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A show of supporters: creative decoration at the fifth annual Titz 'n Glitz Breast Cancer Benefit

photo by Donna Lee

Dal's Indonesian projects create stir

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Dalhousie's three government-funded projects with Indonesia are raising questions about the university's role in countries with poor human rights records.

The Island Sustainability Livelihood and Equity project, and two Women's Support

Projects are all funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). All involve student and professor exchanges between the two countries.

Marian Binkley, Dean of Arts and Social Sciences, says these projects help to change the country from within.

"There are many ways to bring about change and one of

these ways is to educate educators," said Binkley.

Prof. Vaughan Black of the Dalhousie Law school disagrees.

"The university could be [compliant] in supporting and working with government regimes that... have no real concern with human rights or human life," he said.

"The argument that we're

helping them do good things is one that should be looked at very carefully."

Black says the university needs a human rights review policy.

The projects gained attention after a Senate motion to disclose all university involvement with Indonesia.

Prof. Jane Parpart, Dal's

head of the Women and Sustainability Project, says it's a complex issue.

"I'm not happy with what Indonesia's doing obviously, but I'm not willing to stop working on what I consider a very important project," said Parpart.

"I'm working with good people some of whom are critical of what's going on in Indonesia."

Grants to Dal's Indonesian projects

Dalhousie's CIDA projects in Indonesia

Island Sustainability, Livelihood and Equity (ISLE)

Grant: over \$5,000,000

Indonesian Partners: Hasanuddin University,

Other partners: Dalhousie University, University of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, University of Philippines, University of the West Indies

Mandate: To promote sustainable development in island jurisdictions through:

- strengthening of ISLE partner institutions responsible for the training of human resources.
- enhancement of knowledge respecting the unique challenges and opportunities of sustainable development in island jurisdictions.
- effective translation of this knowledge and institutional development into action-oriented, community-based policies and programs aimed at achieving sustainable development in island jurisdictions.

More grant information on page 4

'Inflammatory' language gets church in trouble

Halifax Bible Church Pastor feels no remorse for personal attacks

BY GREG MCFARLANE

The language used by a Halifax religious organization has angered several Dalhousie student groups, who say the church's leader is offensive.

In a public statement found on the website of the Halifax Bible Church, and in a faxed letter to the Gazette, Pastor David Brown refers to the Halifax East Timor Coalition as "a front for mangy dykes, communists, labour militants, 'professional activists', deadbeats, welfare parasites, potheads, hippies, and sodomites". He also refers to the group as a "motley crew of smelly rabble".

The East Timor Coalition is a group that holds peace rallies and information sessions regarding the annexation of the island by Indonesia and the violence that has resulted since the island voted for independence.

Brown says he wants peace in the annexed island, but doesn't agree with the lifestyles of the coalition.

When asked about the statement, Brown responded by saying "that directly represents our position".

Brown feels no remorse over the comments. He says that freedom of expression rights allow him to make the statement, regardless of who he offends.

"Real tolerance is allowing people to speak even when you disagree with them," Brown said.

But is Brown tolerant? He says he is.

"I'm tolerant of someone being a mangy dyke, I'm not going to beat them up or anything. In fact I would stop someone from beating them up. But because they have a good public relations wing doesn't mean they are exempt from critique.

"If you publicly question gay groups, women's groups, et cetera, or just bring up the issue, then you're automatically an enemy of the state."

The International Socialists, who are part of the East Timor Coalition, disregard Brown,

saying he is "a hypocrite".

"He doesn't care about the issues he says he cares about. If he did, he would use different tactics," said Jessica Squires, a member of the International Socialists. "If he really cared about the people of East Timor, he wouldn't go around bashing the people that live there — workers, people who aren't straight, women, union activists... so for him to come out with this [statement] shows how hypocritical he is."

In fact, it's hard to find anyone on campus who agrees with Brown. The Dalhousie Chaplaincy, for instance, has distanced itself from his organization.

However, Dr. Paul Freisen, the Anglican Chaplain at Dal, thinks a larger discussion is warranted — not only about Brown's language and actions, but about the concept of free speech and civic duty.

"His claims are ridiculous,

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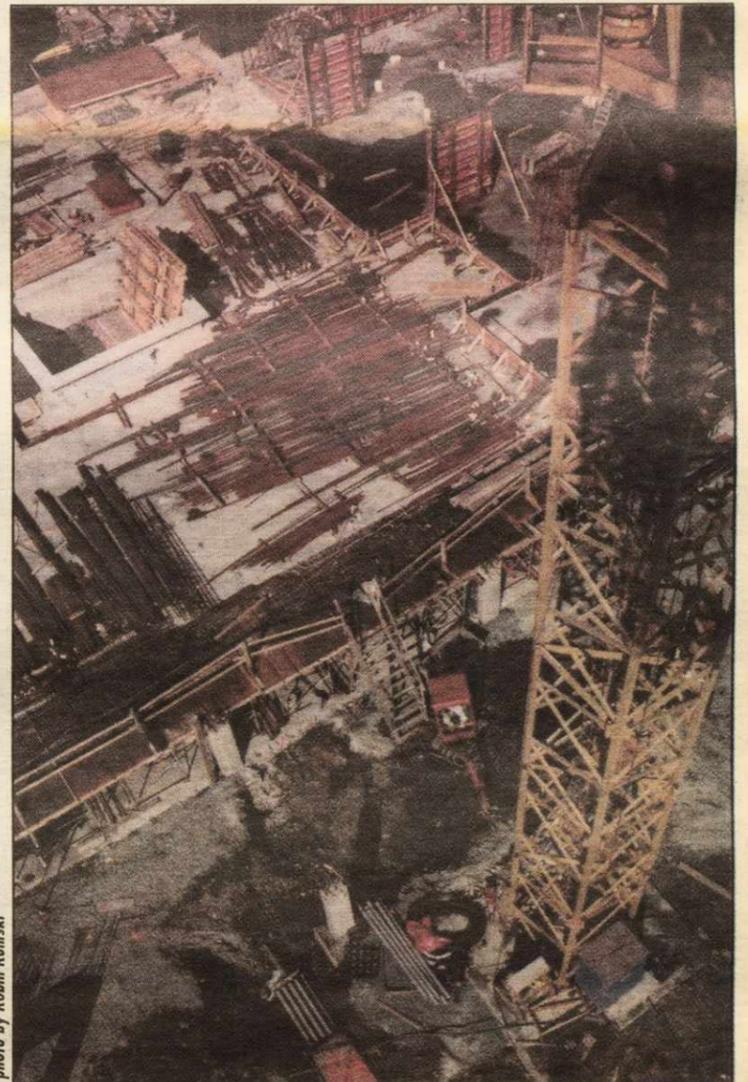


photo by Robin Kuniski

If you build it (on time and on budget) they will come.

Construction update

BY DIANE TIBBET

There are three big construction projects on the go throughout campus. The new Computer Science building is officially opening this coming Tuesday, Oct. 12, the renovations on the DalTech campus are almost

finished, and the new Arts and Social Science building is coming along.

The new Computer Science building is set to officially open this Tuesday after 18 months of construction. The building is opening three weeks behind

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