

THE HEMPMAN COMETH!



WHERE?

The Dalhousie Student Union Building.

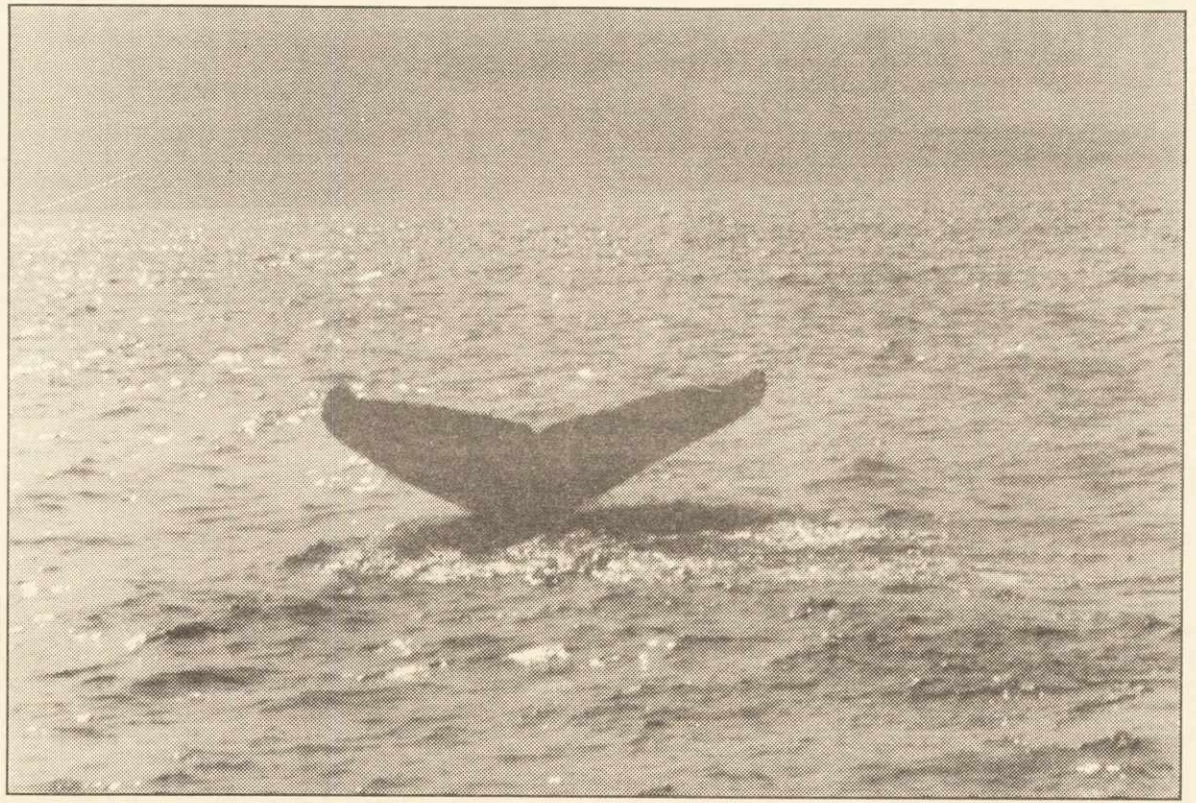
WHEN?

January 18th & 19th, 1995

WHAT?

Hemp Pants, Shorts, Boxer Shorts, Hats, Purses, Bags, Stickers, T-Shirts, Jackets, Shirts, Hemp Paper, Yardage, and more!!

BE HIP,
WEAR HEMP,
and
HELP SAVE THE
PLANET!!



Observers noticed whales inside the "cleared" area.

PHOTO: BARBARA MÜLLER

Whale of a problem

by Barbara Müller

Between November 8 and 21, the Department of National Defense (DND) set off three large explosions off the Nova Scotia coast to test HMCS Halifax's response to a near-miss attack. Although concerns were raised about November being a very biologically productive month, with high densities of marine mammals and other consumers, these concerns were ignored. DND maintains that the area is of "very low productivity."

Newspapers such as *The Globe and Mail* and *The Chronicle-Herald* stated that the second detonation was postponed by two hours to allow whales to move from 8 to 11 kilometers away from the blast site.

Hal Whitehead, associate professor in the biology department at Dal, has studied whales and dolphins off Eastern Canada since 1975 and has been concerned about the shock trials since they were first mentioned.

Whitehead said observers who were

present on either the DND's ship or on aircraft told him that the statement about delaying the test so whales could move away was just more public relations.

In actuality, he says, the plane that was to do the survey was slow getting there, and the navy had to wait for the survey to be finished before they could

"There was nothing we could do about it."

go on with the blast, to the dismay of the crew who were ready and waiting to proceed.

Many fishermen and environmental groups were concerned about the shock trials, but all were too busy in other projects to pursue the issue.

When Sheila Copps, Minister of the Environment, was questioned

about the procedures of the shock trials, she simply stated that "it was the DND. There was nothing we could do about it."

Some of Mr. Whitehead's other concerns included the fact that during one of the blasts the hydrophones used for checking marine mammals in the area were destroyed, and that one of the blasts was at a greater sea state (a rating of 4 out of 10) than is officially considered safe for the environment.

In 1992, blasting by Hibernia in Trinity Bay, Newfoundland resulted in ruptures, blood clots and distortions in ear sections of humpback whales that died near the site shortly after the explosions. Researchers also saw an increase in the number of disoriented whales in the region that had to be rescued after wandering into fishing nets. Interestingly enough, one observer was reported to have said that this was the best whale watching trip he'd ever been on.

"So much for the Oceanic Desert," he remarks.

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