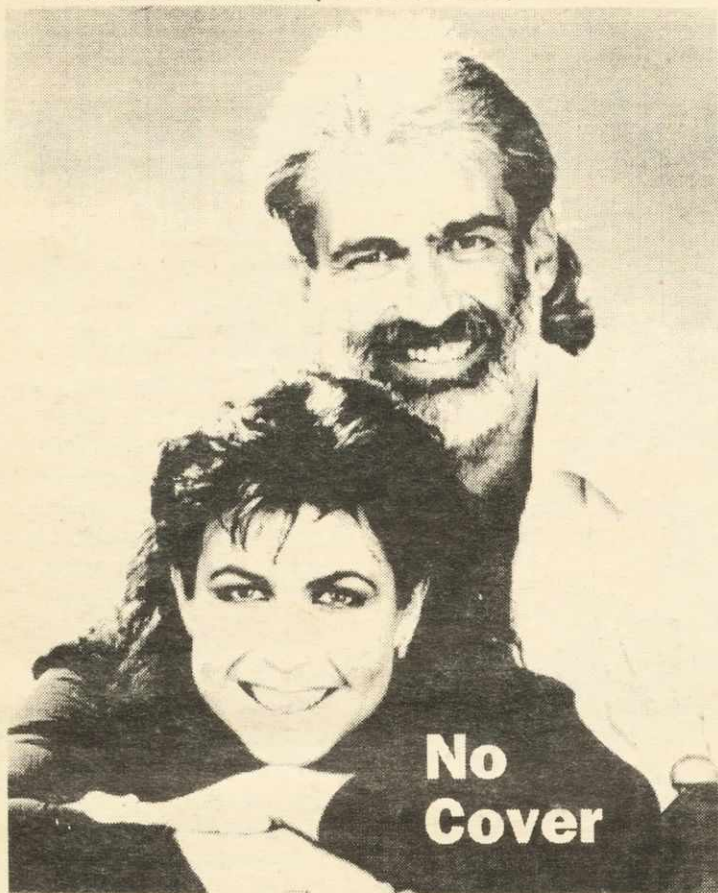


**The Skip Beckwith Group**  
With Kathie Shaw, Paul Donat, Rob Smith



**Authentic Brazilian Bossa Nova never before heard outside Brazil!**



**9 pm, Friday, April 2**

**at the GRAD HOUSE**

**news**

**Inspiration from the Chief**

by Arif Nizami

One way that inequality and lack of opportunity for minority students is combated at Dalhousie is through the Transition Year Program (TYP). Apart from the core courses and the program chooses a role model whom they contact and with whom they continue to communicate during the school year.

Jude Gerrard is a Micmac student from Millbrook Reserve near Truro who, in addition to requesting a mentor in the local area, wrote to Ovide Mercredi, not expecting a response. Mercredi is the Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and has become Jude's honorary mentor. In his response to Jude's letter, Chief Mercredi supported the mentor system in the Transition Year Program and Jude's efforts. He also emphasised the importance of support and linkages to the community to ensure success and focus. Jude's actual mentor is Marlene Martin, who works at the local Native Counselling Centre and whom he can contact regularly.

Before coming to Dal two years ago, Jude participated in the Micmac learning program, but did not have

the marks to attend university except for the opportunity presented through the TYP. He is now able to take Native studies, African Canadian studies, English and math courses on the way to forwarding his life and brightening the future for his family.

While he agrees that the program presents opportunities and helps promote equality, he criticises the TYP's limited enrolment and suggests that the only change should be the opening of this program to more potential students.

Jude is not only a member of this university program but is also a husband and father to a young daughter, with another addition to the family expected in the summer. At the end of the academic year Jude hopes to join the RCMP. The show of support by Chief Mercredi, his role model and now honorary mentor, may help him achieve his goals, which include returning to school later in life to get a law degree.

Chief Mercredi is contributing to the Native community by giving inspiration and direction at a personal level. The open support shown by Chief Mercredi will have a profound impact not only for Jude but for oth-

ers in the community. Some day Jude may be able to return the favour by being an example and providing support and guidance to others contributing to the development of the First Nations community.

The whole program, says Jude, has allowed him to keep in touch with his community and has made him more aware of his culture. Over the last twenty years there has been progress made in the native community, though he says that they are not ready for self-government yet. "It has been slow starting," he says, "but there are constantly more going and coming out of university, and most significantly, the residential schools are gone."

Jude has taken sensible advantage of opportunities that once did not exist. With the support of his wife, Meri, and inspiration coming from successful community leaders such as Ovide Mercredi, he should have no problem achieving his goals. Realistically, with community leaders putting back into the community and providing inspiration for ambitious young people, control over community destiny is not a futile enterprise and self-government could be an achievable goal.

**DSU COUNCIL OPPORTUNITIES**  
**Nominations now open**



**Honoraria Positions:**  
**Treasurer**  
**V.P. Academic**  
**V.P. Community Affairs**  
**V.P. External**  
**Communications Coordinator**  
**Chair** (must have knowledge of Robert's Rules of order \$30 per meeting)  
**Secretary** (\$40 per meeting)



**Also accepting nominations for 2 Board of Governor's positions**

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY, APRIL 2nd 1993 at 4:00 pm**

Return completed forms to room 222, Student Union Building c/o Caroline Kolompar. For more information and application forms, also see council offices room 222 in the S.U.B. or call 494-1106.