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Blues you never get over. Get a beer company to sponsor your summer, but maybe don't stand so close to the pool.

submitted by Scott McFarlane

## Ottawa takes over student loans, banks pull out

### Student organizations respond positively

BY BRIANNE JOHNSTON AND  
SHAWN KEHOE

The federal government is taking over the Canada Student Loans program from some of the country's major banks, a Human Resources Development Canada official announced Thursday.

Thomas Townsend, director-

general for learning and literacy at Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), announced in an afternoon press conference that the Royal Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia and CIBC were no longer interested in administering the \$1 billion a year national student loan system.

Since 1995, the banks have assumed the risks of the loans, while

the federal government has provided between \$50-million to \$75-million a year to offset risks.

Responding to the move by the banks, Townsend said, "[The government] will step in to provide funding directly to run the student loan program."

Some 450,000 students each year rely on the loan program,

which has been operating since 1964.

Student reaction to the HRDC announcement was positive.

"This situation presents an unprecedented opportunity for students to be involved in retooling student loan programs," said, Jason Aebig, National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associa-

tions (CASA).

CASA's message to students is not to panic, there will be money for student loans.

The Canadian Federation of Students was also pleased with the news.

"Our general reaction is to

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## International Women's Day honours Dal women

BY AMY DURANT

A number of Dalhousie women were honoured this week when they appeared on the Wall of Nostalgia in the Student Union Building for their achievements in the Dalhousie and Halifax communities.

This year marks the first year of what organizers hope will become an annual event on the Dalhousie campus.

"It's very much a work in progress," said Anne-Marie Long, Policy Implementation Coordinator at the Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee. "We didn't want to imply that these are the only women in the area with achievements. We're still accepting submissions for next year."

The Wall of Nostalgia, organized by Susan Brousseau, Sexual Harassment Adviser at Dal and student Danielle MacNeil, describes the achievements of a variety of women throughout Halifax — including students, professors, politicians and activists.

One of the women appearing on the wall was Melanie Dobson, an associate professor of Biochemistry at Dalhousie.

"It's very nice to be asked, [to be represented]," said Dobson. "Having done my undergrad and spending a number of years here, I feel a real affinity with [Dal]."

Susan Stackhouse, a Dalhousie theatre professor was also acknowledged for her efforts.

"I was honoured — so thrilled that I went to see the wall with my husband, child, Mom and Dad," said Stackhouse. "It was lovely. And I'm in such incredible company, that in itself is such an

honour."

Roseanne Cousins, the current Dalhousie Student Union Vice President of Community Affairs, and next years Vice President Executive, was also one of the women featured on the wall.

"I was pretty honoured to be on that wall," said Cousins. "It's amazing to be up there with all of those other women, I don't really feel like I've done a whole lot in comparison."

International Women's Day was celebrated throughout Halifax with a number of events that lasted for much of the week. The highlight being March 2000, a rally at Grande Parade and march to St. Matthew's Church, where women like Patricia Doyle-Bedwell spoke to the women.

Doyle-Bedwell is currently the Director of the Transition Year Program at Dalhousie, Professor at Dalhousie's School of Resource and Environmental Studies as well as the Chair of the Nova Scotia Council on the Status of Women, and one of the many women honoured on the wall.

March 2000, which drew an estimated 300 Haligonians, was considered to be a very important event and a success to its participants and organizers.

Patti Thompson, director of the Dalhousie Women's Centre said March 2000 was so important because it was not just a local event — March 2000 occurred all over the world.

"It's the one day of the year when we celebrate women," said Thompson.

"A lot of the time we don't know about what's going on in other departments," said Long. "You may

know the woman across the hall to see her, but never really know what she accomplishes."

Long says the day also serves other purposes.

"It's a way of recognizing the progress women have made — but also to point out the areas where progress is still required."

Just as the day serves many purposes, organizers and women in general agree there is no set definition for women.

"I don't limit the definition of women to be just someone with a certain biology, race, class, etc.," said Long. "It's impossible to define woman, there are so many similarities and so many differences."

Dobson says that one positive aspect of Dalhousie is the fact that her gender doesn't come into play.

"When I came to Dal everyone wanted to talk about my research, nothing else came up. And that's where I want to be," said Dobson. "I'm in an environment where I don't think of myself as a woman. [Biochemistry] has nothing to do with whether someone is a man or a woman, it's about the research they do."

Cousins agrees and says that while her gender is a part of her, it is not the only part.

"I've never considered my gender a limiting quality...it's not something that comes into play. I guess in the same breathe, I'm proud to be a woman, and to see the progress of women — just as it's great to see the progress of men."

After giving the question some thought, Stackhouse agreed that being a woman is a wonderful feeling.

"To be a woman is to be a member of a compassionate, nurturing sisterhood."



NSCAD students put fashion and art to the test. See story on page 13.

## The Hurricane's Lesra Martin talks to Dal

BY AMY DURANT

Lesra Martin, whose early life was chronicled in this year's blockbuster movie *The Hurricane* spoke to a captive audience at the Weldon Law Building last Thursday evening.

Martin, currently a prosecuting attorney in British Columbia, returned to Dal where he studied law to speak to the large crowd of

law students, undergraduates, faculty and community members.

He briefly outlined his life story — his beginnings in a Brooklyn ghetto, and his grade 11 meeting with three Canadians who took him under their wing and provided him with the education the New York system failed to give him.

This is where Martin's story

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