A man and his dog

by M.L. Hendry

Chances are that you have seen a gentleman accompanied by a Seeing Eye dog on campus. The man is Del Lienaux, blind since the age of six. The dog is Zoey.

Originally from Cape Breton, Lienaux has spent most of his life in Halifax. Since 1953 he has been employed at Dalhousie, running a CNIB food service in the old Forrest Building for 24 years, and working for Dalhousie Central Services since 1977 as dispatcher for the mechanical maintenance crew.

When I first joined Del in the SUB cafeteria, he was reassuring Zoey.

"Zoey doesn't like crowds in enclosed places," he said. "She'd rather walk across University Avenue than come in here. If I let her, she'd walk right around the block and take me back to work."

Zoey is a 26-month old German Shepherd, beautiful, intelligent and educated. She has been Lienaux's constant companion for nearly a year.

Del has not always had a Seeing Eye dog. For many years he managed quite well, with some assistance from his wife.

"After my wife died, I became something of a recluse," Del said. "I'd go to work, reluctantly, and then I'd go home and lock myself in. This went on for about four years."

At that time Del decided to get a Seeing Eye dog. He has had two: a Labrador Retriever, and now Zoey. Both dogs were purchased from The Seeing Eye school in Morristown, New Jersey, where dogs are bred and carefully trained to assist the blind.

"I think they're a wonderful outfit," Lienaux said. "When you apply for your first dog they make it as difficult as it is to adopt a child. Then, if you're accepted, they pay your way to New Jersey, house and feed you for four weeks, and teach you to handle your animal. All you pay for is the dog - $150 - they're essentially giving it to you."
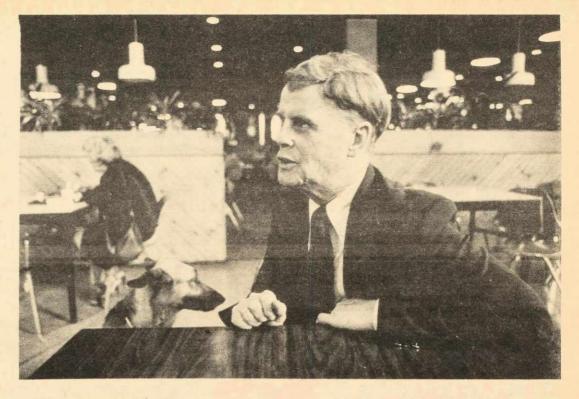
Lienaux's first dog, Dusty, died when she was four.

'I could write a book about her," Del said. "Everybody here loved her. When she died students gave me enough money to purchase half a dozen dogs."

Del returned to Morristown to get Zoey.

"There was a man down there who wanted a dog - living on a Canadian pension, which isn't much - and I gave him the money he needed. I told him that if he never heard anything more about Dalhousie University, he would know that students there bought him his dog."

The Seeing Eye school

believes that no one but the owner should touch a Seeing Eye dog, that it would distract her from her work. Del disagrees.

"She needs her relaxation too. Yes, Zoey likes her job."

Del controls his dog with an ordinary leash, and three commands: 'left', 'right' and 'forward'. She comes to a full stop at curbs and stairs so Lienaux can get his footing. City traffic and crowded sidewalks present

no problems for Del.

"We go everywhere together," he said. "We even go to the tavern."

At this point in the interview, it was time for Del to return to work, and Zoey was restless.

"One day I was late going back to work, and she was in a hurry," Del told me. "Instead of stopping dead in her tracks as usual when we came to some stairs, she jumped down three steps. I got the first one alright, and took the last two together.

Then I made her go back up and repeat them properly. That's the only time she's done anything like that."

"I like my job," Lienaux stated. "It's very easy for me - I'm the sort of person who likes anything I have to do."

Zoey was on her feet, impatient to guide her man back to his work.

The future? Del is getting married again at New Years, and, in his estimation, "That's a real nice story!"

A man and his best friend in the Dalhousie SUB

Rusty and Dave

Hi!

Remember Rusty and Wildman Dave from last year?

Remember how they hated each other?

Well, they still hate each other. The only reason they are together is that the Gazette has abducted their mothers and are holding them hostage in Pierre Berton's rec room. To get them back they must produce one column per week for the rest of the year.

Why does the Gazette want Rusty and Dave? Because they are such good singers and dancers. Wait! Don't laugh! Allan Fotheringham has written every one of his articles while doing a soft shoe routine for **Mr. Bojangles**.

Also, the Gazette knows that they deal with the issues. They take a tough journalistic stance and explore every facet of the problem with thorough professionalism.

But they just were not singing and dancing all summer. Rusty was mountain-climbing in Saskatchewan and Dave was in the Soviet Union trying to promote capitalism and Stanfield's underwear. (Robert Stanfield's underwear, that is.) At the end of August they each received a letter by carrier-penguin informing them that their mothers had been seized. They each hopped aboard their private Dal hovercrafts and arrived at the Gazette office within hours.

Here is what Rusty and Dave have to say about their future endeavours:

"We plan on concerning our column with problems that hit

home with the average Dal student. (We discovered that there is only one average Dal student so this column is only for Michael Flynn, second-year Commerce.) There are some topics which, although controversial, we will not be dealing with: 1) Betty Davis' glass eye, 2) why isn't there aluminum-flavoured Jell-O?, 3) do fish sleep?, 4) should mainland Canada break off all diplomatic ties with Cape Breton?, 5a) are the hockey Dal Tigers playing outside this season?, 5b) were their skates dull?, 6) has Yan learned to Wok yet?, 7) how is Jose Feliciano going to find the Cohn?, and 8) do people use blue Tidy-Bowl just to see if it turns green when they urinate?

"As experience from singing and dancing has proven, the routine is not complete without audience participation. That is why we want to hear your problems, as a university student. We want your response in the form of letters. We want your questions. We want your comments. We want tons of mail so all our friends will think we are popular. Direct your letters to:

Rusty & Dave
c/o Dalhousie Gazette
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S.

or drop your mail off at the Gazette office and we will try our darndest to get it in our column."

Dear Rusty and Dave:
What is 2 plus 2?

Dear John:
At first, this looks like a sim-

ple question, but extensive research and numerous interviews with experts on the subject showed this problem to be anything but simple. We took a random survey of students and asked them, "What is 1 plus 1 plus 1 plus 1?" They all answered, "4." This is where the confusion started. If 1 plus 1 plus 1 plus 1 is 4, then how can 2 plus 2 be 4?

From there we proceeded to a three-week seminar in Toronto to gain actual background before committing ourselves to any one answer. After the

seminar we had to define our terms. "2" is "the existence of more than one, yet less than three, totally independant bodies at any given plane with no restrictions on time or space." Another accepted definition of "2" is the average number of fights per game that Jeff Leverman is involved in before being ejected.

We then applied these definitions, for no apparent reason, to George Orwell's **1984**, wherein we discovered that with the presence of Big Brother there are limitations only in the exter-

nal dimensions. There are limitless answers which lie in the soul of the individual. We can remember when Jeff only got in one fight. That destroys our definition right there. But a consensus must be arrived upon, so we fed all our knowledge and data into our computer and, in answer to your question, John, 2 plus 2 equals 4 (4½ in Newfoundland).

Send comments or questions to:
Rusty & Dave
c/o Dalhousie Gazette
Dalhousie University
Halifax, N.S.