



photo: Rochell Owen

by Munju Ravindra
and Shannon Gowans

Shouts of "Viva Mandela, Viva!" rang through the streets of Halifax Monday night in celebration of the long awaited release of Nelson Mandela.

A march beginning at 7 pm wound its way from the Grand Parade to the Cornwallis Street Baptist Church. Hundreds crammed into the small building

to enjoy an evening of speeches, music and dance.

Singing and shouting, the crowd voiced their joy at Mandela's release. They were joined by the East Preston Black Youth Federation choir, singing inspirational songs like "Ain't gonna let nobody turn me around."

Alexa McDonough, leader of the NDP in Nova Scotia, described the occasion as one in which to "clap our hands in jubilation and stamp our feet in triumph."

She went on to say the release of Nelson Mandela should serve as encouragement to Nova Scotia, Canada, and the rest of the world to work together against discrimination.

She said that "until we can deliver freedom to our children, and our children's children, we will not be worthy of the freedom and sacrifice of Nelson

Mandela."

Joe Clark, minister of external affairs, has stated that Canada will not remove sanctions on South Africa. However, says Lee Seymour, chair of the Coalition Against Apartheid, "Canada has actually increased trade with South Africa in the last few years." She added that the coalition will continue the struggle "until a democratic, non-racial society exists."

As one of the onlookers unfurled an African flag, 87-year-old Dr. Carrie Best explained the meaning of the tricoloured flag. "The black reminds me of my colour. Red is for the blood my forefathers shed in slavery, and green is for the verdant fields of Africa."

"Nelson Mandela is out of jail but not out of prison," declared

continued on page 5

No blacks please, we're Scottish

by Sandy MacKay

If you happen to be a black bagpiper, you won't get a job at the Citadel this summer.

The job restrictions on the Citadel applications in the Student Employment Centre say you must be at least five feet four inches (150 cm) tall and you may not wear glasses. They do not say you will not be hired if you are not white.

"We hire people on the basis of historical accuracy," said Kim Melanson, the Citadel's acting interpretation analyst.

The Citadel hires people to portray the 78th Highlanders, a Scottish regiment. There were no blacks in this regiment in 1869, the period the "animation" focuses on. The British military was "overtly racist" according to a Citadel spokesperson.

While there were black regiments at the Citadel throughout its history, such as the Jamaican Maroons, the animators chose to recreate the period when the Citadel was at the peak of its development. Due to the cost of setting up the program, the organizers had to focus on one particular group, the 78th Highlanders.

In order to hire with such overt discrimination, the Citadel had to get a special dispensation from the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission. Section 19 of the Human Rights Code allows employers with specific needs to waive the charter.

"We are appalled by this, knowing blacks helped build Halifax," said Henry Bishop, curator of the museum at the Black Cultural Centre. "We don't

continued on page 5

Sparks fly in DSU dustup

by Leslie Burn

Wednesday night at 7:00, the Dalhousie Student Union Council met in emergency session and passed a policy motion to limit tuition fee increases to the rate of inflation plus a \$15 per student contribution to the debt reduction campaign.

The meeting was called to discuss DSU counter-proposals to the increase in fee revenues of \$3.2 million advocated by the Dalhousie Financial Strategy Committee.

Quorum, two-thirds of the student council, was not reached. However, it was agreed that council members present would act as a committee of the DSU, and if a majority of those present voted in favour of a motion it would be accepted as interim policy.

A heated debate ensued over the DSU's stand on tuition fee increases. Five scenarios were dis-

tributed at the meeting. Four were compiled by Ralph Bastarache, the DSU communications chair, and the fifth was compiled by Steve Davis, Board of Governors representative.

The committee voted in favour of Proposal B, which stipulated tuition fees should be tied to the consumer price index.

Although the DSU has already publicly stated this position, some confusion had been created by the fact that members of the DSU executive had previously discussed advocating a 10 per cent increase over five years. In addition, Davis had presented his counter-proposal to the FSC last Monday morning, calling for a 16 per cent increase in tuition revenues over five years. Davis's proposal had not previously been presented to council.

The committee moved to take Proposal B to the Board of Gover-

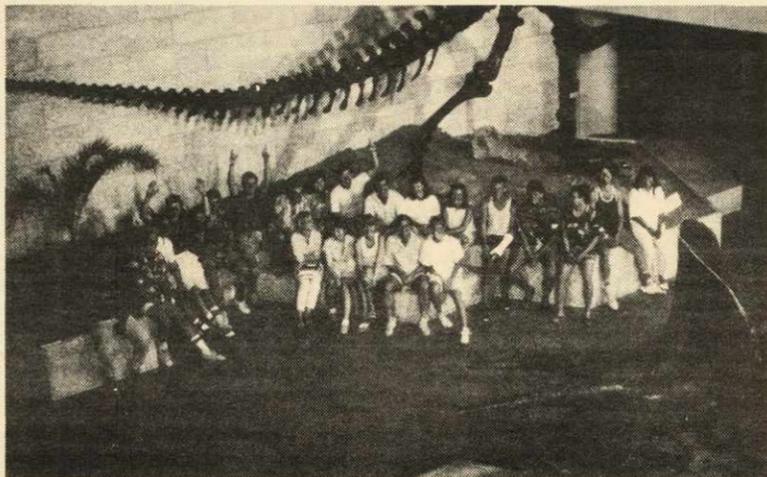
nors meeting next Tuesday and for DSU president Dave Shannon to write a letter to the FSC stating that Davis's proposal was not an official DSU submission.

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The Dalhousie Gazette is Canada's oldest college newspaper. Published weekly through the Dalhousie Student Union, which also comprises its membership, the Gazette has a circulation of 10,000.

As a founding member of Canadian University Press, the Gazette adheres to the CUP Statement of Principles and reserves the right to refuse any material submitted of a racist, sexist, homophobic or libelous nature. Deadline for commentary, letters to the editor, and announcements is noon on Monday before publication (Thursday of each week). Submissions may be left at the SUB Enquiry Desk c/o the Gazette.

Commentary should not exceed 700 words. Letters should not exceed 500 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon Monday before publication.

The Gazette offices are located on the third floor of the SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the Students' Union, the editors or the collective staff.

The Gazette's mailing address is 6136 University Avenue, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2. Telephone (2) 424-2507.

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Shootings "a blessing in disguise"

by Jeff Harrington

The Dec. 6 massacre of 14 women "may be a blessing in disguise", a prominent graduate of L'Ecole Polytechnique of the University of Montreal said Monday night.

Claudette MacKay-Lassonde, founder of the group Women in Science and Engineering, told about 175 people attending a forum on violence against women that the tragedy has pushed engineers "to the top of the public agenda". She said being in the spotlight might help avert a looming shortage of engineers.

"I feel some small measure of the horror of that day," said MacKay-Lassonde, a director of Northern Telecom.

"But we cannot turn back the clock. The onus is on us to create something positive, something useful out of this tragedy."

Her remarks surprised many in the audience, who did not expect to hear about "the larger issues of global competitiveness".

King's College student Elizabeth Kilvert told MacKay-Lassonde her description of the shootings was "rather shocking".

"It almost seems as if you're using the massacre instead of seeing it as a greater social problem, or dealing with violence against women — now engineers have a forum for promoting their

trade," said Kilvert, a member of the King's Ad Hoc Committee on Men, Women and violence.

Another woman told MacKay-Lassonde her rationale for getting women involved in engineering was "dangerous".

"It sounds like the same thing as all along. We've been a labour reserve pool, and when you need us, you pull us out," she said.

When the applause died down, MacKay-Lassonde admitted she has similar concerns.

"However, (maximizing the labour pool) is a language business understands," she said.

"Maybe we should be defining our own language," replied another woman, to more applause.

MacKay-Lassonde said the three per cent of the 135,000 engineers in Canada who are women "cannot make a major difference" if they are "isolated".

"If we talk at all about women in engineering, we are immediately seen as feminists," she said.

In an interview after the discussion, she said women engineers have to work within the system, with engineers.

"It's bad enough we have to live up to the expectations of the people in the profession. If we have to be heroes, by declaring openly that we are feminists, that's too much to ask," she said.



MacKay-Lassonde said if a feminist is someone who believes in social, political and economic equality of the sexes, then she is a feminist.

"But until it (the word 'feminist') becomes a gender-neutral

word to the extent that both women and men (use it to describe themselves), its imputed meaning will be the equivalent of the "rowdy engineer", she said.

MacKay-Lassonde was the keynote speaker at the forum, which

was part of the Week of Reflection on violence against women organized by the universities in the Metro area. Other speakers included sociologist Blye Frank of Acadia University and Barbara Harris, Dalhousie's Status of Women co-ordinator.

Panty raids spur anti-sexism policy

WATERLOO, Ont. (CUP) — Public outcry over "panty raids" at Wilfrid Laurier University has prompted the university to take action against sexism on campus.

Laurier president John Weir recently announced the start of a program to promote positive gender relations.

"The panty raids prompted us to review a number of our policies and, where appropriate, changes will be made," Weir said.

The announcement follows the recommendations of a joint faculty, student and administration committee's report, released recently.

