

# Bunny boys promote *Playboy* at Dal

BY SARAH YOUNG

For the first time on a Canadian university campus, *Playboy* magazine is being represented.

Dalhousie's two representatives, Bruce Yip and B.W. Wildsmith, have been holding *Playboy* parties and sponsored events in Halifax. They say their goal is not to actually sell the magazines or look for future playmates, although they say they can assist you in those areas, but to provide an open forum for people to express themselves.

But Pat Thomson, director of the Dalhousie Women's Centre, is concerned about *Playboy's* content. Particularly its photos of naked women.

"Holding *Playboy* parties and sponsoring events under the

*Playboy* name will be detrimental to women," she said. "These events will reinforce the idea that women are sexual objects for men."

*"...Playboy is an exploitive venue, not an expressive one."*

Yip and Wildsmith disagree. They say *Playboy* is not demeaning to women.

"*Playboy* has provided the largest forum for feminist thought, such as in 1965 when the magazine advocated reproductive choice for women," they say, reading from their hand-held computer with ready answers.

Dustin, a third-year Earth Sciences major who wishes his last name to remain anonymous, says he

doesn't see anything wrong with *Playboy* representation at Dal.

"A university's reputation is not built on sponsored events," he said.

He also says that the photos of the women in *Playboy* magazine are done "tastefully."

Annie, a second year Science student who also wished her last name to remain anonymous, agrees.

"I don't see a difference between a *Playboy*-sponsored event and a Keith's-sponsored event."

And both Dustin and Annie say they are glad that Dalhousie will have another sponsor for events.

Annie says people who don't want to be involved with the *Playboy* events have a choice.

"If you don't like them, then

don't use them."

But Thomson says she isn't against self-expression, just the form it takes.

"I feel that *Playboy* is an exploitive venue, not an expressive one," she said.

The next *Playboy* party is planned for early October at the Velvet Olive.

"Don't wear something that you would wear to a bar...class it up a notch, take it to another level," Yip said.

Both Yip and Wildsmith say they welcome and encourage any artistic ideas to be performed at this party. They say they are trying to create a comfortable atmosphere where people can have a great time and express themselves.

"We want the average man to be able to do what he wants to do."

# Toilet ads

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bacco companies.

Although the ads did include promos for Belvedere Rocks performances — sponsored by Belvedere cigarettes.

Kellow says the benefits of their sponsorship outweigh the costs.

"As far as Belvedere Rocks goes, we [are advertising cigarettes] indirectly," he said.

"They help us. They put on shows...we couldn't afford."

Kellow also stressed the DSU's position as an inherently democratic organization.

"We like to keep an open dialogue with students," he said.

"If we got reports that the ads were offensive, we would change them. In a heartbeat."

# Take Back the Night 'about power'

BY LISA LACHANCE

Depending on your viewpoint, either 250 angry women or 250 empowered women in solidarity marched through Halifax on Friday night.

They had gathered for the annual Take Back the Night march, a event designed to highlight women's lack of safety on the streets at night.



Photo by Avi Lambert.

March participant Linda Forbrigger said the march was about being a woman, and being strong.

"Take Back the Night is about power," she said. "There's a lot of submission where I work and at [the march] there's none of that."

Before the march, women and men alike listened to speakers such as Yvonne Atwell, the New Democratic Party MLA for Preston, who encouraged people to demand that government take action on women's issues.

And Jacqui Brown from the Avalon Centre for Sexual Assault

noted how so many women feel threatened by harassment or attack every time they leave their houses. She encouraged marchers to capture the empowerment they felt together that night for use everyday.

There was also music and poetry, including Dalhousie students Vanessa Wade and Rynne McGee.

The March itself took a loud and jubilant crowd of women and children through the downtown core. Crowds gathered in store and restaurant windows to watch. And reactions ranged from silence to shows of support.

The march returned to Grand Parade Square where some of the women danced in celebration.

Patricia Thomson, director of the Dalhousie Women Centre and a march organizer, said the march raises awareness of issues that stretch beyond one event.

"These are the women who are going to take the present-day issues of an age-old problem and tackle them."

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# Defunct courses still in calendar

BY MARY KUNA

One in five of all undergraduate courses listed in the Dalhousie calendar isn't being offered this year. Most are only offered every few years. But a few courses are printed year after year and never offered.

Leonard Diepeveen, undergraduate advisor for the English department, says that sometimes there are more ideas for classes than there are professors to teach them. Of the 71 English courses listed, only 31 are being taught this year.

"Most likely what we would do is put on different classes that wouldn't otherwise be offered, instead of having different sections [of the same course]," he said.

But if a course has not been offered for five years in a row, it is supposed to be taken out of the calendar.

Judy Douglas, the associate registrar, says that despite the rule there really isn't any system in place to deal with these courses.

"It hasn't really been followed — no one has been monitoring it," she said. "It's up to the departments."

David McNeil, chair of the English department, says the faculty makes up a list of courses that haven't been taught in five years, and the list is sent to the departments. A course on the list will automatically be dropped from the calendar unless the department asks for it to be left in.

But McNeil says that sometimes there are good reasons to leave a class on the books.

"We don't want a course to disappear from the calendar when we still might intend to teach it again," he said.

There are also courses which slip through the cracks, like English 2200.06: Advanced Composition. No one has requested it to stay in the calendar, but it is there — even though it hasn't been taught for five years and may never be available again.

The calendar itself carries a disclaimer about its mistakes.

"Matters dealt with in this calendar are subject to continuing

review and revision...the content of this calendar is subject to change without notice, other than through the regular processes of Dalhousie University, and every student accepted for registration in the University shall be deemed to have agreed to any such deletion, revision, or addition," it states.

According to the Better Business Bureau, this disclaimer helps prevent claims of false advertising.

Kelly MacKenzie, Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) vice-president of student advocacy, says inaccurate calendar offerings are confusing, but also can be dangerous. If one of the courses a student registers for is not being offered, by the time the student discovers this, the other courses that would fit the same requirement might already be full.

"It's disappointing to students," she said. "And it's an inconvenience, but it can also be more than that if they can't get into the courses that are required for them to graduate."

# Shrubsall worked at Dalplex

BY MARK REYNOLDS

An American fugitive living in a fraternity house close to Dal was briefly employed by Dalhousie University.

William Shrubsall, who has been charged in connection with several sexual assaults that occurred in Halifax, was employed at the Dalplex last February.

Banned from campus as a result of a complaint by a female student, Shrubsall was fired when he broke the ban to go to work, and it was discovered he wasn't a student.

Christine Smith, a university spokesperson, says the job was not an unusual one.

"Various students are hired on a call-in basis. It wouldn't be regular hours, and it wouldn't be a lot of hours," she said.

"Mr. Shrubsall was hired on the basis that he was a student. As

soon as it was known that he was not a student, his [job was] terminated."

And Smith says the university knew nothing about his past.

"[Shrubsall's identity] was not known until well after his dealings on campus," she continued.

Shrubsall's job involved taking tickets and setting up for events.

He was fired February 19.

Shrubsall worked under the name of Ian Thor Green, one of his many aliases.

He used a student number he was given when he applied to Dal, even though he had never been accepted as a student.

Jim Charters, Dalplex special events manager, would not comment on the hiring.

In addition to the charges that Shrubsall faces here, he is still wanted in the U.S. for not appearing at his trial. He was convicted in

absentia in the sexual assault of a minor.

Smith says the university's role in the case is limited.

"Now is the time to leave it to the police and the courts."



William Shrubsall. Photo courtesy of Halifax Regional Police Department.

Write for the Gazette staff meeting every Monday at 4:30 Room 312 SUB