

## Hear (and speak) my story

"You're studying WHAT?"

With the end of the term just around the corner, many of us feel the need to clear up once and for all what we (approximately 65 of us) have been studying here at Dal.

We are down right sick and tired of no one ever knowing what we do, never mind knowing what about us why. Have you ever stopped to think about the importance of communication and language in our lives? Who we are, what we do, and why we do things are all centred on our ability to express ourselves and to be understood by others. What would happen to your life if, all of a sudden,

you could not understand a simple conversation or question because of a hearing loss or language disorder? What if you knew what you wanted to say, but physically could not get the words out because of a physiological defect?

You probably don't know this, but over Fenwick Street in the infamous Fenwick Towers, there is a Dal-housie graduate student program offered in the basement. It is the School of Human Communication Disorders (SHCD) in the Faculty of Health Professions and Graduate Studies (it is affiliated with the Nova Scotia Hearing and Speech Clinic). After three

anonymous years over on Fenwick, we will graduate with a Masters of Science degree to be Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists.

"What?" you say. Well, let me clear up a few myths about our profession.

An audiologist DOES NOT sell stereo equipment. Nor are they involved in the pursuit of philology (ideologist) or the absurd (oddiology). A professionally trained audiologist is involved with determining the range, nature, and degree of auditory (THE EAR!) functioning in humans. They are concerned with the identification, measurement, and rehabilitation of those with a hearing loss. An audiologist plans, conducts and participates in counselling, hearing aid selection, auditory training, speech reading and hearing conservation.

A speech-language pathologist (SLP) does not just work with people who stutter (despite the fact that most of us stutter ourselves when we try to say "speech-language pathology"). SLPs are qualified to manage disorders of speech, language, voice, and fluency, including identification, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and counselling.

This probably doesn't help you very much. Let's try this: Have you ever known anyone who has had a stroke and lost their ability to communicate? How about a child who stutters, or can't say their "th's"? Trouble with reading or writing? Have you ever known anyone who wears a hearing aid? Maybe you yourself saw a SLP for treatment or an audiologist to have your hearing checked.

Well, these are some of the many and diverse things that our profession is involved with. We usually work on a team with other health professionals such as occupational therapists and physiotherapists (who you've all heard about, no doubt!).

Well, now you've heard about us, too, and just because we've been sentenced to purgatory in the basement of Fenwick, I am here to tell you that we do exist! Our profession is extremely important to healthy human functioning.

So the next time you hear about speech-language pathology or audiology, maybe you can say, "Oh, yeah. I've heard about that."

Lisa Evans  
(for the class of '95-SHCD)

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### Big heads, bad music

## Exclusive Club Grunge

by G. Bouche

Isn't it funny how just after Halifax band, Sloan, got signed to a major record deal our beautiful city became touted as the next Seattle?

Well, this seemed to start a chain reaction where everybody and their dog started a band, hoping to be the latest grunge sensation. Several years later, we're still dealing with the aftermath.

Let's think back to our high school years where there was an "in crowd" who decided what was cool and who was worthy of membership in that group.

Well, in Halifax there is an exclusive music clique that says what's alternative and who is pretentious enough to belong.

They control college radio, they decide which bands should float or sink, and basically if you're their friend and you play the game right, you'll go places.

I am suddenly reminded of an all girl band who couldn't play their instruments that well but had some close personal friends who helped them get signed.

*If people don't cater to you, they're enemies*

What was their name? Hmm... I'm almost sure it starts with a 'J.'

Well, let's move on to the attitude. Membership to this clique means you now own the city, must

shun all outsiders, and generally wear a big head.

If people don't cater to you, they're enemies. I remember a little comment made by a member of Rebecca West at the East Coast Music Awards.

He said (in a really snotty way), "our band doesn't have a fiddle player."

I think this comment is a bad reflection on the band and they instead should have been thankful that an alternative category was created to facilitate them.

Think about it: we live in the Maritimes and if you don't like or play Celtic music, you're in the minority. Maybe they would like it better in the real Seattle.

To end my spiel, I would like to make two suggestions. First of all, if you're thinking of starting a band in Halifax, don't expect help from certain people. Secondly, if you are a member of the clique and you read this, don't be upset.

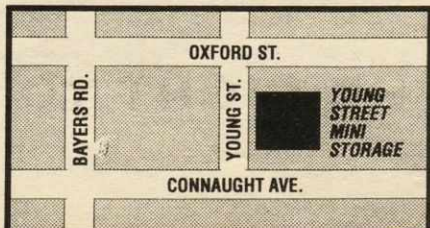
After all, it's just sarcasm. Isn't it?

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*Not-so-deep thoughts...*

**An important sign that you may very well have no life of interest to anyone else:**

**You run in a student election...**

**AND: You either win,**

**OR WORSE: you lose.**