

Watts up, Doc?

by Eugenia Bayada

On September 10, 1994, three members of Phi Kappa Pi went to assist a woman who was being assaulted on the street outside their fraternity house. The events that followed left all three seriously injured. Unfortunately, Darren Watts, a University of King's College student, received the greatest amount of publicity because he was in a coma...

After a miraculous recovery and a lot of hassle from the media, Watts is now back at university. So, how does he feel to be back?

Well, in his own words: "I'm certainly happy to be back, with the workload and all. I'm happy to get back to the grind. Having said that, at mid-term I may change my mind..." He was hoping to get back in time to complete the fall term but, due to one reason or another, that didn't happen.

During last term, improvements on Watts' condition were not conveyed to the public. Many people thought that he was in a coma for three months when in actual fact it was one to two weeks. The reason for this lack of information is pretty obvious now, but may not have been as apparent to the general public a few months ago. Watts' family and friends were overwhelmed by all the publicity and media attention that was constantly being shoved into their faces.

Watts himself felt lucky that his family and friends were "religious visitors" and extremely supportive, and was happy enough to keep a low profile — and who can blame him? In a previous *Gazette* article, Tom Wilson (active president of Phi Kappa Pi) said that Watts was everyone's top priority.

"I wanted to make sure that the family was taken care of. They didn't want a (media) circus and we respected that," Wilson said at the time. Whether they wanted one or not, they got one anyway. The story was national news at the time, and Watts feels that it was overdone.

However, the public was touched by the case, and a 'yellow ribbon' campaign was started in support of Watts. Watts is surprisingly modest about the whole thing.

"I was certainly surprised by it; it seemed different, bearing in mind that [ribbon campaigns] had been

used in different instances. It was interesting to see how far it had gone... high schools were involved."

So, how does he feel about not being able to remember an incident that has, to some extent, altered his life?

"I look at it almost as a blessing not to recall the incident itself. I'm glad that my memory is fully functional with the exception of the incident in question. I don't think I would want to remember it."

In other interviews, Watts has said that he is not angry at those who attacked him because he can't remember what happened. However, this does not mean that he is indifferent to the whole thing. Although he is frustrated by the partial loss of memory, he doesn't see the sense of getting angry. Instead, he is trying to look beyond the whole incident.

Watts' outlook on life and faith in Canadian society remains unchanged although, in his own words, "perhaps better educated and more aware of the inhumanity existing around me."

When asked about whether his (academic) plans for the future have changed at all, he says that: "My plans have been postponed slightly but haven't necessarily changed. I was working an arts degree and a science degree, working towards a program in medicine, and that still applies. I'm still moving in that direction."

Watts was previously involved in several activities here at Dal. He was President of the Political Science Society and also helped organise a variety of events for charity. Although he'd like to get involved again, chances are, he will wait until next year.

"I'm certainly interested in getting involved in student life as much as possible... expanding my world on campus. [However] the academic life is my life right now and I'm just happy to be back into it."

The question on everyone's lips, however, is: "What's with the change of image?" (Eugenia's note: Watts good-naturedly decided to humour me by actually answering this.)

"Obviously you mean the beard... Well, there's no real reason apart from the fact that it's low-maintenance. Some people have called it 'a disguise'... If it was a disguise, it is ineffective at this point after all the media coverage!"

Although we're a couple of weeks late, we now take this time to reflect on 1994.

