

THE GAZETTE

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To the Birdland: popular bar may come back

BY LAURA GRAY

For the past six months, as 2am approaches, bar patrons around Halifax have been asking each other one question, "Where do we go now?"

Since the closing of the Birdland (formerly located on Gottingen Street) last spring, city clubbers have been desperately searching for an alternative venue.

Famous for its live bands, unique style and cabaret hours, the Birdland was an alternative club frequented in the late night and early morning. Since its closure, former patrons have

been forced to choose between the New Palace, Reflections Cabaret and the Entertainment (Liquor) Dome for their late-night libation.

As a result, many Birdland fans have been praying for the return of their favourite nightclub and, if plans follow through, they may finally get their wish.

Both Greg Clark, partner in the original Birdland, and Victor Syperek, local decorator and club proprietor, say there is a distinct (but not definite) possibility that the club will re-materialize in January.

The "new Birdland" would

again be located on Gottingen Street, this time in a spot across the street from the Salvation Army, and with the capacity for about 500 people.

"There are some wrinkles to iron out before [they] can go ahead," Clark said.

Syperek added that these details include settling past affairs with other partners of the Birdland, and setting up the new location.

Whether it has the same name or not, Clark says that the club would be "pretty similar" to the musical style of the old Birdland. But Syperek, who was not a big fan of the old

Birdland's style, says that the "decor would be entirely different".

"In some ways, [the new club] will be very stylish," said Syperek, who has been involved as a decorator with the Economy Shoe Shop, Diamond and Backstage, as well as other bars in Bedford and Dartmouth.

Syperek sees a new Birdland expanding its role beyond that of late-night dance club. He says the new bar would serve "good food" and act as a cafe in the afternoons, while maintaining the focus on music.

And music is where Clark comes in. Clark was the music

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New system may end full credits

Multi-million dollar software could be a lemon

BY DONALD DERRICK

Professors are upset about a proposal that would eliminate full-year classes at Dalhousie, and the process for dealing with their concerns on the issue.

In a Senate meeting held Monday, November 10, Dr. Colin Stuttard, on behalf of the Dalhousie Committee on Academic Administration, motioned for the elimination of full-year, or 'R' classes. The motion stems from a programming flaw in Dalhousie's newly purchased computer system — the SCT Banner. The system can't recognize half-term and full-year courses at the same time. As a result, only full-year or half-year courses can be offered at a time.

The motion to eliminate full-year courses was tabled following a lengthy and heated debate during the Senate meeting.

David Cameron, chair of the political science department, shares many professors' concerns about the new system.

"Here we are, driven to completely reshape our undergraduate and graduate curriculum as a consequence of a technical glitch in a computer program," Cameron said. "I don't begrudge the university having an updated [computer] system, but this is really putting the cart before the horse."

Professors' concerns also centred around what they felt was a lack of information, time and consultation on such drastic changes to academic policy.

Some professors were concerned that a semester-system would promote service classes and specialized professional programs over a well-rounded university education.

Cameron said that full-year courses, particularly in introductory classes, allow for a learning curve that could not be addressed in two half-classes. All first and second-year classes in political science are currently full-year courses.

"I have been disappointed in what seems to be a fairly simple-minded assumption that there is no great difficulty in eliminating full-year classes. This fundamentally changes what can and can't be taught...two half-classes do not add up to a full class," he said.

Professor Andy Wainwright says that he is worried about a pattern of top-down management.

"Strikes are a real possibility in a system with such fundamental

disagreements between those who manage the university...and those who make [the university] work in terms of teaching, researching and learning," he said.

"There was a [faculty] strike at this university in 1989 for three weeks...and in my opinion, as very worthy as the issues were that caused the strike — [there weren't] as many [issues] and they hadn't built up to such a degree, as they have now.

"I'm still optimistic enough at times to believe that such drastic action can be prevented through co-operation," Wainwright said.

The university administration has been searching for solutions to the technological problems of Banner since the summer. At that time a three-week ad-hoc Banner steering committee was set up to find alternatives. They did not accept any of the proposals.

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Grad House will try to remain open

BY LILLI JU

Three hours and much confusion later, graduate students voted to keep the Grad House open at a general meeting of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students on Tuesday, November 18. Students voted overwhelmingly in favour of an option titled "Grow the Grad House" submitted by James Eden and Robin Cowlings that will see service not reduced, but enhanced.

Close to 80 per cent of students

present favoured this option over another proposal that would have seen the Grad House run at a reduced capacity, including reduced hours and a volunteer-run bar.

