



Killam Sports New Lid

AARON BLEASDALE

BY AARON BLEASDALE

The Killam library has a new look.

The summer addition of a glass roof over the courtyard, along with forthcoming improvements to the ventilation and lighting systems, will transform the cyclone-inducing pit into a veritable sunroom.

Bill Birdsall, university librarian, hopes that the changes will make the library "a new focal point for students on campus."

For 26 years, this colossal monument of Cubist architecture has been plagued by problems of poor air circulation and inefficient, dim lighting. Also, the wet Nova Scotian climate has caused extensive salt damage to both the windows and the quad floor.

Major improvements have been made to the courtyard, which in recent years has become increasingly grungy. This year the space will be completely enclosed by the roof and by new doors facing

University Avenue. The indoor environment will be temperature controlled, will contain year-round greenery, and will have lots of seating available if students want to relax.

The addition of a Second Cup aims to add to this comfort level. Birdsall defends the inclusion of the coffee shop by saying that, "Now that we have a nice space...let's use it." The franchise will be Dalhousie-owned, so the profits will stay in the university.

The library renovation project has a budget of \$1.5 million. The bulk of the money comes from an \$800,000 federal infrastructure grant and a \$250,000 Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission (MPHEC) grant. The balance will be paid by four years of energy savings resulting from the new, more efficient lighting.

There is concern about construction interfering with students trying to study. Bill Lord, director of physical plant and planning, says that most of the noisy work has already been done. The rest will be accomplished during those periods during which the library is least active. Lord hopes to have the work done by September 30th.

The improved ventilation and better lighting that will result from the project, as well as the shaping of a new gathering place at Dalhousie, makes Lord hopeful that, "If you want to study, it'll be a nice place to be."

PROBLEM PARKING

ANDREW SIMPSON

As students return to school this September, those who return on four wheels may find a parking space harder to come by than a degree.

Finding a spot to rest one's wheels can be a difficult task during peak hours of the day, despite the over 1750 spaces available to staff and students holding parking passes.

A regular student parking pass costs \$93.46 and will allow you to search for parking from September 1 right through to August 31. A reserved spot for the same time period costs \$253.20, while the very ritzy indoor reserved spot will put a \$570.99 dent in a student's budget.

The passes are sold through the Dalhousie Security Department Office located at 6139 South Street. They are available to any student with a valid student I.D and a vehicle permit.

The difficulty in finding a parking spot does not however lead to a difficulty in obtaining a parking pass. Any eligible student with cash and a car will be provided with one.

"Yes we oversell," said Dalhousie Chief of Security Sandy MacDonald. "There is no ceiling. We sell to as many people as want to buy...that usually means we oversell by about 60%."

MacDonald explained that 60% is relatively low when compared to the plight of park-



Park 'em if you got 'em

DANIELLE BOUDREAU

ing pass holders at St. Mary's where 2 passes are sold for every 1 spot. "They oversell up to a ceiling of 100%...it's much tougher to find parking down there," said MacDonald.

Nestled discreetly at the back of the Dalhousie parking regulations handbook is a brief word about Dalhousie's three-year-old rideshare program, an initiative intended to lower the number of cars arriving on campus. Groups of 3 or 4 people can purchase one reserved spot between them for the regular price of \$253.20, and have each of their cars validated for the spot.

MacDonald admits that the program has been under-publicized and as a result is under-utilized.

"It hasn't really been used," said MacDonald "Although we did have one lady who doesn't even go to Dalhousie call in looking for a ride to Cape Breton."

She was turned away. For those desperate drivers contemplating parking where no person has parked before, there is one place on campus that won't get you a ticket.

A row of old houses at the intersection of Henry and University Streets was demolished this summer in favour of a parking lot.

The lot is yet to have the lines drawn-in but MacDonald estimates about 22 new spaces will have been created.

To protect our eyes from the new asphalt eyesore, the Dalhousie Physical Plant people have added raised flowerbeds to the perimeter of the lot.

Happy parking.

Five months come and gone

BY DANIEL CLARK

If you did not spend your summer in Halifax, or even if you spent the last five months sleeping; the Gazette has assembled a quick summary of this summer's local news stories.

June

Crime and politics captured the attention of Halifax residents as the summer officially began. June started off with the NDP holding on to its Halifax-Fairview seat in a bye-election considered to be a precursor to the next provincial election. New Democrat Eileen O'Connell captured two-thirds of the cast ballots. The Progressive Conservative candidate Rossana Liberatore finished second, with Liberal Mary Ann Crowley bringing up the rear. NDP leader Robert Chisholm stated that he expects the result will send a strong message to Premier John Savage.