Weir said the measures will include:

- A standing committee on gender relations, appointed by the president

- A review of employment equity at the university

- Hiring a "Human Rights and Employment Equity Officer" to develop programs to promote equity, tolerance and fairness

- A draft policy on sexual harassment, to be brought before the board of governors for approval before the end of 1990

- A style-sheet for gender-neutral language

- Emphasis on sex and sexually transmitted diseases during orientation

- An attempt to increase the number of women employees in counselling, security and housing services

- A screening procedure for posters and publications on campus

Women "disadvantaged" in engineering faculties

by Jane Anson

MONTREAL (CUP) — Gender equality is a myth in the engineering faculty, the president of the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women told Concordia students and faculty recently.

Glenda Simms also said women's acceptance into the engineering faculty was no indication or guarantee of equal treatment.

"Despite the many and tangible gains [women] have made, they are still in a disadvantaged position," Simms said.

Statistics Canada figures show one in eight engineering students are women, an increase from one in 10 in 1985. But that's not enough for mechanical engineering professor Jaan Saber.

"The enrolment of women in engineering is not normal," he said. "Normal is 50 per cent."

Saber called for the elimination of sexist posters, literature, and

"The enrolment of women in engineering is not normal."

textbooks from the engineering faculty to create a healthier environment for women.

"What the women say they feel may be terribly hard for us to

acknowledge," he said.

A fourth-year mechanical engineering student, Terrence Knee, said faculty could add courses like women's studies and philosophy to its curriculum to raise "the awareness of its students."

Engineering and computer science student council president Dawn Wiseman said inequality doesn't exist in the engineering department.

"There is not a problem between male and female students [in engineering]," she said.

Two Concordia students took the engineering student paper to the university's disciplinary board last year for an issue that hurled homophobic and sexist abuse at them.

The editors were assessed fines and forced to do community work.

Help prove feminism is not a dirty word.
Write for the women's supplement. Call 424-2507

GST: a punishment?

MONTREAL (CUP) — A national anti-Goods and Services Tax coalition is calling on Canadians to use civil disobedience to fight the tax.

The "No to the GST Committee," founded three months ago by Manitoba hairdresser Vaun Gramatovich, has been travelling across Canada billing the GST as the biggest tax scam this country has ever seen.

"I'm urging you to be typical Canadians," said Gramatovich. "When April 30 comes around, don't do anything. Don't file your return. Just leave it sitting on your desk. The fine you get from the government will be between \$20 and \$30."

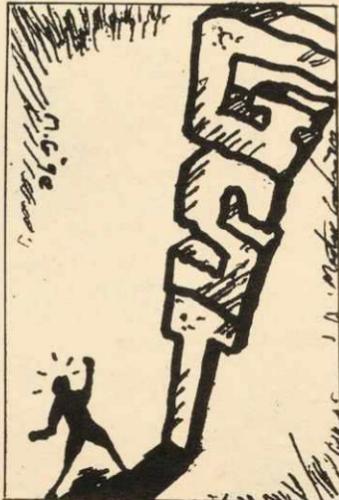
Federal New Democratic Party finance critic Lorne Nystrom has called the GST a regressive tax.

"Now the bank teller and the bank president will be paying the same seven per cent tax on a pizza," said Nystrom.

The GST will tax Canadian consumers seven per cent on "everything from diapers to coffins," he said.

Gramatovich also pointed to the increase in Canada's debt, from \$70 million to \$356 billion under the present Conservative government.

"Our taxes have been raised 31



times [since Brian Mulroney was elected]," said Gramatovich. "I'm tired of being told the business of government belongs to elected officials."

The introduction of the GST will spell political doom for the

Mulroney government, Nystrom said. "You can only get away with this once too often before you become a former Prime Minister."

The NDP is trying to stall the GST legislation in parliament to give citizens a chance to mobilize against it, Nystrom said.

David Somerville, head of the National Citizens' Coalition — a right-wing group which opposes government spending on everything but defense — said there is no guarantee the GST will stay at seven per cent.

He said the manufacturer's sales tax had increased 50 per cent from nine per cent in 1984 to 13.5 per cent this year.

"It's going to affect people's lifestyles," said Rickie Cohen, a welfare recipient, "The GST penalizes the poor and helps corporations."

Patrice Fortin, former leader of J'en Arrache, the Quebec equivalent of the Rhinoceros party, asked, "Is the GST a punishment for the Meech Lake Accord, now that it's in trouble?"

TUNS

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Technical University of Nova Scotia

The Technical University of Nova Scotia has established a number of Industrial Research Internships in specific areas of endeavour.

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Applications should include: summaries of educational experience and employment record; an indication of academic standing; descriptions of extra-curricular activities or special projects that are pertinent to the position.

CFS votes tied

OTTAWA (CUP) — Canada's student federation has a one-win, one-loss record this year, after students at Acadia and the University of Western Ontario cast their ballots last week.

At Acadia University in Wolfville, students voted 61 per cent in favour of paying \$4 per year to join the federation, which represents about 400,000 post-secondary students.

Students at London, Ontario's University of Western Ontario voted 44 per cent against joining the federation.

Five more campuses — University of Waterloo, University of Winnipeg, University of Ottawa, Simon Fraser University and l'Universite Ste. Anne — will be holding votes in the next few weeks.

Federation information officer Catherine Louli said referenda were most common in the spring.

Acadia student council president Maura Donovan was happy with the referendum results. "Students on this campus know which way to vote," she said.

Waterloo and Ste. Anne are holding referenda on joining the federation, while the other three campuses will be "reviewing" their membership.

Council off limits

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — More than four months after they complained about impaired access to the student council offices, disabled students at Memorial University say things haven't changed much.

"I don't think there is anyone in a wheelchair who could get into the [offices] on their own," said Memorial disabled students association member Helen Morris.

Morris originally criticized the entrance to the offices in September for being difficult to negotiate, and student council executives promised changes. But Morris said things are much the same as ever.

Student council president Robin Russell said the doors have been made easier to open.

"The tension on the doors has been released instead of installing a button," to open the doors automatically, she said. Russell also said the council has made arrangements to make the office's front desk more accessible.

But Morris said releasing tension on a door wouldn't solve the problem.

"In a manual or motorized [wheel]chair how are you supposed to manoeuvre?" Morris said. "You have to open the door and keep it open with one arm and push your chair through with the other."

"Can you imagine wheeling up to a door, leaning forward to grab the handle, opening the door and backing up at the same time?"

U of T access fee

TORONTO (CUP) — University of Toronto students may donate \$90 over three years to make the campus wheelchair accessible.

But even if the student council approves the idea of a campus vote on the special levy — which will raise about \$4.5 million — the university's disabled services coordinator says it won't be enough.

Eileen Barbeau, said she supports the proposal, but it will take about \$10 million to make the university accessible.

"I think we're in the worst situation (in comparison to other universities), because we're old, we're large and we have many buildings," Barbeau said.

The student levy would be for ramps, elevators, and wider wash-room doors.

the GAZETTE

NEEDS

WRITERS



Come lend your pen!

Privatization and Post-Secondary Education

Education: right or privilege? Part 2 of 8

by Dave Courtney

Recent tuition hikes and cut-backs in government funding are forcing students to reconsider a university education. Is post-secondary education in Nova Scotia a practical social opportunity or a restricted financial privilege?

As the political attitude toward funding of post-secondary education becomes more ruthless, students suffer. A 1987 report by the Senate Committee on National Finance suggested the federal government "should not be disposed to advance policies or programs that are designed to encourage greater numbers of students to attend universities or colleges of Canada."

The federal government has taken this suggestion to heart, cutting \$1.6 billion from post-secondary education funding through Bill C-96. While the Conservative party may claim

substantial increases in funding for education, these increases have not kept pace with the rising cost of running a university in terms of books, faculty payroll, libraries and other facilities.

"Students are in effect being asked to pay more for a declining standard," says Bob Kanduth, an official with the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations. "There is a real irony there."

As part of the government's ongoing drive to cut costs at the expense of the politically powerless, Employment and Immigration Canada has cut at least 44 per cent from the 1990 federal summer job program, leaving even more students to compete for fewer jobs throughout Canada.

"Lots of students depend on summer jobs to afford college or university," says NDP education critic Chris Axworthy. "What they're doing is robbing more

Canadians of their right to an education."

Dalhousie University President Howard Clark, in an article in the *Dalhousie News* states that "the relationship between student aid, student debt, family support, tuition fees and other sources of income and accessibility are clearly very complex, not well understood by any of us, and not well supported in terms of available statistical data and analysis."

Students, however, do not need statistical data and analysis to understand the status of their own bank accounts. With a national average increase of 6.4 per cent, tuition fees represent only part of an ever-increasing financial burden.

While Dr. Clark focuses on tuition fees as a source of financial contention between students and administration, he forgets minor details such as food, clothing, transportation, books, and living expenses.

In the words of one student, "It's hard enough finding a decent place to live in Halifax; every year means another lunge into debt and I have absolutely no guarantee of a job when I am finished up."

While Dr. Clark maintains Dalhousie students pay the cheapest tuition fees in Nova Scotia, this observation is rendered inane in light of Atlantic Canada's unemployment rate. Already

the highest in the country, the Atlantic jobless rate continues to rise, recording a 7.8 per cent increase for February 1990.

