

Celebration...

pg.9

THE  
GAZETTE

Volume 132, Number 24.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, April 6, 2000.



Have a good summer from the staff and other animals at The Gazette.

photos by Patrick Blackie

## Education: Right or privilege

### Debate held to address issue

BY DANIEL MCKILLOP

The issue of equal accessibility to post-secondary education was discussed and organized at a debate held on Tuesday, March 28, by members of the Arts and Social Sciences Society and Sodales, the Dalhousie debating society.

Student speakers included

William Georgas, Jennifer Cleversey, Gazette writer Shawn Kehoe and Sean Moreman. Although the debate addressed the serious issue of education, the speakers impersonated members of the Canadian Federal Government. Georgas played the role of "Prime Minister," and Kehoe was the leader of the Opposition.

The argumentative positions taken by the speakers on the topic were not their actual views. A wide range of opinions were presented in order to create a balanced debate.

Georgas argued that education had to be made accessible, and that it is the government's responsibility to provide this need.

"There is no 'right' to educa-

tion in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, but education has many intrinsic values, like self-actualization, freedom of expression and freedom of thought. Education is necessary for these to realize themselves," said Georgas.

Prime Minister Georgas also argued that a post-secondary education is necessary for career em-

ployment, and that the citizens of Canada are able to make a more full contribution by being educated by the country's post-secondary institutions. He said that education is a starting point in allowing people to become more self-sufficient, and that it is part of the government's

*continued on page 3*

## The politics of sexual labour

BY SARAH MURPHY

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) — To many Wendy Chapkis has become a celebrity apologist for prostitutes.

But Chapkis, an assistant professor of sociology and women's studies at the University of Southern Maine, insists she is simply a good girl who is fascinated by those who are more bold.

Some of these bolder women, or sex workers, are the subject of Chapkis' most recent book entitled *Live Sex Acts*.

In writing this book, Chapkis did not only want to pose a challenge to the enduring division between "good girls" and "bad girls," but also wanted to explore the debate within feminism surrounding commercial sex.

"Feminism was poised to have a complicated discussion about sexuality, [but it] turned to a war instead," said Chapkis, who was horrified by the bloodletting within the feminist community over the issue of prostitution and pornography.

To a number of feminists, pornography is an extreme form of violence against women. But there are also women who see recreational — and commercial — sex as liberating.

"As feminists we often thought that sex had been so brutal for some women. Sex was seen as dangerous," said Chapkis. "There is a vision of sex that is about long term intimacy. [Some] are trying to protect that which is threatened by things like prostitution."

Those feminists who are opposed to prostitution and pornogra-

phy, she added, want to protect this feeling of intimacy in regards to sex.

The material for her book is derived from comparative research conducted in the northern California communities of Santa Cruz and San Francisco, and in the Netherlands, primarily in Amsterdam.

From 1986 to 1995, Chapkis met, interviewed and worked with numerous sex workers along with others concerned with the practice of commercial sex.

There is a complicated relationship between sex workers and researchers, she said about her research.

Some people in academia, she noted, believe researchers use the stories of sex workers to merely get Ph.D.s and write books about them. The results, say critics, are skewed.

In some way this is true, Chapkis admitted. But she also said that researchers only get a version of the truth from these women who may feel they have to glorify their profession.

