

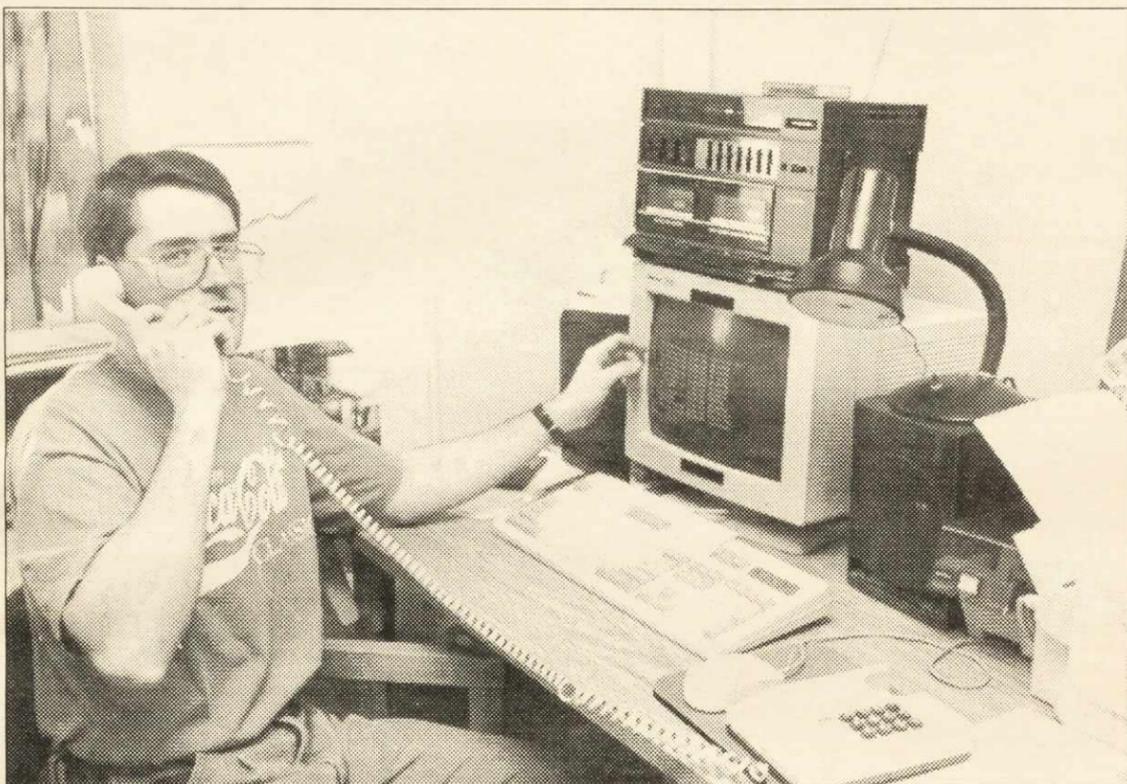
# the Gazette

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## Recession strands co-op students



Commerce co-op student Chris McCulley hunts for a job.

DALPHOTO: MICHAEL DEVONPORT

by Robert Drinkwater

Co-op programs, where students spend semesters working in a real paying job in their field, are designed to combine academics with 'real world' experience. But as some students in Dalhousie's Commerce Co-op program are finding, the slumping economy is making the employment experience a little too real.

January 28 is the deadline for Commerce Co-op students to find work term placements for the winter semester, but many still haven't found jobs yet.

Craig Pilley and Chris McCulley are roommates, and are both in their second year of Dalhousie's commerce program. They're supposed to be starting their first work term this semester, but neither Pilley nor McCulley has found a placement. They've been phoning and visiting any office in metro they can think of.

"I went to about five or six office towers downtown," Pilley says. "I went through about 60 offices, and not much luck so far. Everybody seems to be cutting down on their workforces."

Pilley and McCulley are not alone.

About one-quarter of the approximately 190 commerce students scheduled to be on a work term this winter are also without jobs. Pilley and McCulley say they've even heard of some Dalhousie commerce students transferring to Saint Mary's because the commerce program there doesn't have a work term requirement.

While the number of students without job placement appears high, Earl Walsh, director of Dalhousie's Commerce Co-op program, says it's no cause for alarm.

"It's always tough in this particular economy, but it's going reasonably well," says Walsh, adding that since the co-op program began in 1990, 98.6 per cent of students have been

able to find work term placements.

He points out that while the co-op office helps students find jobs, the basic responsibility for finding work remains with the student.

"They're told this right up front — to talk to friends, to talk to their relatives, people in the community, to do some networking. Really, it's their responsibility to find a job."

As to whether or not some Dal commerce student are getting sick of finding jobs and are transferring to SMU, Walsh remains skeptical.

"We certainly haven't noticed anyone of late who's moved to other universities. There will be people that will be academically dismissed and try to get into other universities, but they'll have problems doing that because there's co-operation amongst the universities. No, there's no trend — we haven't seen any numbers."

Pilley and McCulley are taking regular classes right now in case they don't find a job by the deadline this Friday. The co-op office has told them they can make up the work term later, but Pilley says it may be even harder to find a job next term.

"They say if we don't find a job this term, we'll be going into an eight-month work term. But that eight-month work term would involve competing against third-year students for jobs."