Professor Michael Bradfield, a faculty member at Dalhousie's economics department believes Canada's healthy national economy is more than capable of providing quality education at a price affordable to everyone.

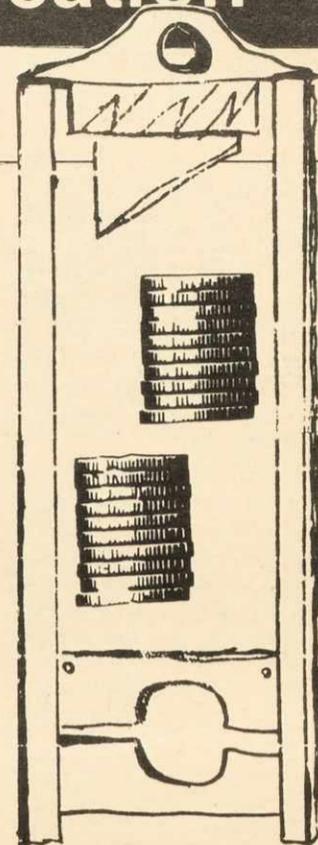
While the Conservatives' cut-backs save money in the short term, Bradfield says, this "extremely short-sighted" exercise in accounting deprives Canada of a vital resource in terms of an educated work sector.

"Reduced government support of post-secondary education is cutting off the fingers and toes of Dalhousie university. Canada does have the resources available to finance post-secondary education if the government will shift its priorities."

Bradfield maintains that Canada will only have unemployment to lose as part of this remedy, providing greater opportunity for teachers while developing Canada's job market to utilize the abilities of graduates.

"If one needs to select a particular group to tax in support of PSE," says Bradfield, "why not impose an education surcharge on those who maintain a high level income?"

"After all, it is this group who benefits the most from the graduate sector. Well-educated



employees form the basis of any successful company. The high level income group have most likely been educated in a government-subsidized university system; post-secondary education will be the final destination for the children of this group."

The government of Canada is demanding that students support their own academic pursuits, leaving taxpayers' money to more 'practical' use. Once privatization has been extended to university funding, other basic social programs such as welfare and medicare are sure to follow.

Black highlanders?

continued from page 1

feel we should be left out of the picture. . . we have evidence that blacks were involved," he said.

The Citadel says historical accuracy is the reason for the discrimination, but historic discrimination is not pointed out on the tours or in the Citadel's literature. There were black regiments involved in the building of the Citadel, and there were Micma involved with the British arm yet the "animations" do not include these groups.

A spokesperson at the Citadel admitted the hiring policy was inherently discriminatory, but said, "To have it all out in the open would make it clearer why we have this policy."

He said it might be possible to point out the problems to tourists in Citadel tours or literature, but to date nothing has been done along those lines.

"If we included blacks as soldiers in the 78th Highlanders," the spokesperson said, "we would be falsely representing the British military's hiring practices. There were no blacks, as far as I know, in the 78th, and to portray a 78th which did would be a flagrant lie, more of an insult to blacks than

anything. In 1869, the British were racists."

The Citadel did get a dispensation to use discriminatory hiring practices. Any Canadian who feels the dispensation was granted unfairly has the right to complain to the commission, and the dispensation may be revoked after investigation.

Mandela celebrated

continued from page 1

Joyce Robart of the Black United Front of Nova Scotia. "Blacks in Nova Scotia are not out of prison until they can get jobs and be recognized as human beings."

Similar sentiments were expressed by other speakers, stressing the importance of continuing the fight against racism at home in Nova Scotia.

Mafika Pascoe Ludidi, a member of the African National Congress, and co-chair of the Coalition Against Apartheid, described blacks in South Africa as a "voiceless people."

In exile for 14 years, Ludidi explained he would not be able to return to South Africa, because of the government's "unwillingness

to go the length of freedom."

Ludidi emphasized the importance of increasing economic sanctions on South Africa, saying that while the sanctions hurt, most blacks prefer them to "being shot in the streets" by Apartheid.

In keeping with the theme of celebration, the evening concluded with a performance of the Gumbo dance by Umzabalazo, a South African student dance group. The performers and audience joined to sing "Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika," the African national anthem. The festivities ended with cries of "Freedom in South Africa . . ." and on a more sobering note, "and in Nova Scotia."

PROSPECTIVE GRADUATES IN MOLECULAR GENETICS

The Marine Gene Probe Laboratory (MGPL) at Dalhousie University invites enquiries from graduate students and senior undergraduates who are interested in the application of recombinant-DNA technology to problems in marine and fisheries biology.

The MGPL offers exciting opportunities for students graduating in 1990 with a BSc or MSc to apply molecular genetic techniques to fundamental and applied fisheries problems, and to obtain training in advanced techniques. While we are looking primarily for technicians, graduate degree programmes and work-study programmes are also possible. The MGPL is associated with the Ocean Production Enhancement Network, a federal Centres of Excellence programme. Enquiries to the Administrative Assistant, Marine Gene Probe Laboratory, Department of Biology, Dalhousie University, Halifax NS, B3H 4J1.



The Gazette Women's Supplement

WRITE FOR US. CALL 424-2507

Kudos to Dan

Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading the February 1 letter by Dan Falk on Science. I think the article is wonderful, but was left with three uneasy feelings: a) science still sounds like it is necessarily terribly complex; b) science comes across as being more "objective" than I suspect it is; c) science seems to be equated with technology.

Anyway — last evening I took a bit of time off to write down responses that Falk's fine article triggered. I share them with you here. You may or may not find them of sufficient interest to use in one form or another.

Yours truly,
John Fentress
Professor in Psychology &
Biology

Ed. note: John Fentress' article was too long to include here, but for a copy of his article "Watch the Children Play," come to the Gazette office and we'll give you a photocopy of it.

Backward breeding

Dear Editor,

In reference to Howard Brown's letter, "Freedom of Expression" (Jan. 18), I find what he said absolutely ridiculous. He stated that the Dalhousie Gazette

is wrong in printing guidelines which warn that submissions to this newspaper must be devoid of all racism, sexism, and homophobia — because, according to Mr. Brown, all people, no matter who they are or what they represent, *must* have their freedom of expression/opinion. That is true — to a certain point. Although he disagrees with these "socially retarded attitudes," what right (rhetorically-speaking) does *he* have to say, "I cannot bring myself to deny them a place next to letters allowed to demean racists, sexists, and homophobes of the world"? *Give me a break.* For years these racists, sexists, and homophobes have had their "freedom of expression." They *still* don't shut up. For years these people have suppressed their victims. For years these victims have been denied their freedom of being. The racists, sexists and homophobes of the world don't deserve to have their letters printed *anywhere*. No place should be a breeding ground for these backward ideas.

Anne-Marie Walsh

Weathering university

To the Editor:

Dalhousie University showed its infinite wisdom Tuesday, January 30, when in the midst of a sea of cancellations throughout the city, not to mention surrounding areas, the university perseveres and remains in operation. Wait a minute, just who is persevering here?

Does the administration of Dalhousie not feel susceptible to the forces of nature? I certainly did the moment I stepped outside into up to 100 km/h winds and ice pellets being hurled down on me. Why was I out in this weather front that radio stations and television stations had been warning all of us against? I was out there because Dalhousie University refuses to accept the advice of others, and continued to hold classes; that is, classes whose professors had managed to struggle in.

Those of us who are not within walking distance; those that must drive, or wait endlessly for public transport, or for a ferry that isn't going to arrive, what of them? They are forced to sacrifice this day of classes because they are forced to remain in the safety of their homes! Even Dalhousie's daycare centre closed for the day. So what happens to those mothers and fathers who depend on the daycare for the freedom to attend classes? They are discriminated against, just as all of us are who are subject to the whims of Mother Nature.

It has become increasingly evident to me that Dalhousie University is more concerned with 'things' than people. Surely if there are experiments, plants or animals that require constant attention, an arrangement could be made prior to these events with the people and departments involved.

I find this 'open or closed' approach unacceptable and negligent. I hope that those other students, employees, and faculty who feel as I do will rise up and make their opinions heard in the hope of effecting a change. It must not be left up to the individ-

ual to decide whether or not to hold classes. How then can another person inform someone as to whether a particular class is going on? They can't. As usual, the right hand doesn't know what the left hand is doing.

P.A.W.

Revise policy

Dear Gazette,

I am writing in response to the letter by Tod Scott in the February 8 issue of the Gazette.

Mr. Scott supports the Gazette policy, "to print only letters devoid of racism, sexism and homophobia" on the grounds that removing this policy would, "extend freedom to the expression of hatred."

This policy not only infringes on the freedom of expression, but builds even greater resentment between these individuals and the group, or groups, they despise. The hatred Mr. Scott speaks of eventually does come out, in more inventive ways, such as defacing university property, or in threats to particular minorities.

Ignoring different or even violent views will not change the mind of someone who feels ignored. All students should be able to state their views, one way or the other, in a student newspaper. The responsibility of the editorial staff, as I see it, is to insist the articles are in no way threatening or obscene. However, any opinion, whether we see it as

right or wrong, must be allowed expression.

Mr. Scott, and the editorial staff, would be well advised to note that hatred and threats of violence can take many forms, not just those prohibited by this newspaper. E. A. MacKay has demonstrated this with great eloquence. The method of expression, not the subject, or the view stated, is my concern. I suggest that Gazette staff consider revising their policy.

