

# the Gazette

Volume 127 Number 5

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

September 29, 1994

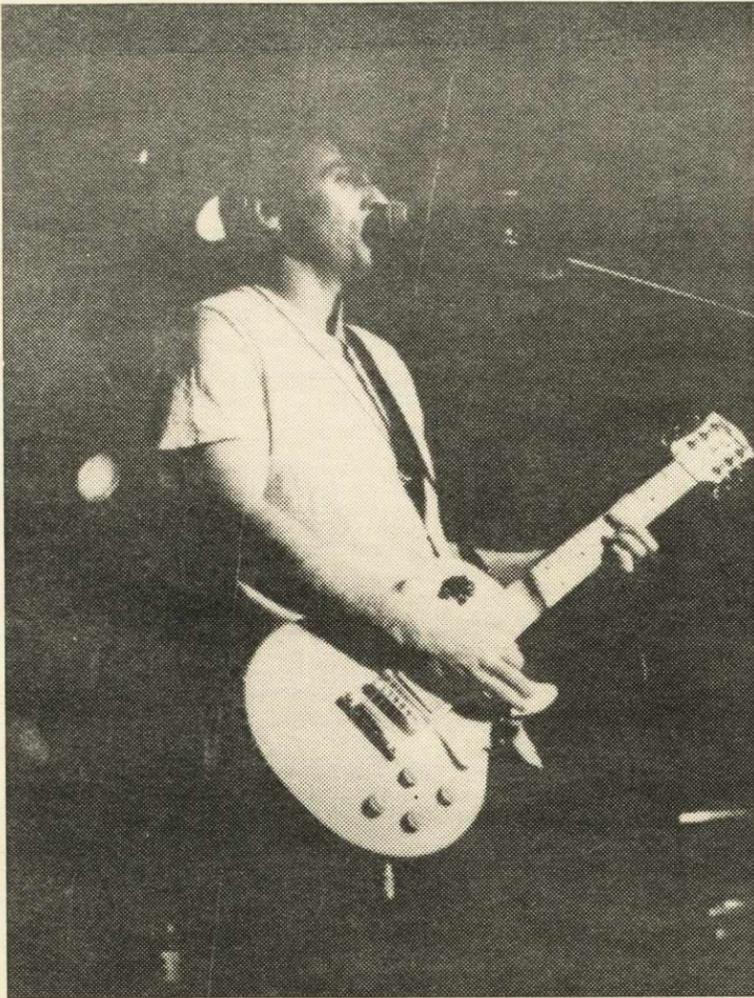


PHOTO: PETER BOGACZEWICZ

John Mann of Vanouwer's Spirit of the West plays to a packed McInnes Room on Friday. Story p. 15.

## Taking back the night

by Lisa Lachance

Approximately 200 women and children marched through the downtown streets of Halifax last Friday night in the annual Take Back the Night March. This event held annually in September is designed to symbolize women and children's right to safety in the streets and homes, and ho this is not a reality for many in today's society. The history of the March can be traced to women's bread riots in Europe at the turn of this century.

"So it is 'Women Unite' and it is 'Take Back the Night,'" said organizer Nancy Hunter at the open mike held at the beginning of the march.

Several other women shared personal stories and their reasons for marching. One woman identified herself as the sister of Helen Betty Osborne, a native woman raped and killed in northern Manitoba almost twenty years ago. She shared the story from a period of time where native women were routinely raped by white men workers brought in to run the mines. She was killed, according to her sister, because "she fought back."

Other women told of being verbally and physically harassed on the streets and in their homes. One woman was followed by a car and told, "You have beautiful breasts... I want to fuck you."

The March went smoothly through the downtown streets with support shown from some along the

Take Back the Night has often been a controversial event as many men and women wonder where the place of men is in addressing the issues of violence against women and sexism.

Dal student Colin Matthews commented that, "Five years ago it would have bothered me. Now I realize the need to be in groups of all women, all men... the need to bond with people with whom you share common experiences. The idea that it's oppressing to men is untrue."

Take Back the Night has been debated among women and feminists. Community educator Jackie Stevens says that after years of attending and organizing, the March "is empowering for other women, but for me, I have to do more for change than marching."

Beth Owen, a Dal student who considers herself a feminist but has never attended a March feels that she is "not well-connected to the Halifax feminist community."

Take Back the Night Marches were also being held this weekend in Truro, Pictou County and Fredericton. Acadia University hosts its own night in March of each year.

"I was loud. I'm glad. I'm supposed to be loud."

sidewalks. There are many traditional chants and cheers for the March.

Chant leader Laura Penny commented, "I was loud. I'm glad. I'm supposed to be loud."

Following the March, a reception was held on Barrington Street with entertainment and refreshments.