McCulley says he was counting on a job this semester for money, and adds the time he has spent over the last few months looking for a job has affected his marks. He has some advice for the director of the Co-op program.

"I think until maybe the economy improves they should cut down on the number they let in to the program, just because there's not as many jobs out there as there used to be."

Pilley and McCulley say whoever gets a job first will treat the other to dinner.

### Shirreff Hall holds dance

"The well-appointed library, the reception room, and the entrance hall with its cozy nooks, were used to advantage between dances" at the Hall on Monday night. Truly it was a gala affair.

The dancing began at nine o'clock, that is for everybody except Doug, Duff and Joe. (Poor boys, only an hour and fifteen minutes to dress.)

The orchestra obeyed orders by refusing encores, and ten dances and tree extras were hurried through before the guests were allowed to eat. After the refreshments, the remainder of the program was rushed into the allotted time. All guests had to leave at one o'clock.

Most of the girls complained that they hadn't enough dances with the faculty. The committee would have liked to have been able to convince them of that when making out the professors' programs.

As they say about Sunday School picnics, "a good time was had by all". The music was good, the food was good, and the numerous corsages were lovely! The big event of the Hall is over for the year and Kay Finlayson can breathe a sigh of relief. Thanks to the efforts of Kay, as convener, and of her committee, the dance was a real success.

Reprinted from the Gazette, November 20, 1936.

In 1963 the Gazette actually paid people to shoplift from the bookstore. They even took photos as their people stole things. It was all in an effort to demonstrate how easy it was to shoplift for an expose they ran. Everything stolen was later returned.

### RELIEF WORK AMONG THE WOMEN

Dalhousie girls responded nobly and promptly to the call for voluntary helpers. The day of the explosion many of them went directly to the hospitals, emergency and permanent, where among the horrible confusion and sickening scenes, they did what they could towards assisting the doctors. Others helped in distributing food and clothing, or in house to house visiting.

It would be impossible to tell of every case in detail, but a few should be quoted as being typical. Bert Colwell worked at the Victoria General from Thursday afternoon to Saturday afternoon without sleep. Marion Doane did ward work at Camp Hill until December 24. Mary Dickson did the cooking and the errands for the Emergency hospital into which her father had transformed their house.

Perhaps the most interesting achievement was that of Margaret Wright and Mabel White. After the explosion they went to Rockhead prison, which was in a state of terrible confusion. Although it was in a devastated area, they remained there until Saturday with no relief. With them were the Misses Josephine and Helen Crichton. These four girls had complete charge of the prison for two days and nights.

Reprinted from the January 29, 1918 edition of the Gazette following the Halifax Explosion.

## CKDU kicks off funding drive

by Marie MacPherson

Strains of a hot new Halifax band, Thrush Hermit, emanate from the long poster-smearred corridor on the fourth floor of the Dalhousie Student Union Building. Passing through the second set of doors, visitors arrive at the centre of activity — volunteers dashing around with records, phones ringing and more poster-laden walls. Welcome to CKDU-FM 97.5, Halifax's "innovative and alternative campus-community radio station".

With nearly 200 volunteers, CKDU is gearing up for its ninth annual fundraising drive. Starting on January 28 and continuing until February 6, CKDU is aiming to raise \$40,000 — about 30 per cent of the station's operating revenue.

The theme of the 1994 Drive is "Open Air", symbolizing CKDU's commitment to remain open to new

ideas and opinions. Currently, CKDU's programming varies from popular shows on rap music to a show produced by gays and lesbians.

"We're hoping that people who would not ordinarily be exposed to those ideas will tune in," said Brenda Barnes, current affairs director. "We're not interested in preaching to the converted."

CKDU receives operating revenue from three different sources — student fees, on-air sponsorship, and the public fund drive. Barnes says the fundraising drive is vital especially to maintaining operating equipment and salaries.

Accessibility is the key component of CKDU's success. "Anybody that walks in the door has an equal shot; experience is not necessary," said Barnes. "The idea is that we try to get as many constituencies of the community as possible in producing programming, by and for themselves.

It provides them with a voice piece they ordinarily wouldn't get on commercial radio."

"It's a great atmosphere — everyone is welcome and the volunteers are so committed to the station," says Lara White, host of Urban Medicine, a Friday morning show featuring political music from all over the world.

CKDU has played an essential role in the recent international attention that local bands have received, working hand-in-glove with the promotion of local talent.

"We have an advertisement that runs on the air constantly encouraging local bands to bring in their demo tapes," says Barnes. "There needs to be an acknowledgment that CKDU was instrumental in giving early exposure to some of the bands that signed major contracts. People like Sloan, jale, and the Rose Vaughan Trio have all had regular

exposure on CKDU."

Chris Trowbridge, CKDU's program director, says, "It all comes down to the direct support we get from the community during the fundraising drive. If we don't get the support of the community, then we can't offer the services we budgeted for."

The staff acknowledges that this year has been tough economically on students and listeners.

"It's been hard for us to get advance pledges, but we're hoping people will be calling in to support the shows they like," adds Trowbridge.

The kickoff begins on Friday, January 28, broadcasting live from noon to 4:00 pm in the SUB Green Room. The event will be hosted by Benita Ha and Brian Heighton of CBC's *Street Cents*, and will feature local acts Linda Brooks, Al Tuck and No Action, Thrush Hermit, DJ Critical and DJ Mystro.