Christine MacKinnon

PIRG update

To the Editor,

I would like to thank the Gazette for its coverage of our speakers night on February 5, 1990 ("Question Authority" Feb. 8). We would like to take the opportunity to explain further one issue raised in the article. While it is true that part of the funds collected from the student body will of necessity be used for the day to day operations of PIRG, our first concern will be the funding of research projects on areas of interest or concern to our membership. This is the basis of our mandate, and thus is our first priority.

Secondly, we would like to thank all those students (over 1450 in total) who signed our petition. As of the DSU meeting of February 11, 1990, our petition has been accepted, and a referendum will be held during the DSU election period.

Yours sincerely,

Dal-PIRG Organizing Club

o p i n i o n

Canso - floundering economy At risk?

by Alistair Croll

The federal and provincial involvement in the National Sea Products crisis proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that the people who lead our country have forgotten their formative years.

Haven't the legislators raised children before? Isn't it true that if you give one kid a cookie, all the kid's friends will want one too? Isn't it also true that it would be unfair *not* to give the kids a cookie? More importantly — how full is the government's cookie tin?

While it is obvious that the government must take steps to provide for the residents of Canso, their actions are a sure sign that they have acted hastily. If they resurrect National Sea from the depths of fiscal imbalance, we can expect other small, single-industry towns to cry foul. The government policy in this

instance will set a dangerous precedent for future cases of this sort.

Economists will tell you that if National Sea is in trouble, it is because the public doesn't value them enough to buy either their shares or their food. If the fish market is in such trouble that plants such as the one in Canso are under heavier and heavier debt burdens, then it is the fish market on which the government needs to work.

Perhaps more importantly, however, is the fact that Canso put all its eggs in one basket. Such a large part of the town's population worked for National Sea that the plant's closure spelled economic ruin for the entire area. Funding National Sea, and supporting floundering industries (no pun intended!), is a sure way to increase the dilemma with which the government is currently faced.

Far better for the government to devote less of its funds to getting National Sea Products back on their feet for some unspecified time, and use the rest of their money to *create* jobs in other industries within Canso. This way, when there is a slump in the fishing industry, other industries can take up the slack. The government can then remain a regulator — not a creditor — and avoid further complicating matters by pouring tax dollars down a seemingly endless pit.



FIRST AID COURSES OFFERED

St. John Ambulance Emergency First Aid Courses will be held at Dalhousie over the next few months. There is a \$25.00 charge which covers the cost of workbooks and pamphlets. The one-day sessions are scheduled for:

February 21
February 23

March 9
March 23

from 8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Registration and payment must be made prior to the day of the course and a confirmation will follow.

For more information, or to register, contact the Safety Office at 424-2495.

GRADUATION PORTRAITS

The contract for DAL PHAROS Yearbook Graduation Portraits has been awarded to Robert Calnen, Master Photographer of Halifax. For an appointment call 454-4745

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THE ^{portable} GAY & LESBIAN READER

We're GLAD

by Alex Stone

Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie (GLAD) are once again having a successful year. We have become known by other gay and lesbian organizations in the city as a hard-working, dedicated group devoted to promoting a social and a political atmosphere.

On the social level, our parties have been a good occasion to become better acquainted with people. On the political front, members have been assisting Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia with their lobbying efforts and helping to organize a fund-raiser with the N.S. Persons with AIDS Coalition. In addition, GLAD is now networking with students at Acadia University.

But GLAD is also a place for people who are coming out to meet people in a non-threatening environment who do not necessarily want to become politically involved. A bar can be a very difficult place to meet people and make friends. This is why alternative groups such as GLAD are important, for there is always a welcoming atmosphere and conversation.

GLAD is the only university-based organization in the metro area. In the unfortunate absence of organized groups on other metro campuses, GLAD welcomes non-Dalhousie students as well as any other interested members of the community.

So while the walk down the long corridor may seem to be filled with the unknown, Room 314 at the SUB is indeed a friendly place where you will soon be put at ease.

Upcoming GLAD meetings at 6:30 p.m. in room 314 of the SUB are on February 15th, March 1st, 15th, and 29th, and April 12th and 26th.

Word Is Out

Every Tuesday night, with a clap of thunder and blinding light, CKDU 97.5 FM stops in its tracks. Why? Good question. Because it's time for *The Word is Out*, a half-hour tribute to radio excellence. Unique in the Atlantic region, *The Word is Out* broadcasts opinion, music, diatribe and cheesecake recipes from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. A bulletin board of current concerns, as well as a stone tablet of thoughtfulness, *The Word is Out* appraises the world from a privileged position, the Directors' chairs, reserved for lesbians and gay men, at the right hand of God (who is really much less judgemental than you've been led to believe).

Tuesdays at 5:30 pm. on CKDU 97.5 FM.
The Word Is Out: transubstantial.

The following statement was read at the December 8th press conference at Henson College. The gathering was organized by the Women's Action Coalition of Nova Scotia in response to the shootings in Montreal on December 6th, 1989.

Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia want to express our grief and anger over the December 6th shooting of women engineering students at the Universite de Montreal.

We are all too familiar with violence directed against us, not because of anything we have done, but simply because of who

we are. Men go deliberately prowling for gay men to "bash", and lesbians are subject to battering and rape because we are perceived as a double threat to men — we are woman-identified women, and we do not "need" men. All anti-gay violence comes from the deep persistent hatred of women which permeates every corner of the culture we live in. Gay men become victims along with women because they are perceived to be questioning their "proper" role as men, scorning their higher male status, and therefore threatening those men whose sense of superiority comes from being male.

We grieve for the young women who died. We understand their killing as terrorism directed at all women and gay or effeminate men. It takes only one action of this sort, and the threat can be used thousands of times over to keep the rest of us "in our place".

We refuse to stay "in our place". We will do everything in our power to fight hatred, violence and discrimination in this society. We will not stop until we reach a time when all human beings are valued, along with all other life forms on the planet, for our intrinsic worth and unique place on earth.

Homophobia

by Julie Lewis

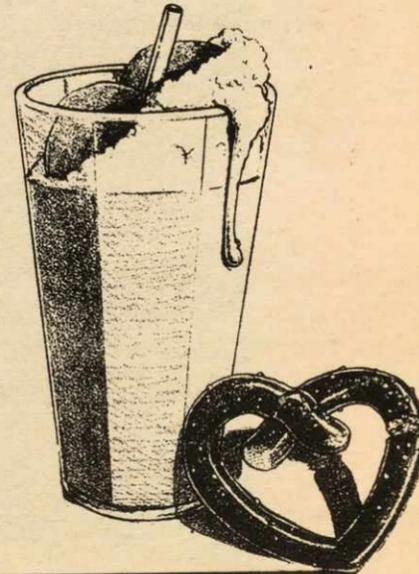
What is homophobia? Most of us don't have to be told; we've seen it, heard it, or felt it. It can be simply defined as an irrational fear and hatred of homosexuality in ourselves and in others. However, the root cause of homophobia is not so simple. While some may say people are afraid of anything "different", I believe it goes far beyond that. Homosexuality is perceived as a threat to the very basis of our North American society, the patriarchy. The patriarchal norm is male dominance/female submission. This phenomenon originates in sexual interactions between women and men and is the basis for a similar model in society at large. Thus the patriarchy is perpetuated by heterosexuality.

Homosexuality completely undermines this power foundation. Gay men are despised and ridiculed because they fail to do their "manly" duty and assert their "sexual superiority" over women. Further, they subject themselves and other men to a perceived position of submission which is a traditional women's role. Gay men have forfeited their patriarchal right to sexual domination over women and thus resist the social norm.

Lesbians are the ultimate threat to the patriarchy because our rejection of men at a sexual level frees us to reject male dominance at all levels of society. To

be woman-oriented is to withhold from men the reverence and power necessary to maintain the patriarchy. Society deals with the "threat" of lesbianism by denying our very existence. Lesbians are seen as rejects of the male world, rather than as individuals rejecting the male world. Our sexual existence is denied because sex is defined by the patriarchy in a phallic, penetrative sense. The same argument can't be used to deny the sexuality of gay men, but recognition falls short of acceptance. The patriarchy deals with the threat of homosexuality by despising it, invalidating it, and ridiculing it — and this constitutes homophobia.

Tongue in Chic
BY CYNTHIA HEIMEL



THE ^{portable} GAY & LESBIAN READER

The Old, Old Story

THE WIND HOWLS AROUND A dozen marchers in the minus 20 degree weather. They are gathered at the entrance of the Halifax convention centre protesting a conference that has been labelled homophobic by lesbian and gay groups.

by **Padraic Brake**

Inside the centre Pat Allan, an "ex-lesbian," addresses the crowd. She says the absence of her mother was one of the reasons for her "becoming a homosexual" because the "need (of my mother) became unmet."

A woman in the left aisle shouts, "What about single parents! Using that theory, there'd be a lot more lesbians out there!"

Entitled "Homosexuality and the Church," the one day conference offered "freedom from homosexuality." Two funda-

mental Christian ministries, New Beginnings and the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF) organized the conference.

According to Barrett Horne, divisional director of IVCF, the conference was meant "to educate Christians about the biblical perspective of homosexuality."