Name: Allyson Carras

Age: 19

Future ambition: Broadcast Journalist

Best movie: *Forrest Gump*

Best movie actress: Meg Ryan

Best movie actor: Tom Hanks

Worst movie: *Getting Even With Dad*

Worst movie actress: Rosie O'Donnell

Worst movie actor: Tom Arnold

Best movie newcomer of the year: Hugh Grant

Best TV show: *Melrose Place*, *Mad About You*

Best TV actress: Helen Hunt

Best TV actor: George Clooney

Worst TV show: *Something Wilder*, *All American Girl*

Worst TV actress: The twins on *Full House*

Worst TV actor: The whole *Saved by the Bell* cast

Best new TV show: *ER*, *My So-Called Life*

Best TV newcomer of the year: Claire Danes

Best Ricki Lake topic: Turning Nerds Into Knockouts

Best *Melrose Place* plot line: Joe's baby scheme

Best *Saturday Night Live* host: Helen Hunt

Best *Saturday Night Live* skit: The "Ba-Bye" sketch with Helen Hunt

Best book: *Welcome Home*

Best author: Stuart McLean

Worst book: All the OJ books

Best album: *Forrest Gump* soundtrack

Best musical artist: Blur, REM, Hole

Best musical video: "Jane" by The Barenaked Ladies

Best album: Anything by Michael Bolton

Best musical newcomer of the year: Sheryl Crow

Dal Profiles



Did OJ do it? Yup

Do you remember where you were when the car was racing down the freeway? At my cottage

Most shocking event of 1994: Susan Smith saga

Greatest loss of 1994: Elizabeth Glaser

Best Christmas gift of 1994: A really cool, unbreakable *Lion King* drinking glass

What will you remember most about 1994? Graduating from high school

Catch-phrases of 1994: "You go girl", "Ba-Bye"

Things that pissed you off in 1994: OJ, the cold winter, not enough sleep, not spending enough time with family and friends

Greatest achievement of 1994: Graduating from high school

Greatest regret of 1994: Drinking Green Moosehead because I found something in it. Beware!

New Year's resolution for 1995: Sleep more

by Tim Richard

Dalhousie Arts Society

by Jennifer Hockey

The Dalhousie Arts Society is a representative body for all students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

The society acts as a resource body for departmental and program-based B-societies in academic, social and political matters. It funds a variety of

events for its sixteen currently active societies; it also holds social events of its own, contributes to various charities, co-sponsored the DSU Children's Christmas Party and DSU Frog Races, and will be co-sponsoring the DSU Charity Ball in February.

Its members sit on many committees at the DSU, Senate and Faculty levels to represent arts and social sci-

ences students. They hold regular meetings every second Thursday in Council Chambers. More information on their events can be found on their bulletin boards in the SUB, the Killam, and the A&A Building, or by contacting them. They can also put you in touch with any B-society if you are looking for a way to get involved.

Society elections will be held in March; the DAS is looking for interested persons to fill seats on the Council, the Executive and the DSU.

A General Meeting will be held on Thursday, January 26 to discuss changes to their constitution. All arts and social sciences students are welcome and are entitled to vote.

The Arts Society is a great way to get involved and, get informed. You can meet some great people, participate in many activities on campus, give a little back to the school and make a difference. And that is what the university experience is about. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain. If nothing else, you will have had a good time and gotten involved.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the Dal Arts Society at 494-1313, at DALARTS@ac.dal.ca, or drop by the Society's offices in Room 314 of the SUB.

Annual Exotika

by Greg Tilson

A chorus of "Selamat Datang!" ("Welcome!") was heard throughout the McInnes Room in the Dal SUB on Sunday night as the Malaysian, Indonesian and Singaporean Students Association (MISSA) welcomed all of its guests to its annual Culture Night.

The theme of this year's MISSA Cultural Night was entitled "Exotika." MISSA President Chee Lim Lee introduced the evening's events by telling everyone to "brace yourselves for an unforgettable evening of intriguing traditional performances, an exotic six-course dinner with a taste of the rich culture of the southeast Asian countries represented by MISSA." Dr. Alan Parker (who has been the honorary president of MISSA for the past seventeen years) and Dalhousie Univer-

sity President, Dr. Howard Clark, also addressed the enthusiastic crowd.

The audience soon understood what Lee meant by "brace yourselves," as they were entertained by exciting performances such as Tarian Lilin (a Malaysian dance), Tae Kwon Do display, a Chinese solo vocal performance by Linhong Kou, Samba percussionists, and the West African Medley of Rhythms — to name just a few. The night also included a medley of beautiful dancing, music and traditional fashion, all of which exposed the rich cultures of the southeast Asian region.

MISSA's aim is to overcome socio-cultural barriers to foster better international understanding. MISSA's Culture Night 1995 was an excellent example of MISSA's objectives in action, that turned out to be an unforgettable night of "Exotika." See you next year!



PHOTO: MICHAEL NGUYEN

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