

The glamour of Titz 'n Glitz

Breast cancer benefit combined humour and sadness

BY DONNA LEE

A name like 'Titz 'n Glitz' was sure to get people's attention. It's no wonder the breast cancer fundraising benefit with this name was a big success.

The fifth annual Titz 'n Glitz Breast Cancer Benefit was held on September 30 at the Halifax train station. The event this year drew over 800 guests, the largest attendance to date.

The scene at this event resembled a cross between a girl's night out and a lavish Halloween ball. Bras and roses were strung on a clothesline, next to plates of seafood and chocolate-covered strawberries. Many guests, showing off creatively decorated bras and breast-related costumes, vied for an honour in 'The Udder Awards' for creative costumes. And while a silent auction went on, women entered a private booth and pressed their paint-covered breast on a collective art canvas.

This was all for a serious purpose. Later in the evening, nine women solemnly lit candles and spoke of their experiences with breast cancer. Many of the evening's guests and organizers have dealt with the disease — some have it, while others have loved ones who have lived with it.

Sue Tingley, who chaired this year's Titz 'n Glitz organizing committee, lost her sister to breast cancer. She hoped organizing the fundraising benefit would help her cope with the loss.

"It's my way of being able to remember her and to do something positive," she said.

Proceeds from this year's Titz 'n Glitz will go to the Pink Rose Project. Initiated by a two-time breast cancer survivor, the Pink Rose Project aims to provide information and support to every woman diagnosed with breast cancer in Nova Scotia.

Five years ago, Margo Kerr founded Titz 'n Glitz as a gather-

ing between friends. Four of her girlfriends, who were under 40 years old and had young children, had been diagnosed with breast cancer. 75 people attended an emotional event that she intended not to do again. But a year later, friends of the four women insisted that Kerr host another party. With a network of friends offering to help organize the event, Titz 'n Glitz was born.

Part of the benefit's current success came from its controversial name.

"When I came up with the name, it was out of my sense of humour," said Kerr. "I kept the name because it was very raw,

very much like the disease."

Kerr admitted seeking sponsors was initially a little difficult when working with a name like 'Titz 'n Glitz'. But the name never stopped people from showing up.

Until this year, getting to the event was by invitation only. For the first couple of years, guests were friends of the organizers. Through word of mouth promotion, more guests showed up, and by the third year attendance had reached over 300.

"That was more than my house and my lawn could handle," Kerr laughed.

Last year, the party moved out of Kerr's house and into the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia. This year's venue, the large-capacity VIA Rail station, was an indication of the event's increasing

popularity.

This year was also the first year the benefit was publicly advertised. What remained the same was the female-only attendance.

"There are a number of events for mixed couples," said Tingley. "This is the first fundraiser strictly for women." The exclusively female environment allowed guests to dress up in crazy costumes and have fun.

"Every year is a wonderful celebration of women," Tingley said. "It's kind of like Halloween, but it has a purpose."

For Margo Kerr, the continuing success of Titz 'n Glitz surprised her.

"I didn't expect it to be this successful...[but] things that are meant to have a life of its own, have a life of its own."

Pastor feels no remorse

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his language is inflammatory and rude. But what we do about it has to do with society as a whole. I'm not sure a university has a special role in legislating.

"Do we respond? Do we hold public forums? Or do we say, 'let's just get this guy off the campus?' It's tempting. I'm not sure it's the right response. It may be," said Freisen.

Brian Kellow, the Executive VP of the Dalhousie Student Union, has no reservations about removing Brown from the building. It's his job to ensure that groups spreading their messages, in the SUB aren't "hateful" towards other student groups. He felt Brown crossed that line with literature the DSU says was anti-Catholic.

"Go nuts, put up anything you want that says 'come to our

church, hear our message'. Anybody should be able to do that without casting aspersions or claims [against other religions]," said Kellow.

But Brown disagrees, and says his intentions are good.

"The reason for distributing [literature] is not to hurt people. It's to bring people to repentance," he said.

In the end, however, some members of the East Timor Coalition cast aside Brown's statement as a misinformed rant.