But Robert Allen of the Nova Scotia Persons With AIDS Coalition compares the message of the conference to holocaust revisionist Jim Keegstra. "It's based on the premise that homosexuality is some kind of sin."

Pat Allan has been a member of New Beginnings Ministry for four years, and was elected to the Board of Exodus International last summer. Her seminar included testimony that she is "ex-lesbian," but by the end of the day, she called herself a "heterosexual, with some people pushing me towards finding a man."

Allan became nervous as she "explained how she became gay" to over sixty people. The crowd included representatives of IVCF and almost a dozen different lesbian and gay groups within the city.

Wood says he did not like Allan's premise that people become gay. "Heterosexuals and homosexuals are what they are. We don't decide to be gay."

THE GAY AND LESBIAN community's anger over the presence of Walter Schlech, one of the speakers at the conference was evident. Schlech, according to Horne, was scheduled to give a seminar on "the psychological and spiritual implications for people with AIDS."

Walter Schlech is one of the most well-respected AIDS researchers in Atlantic Canada. He is an associate professor of medicine at Dalhousie University and a member of the National Advisory Council on AIDS.

Slech is also, as the conference's literature says, "a committed Christian and elder at the First Congregational Church of Halifax." The First Congregational broke away from the United Church of Canada when it decided to allow congregations to elect lesbian or gay ministers.

Slech gave a straightforward slide show on statistics about the spread of AIDS, the numbers of people living with AIDS, and the number of reported deaths.

An official with the PWAC asked Pat Allan about the purpose of Schlech's seminar within the context of the other lectures during the day.

Allan said the point of the seminar is "to address the myth that AIDS is not a gay disease."

A Roman Catholic priest in the audience replied, "as you present it, it reaffirms in people's minds that AIDS is a gay disease."

Pat Allan's main defense behind choosing Schlech for the conference was "(New Beginnings) also works with AIDS victims, so we wanted to tell people about the myths around AIDS."

One member of the audience says that he questions the ministries' knowledge of working with persons living with AIDS, and the care they give, if they did not even know that "there are no victims of AIDS."

IN AN INTERVIEW during the conference Allan said her ministry would be interested in establishing a local ministry for people "desiring freedom from homosexuality," but it "would depend on a number of factors." Not the least of which, she says, was "finding someone to volunteer their time."

Most of the ministries within the Exodus International coalition are run by one person. "We may be looking at the possibility of a ministry like New Beginnings establishing itself locally in the near future," says Robert Allen.

During the last seminar of the day, entitled "Ministry to the Homosexual," Pat Allan went into great detail on how to counsel someone looking for a "way out." She says, "The intent was to educate Christians" on what to do if they came across another person that needed help.

Allan was asked whether she would help the local lesbian and gay community by signing a petition that would amend the provincial human rights act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual discrimination.

She says that her board, Exodus International, "prevents her from being involved in any political activity."

When someone pointed out that signing a petition was not a political issue but one of basic human rights, she responded that her "hands were tied."

Another activity of New Beginnings that particularly concerns the PWAC is their work with persons living with AIDS. One "ex-gay ministry," Worthy Creations, has established a live-in centre called Victory House in Fort

Lauderdale, Florida for persons with AIDS.

In the Summer 1987 edition of the Exodus Standard (published by Exodus International - North America) there is a report of a man named Johnny, the first resident of Victory House. He is described as "accepting Jesus 10 days later and his health is improving already."

"What they are doing is taking people when they may have no support, and giving them the alternative of continuing that way, or being part of their ministry," says Wood.

As the conference ended, a man in the back of the room stood up and said that he was "desiring freedom from homosexuality."

"I do not share (Allan's) religious convictions, but I do want out," he said.

THE CONFERENCE was originally planned for the basement of St. Paul's Anglican Church hall. According to Horne, the conference was moved because "the hall could not accommodate the number of people that eventually signed up to attend."

Some had suggested that the Bishop of the Anglican Church forced the organizers to move because Bishop Peter did not like the media attention that the conference was attracting. Horne denied this was the case.

Horne was expecting between 10 to 15 people to pay the \$10 registration fee, far less than the final tally.

The lesbian and gay community became aware of the conference by accident when a minister, who wishes to remain anonymous, was given the conference pamphlet to pass around to Christians within his ministry.

"It was going to be a gay bashing conference," says the minister. He says he brought a copy to the PWAC so "they would know that it was going on."

Hodder says, "We organized ourselves to respond to the conference."

Representatives of GALA, PWAC, the Metro Committee on AIDS, Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia, Gays and Lesbians at Dalhousie, Sparrow, Dignity, Affirm and others met to do just that. Hodder says it was the first time that such a broad coalition of the lesbian and gay community in Halifax had formed over one external issue.

The strategy was simple, to attend the conference and mix with others that would be in attendance. If any lesbians or gays could not afford the fee, GALA would pay it. Lesbians and gays entered the convention centre separately, mingled with the crowd, and after talking with the people next to them mentioned, "by the way, I happen to be a lesbian."

continued on page 9



THE ^{portable} GAY & LESBIAN READER

The Arch Bishop



Sodom got bum rap

(Reprinted from "New Beginnings Ministries: What We Do".)

"New Beginnings is a Christian counselling outreach for people desiring freedom from homosexuality by the healing of the whole person through a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.

"New Beginnings provides support for family and friends touched by the disappointment and hurt of homosexuality and seeks to assist them in loving and encouraging one struggling with homosexuality."

(Reprinted from notes inspired by "Homosexuality and the Church". This New Beginnings seminar assembled in an upper room of Halifax's World Trade and Convention Centre on January 20, 1990.)

Beatitudes for Beginners

Blessed are the exponents of simplistic theories of sexuality who, distracted by their pet project free thoughtful people to consider matters of substance;

Blessed, therefore, is the New Beginnings Ministry;

Blessed is this perverse marriage of scientism and salvation, which is: a) hugely entertaining, and; b) transparent and on the wane. Wane! Good name for the holier-than-thou spirit which resurrects this beast from time to time;

Blessed are all Scriptural literalists because anyone knowing even the tiniest bit more than they do about context and interpretation looks really good;

Blessed are gays and lesbians, for they are the fullest expression of

God's "perfect sexual ideal";

Blessed is the heterosexual, the Also-Ran of God's "perfect sexual ideal";

While I'm in this Blessed mood . . .

Blessed is Chucky Musgrove. One fatal Friday night, many years ago, Chucky busted my front teeth while our Boy Scout troop played soccer in the church basement. I forgive you, you pathological shit.

New topic. Blessed is the Act whenever committed with originality. Should that be spelt with a capital 'O', as in "Original Sin"? An oxymoron, really: it's all been done;

Blessed is the gay man who can fun-cum and have something intelligent to say afterward. Your address, please;

Blessed is the feminist/lesbian who can slice-and-dice the patriarchy for lunch and refine the art of the multi-orgasm at night, both with equal fervour. Tongues of Fire, indeed!;

It's a mixed blessing, admittedly, but . . .

Blessed is the opening of a local New Beginnings franchise. Confronted with New Beginnings' solicitous and insidious approach, the Community of gay men and lesbians must: a) "secure the barricades; b) provide lesbians and gay men with real support. Don't suggest a longer Happy Hour; c) "give a damn";

Blessed are the saints and sinners for whom *this* world is the Christians' "Better Place". To transcend prejudice and hate, to relieve mistrust and suffering: now that's a New Beginning.

Dan Hart, Minor Prophet.

Conference

continued from page 8

As they asked and answered questions inside, others were marching outside the convention centre with placards explaining to the media why they disagreed with the conference.

Hodder says there was some worry they would be funding the ministries by paying the registration fees. But they felt it was worth the money. "If we had not been permitted to enter the conference then the response would have been much different," he says. "I'm sure they incurred additional costs for having to rent a room in the Convention Centre."

Church's queers

Ring around the collar

by Robb Cribb

A seminar was recently held in Halifax by the New Beginnings Ministries of Toronto and the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship entitled *Homosexuality and the Church*. The seminar was designed to help pastors, Christian workers, and concerned Christians address the increasingly controversial subject of homosexuality and its relationship with Church precepts.

The attitude held by ministries such as New Beginnings and Inter-Varsity regarding homosexuality and what it means in our society has become the most prevalent and accepted throughout most of the Church. The general response in dealing with the confusion, self-doubt and bitterness which often affect lesbians and gay men who are coming to terms with their identity is to counsel them to turn away from homosexuality, "to overcome by daily walking in truth and light," as stated in some Christian literature. This attitude presupposes a desire to achieve "the healing of the whole person through a personal commitment to Jesus Christ".

All of these notions are viewed as questionable by Darlene Young, a former student at the Atlantic School of Theology, and a United Church minister who operates a lesbian support group in Halifax. "I find it sad that people cannot get beyond their own fears," said Young. "I came out in a public way when I arrived here and I have paid the price."

The lack of acceptance for gay men and lesbians in the church is manifest in Young's situation. She hasn't been able to find a church where she is permitted to minister since returning to Halifax. "I'm struggling with the church structure," Young said. "Sexual orientation has nothing to do with one's ability to minister, and yet I can't find a church that is willing to deal with this question of sexual orientation in an intelligent manner. I'm struggling to look for work."