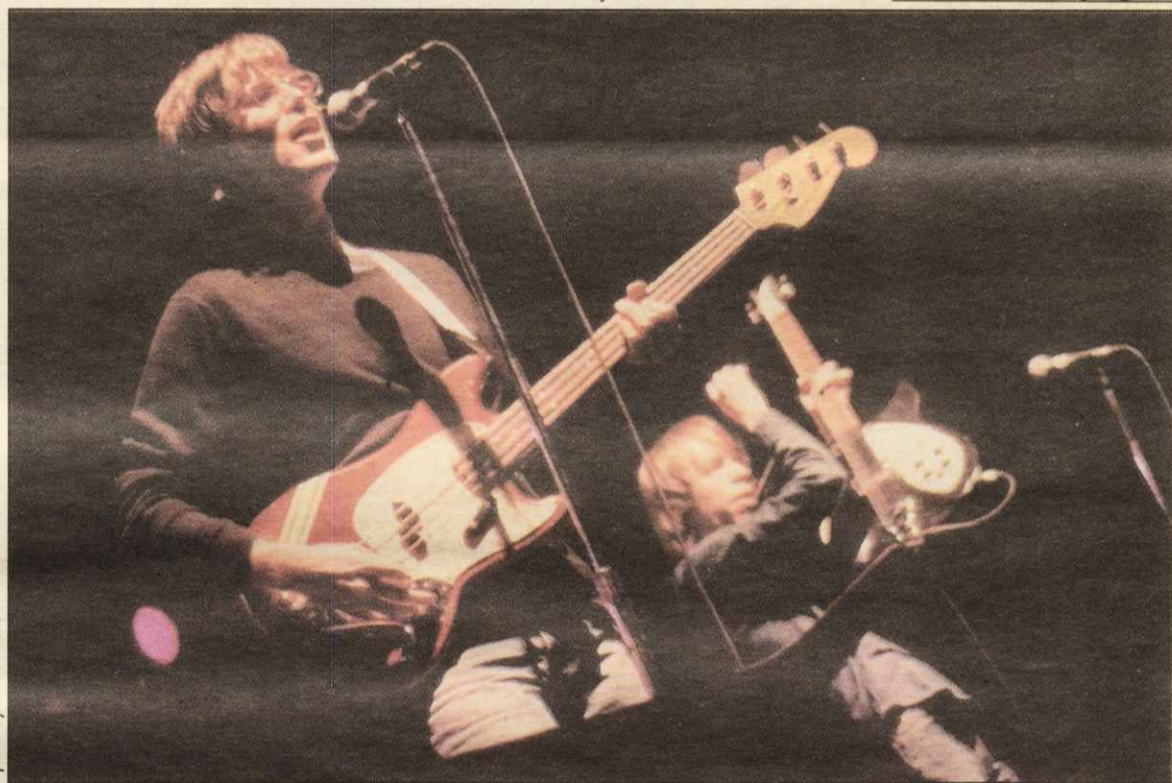
Nevertheless, she is confident that she was successful in shedding some light on these women's lives.

"The queerer I became, the more I could identify with the politicized whore," said Chapkis. "I knew what it was like to be singled out by stigma."

Chapkis does not claim to have a monopoly on the truth, and warns other feminists on either side of the debate that they make themselves sound stupid if they think that they do.

"We all want sexual safety for women," said Chapkis, "but we also want expansive opportunity for

*continued on page 3*



Sloan flashes dazzling lights at the Electropolis last weekend.

## Dal Debate ends on high note

BY GAZETTE STAFF

This past Wednesday, the Dalhousie debate society, Sodales held its final meeting of the academic year, bringing a close to a memorable season in the society's history.

"This is the year Dal got back on the map," said Neal Dawe, a senior Sodales member.

Dalhousie continued its strong placing in the Atlantic debating circuit, winning first place in both individual and team categories at Acadia University last fall. Dal debaters also made considerable headway in Central Canada, winning honours in tournaments at McGill, York, U of T and Queens University. It has been years since Sodales has had such success on the Central circuit.

"All of our hard work is paying off in national recognition," said Sodales President Jennifer Cleversey.

Cleversey placed 17th out of a field of 102 in the recent national competition held at Memorial University in early March.

Fellow Dalhousie debater Sean Moreman placed 9th, the highest placing by an Atlantic debater.

Cleversey was recently re-elected to a second term as Sodales President, along with William Georgas as Sodales Vice President.

When interviewed, Georgas emphasized the social aspects of debating.

"We usually head to the Grad House after our meetings," said Georgas, who explained that tournaments have social events which range from parties at Dooley's to dances and pub crawls. Sodales

treasurer Sean Moreman noted the equality between novice and senior debaters.

"We've sent every active member to a tournament this year," said Moreman.

Sodales heavily subsidizes travel costs, making it possible for budget-minded debaters to attend tournaments in such cities as Montreal and Toronto. Closer to home, Sodales recently co-hosted the annual DASS debate, which focused on education as a right or privilege.

The returning members hope to capitalize on this year's success for the challenges that await them ahead. They hope to send a team to the Worlds competition, which is being held in Toronto in 2002.

Neal Dawe expressed his belief in the society's future:

"We're a strong club now, and we're building for the future."