On June 7th, the Truckers Association of Nova Scotia threatened to blockade the 100-series highways in protest of the government's new policies on hiring practices, pay scale, and licensing tax. In the end only two on-ramps were blockaded, and one man was arrested.

Crime captured the headlines for most of the month. Marcello Palma, the prime suspect in the murder of three Toronto prostitutes, was captured in Halifax June 1 after using his American Express card to obtain a room in the Halifax Sheraton. He was returned to Toronto the next day for arraignment.

Richard Quinton was the focus of a three hour standoff with the Halifax police on June 8th in the South End. Witnesses said that he wielded a machete, and had spread paint thinner all over himself and his apartment. He tried to set it on fire. Mr. Quinton is an epileptic who took too much medication that morning.

Ernest Warner, a 53 year old Middle Sackville man, was arrested June 11 on 19 charges of criminal harassment, two attempts to abduct children under the age of 14, one sexual assault, one weapons charge, one count of dangerous driving, and one of uttering death threats to two RCMP officers.

Tragedy struck the Lunenburg RCMP June 14th, when Sergeant Derek Burkholder was gunned down by Ronald Stevens. Stevens fired two shots into Sgt. Burkholder's head, before turning the gun upon himself. 800 police officers from across Canada and the United States joined 2000 civilians to mourn Burkholder.

On June 25th, David Dingwall, federal Health Minister, announced that Dalhousie had been chosen as one of five Canadian research centres on women's health. The University will receive \$2 million over the next six years to study what affects women's health.

July

July started as the month in which ET couldn't phone home. On July 2nd, 950 MT&T technical workers went on strike. The start of the walkout saw strikers preventing some 180 operators from crossing the picket lines. This was halted by a slew of court injunctions limiting the number of picketers allowed at any one MT&T location. Several incidents of sabotage during the strike resulted in outages across the province.

The Pictou shipyards, which have been closed these last two years, were given a new lease on life. A new partnership between the provinces Economic Renewal Agency and Partners Construction of Pictou could see up to 100 full time workers at the yard by 1999. 20 people have already been hired.

Garth Brooks, the undeniable king of country music, made his presence felt in Halifax. Although his concert is not until September 13th, 2200 fans arrived at the Metro Centre at 7 a.m. on July 14th to buy tickets. By the end of the day 40,000 tickets had been sold, breaking a record held by Rod Stewart's 1989 concert.

An audit of the Sheraton Casino showed that its revenue projections were way off. Projections had expected patrons to spend an average of \$44 per visit to the Halifax casino. Instead the average patron is only spending \$20 per visit. This means that the casino will only break even, and that native bands will not benefit from their profit-sharing agreement.

The Dalhousie medical school made some hard choices in July. As a result of a financial report that shows that the school lost \$2 million in 1995; it will be cutting the same amount from its 1996 budget. This will result in the loss of some pediatric subspecialists and a family medicine clinic at Cowie Hill. Research programs will also be affected.

"The Punch Heard Round The World". Halifax's David Defiagbon slithered painfully to the mat after receiving a questionable low blow from France's Christophe Mendy on July 30th. The punch, which landed several inches to the right of Defiagbon's testicles apparently pushed his cup into the sensitive region. The painful blow paved the way for Defiagbon's silver medal at the Atlanta Olympics.

The Westray Inquiry, which wrapped up in July, saw some startling developments. Members of the Nova Scotia department of Labour admitted that it had made mistakes in the administration of the mine. The lawyers for the families of the 26 men killed in the disaster demanded a bureaucratic 'housecleaning'. Three million words of testimony were heard from 71 witnesses over 76 days since last November.

August

The Irving Whale, which had been sitting on the floor of the Gulf of St. Lawrence for the last 26 years, rose to the surface this summer. The ship made its appearance in Halifax harbour on August 7th. The salvage operation, which is estimated to have cost \$35 million, was performed to stem the leaking of oil and PCBs from the ship into the Gulf. The value of the Whale and its contents are estimated at approximately \$550,000.

A fire damaged Evaristus Hall of Mount Saint Vincent University on August 5th. The fire, which was contained to the roof, is believed to have caused tens of thousands of dollars in damage. The fire could have been much worse, but the blaze was still visible quite some distance away.