Barbara Rumscheidt echoes Young's distaste of the prejudice and discrimination which surround lesbians and gay men in our society. Rumscheidt is a student at the Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax, and is active within the United Church. She and her husband are members of Friends of Affirm, a group affiliated with the United Church lesbian and gay support group Affirm. She is also a member of Lesbian and Gay Rights Nova Scotia, a group lobby-

ing for inclusion of sexual orientation as prohibited grounds for discrimination in the N.S. Human Rights Act.

Rumscheidt is confident that through public education, LGRNS has gained the support of many influential individuals and groups throughout the province, including a number of MLAs. "We believe there is a lot of support, but we would like to see some solid evidence," she says.

Both Rumscheidt and Young have received abuse as a result of their convictions, in the form of hate calls, vandalism, and verbal abuse. As a lesbian, Young experiences first-hand the devastating

effects of homophobia on individuals. The support group she facilitates provides general support and counselling for lesbians who are trying to deal with the problems they face daily in dealing with jobs, families, and friends. Says Young, "It's a positive experience for everyone."

It was Shakespeare who wrote, "Sweet are the uses of adversity," and despite the adverse conditions which all gay men and lesbians within the church are faced with, it is with firm resolve that Darlene Young says, "as we move and react to the present situation, we will be able to find some semblance of acceptance."

The Projection Room is Now Open

Rumours

2112 Gottingen Street
Monday to Saturday
8pm - 1am

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the **G**ay **A**nd **L**esbian **A**ssociation
of **N**ova **S**cotia

COMING SOON

- Wet Shorts/T-shirt Contest
- Uniform Night
- Alternative Music Styles

THE ^{portable} GAY & LESBIAN READER



this woman i'm dancing with

this woman i'm dancing with, you wouldn't know her. she used to live here but she moved. she pulses grace and strength and the best of lust. we have known this way of dancing, this modified jive, for years now. my body plays on her unrolling arm, one hand knows exactly where another hand will be.

she's just here for a visit.

when we met, i was a baby dyke and she was this BIG, STRONG, OUT WOMAN. it pissed me off when she got maternalistic, but i was IN LOVE. (i was actually in a long-distance relationship with a guy in toronto, but then i fell in love.)

the music pulls us together and apart.

she and her partner live on the west coast now. we see each other every couple of years, and the changes make us joyful.

i love dancing with her. this dance is a ritual, my ritual for the ache one feels for one's first lover, the one that makes you wonder what if the bittersweet and unforgettable.

Andrea Currie

Without Acceptance 1

Persecution from within or without? My hurt knows no borders, no distinction between self-suppression, Other oppression.

Without Acceptance 2

Being gay was not the worst thing that ever happened to me. Not accepting it was.

The dirty vicar

Hidden beneath the robes of the priest is a sacrament divine: veiled from view for the chosen few is a chalice filled with wine. And who will drink of this bitter cup? Will I with my confessor sup? A eucharist blessed by his soft caress and I in his loving cup.

by Michael Dunning Henschel

We have a theory, Michelle and I, that somehow all of our actions are dictated by another. A script writer. And not a very good one. The problems start when our regular script writers take a vacation.

Or worse, they go on strike. We end up with young hacks. Our worlds get very mixed up for a time and then the regulars finally return, only to spend months getting everything straightened out. Anyway, I think there must have been a strike about a year ago. It might have been a vacation but Michelle and I don't have the same author and things went screwy for both of us at the same time.

D A R R E N

All this happened after years of my regular routine: middle class, gay, scared, pretentious, plain, and wanting to be an intellectual and a playwright with some success. Michelle was stuck in her routine too. She was beautiful, something you want to put on a stage, and she could act. She had an actor's vanity. We had met in the early years of high school. We would work together on plays. Eventually, we even took some of my work to a provincial festival. I was impressed and too full of myself to be approached. She was excellent in the role that I wrote expressly for her. The world was moving slowly and steadily. Nothing too strenuous ever happened.

That's what they wanted us to think. So that we could externalize. Not look at what we were doing ourselves, to ourselves. It was the end of summer. Not long before school. I would be going off to university now. Michelle stayed back in high school. Teachers found it easier to give extra credit for writing than for acting. I'm still not sure why. Acting seems more important out here. I had just gotten back to the city, after working all summer.

It was an election year. so we took up the banner: *Art farts of the world, unite: you have nothing to lose but your silver bangles?* We were serious; still are quite. We would fold mail-outs all afternoon; canvass from five to nine-thirty; find the coffee, and write until two or three in the morning. I would go home and we would start all over again around noon the next day. Except weekends when we would go downtown. Get drunk. Watch guys. Get frustrated. Middle class.

Canvassing, unlike folding, goes well with writing. Folding gives you paper-cuts. Canvassing gives you characters to play with. Housewives who really do wear curlers, and fuzzy pink bathrobes.

Children answer the door naked. Women with stronger beards than I have. The not so normal. The downright crazy. You never meet these people when you don't have to be nice to them. They save it up, you know; let it all out when the canvassers come to the door. No wonder the Witnesses always look in such good shape; they're scared to death about what might peek around that door.

I should have known that a strike was coming when we met a very interesting old man. He looked as if he had not bathed since he had arrived at his political views, circa 1935.

"But we're social democrats?" Michelle protested.

"Yes," the old man croaked, "I used to

work for your party. When they were the CCF. Before the Jews started to take it over." I was appalled. This is the nineteen eighties. People still think like this? I have to talk to people who think like this. I want this person (for lack of a better word) to vote for our party. Oh god.

"Well," I stammered, "well, I hope you get out to vote." He wanted to tell us more. I had stopped listening when he started on about the holocaust never having happened. "We shouldn't keep you. Have a nice day." We ran outside the apartment building, had a cigarette. Stared at one another. Then started in on that nervous laugh that you get when you are thoroughly unprepared for something. We finished our cigarettes. Had another. Went back in for more abuse. Ever need some inspiration? Go canvass. Meet the people the way they really are, not the way they see themselves.

Besides, when you work for a political organization, they always have a victory party. Unluckily, the author who handles my life gave me a social conscience and very little pocket money. The two do not go well together. The NDP never has free alcohol. They always lost. You always need a drink. I think the cash bar is how they fund the election campaign. I know it uses up my donations to the party.

Just before the polls closed. They went on strike. The temporary replacements were not all that hot. They did have more imagination that the regulars but they just didn't do it for quality. We lost the election; fourth in a field of three. The party did badly all over the province. But all to be expected of the NDP in Nova Scotia. Nova Scotians prefer politicians who lie and cheat. They don't want equal rights. They think that Indian is a bad word. Don't even ask

about faggots and queers.

But it was a party. I'm afraid my writer likes to editorialize. A victory party. Two hundred socialists in the ballroom of a nineteenth-century hotel, never noticing the dichotomy, stamped-never for the cash bar. Victory: I got a drink before they ran out of everything. Michelle went scanning for men. I watched her and laughed. She came up empty. She got herself a drink. We watched the room.

Look at that. Tall, about six three; short dark hair; excellent shape, beautiful dark green eyes.

"What are you staring at?" She answered her own question. We have the same taste in men. He was sitting all

alone at a table not far from us. He pulled out a cigarette. "You've got good eyes. Give me a smoke." I did; pulled out my lighter. She waved it off. Went directly over and asked him for a light. He's well dressed; white oxford shirt, navy trousers; black penny loafers, and green rimmed glasses to match his eyes. If I strain I can see — very conservative but catchy, not many men our age can pull that look off and still look like they're having fun. He looks like Rob Lowe.

Michelle got her light; sat down and started talking to him. I was jealous. I had no reason to be. I hadn't done anything. I'm such a coward. Later I found that she had engaged in most of the conversation. "Whose campaign did you work on? Really, she taught me English in high school. Yes, she is quite a lady. Two hundred votes and the Tories had a PR firm working for them."

Things seemed to be going well for her. He was warming up to her. I said hello to some people I know. Making contacts — never know when they might be needed. When I ran out of meet-and-greet spirit, I joined them.

They were talking about Newfoundland. He was quite easy to talk to. He was from St. John's; had come to Halifax to go to university, Mount Saint Vincent, accounting. He asked and I told him Dalhousie, chemistry. He's even more attractive now that he's talking. I get pulled away. I don't think that my writer really wants me to intrude. He had been letting us do our own improvisation. I went to the bathroom.

"Where's Jonathan?" Darren asked. She told him and moved back into the conversation. I bumped into some friends of mine. "Coming down to the Sea Pig?" I told them Michelle and I

would join them later. I moved around the room again, picking up the people I missed the first time. Eventually making my way back to Darren and Michelle. They thought a change of scenery would be good. We got ourselves together.

As we were leaving, Michelle took me aside: "Stop making a pass at him.

"Why?"

"So you were."

"No, never. He's not my type." So I can lie.

"Bull! I saw him first."

"No you didn't."

"Well, I talked to him first."

"So, I'm a coward."

"Just stop it."

"But I wasn't doing anything." She's jealous?

"He kept asking where you were."

"When?"

"When you went to the bathroom." It was left at that. Darren was coming back into hearing range. He's gay? No. They don't write things this nicely. I am definitely not RCMP material; I never get my man.