Although the many supporters of this decision, some feel that this decision will not address the real issues that are facing the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS).

"I must say that I am

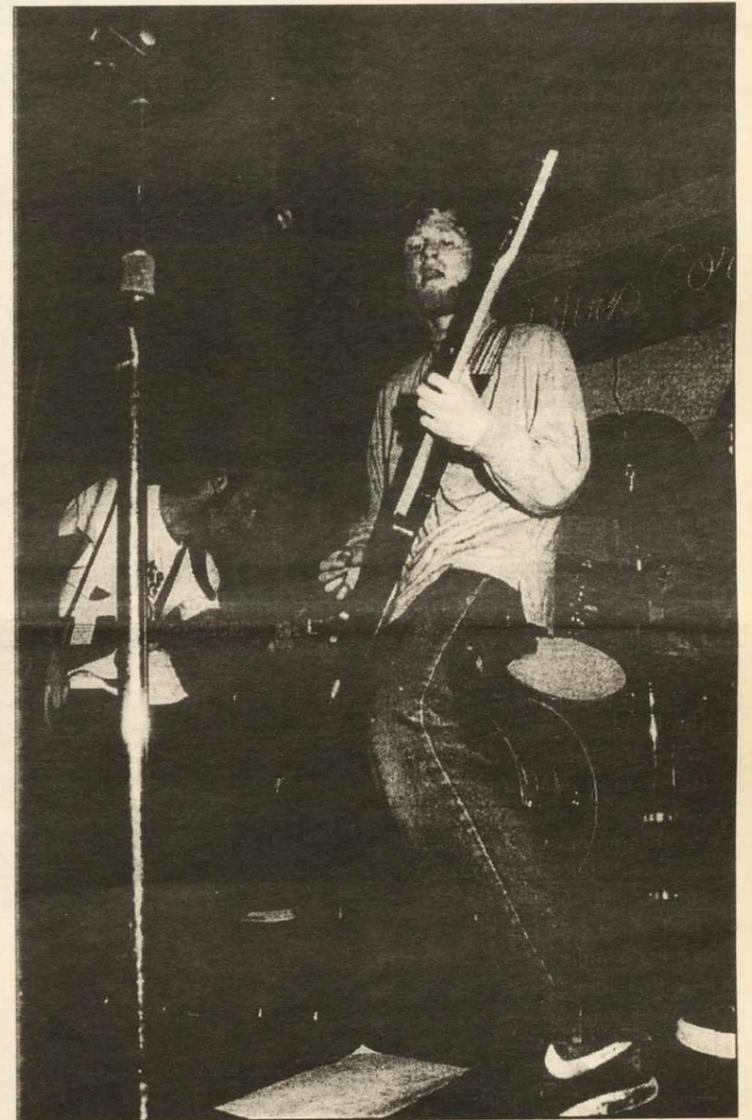
disappointed," said Naomi Andjelic. "This will not alleviate the political difficulties that we have had. This gives us the mandate to keep the House open, but it does not serve to represent students on this campus effectively. The social concern will be taken care of, but the political objectives will not have been met."

Andjelic cited a number of issues facing graduate students on which DAGS has not had the time to deal with, such as the lack of graduate

student representation on the Senate, the ongoing teaching assistants dispute, and DalTech graduate student issues. The majority of DAGS time is currently spent on Grad House operations.

A presentation by Bridgette McCaig, Dalhousie Student Union Executive Vice-President, also reminded students to keep in mind that DAGS' main purpose for existence is to represent graduate

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The Holiday Snaps warmed up the crowd for the Leslie Spit Treeo last Friday night at the Blues Corner. Photo by Ryan Lash

Pre-packaged ponderance

"Nova Scotia is a peninsula entirely surrounded by fish."
— 19th century travel guide.

NATIONAL NEWS

An education newsletter at UVic has told a gay teacher that his articles about life as a gay teacher are not welcome in their publication, page 5.

York University is set to found the World's largest Women's Studies Program, page 5.

FOCUS

The final installment of our three-part correspondence from Russia, page 9.

SPORTS

Forget Slapshot, Men's hockey proves they can goon it up with the best of 'em, page 17.

ARTS & CULTURE

Ember Swift impresses Reflections' crowd, page 12.

Zab Maboungou's interpretive African dance, page 13.

CD Review Extravaganza, catch up on all the pop culture you've missed, page 13.

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Health Canada tries to get rid of 750 research monkeys, page 11.

David Suzuki launches a new book and a new way of thinking about our surroundings, page 12.

Founder of the U of A Psychology department is posthumously stripped of his honours for participating in sterilization projects, page 11.