## Inside

|                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Bank student loans ..... | page 3  |
| Editorial.....           | page 6  |
| Ask Joe & Jo .....       | page 7  |
| Feature.....             | page 9  |
| Faces at Dal.....        | page 11 |
| Local band alert .....   | page 16 |
| Sports.....              | page 20 |

## Between the covers

by Milton Howe

The lineups have finally subsided in the Dalhousie Bookstore after weeks of frustration and more than a few angry comments. The cost of buying required texts is usually gripe number one, followed closely by the low prices offered for used books. Many students wonder who is making the money on these expensive items and most of the grumbling and anger is directed at the bookstore.

The bookstore works on three basic markup policies. Course textbooks, which represent the bulk of their stock and the bulk of their labour costs, are marked up 22 per cent. Used textbooks are marked up 25 per cent. All other materials and sundries are marked up 75 per cent.

Tony Martin, the Director of Ancillary Services at Dalhousie, defended the bookstore's pricing policy. Last year's \$43,861 "surplus" was put toward the installation of a new point-of-sale inventory system which has promoted a "much more effective and efficient operation," adding that "service has improved greatly from last year."

The bookstore is operated as an ancillary service of Dalhousie University, and is not affiliated with the DSU. It has a full-time staff of 10 unionised employees who work in purchasing, shipping, stocking, management, etc. This staff is supplemented by upwards of 25 part-time students working a few hours each week, primarily as cashiers and receivers. This staff works at stocking 4,500-5,000 titles per year, in some cases hundreds of copies of each.

And they are moving ahead with several new service ideas such as phone-in orders and drop-off orders with a 24-hour turnaround. New shelving designed for easier wheelchair access is scheduled to be completed before the end of the year.

"We are dedicated to improve the operation, the service and eventually the costs to students of the texts," Mr. Martin said. He pointed out that the 22 per cent markup is a long-established figure which has remained constant over many years. "Eventually down the road, we would like to look at pricing. If we can make a move on that, we will," he added.

Michelle Lassaline, the Bookstore Manager, stated clearly their policy for used books. The bookstore will buy any book which continues to be required by a course offered at the university for 50 per cent of the retail price. Books which are no longer used will not be bought and many are sold to remarketeers (some of whom set up shop in the Green Room over the past few weeks) at poor prices. These agents are not in any way affiliated with Dal or the bookstore.

The DSU has student representatives on an advisory council which meets with the bookstore management four or five times a year to discuss the financial status and students' concerns. Complaints, both broadly-based and general, are directed to this council to be brought up when they convene.

The profit shown in the bookstore's budget is largely a red herring, as many legitimate costs are not included in their books (it does not, for example, pay any rent for its space in

the SUB).

The question of whether the services provided merit the premium paid is debatable. Certainly someone could set up shop and deliver some books to some students for less. Could they provide every book for every student in every class in every faculty and still do it cheaper? And provide acceptable levels of service to visually and physically disabled students? If so, then perhaps someone should.

## Getting a Dalhousie job

by Emily Reed

After fighting your way through the bookstore to buy your last textbook, waiting in the monstrous line for an eternity, then finally reaching into your wallet to pay the overpriced bill, you notice that you only have pennies left. Your bank balance is quickly plummeting. Your debts are piling up and bankruptcy is becoming a very real possibility. Sound familiar? There is an alternative to this lifestyle: get a job.

Employment Services offers the Dalhousie On-Campus Student Employment Program to Dal students and, as of September 26th, King's students can apply for Arts and Sciences jobs. This program has been in place for 3 years. A percentage of tuition fee increases have been allotted to this unique program.

"This year there is approximately \$800,000 worth of on-campus jobs so

there are a lot of positions available," said Suzanne Estabrooks, the coordinator of the Dalhousie Student Employment Centre.

Wherever your interests may lie, you can likely find a job suited to your needs and wants. The types of jobs available are various, ranging from Lab Assistant to Oral Instructor for Beginner's German; from Nuclear Analytical Chemistry Trainee to Costume Assistant. Some openings call for a specifically trained individual while, in order to apply for others, you merely have to be a breathing, studious Dalhousie or King's student.

An exceptional aspect of the Dalhousie On-Campus Student Employment Program is that it is tailored to accommodate a student's schedule.

"The jobs are generally 10 hours a week. Some are less but we like to keep a cap on the hours so it doesn't really affect students' studies," said

Estabrooks. The hours and days are flexible and the jobs end as holidays begin.

As the jobs themselves, the pay scale is also variable. The pay ranges from minimum wage (which is \$5.15 in Nova Scotia) to \$9 per hour. The deadlines for applications are different for each one as new jobs are constantly being posted. Estabrooks suggests that students visit the Employment Centre twice a week to look for changing positions. You can go to the 4th floor of the SUB and check out the listings on the Dalhousie University Student Employment Program Board.

So instead of complaining about your inability to go downtown on Saturday night or to buy that new sweater that you really want, take advantage of Dal's on-campus jobs (especially since your tuition is essentially paying for it).