



THE GAZETTE

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DSU buys bank shares to get say on student loans

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

For a chance to say their piece about the future of student loans, the Dalhousie Student Union bought approximately ten thousand dollars worth of bank shares.

The union bought 100 shares in both the Bank of Nova Scotia and the Bank of Montreal, giving them a seat at the banks' annual shareholders meetings held in Halifax over the past three weeks.

Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) president Ted Chiasson says he bought the shares out of concern over upcoming federal student loan renegotiations.

"We have one shot to make it good for students," he said. "I just

needed to talk to the banks and it seemed like the place to talk to them."

At the meetings Chiasson presented his proposal for students and banks lobbying the government together.

"I told them I realized they were a bank and not a charity but

"There is a problem with the student loan program. It doesn't work."

we had to work together for the future of the country."

The government is looking at harmonizing federal and provincial student loans into one program for the whole country.

And in a time Chiasson calls "the most significant year for

student loans in the last five years" he says it's important for students' voices to be heard.

"If you go and picket a bank you will get some headlines but you won't get any clear message through," he said. "it's not going to do any good attacking the banks."

While the cost of the shares is substantial, Chiasson says it's a safe investment as the shares can be sold again at close to, and possibly more, than their current value.

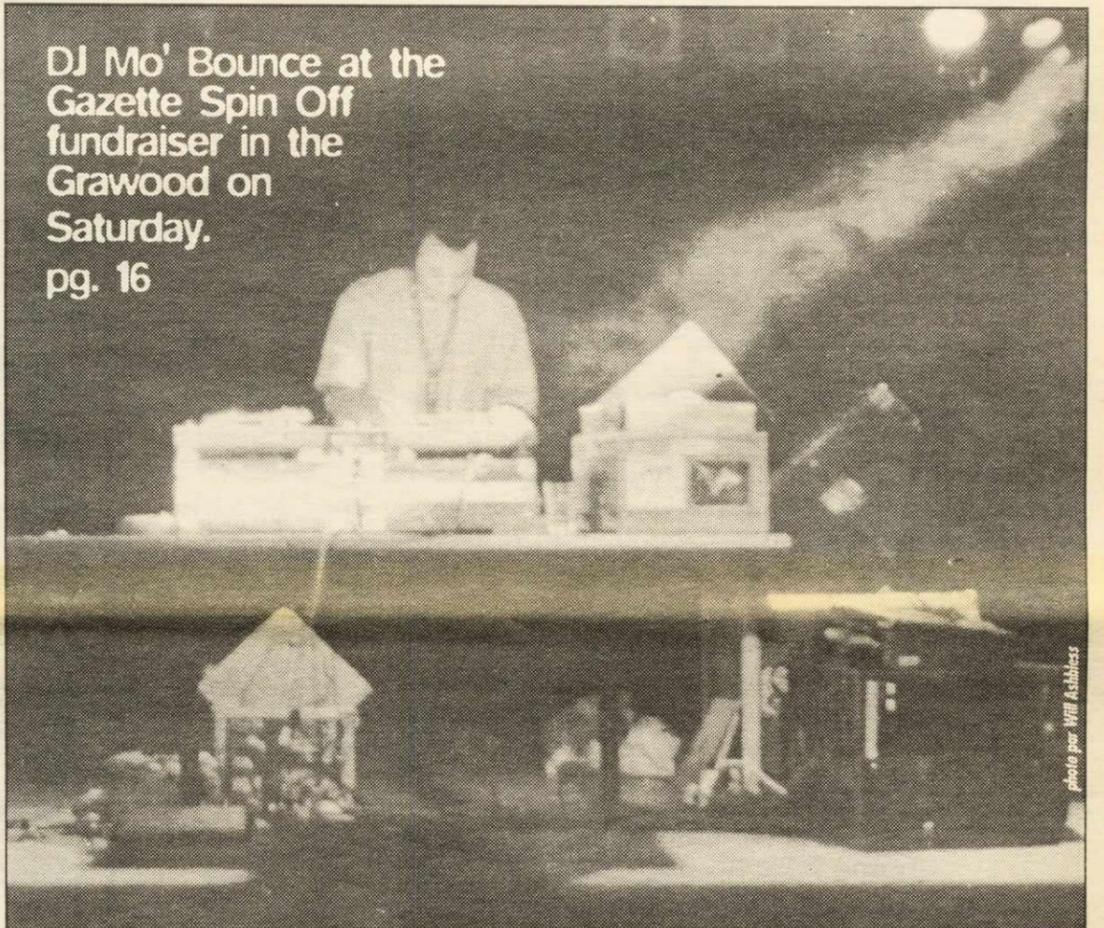
He says its money well spent. But the banks aren't quite so confident.