We started down the street. I was walking between the two of them. I find myself staring at him. Michelle notices. I stop. It's a beautiful late summer night. There's just enough breeze to keep things fresh.

"So, where do you go downtown?" she asks him.

"Scoundrel's, the Sea Horse, 2112 Gottingen."

I've heard that address before. That's Rumours. That's the only gay bar in Nova Scotia. I look over at Michelle,

she's made the same connections I have. "Rumours?" she says.

"Another reason I'm NDP."

I can feel a lump in my throat. The best-looking guy I've met in months. *Quick, witty and not biochemically opposed.* Things just don't get written this well for me. I'm not this lucky; or, this self-assured. They're on strike. I don't know what I'm doing.

Was he coming on to me? How could I know? I've spent so much energy avoiding. Where's the ground? Poor Michelle. She'll hate me. Stealing another man from her. I know she wants him. Can her ego take it? Maybe if I ignore it it will all go away. God. I sound like my mother.

Finally we turn into the bar. "Sea Horse established 1948" comes screaming to my relief. I buy them a drink. Run off to the washroom. Where's the ground?

"... really, so is Jonathan." As I come back to the table. I am a wimp. Darren gets up to play pinball. I sit down to talk to Michelle. She confirms everything I already knew: He's gay and she's never going to try to pick up a guy again. Actors have such frail egos.

I join Darren at the pinball machine. Michelle goes to talk to the friends I said I would meet. We don't say anything;

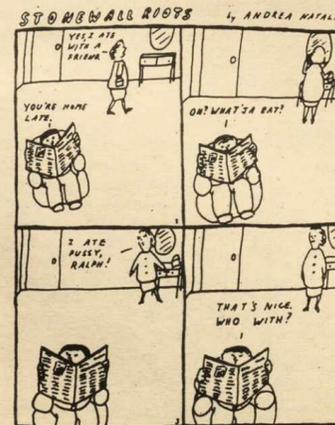
POUR AVOIR LA TRANQUILITE

Penser d'abord d'une place
une place silencieuse
une place de satisfaction
où il y a de l'air calme
plein de sons naturels
Ne pas se décourager
prendre du temps
effacer toutes les mauvaises idées
imaginer n'importe quoi
peut être la mer
ou les montagnes
oui, le bel océan
avec tous ses mystères formidables
Ensuite, se relaxer
mais
ne pas perdre cette idée
essayer d'être là vraiment
penser fort
regarder le ciel et l'eau
quel beau bleu
écouter l'eau frapper
sur les roches énormes
observer l'herbe longue
comme ça danse dans le vent
entendre les mouettes en haut

Comme l'air est clair
sans les nuages
remarquer une petite tache noire
loin dans la distance
un grand bateau
seul
enrouler par l'eau
quelle solitude

Si vous ne pouvez pas
sentir vraiment
le bel entourage
vous n'avez pas la chance
alors vous rêvez
simplement
mais
si maintenant
vous êtes content
c'est bon
vous allez attraper
la bonne tranquillité
et heureusement
ce n'était pas
un rêve.

T.Y.B.



AS USUAL, ELLEN'S HUSBAND WASN'T REALLY LISTENING TO HER.

portable

THE GAY & LESBIAN READER



Lesbians and AIDS

by Brenda Barnes

I'm sick of being told I'm not at risk for contracting the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, especially when I know that what I'm hearing is not true.

My concern started on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 1989, when I read a pamphlet produced by the Dalhousie University AIDS Committee. The pamphlet was prepared by Health and Welfare Canada from "information" issued by the World Health Organization's Global Program on AIDS. Entitled "10 Points on AIDS for World AIDS Day," it stated, "HIV can be spread by sexual intercourse — from man to woman, from woman to man, and from man to man." The possibility of woman to woman transmission was not mentioned.

When questioned as to whether this explicit omission constituted misinformation, Dr. Rosemary Gill, Dalhousie University's director of health services and member of Dalhousie's AIDS Committee acknowledged, "It is probably too conservative information." But she maintained, "as far as we know, there are no lesbians who have AIDS."

Gill further stated that to her knowledge, although there is nothing particular to lesbians which would prevent them from getting AIDS, there are simply no documented cases.

Lesley Barnes from the Metro Area Committee on AIDS, who is also a member of the Dalhousie AIDS Committee, added that even though she agreed that it was an oversight, there are no "documented cases" of lesbians transmitting the virus through intimate sexual contact. The World Health Organization is trying to stress the most common manner of transmitting the virus, through blood products, semen and the placenta. "In lesbian relationships," said Barnes, "you would not have those particular

made available as the first step towards ensuring lesbians safety and mutual trust.

In the early days of the epidemic, when AIDS was inaccurately termed GRID (Gay Related Immunodeficiency) and deemed by some as divine retribution on gay men, lesbians became perceived as "God's chosen people" because of our presumed immunity. We are not immune. Or amused.

Robert Allen, administrative co-ordinator of the Nova Scotia Persons With AIDS Coalition, criticized Dr. Schlech for his comments and related a trip he made to New York City last year to an AIDS hospice. There he met over 30 diagnosed HIV positive lesbians, over half of whom had con-

it had been transmitted."

Documentation be damned.

The problem with those who seek documentation for verification is that they assume lesbian sexual practices are recognized. They further assume that research which specifically studies what lesbians do in bed is being conducted, and that the risk of contracting AIDS through lesbian sex is conclusively documented.

That is a lot to assume when, as recently as last February, Karen Pearlston with Toronto's AIDS Action Now reported in *Rites*, "none of the health workers or activists I talked to are aware of any research studies on the effects of HIV on vaginal secretions or on vaginal tissues. Saliva, tears, shit, piss and sweat have all been conclusively tested: This, of course, reflects the priorities of governments and medical establishments and is part and parcel of the fact that the U.S. government's Centre for Disease Control has not collected any lesbian-specific information since 1984."

There is still some controversy and not much information about vaginal juices. Denise Ribble, a nurse at Manhattan's Community Health Project says the fluids produced by a healthy vagina are unlikely to contain an infectious amount of HIV, but if a woman has any kind of vaginal infection, white blood cells will be present. That's where HIV tends to congregate.

USA Today and the *Washington Post* reported anecdotal cases, the uncertainty over vaginal secretions, and reports of the first case of apparent AIDS transmission through oral sex in the United States last January. These reports should indicate to local public health officials the necessity of obtaining and disseminating accurate information — not assumptions made in the absence of documented evidence which firmly states: Yes, this woman contracted HIV solely through oral sex with her same sex partner.

We're still waiting for conclusive studies, yet hoping such evidence will never come to light.

In the meantime, most lesbians should be aware that exchanges of blood (including menstrual blood) are quite risky and putting condoms on sex toys is a good idea if you intend to share them. And be aware that not all women who identify themselves as lesbians have sex only with other women. Some have sex with men and IV drug users. It's what you do rather than how you define

yourself that counts.

Theresa Dobko of the AIDS Committee of Toronto suggests lesbians use latex where appropriate. Condoms work better and are cheaper and easier to find than dental dams, which are also thick and have not been tested as barriers to sexually transmitted diseases. Just cut off both ends and slit it up the side to form a latex square.

Dobko believes latex is a must for first times and one night stands when sexual histories and risk assessments are unlikely to be discussed. She says both partners should think about their general health when safer sex is being negotiated. This includes checking for open cuts on hands and mouths, chapped lips and infections. She also advises women to get to know their monthly cycles — when they are most lubricated, when they are tightest. The variations are natural and women should use a water-based lubricant during drier times to avoid tearing of tissues and deterioration of latex. Petroleum products eat through rubber.

Finally she emphasizes that if a woman develops sexually transmitted disease of any kind, all of her sexual partners will have to deal with it. Any woman who has a discharge, or itching and burning symptoms which don't go away with usual treatments should have a full-range screening for STDs since the presence of one infection can sometimes mask another.

Women are the fastest growing group of people with AIDS. An article appearing in *Off Our Backs* (fall, 1987) reported that out of more than 2200 American women diagnosed with AIDS since 1981, 46 had reported sexual contact with women.

Lesbians are at risk. Get educated — don't get AIDS.

Women & AIDS

The Metro Area Committee on AIDS is beginning to focus on the issue of women and AIDS. On February 7, MACAIDS held the first of a series of community workshops aimed at identifying the needs of the women's community in terms of AIDS education and prevention. The next meeting will be on March 21 at 7:30 pm. Women who are interested in attending and wish to know the location can call Karen Pyra or Carolyn Mossman at MACAIDS, 425-4882.

"Women are the fastest growing group of people with AIDS."

modes of transmission in quite the same way with the intensity of the virus."

This appears to be the rationale behind the omission of the information in the pamphlet.

In an otherwise scholarly and informed address, Dr. Walter Schlech, head of epidemiology and infectious disease research at the Victoria General Hospital, and member of the National Advisory Council on AIDS, said lesbians do not "seem to be at risk" when he spoke at the New Beginnings Ministry conference at the World Trade and Convention Centre on Jan. 20.

If statements such as these are not challenged, complacency within the lesbian community concerning our personal risks for transmission will be reinforced. Knowledge of the modes of HIV transmission do not always lead to changes in sexual practice, but it is critical that accurate information concerning our risks be

transmitted the virus merely through intimate contact with their same-sex partner.

