, but only had a grade two reading level.

Martin says the education system continues to fail inner city students, the same way it failed him.

"The system isn't improving — it's predicted that over the next decade, it'll be necessary to hire two million teachers," said Martin. "I think it's impressive that we can allow those minds [in inner city schools] to go to waste. How do we know there isn't something in there to make a difference?"

Despite his rough beginnings,

Martin quickly rose above what many people around him could never do.

Yet Martin believes that while everyone has their own difficulties in life, they have the ability to overcome them to some extent.

"The point is this, I'm convinced we all have our own battles we need to overcome. They may look different but they aren't," said Martin. "Hurdles are placed in our path only to show us what we are able to do; only what our spirits can achieve."

Speaking with his own experiences in mind, Martin said there are three essential tools necessary for success in life: commitment, flexibility and belief.

"There's nothing wrong with setting goals, but a plan without commitment would never work," said Martin. "At 15, my plan was to master reading and writing. Ruben was no part of that goal, but it was my commitment to that original goal that brought me to him."

Martin says that inspiration is one aspect of commitment. He left the audience with this thought.

"Take hold of the coincidences and opportunities that life presents to you."

Dal security week kicks off

BY RACHELLE DUMAS

Security week ran from March 6-10 in an effort to raise the level of student campus awareness.

The week seemed especially important this year considering the amount of recent assaults that have occurred on campus.

Security week included showing movies and handing out pamphlets dealing with campus crime prevention. Dal security also used the week to recruit potential employees for Tiger Patrol and student security positions, which have a combined availability space of 120.

Throughout the week, security staff gave out hints as to how to be safe on campus. Staff highlighted such services as Tiger Patrol — Dal's walk home service — and the blue light system. The blue light system has been in effect for a few years at Dal — it allows someone walking across campus who doesn't feel safe to contact security immediately.

Security Chief Sandy MacDonald says it's important to act responsibly.

MacDonald also noted some tips for walking on campus at night. He suggested that students "not walk alone on campus and stay along well-lit routes."

MacDonald suggests that instead of walking home alone, take Tiger Patrol. Each team is made up of one male and one female student. Tiger Patrol staff are available September through April, seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The Tiger Patrol shuttle bus, which makes 12 stops throughout Halifax also runs every night.

MacDonald suggests that students remain informed of the latest security issues by reading the security bulletin board notices in the Student Union Building. These notices give detailed descriptions of dangerous suspects who may be roaming around and if there have been any attacks.

Feds in, banks out

continued from page 1

applaud the federal government for standing up to the banks and not bending to their demands," said Michael Conlon, the federation's national chairperson. "The banks walked away from the deal because they wouldn't make a profit."

The Canadian Press reported Thursday that the banks wanted an extra \$100-million from the federal government to continue administering the loan system.

Conlon, meanwhile, said he would be willing to sit down with federal and provincial officials to come up with a better loan model.

Jane Purves, Nova Scotia's Education Minister has made the

commitment that a government-run program for student loans will be available for the upcoming academic year but is uncertain of how it will function.

Kelly MacKenzie, Dalhousie Student Union President, feels that the Canadian Student Loan Program reform is still in the early stages of, but believes that the experience may very well be a positive one.

"I hope the government commits to meeting with student groups. Their contribution will be valuable in trying to improve the program," said, MacKenzie

(With files from the Canadian Press and the Canadian University Press)

20 years ago this week

Cameron House at it Again

At a recent Cameron smoker, someone (unbeknownst to Howe Hall executives or deans of residence), brought in a female stripper to dance for the people at the smoker. A suggestion from the floor was then considered and happily accepted to auction the girl off so that one lovely boy could take her home. Executive council said they were disgusted by the event and had no idea it was going to happen. Cameron boys defended themselves by saying they had just wanted to increase the spirit level in Howe in an interesting way.

Women Unite in Rally

In honour of International Women's Day, approximately 160 women took to the streets of Halifax to protest the provincial governments "inaction concerning women's issues." The women, joined by men and children, belonged to one of 16 women's groups in Halifax and called for universal access to community based free day care.

Effective Evaluations and all of that hoopla

The English department started it all when they decided to begin asking students to evaluate their English 1000 level classes. Depending on the results of this very first evaluation, other departments would begin to give their students evaluations too. And, the results of these evaluations would be made public for the students — so they wouldn't find themselves in their third year finding classes that sucked arse.

GAZETTE EDITORIAL ELECTIONS:

EDITORIAL BOARD POSITION OF PHOTO EDITOR MUST BE ELECTED BY APRIL 1st

For nomination information, call 494-2507, or drop into the office, room 312 SUB.

Regular meetings are held every Monday at 4:30 as well.