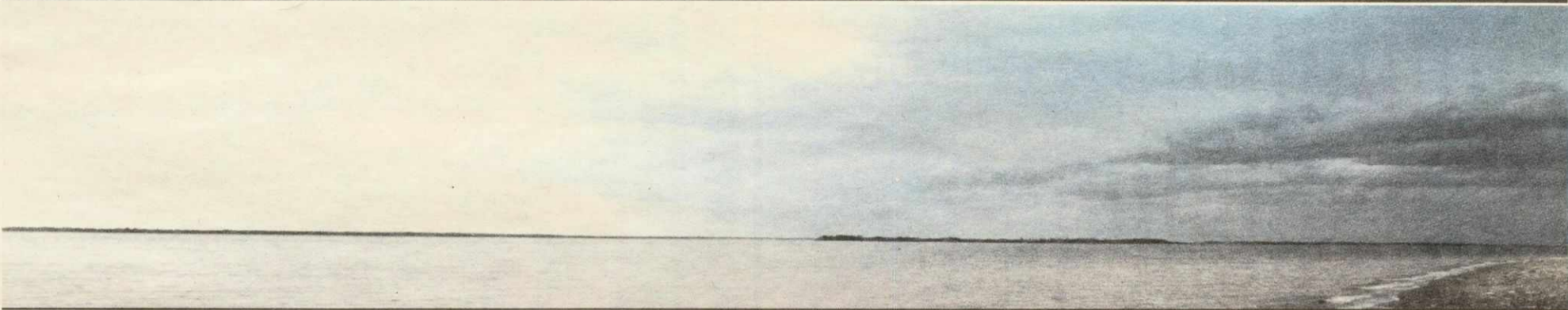




THE GAZETTE

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Water, plus clouds, plus trees, equals another good picture. Wow.

photo by Jon Juan Elmer

Gay-bashings common say Dal students

Attacks reported as assaults, not gay-bashings

BY LEE PITTS

Dalhousie gay organizations say gay bashings are more common in Halifax than most people would tend to think, they just aren't as publicized as the recent attacks in Fredericton.

Kate Greenaway, president

of Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay Association of Dalhousie (BGLAD) says she knows of people who've been gay-bashed within the last few months.

Earlier this month a law student at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton was severely beaten in what people are

dubbing a gay-bashing incident.

Robbie Peterson was on his way home from a downtown bar early on the morning of November 6 when he was attacked. Since that incident, there have been reports of another gay-bashing in the same city.

A 23-year-old man was

charged in the Peterson attack last week.

The gay-bashing has outraged many people in Fredericton and has been getting a great deal of media play, but Greenaway points out that gaybashings aren't uncommon in Halifax.

Fredericton wasn't an isolated case.

"It's not like this is an incident that only happens in Fredericton," Greenaway said. "We [BGLAD members] all know people who've been gaybashed in

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Violence against women increasing

BY AMY DURANT

Ten years after 14 women were massacred in a Montreal university, the Dalhousie Women's Centre is organizing a week of reflection in memory of this and other acts of violence against women.

The week began Monday evening with a screening of the movie "You Can't Beat a Woman." Suzanne LaPalante-Edward, a mother of one of the women killed in the Montreal massacre spoke to a small audience Tuesday afternoon.

Patty Thompson, director of the Dal Women's Centre says that while the turnout for the first event was high, there were significantly fewer people at the second event.

"The numbers today were a little lower than I would've liked," said Thompson. "But it's hard to schedule events for the middle of the day, everyone has different schedules."

The main focus of the week was held on Wednesday evening with a panel discussion on the question of violence against women and whether or not it has changed at all in the ten years since the massacre.

Dalhousie began holding a Week of Reflection three years ago in an effort to decrease violence against women.

"I think it's important for people to know [about what goes on]," says Thompson. "It's important for people to not become complacent about this issue."

Thomson says this week remains just as important as it was

three years ago. If not more important.

She says the incidences of violent crimes against women have increased recently. Many of which she says are not reported to the Dalhousie community.

"Violence against women has actually increased" says Thompson.

"This is a bad year for violence against women on campus [and] I don't think we don't hear about a lot of things that are going on. I [also] don't think the university is handling these cases properly."

Thompson is not alone in noticing the increase in violent occurrences.

Gina Granter, a third year English and Women's Studies student, says she's noticed the increase in violence within the Halifax community.

"In Halifax in particular, there seem to have been more attacks on women lately than I've noticed before and more reasons than ever to be careful."

Thompson refers to the recent assault on the Dal campus which she says is part of the larger picture.

"Increases of [these crimes] happening are an indication of greater society," said Thompson.

Granter says she is most frightened by what she finds is a lack of concern on behalf of many women.

"I think it's sad that so many women give little thought to the violence that surrounds us... just from the women I've spoken to, they don't seem to take it very seriously. That's the worst part."



photo by Ross Chapman

Rap the light fantastic: Rascalz do it right. Story page 12.

Nova Scotia suffers a shortage of nurses

BY CHRISTINE PRESTON

The Nova Scotia Nurses Union (NSNU) predicts a shortage of approximately 2000 nurses by the year 2003.

Registered nurses are concerned that this shortage will result in staff burn-out and patient safety issues. The NSNU has issued reports of exhausted nurses working overtime after finishing their regular 12 hour shifts. According to the NSNU, nurses have also been forced to work when they are sick due to staff shortages.

Nurses remain concerned about being able to provide safe care due to both decreases in staff,

and increases in workloads.

"There is nobody for sick calls and many of us end up working overtime, this leads to exhaustion and burn-out," said Greg Sampson, an employee in the IWK Emergency department. "Because of the exhaustion many nurses need more sick time and it becomes a vicious cycle."

The problem has been partly attributed to the reduction of full time nursing jobs, retirement of nurses, and a decrease in the number of new graduate nurses.

The migration of nurses to other provinces and countries has also contributed to this problem. Upon graduation, many nursing students are looking for employ-

ment in the States.

"We will not stay in a province to practice where we cannot work in a secure environment to provide effective and quality care to Nova Scotians," said Catherine Butler, President of the Dalhousie University Nursing Society. "There are not enough nurses working in full time positions in this province and casualization, burn-out, and a growing crisis in nursing supply is taking its toll on the ability of nurses to give the care to Nova Scotians that they are educated to provide."

Butler said that while many

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