"If we have 'mangy dykes, communists, labour militants, 'professional activists', deadbeats, welfare parasites, pot-heads, hippies and sodomites,' then I think we have broad-based community support for our actions," Daniel Haran, an organizer of the East Timor Coalition, said jokingly.

Breast cancer facts:

- It is estimated that one in nine Canadian women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime, and one in 25 will die from the disease.
- Breast cancer is currently the leading cause of death among women between the ages of 35 and 55.
- Breast cancer accounts for 30% of all cancers in women and 18% of all cancer deaths.
- Breast cancer also affects men and accounts for less than 1% of all cancer in men.
- The most significant risk factors are increasing age and a family history of breast and ovarian cancers.
- 70% of all women who develop breast cancer have no risk factors.

Source: National Cancer Institute of Canada, Canadian Cancer Statistics 1998

(From the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation's web site — <http://www.cbcf.org/healfacts.htm>)

Mi'kmaq History Month activities

Thursday, October 7
Mi'kmaq History of Nova Scotia
Sheet Harbour Public Library, 10 a.m.

Mi'kmaq family/Migmaoei Otjiosoj
with Catherine Martin
Halifax North Memorial Public
Library, 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 9
Mi'kmaq Heritage Workshop
Cumberland County Museum, 1 p.m.
Amherst

Design a dreamcatcher
Spring Garden Rd. Library 3 p.m.

Wednesday, October 13
Mi'kmaq Traditions
Spring Garden Rd. Library, 10 a.m.

Making stories with Jean Knockwood
Spring Garden Rd. Library, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 14
The Mi'kmaq and the Educational
system in Canada
Halifax North Memorial Public
Library, 7 p.m.

Construction update

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schedule and within their budget of 11.5 million dollars.

The Arts and Social Science building, across from the student union building, is moving ahead of schedule. The foundation has been poured and the shaping of the 300 and 500 person auditoriums are complete. The building should be open by September of 2000.

The building is running over budget. The original price of the building was set at 12 million dollars. But because the building

is so big, the Board of Governors moved the price up to 16.75 million dollars. And on top of that, the board had to move the price up another ten percent because of builders' prices in the city.

The Heritage Morroy building on the DalTech campus is almost finished. The former apartments are being renovated into office and seminar space for Continuing Education and Industrial Engineering. This project should be completed by the end of October. The building is running a little over the 2 million dollar budget.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT MARCH

A March for Women and Children



Friday, October 15
Grand Parade Square
Speakers/ Rally 7:45 pm
March start at 8:30 pm

Reception to follow at
Venus Envy, 1598
Barrington Street

Call 494-2432 for more information.

NOTE: THIS IS A NEW DATE!

20 years ago this week

Agreement on librarians' salaries reached

Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) met with university administration to negotiate on contract issues. While no definite end was reached, Dr. Michael Cross, head of the DFA remained confident that progress had been made.

The DFA and the Administration reached an agreement on salaries for Dalhousie librarians, increasing them to a competitive level with other Halifax librarians. Other issues to be ironed out included daycare facilities for DFA working parents, and a dental plan.

Turkey draw

Dalhousie Student Association for Health Physical Education and Recreation (SAPHER)

geared up for their FUN RUN, which included a turkey draw.

Participating students were advised that the speediest runner would not win the turkey. Runners names were put in a hat for the turkey draw.

Dalhousie cleaning service a dirty business

Dalhousie's chaplaincy office complained the cleaning service employed by Dalhousie to clean the campus was inadequate. Father Joe Hattie complained that Modern Building Cleaners remained more concerned with profit than with actual cleaning. Cleaning staff also admitted they were told to simply "skim over some areas" so that floors weren't stripped of dirt before waxing occurred. So, floors of the SUB may have appeared shiny and new, but in reality,

cleaners were just polishing dirt.

Change in Shirreff visiting policy

So upper class students living at Shirreff Hall were guaranteed of a good weekend. Dalhousie's Board of Governor's (BOG) approved a plan to allow male guests of upper year residents to spend weekends at Shirreff. Before this plan was passed, males were only permitted to stay at Shirreff until 3 a.m. This rule was strictly enforced.

First year students, however, were excluded from this new plan. Governors and Shirreff hall Residence Council said this exclusion resulted from the fact that the majority of "fretchettes" had roommates while upper year students did not.



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