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# the Gazette

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## ATV cuts lesbian kiss

Halifax TV station's censoring sparks protest

BY KATHLEEN MIKO

On Monday, November 20, about 30 demonstrators gathered at a "Kiss-In" organised to protest ATV's decision to censor a lesbian kiss.

The crowd was small but high-spirited. While holding various signs, one of which solicited lesbian kisses for a dollar, protestors chanted "Hey hey, ho ho, homophobia's got to go."

ATV aired the controversial *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* episode on Nov. 4, at 7 p.m. The edit would not have been noticed by viewers had Fox not aired an unedited version of the episode an hour earlier.

The protest was led by Jane Kansas, co-chair of Pride '96.

Kansas stated that ATV's decision to cut the segment was "inappropriate and unacceptable." She went on to describe censorship as an "evil."

ATV has stated that the reason for editing the show was be-

**"Ward and June Cleaver are dead. They are not at home flipping through the channels looking for a reflection of their lives on the screen."**

— Pride '96 Chair  
Jane Kansas

cause the material was not appropriate for the time slot — in family viewing hour.

"Human rights are not big city ethics," said Kansas.

She asked protestors to "consider what other 'tasteless' things may or may not be broadcast every day."

Other protesters called for censorship of violence and a second airing of the episode, with the kiss included.

Questioning ATV's motives for the censor, Kansas said that "Ward and June Cleaver are dead. They are not at home flipping through the channels looking for a reflection of their lives on the screen."

"It's incumbent upon all of us whether we're queer or 'straight but not narrow' to stand up and speak out against this kind of silliness because it's just out of whack," said Kansas.

David Butler, a Dal student and member of Humans Against Homophobia, noted that TV's first interracial kiss occurred on *Star Trek*.

"It caused a lot of controversy then. I don't see how this is very different from what happened thirty years ago," he said.

Protest organisers handed out flyers urging people to contact ATV with their comments.

ATV can be reached at 2885 Robie St. Halifax, NS, B3K 5Z4, or by phone at (902) 453-4000.



GAZETTE PHOTO BY DANIELLE BOUDREAU

Two men fight the power at the "Kiss-In."

## Resident pissed off: "urine alley" closed

BY DANIEL CLARK

The alley between 6052 and 6058 University Avenue is one of the most popular on campus. Across from the Weldon Law Building, this driveway often attracts students on their way home from the Grawood, which is two blocks away.

Christina Lazier, a senior law student working with Dal legal aid, lives at 6058. She has already established herself as a community leader by building a small garden in what is essentially a barren lot.

"This isn't just a stopping place for me," said Lazier, "this is my home."

"We've lived here for thirty years," said Mrs. Grant, the building supervisor, "and from time to time, students come down the alley."

Lazier said on many occasions she's heard noises and voices outside her window and has called Dal security, but by the time they arrived, it was too late.

Sandy MacDonald, Dalhousie's chief of security, agrees: "We've registered two complaints already this year. We have searched the area thoroughly, but Thursday nights are busy, and we couldn't find anyone."

"One night I heard spattering on my window," explained Lazier. "It scared me, but I went out anyway. There were two men there. One had almost passed out and was surrounded in vomit. The other had just finished urinating."

"I remember saying, 'Get you and your filthy willies out of here. My property isn't a urinal,'

said Lazier. "I warned them that I was calling the police, and I returned inside and called Security."

The call was registered at 1:35 a.m. on the morning of October 27. Dalhousie Security sent Officer Merryl LeBlanc to the scene. A witness at the scene pointed him

in the direction of the two men. He soon caught up with them.

The two men admitted that they had been in Lazier's alley. Officer LeBlanc then turned them over to the Halifax Police Department, who arrested the Dal students on Public Drunkenness

charges.

"Dal security handled the whole incident very well," said Lazier. "The attention that's been raised over this incident has prompted Fenwick Place (who runs the building) to make some changes."

Pat McIsaac, who is in charge of upgrades at Fenwick, added, "We are installing Motion Sensitive Lighting, rebuilding the fence between the lot and the Henry Street parking lot, and building a new fence blocking off Edward Street."

## Dal still member of SUNS till April 1996

### AN OPEN LETTER TO DAL STUDENTS

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

Nov. 15, 1995

On behalf of all SUNS members schools, I offer my deepest regrets at the decision of the Dalhousie Student Council to withdraw their membership from the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

As one of the founding members of SUNS, Dalhousie University students have made a tremendous contribution over the past 15 years to raising awareness of student issues and to SUNS as an organization. Their contribution to the collective voice for university students which SUNS has facilitated over the years will be missed.

SUNS has been accused of ineffectiveness. While this may have been true as recently as this summer, SUNS progress since August has been substantial. Though most of my term as President to date has concentrated on rejuvenating the organization, SUNS has accomplished several important items of business since September.

On behalf of SUNS, I represented over 800 single-parent students in Nova Scotia who encountered problems with their student loans. The matter is ongoing but to date, a satisfactory resolution has been implemented as a result of SUNS advocacy.

Also, SUNS developed a set of guiding principles on rationalization. This document sets students concerns above all else in the rationalization debate. It has been presented to the Minister of Education, the Leaders of the Opposition, and the Chair of the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education (NSCHE).

Finally, SUNS has developed and implemented a grass roots lobbying strategy to contact backbench MLAs and to bring the concerns of post-secondary students to them. Our campaigns are set to begin in December. Already I have met with the Minister of Education on four occasions, the leaders of both opposition parties in the Legislature, the NSCHE Chairperson, senior bureaucrats in the Departments of Education and Community Services, and I have met with Geoff Regan (MP for Halifax West) and Mary Clancy (MP for Halifax) to discuss the Canada Health and Social Transfer.

The DSU and all Dal students are members of SUNS until April 30, 1996, according to the terms of membership in the SUNS by-laws. During this period it is my sincere hope that Dalhousie students and their council reconsider their future with SUNS.

Christopher Webb, SUNS President

On November 5, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) ratified the results of the referendum concerning Dalhousie's membership in the Students' Union of Nova Scotia (SUNS).

Students voted to pull out of SUNS by a count of 810 to 745 in the mid-October by-election. However, these results had to be ratified by council as quorum was not achieved for that question.

While the departure from SUNS is now official, it cannot take place immediately — Dalhousie students will remain members of SUNS until April 30, 1996.

This year, \$2.60 of every student's \$132 student union fee will be directed towards SUNS. Dalhousie students contribute a total of approximately \$26,000 annually. Although Dalhousie's payment to SUNS has not yet been made and the exact amount remains undetermined, the DSU Executive have no plans to delay or withhold payment.

"We are obligated to pay this year's fees. Each student has already paid their \$2.60 and it would be a misappropriation of funds if we refused to pay," said DSU President David Cox.

Cox admitted that the loss of Dalhousie students will be a big blow to SUNS.

"Dalhousie students comprise approximately one third of SUNS' membership and one third of their budget," said Cox.

Despite having a large percentage of the membership, Dalhousie only has one vote at SUNS.

"They (SUNS) operate on a one vote per institution policy, regardless of the number of students at each institution" added Cox.