"The approach was very creative," said Shelley Jourard, senior manager of public affairs at the Bank of Nova Scotia. "But I'm not sure if the annual meeting of

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DJ Mo' Bounce at the Gazette Spin Off fundraiser in the Grawood on Saturday.

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How to get a job — at Playboy?

BY SARAH J. YOUNG

Two gorillas intent on making a point interrupted a corporate skills lecture featuring a female Playboy magazine representative.

Cindy Rakowitz, a vice-president in charge of Playboy's public relations and modelling agency, gave a speech entitled "Making the Transition: What it takes to go from student to executive."

The Dalhousie Arts Society sponsored the event, and its president, Larisa Hausmanis, defended it.

"Cindy Rakowitz has much work and experience as a woman in the corporate workplace," she said. "People should look beyond the logo."

But not everyone thought so. Patty Thomson, director of Dal's Women Centre said the forum was misleading, and an attempt to further promote Playboy.

"Will the [arts society] bring in someone to present the other side of the story?" she wrote in a letter to the society.

Rakowitz spoke of the importance of interview preparation, researching a job, networking and always having a

positive attitude.

A woman in the crowd laughed throughout the speech.

Following the talk questions revolved around job hunting until they were interrupted by two people dressed as gorillas who began handing out flyers. The flyers gave the phone numbers for school officials and suggested people should get in touch with these officials if having Playboy on campus offends them.

"People should look beyond the logo."

The gorillas, who identified themselves as "the gorilla girls", then made a presentation and speech protesting the presence of the porn magazine's representatives on campus.

"I found the gorillas amusing until one came up the aisle with a package," Rakowitz said. "That made me a little nervous."

But in the end Rakowitz accepted the package — a bunch of bananas — with thanks.

After the bananas, questions centred around Dal's two Playboy representatives and the magazine's content — which some said they

found offensive.

But Rakowitz said people should be careful of what they want to censor.

"Women should realize the consequences of repression," she said. "Freedom of speech gave women rights: to have abortions, equal pay and the right to vote."

"[People] should be looking at the global issues and not micro issues."

Dal's Playboy reps attended the forum and both said they found it very informative.

"[Rakowitz] really kept her cool and addressed the issues," B.W. Wildsmith said. "She was great."

Rakowitz said she also enjoyed the forum — mostly.

"The students here are great, there's a lot of energy," she said.

"[But] I was offended by one question... [about] my motives for being here. I had no selfish agenda here, and that point really hit a personal nerve for me."

Rakowitz was featured in the book Powerchicks about women who have positions of power in the male-dominated business world.

International Women's Day still going strong

BY MARY VALLIS

VICTORIA (CUP) — In an era where women are seemingly growing more powerful, more equal and more assertive than ever before, International Women's Day continues to be celebrated throughout the world.

That may be because women around the world continue to face many obstacles.

In Afghanistan, for example, women are sometimes pelted with stones in the streets in for merely looking at men. Women in Kuwait still aren't allowed to vote. And here in Canada, at the University of Victoria only one-quarter of staff earning more than \$100,000 a year are women.

According to the United Nations, International Women's Day on March 8 is "the story of ordinary women as makers of history."

The celebration is rooted in the perpetual struggle of women to

participate in society on an equal foundation as their male counterparts, and is designed to promote solidarity and understanding among women worldwide.

The day has been celebrated since the turn of the century. As we near the millennium, women are facing many of the same struggles they always faced.

In many countries, this year's March 8 celebration is dedicated to the women of Afghanistan, to recognize their struggle for some of the basic freedoms women in other countries already enjoy.

The Taliban Islamic militia took over Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, last September and imposed strict Islamic rule on the country's women. This year's dedication is also another effort to encourage political groups in Afghanistan to respect fundamental human rights, and therefore women's rights.

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