

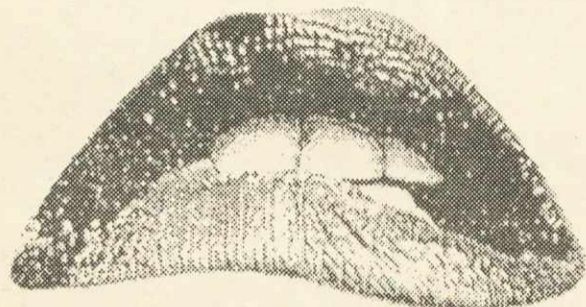
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Conference brings strength

We are everywhere. The weekend of October 8 - 10, we had the opportunity to attend the Atlantic Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Conference. Initially we went as members of the NSPIRG group HAH, Humans Against Homophobia, but left feeling as though we were part of a much larger, stronger community. Although the goal of the conference was to bring together gays, lesbians and bisexuals from the region and to educate them on relevant issues, what was achieved was actually much more than that.

Over the course of the weekend we attended workshops that were specific to education and youth such as gay teachers, youth programs, and what is happening in our schools. We shared experiences with other youth and young adults. To our surprise, in attendance were a group of gay, lesbian and bisexual students from two local high schools. We were pleased to discover that one high school had a support group developed by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and straight gay-positive students. Although created by students they are receiving some staff support. The need for programs was reinforced by these students. It was through their successes that, with the aid of peer support and education, a more positive future for gay, lesbian and bisexual youth is in sight.

The conference itself covered a wide spectrum of issues, not just pertaining to youth. However, as university students and members of the educational system, we were acutely aware of the issues surrounding gay, lesbian, and bisexual youth. Some of the other is-

ues covered by the conference were homophobia, health issues, legal issues, HIV/AIDS, and spirituality. The workshops not only provided information and formal presentation but were also an opportunity to discuss issues in a relaxed, non-judgmental forum. They allowed gay, lesbian, and bisexual educators and students alike to relate to one another in an informal situation without the fears of a homophobic presence.

Overall, the conference provided a safe environment for all gays, lesbians and bisexuals of all ages, races and classes, to come together and openly share their concerns. Although some concerns may have been particular to a certain group, it became evident to us the need for unity of the gay, lesbian and bisexual communities of Atlantic Canada. The conference became much more than just a weekend of issues, but a weekend of learning about one another and how we can better relate. More importantly, it gave us a source of strength that would continue to exist even after the conference had ended. This newborn spirit will aid us in the war against homophobia.

As the conference closed, the anticipation of a future conference was itself an indication of this year's success. If the willingness of people to volunteer ideas and time for next year is any indication of what the future might be perhaps we will see more new faces and feel an even greater sense of pride.

Leighann Wichman
Charles Moore

Diggers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
didn't "reel from the noise, and the smell of beer", and I didn't get caught up in "pre-concert press fluff" — I like to enjoy myself. Can she?

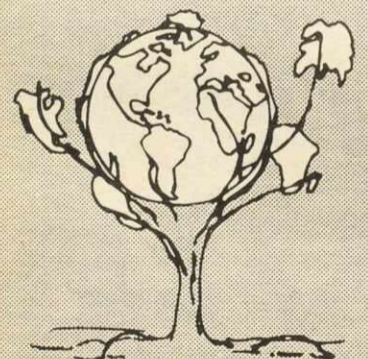
So she "longs for substance, longs for feeling" eh? Well, that's just fine, but perhaps you shouldn't look for it in an opening band's sound check. If you don't like the Skydiggers, just say so and let someone a little less biased do the assignment.

Being a big fan of the Skydiggers, I have a question to put to Leigha White herself (assuming Josh and the boys got

the opportunity to read your lovely write-up): what do you think the chances are that they will come back to Dal? I think they have been drastically reduced. And if that's true, I would just like to thank you for diminishing my chances to see one of the better Canadian bands in what I would call a good-sized venue.

A quick plea to the Diggers (if they're within this Gazette's reach): don't pay attention to Ms. White. She's just upset because her press jacket was "but scant snippets of fact bathed in bull pucky" — what the fuck? So the "Skydiggers concert doesn't check out"? How do you know?

Chris Skillings
Diggers fan, beer drinker



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The Short Range Forecast on the El Salvador Process
October 26 Mr. Roberto Garey

Development Alternatives for Turkey: Possibilities for the 90s
November 2 Mr. Kiaras Gharabeghi

A Human Rights March - From Mexico to Guatemala
November 9 Ms. Beth Abbott

Is Culture Shock a Western phrase? My Year in Mali
November 16 Ms. Munju Ravindra

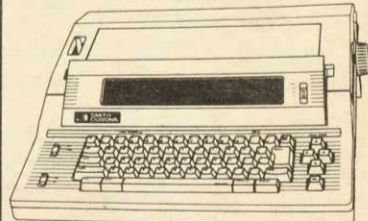
South Africa: Prospects for a desperate speedy settlement
November 23 Ms. Sidney Ramphere

Working Gender into Development - An Oxfam Workshop
November 30 Ms. Erin Goodman

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