There are other anecdotal cases involving lesbians and AIDS.

Boston author and AIDS activist Cindy Patton said in January that she knows of several diagnosed HIV-positive lesbians from the Boston area, all infected by their same-sex lovers, who perform "safety nets" — safe sex workshops specifically for lesbians.

Mary Louise Adams, a member of the editorial collective of *Rites*, a Toronto-based national gay and lesbian magazine, is researching women and AIDS-related issues in England. In 1988, she wrote, "In the spring of 1987, a lesbian and gay newspaper in Toronto printed an article about AIDS support counselling. Buried toward the end of the piece was a brief reference to two local lesbians who had tested positive for HIV, with no mention of how



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THE ^{portable} GAY & LESBIAN READER



Human rights network Brown bag lobbying

by Erin Goodman

They met casually over a brown-bag lunch in the North End Library, a diverse group of individuals with only one thing in common — a concern with human rights law in Nova Scotia.

The topic under discussion was inclusion of sexual orientation as a prohibited grounds for discrimination in federal and provincial human rights legislation. The workshop, entitled "Establishing a human rights network to enact changes in human rights law", was the first of series of meetings planned to bring a number of groups involved in fighting discrimination in our society together, to share information and discuss strategies for putting human rights issues first on the political agenda.

The concept for the umbrella group was developed through the initiative of the Atlantic chapter of the Canadian Human Rights Commission, under the direction of Hugh McKervell. McKervell and his staff started meeting with community-based groups last year to explore the possibility of forming an organization in Nova Scotia which would have a broad overview of issues of human rights at both levels of government.

The meetings resulted in agreement that while a human rights network was a desirable goal, limited resources and energy dictated that any umbrella organization formed around the issue of human rights should be non-organizational — a casual group with no executive structure or firm agenda. Lunch-hour forums

featuring topics of interest to participating groups were chosen as the best networking medium.

Speakers featured at the January 31st workshop were Richard Evans, a law professor at Dalhousie, and Maureen Shebib, a lawyer representing Lesbian and Gay Rights of Nova Scotia (LGRNS). Marie Dechman, Deputy Speaker of the N.S. government, was invited to participate in the panel, but cancelled the day before the event.

Shebib spoke of the efforts that LGRNS has made since 1987 to have sexual orientation included in the N.S. Human Rights Act. Initially, the group researched the successful enactment of human rights legislation to protect lesbians and gays in Ontario and Manitoba. From this experience, Shebib said, LGRNS identified "the need to develop and build on a broad base of public support, demonstrated in concrete and direct kinds of ways".

Last year, LGRNS made its "big push" for the protection of lesbians and gays in the N.S. Human Rights Act, persistently lobbying the provincial government and the N.S. Human Rights

Commission. According to Shebib, LGRNS had developed a good rapport with the Human Rights Commission staff, but the board of the Commission did not fully support the proposed amendment to the Act.

The lobby effort was ultimately stalled at the cabinet level of the provincial government. "We didn't get the legislation we wanted, but we certainly got it on the political agenda, and began to make strides in public education," Shebib said.

Shebib notes that the N.S. Human Rights Commission is looking to revamp the Act, which is, in her words, "generally piecemeal, chopped up, and needs to be rewritten from beginning to end," providing a convenient opportunity for the government to "just throw in a few more grounds for discrimination".

She warns that a change in human rights law has to be accompanied by less tangible changes in society. "Simply extending protection isn't adequate. We need to change public attitudes as well." Adds Shebib, "I'm fairly optimistic about Nova Scotia."

Make a choice

by John Carter

Sexuality varies according to our experience of it, permitting each of us to have our own sexual nature, just as we are entitled to other individual expressions of individuality.

Sexuality can be anything you wish it to be or care to imagine — holy, obscene, spiritual, symbolic, or transforming — and none of us is in any position to say which of these expressions are normal or abnormal.

Homosexuality, like any other expression of human sexuality, is most certainly not one expression only, nor can it be defined by any criteria of clinical labelling or religious doctrine. Unfortunately, we tend to identify ourselves with our own behaviour and become alarmed by the inconsistencies we find. If a man fantasizes himself making love with another man, yet does not act out this fantasy, is he homosexual? If he has had homosexual experiences, yet does not find them to his taste, is he homosexual because he has performed the act? If he has a closer relationship with his best friend than with his wife, is he latently homosexual any more than we are all latently thieves, geniuses, or anything else among the infinite possibilities of human nature?

Perhaps it might be more constructive to adopt the attitude that if you are happy with your life, if it offers you fulfillment in those areas where you seek it, you are normal for yourself. If you are unhappy with your life, if you feel that there is something wrong, if you feel trapped by the direction in which your desires move, you have a problem; but you are neither normal nor abnormal — you have simply not yet become yourself. How you choose to become the person you

wish to be — how you choose to discover the person you already are — is entirely your own affair, just as how you choose to express your sexuality is your own concern, provided it does not violate the free-will choice of anyone else.

Counsellors of all persuasions can provide insight and experience, but you alone have the final responsibility for living your own life. This can certainly be painful, but in my own experience, the pain is part of the process of growth, and any attempt to evade it only creates more confusion. So whether you are contemplating coming out of the closet or simply trying to determine which closet you may be hiding in, make sure that you have sufficient light on the situation to see clearly the direction you wish to follow.

Gay equity in B.C.

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Gay employees and faculty at the University of British Columbia can now get medical benefits for their spouses.

In the summer of 1989, Mary Bryson, an associate professor in educational psychology, was told her same-sex partner did not qualify for the health insurance benefits available to heterosexual couples.

The university's health care plan provides extended medical care coverage to university employees and their spouses, but until Jan. 1, 1990, this didn't include gay and lesbian spouses.

"As part of employment equity [the university] needs to address issues such as homophobia and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation," said Bryson.

Bryson said the health plan violated the non-discrimination clause in the faculty association's agreement with the administration.

"Making it a matter of policy gives us some degree of protection," said Bryson. "Unlike Ontario, [gays and lesbians] don't have human rights protection in the B.C. charter."

York and Acadia are the only other universities that provide extended health care coverage to same-sex spouses.

Bryson said heterosexual partners don't have to prove their commonlaw status to get UBC coverage, so the same standard will apply to same-sex couples.

Carleton activism

by Katie Swoger and Jacques Poitras

OTTAWA (CUP) — Gay rights activist Kenneth Gallagher still says Carleton doesn't do enough to protect the rights of gays and lesbians, even though the university says it does.

The university recently responded to Gallagher's complaint, filed last summer with the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

Gallagher and Pierre Beaulne took the university to the commission because they say the university has failed to curb discrimination against gay men and lesbians on campus.

In its official written response to the commission, the university says it "does not accept Mr. Gallagher's allegation that a poisoned environment exists for which the university is responsible."

Don McEown, secretary to Carleton's Board of Governors, wrote the response.

If the commission is satisfied the university is promoting an environment without discrimination, they will close the case, Gallagher said.

"I'm very optimistic that the Human Rights Commission will find that for a long time indiscriminate discrimination has taken place [at Carleton]."

Gallagher said Carleton officials had refused to meet with him over homophobic articles in the engineering student newspaper, and refused to take action against homophobic graffiti and vandalism.

The university said the anti-gay graffiti and defacement of posters, were under the student council's jurisdiction. It said it had taken "quick and effective" action against the engineering paper.

During that controversy, the engineering society was reprimanded by administration and was required to print an apology.

As well, the university does not take responsibility for threatening phone calls made to Gallagher, since they do not relate directly to the campus, the response states.

THE ^{portable} GAY & LESBIAN READER

Sensual sport

by Edgar Z. Friedenberg
Professor emeritus
Dalhousie University

Last spring, I came across a large advertisement in the Chronicle Herald inviting anyone who might be interested in helping to found a professional soccer team to represent Nova Scotia in the Canadian Soccer League to contribute \$500 toward the costs of establishing such a team, thereby becoming a Founder-Member and shareholder. I was, and I did; and the Nova Scotia Clippers now exist on paper.

The very idea of owning, in principle, a piece of a soccer team appeals to me strongly, even though the rights and privileges this affords me are wholly fanciful. Fantasies of this quality are well worth \$500. But some of my acquaintances who have noticed my name on the membership lists seem astonished. "I never knew you were interested in sports!" they exclaim, rather accusingly.

Their way of putting their implied question does, I find, raise an issue that tells me quite a lot about the place of spectator sports in culture, and the social contribution to culture gay men may make. From their point of view, and, no doubt, from that of most of my fellow Founding Members, I am not interested in sports. I remember, years ago, the disgust of a gambler who stopped me as I left the old Madison Square Garden after a sold-out basketball game to demand, "Hey, Mac, what was the score?" I couldn't tell him: I hadn't noticed. I hadn't gone there to score, but to delight in amazing grace.

Now, I don't think anyone would have said, if they had seen me at a Mozart chamber concert or reading Shakespeare's sonnets, "I didn't know you were interested in music!" Or literature, or whatever. They might have asked whether I had liked this music and why — what I had got out of it. And if they enjoyed Mozart and Shakespeare themselves they would probably have acknowledged that some of their pleasure was erotic; not just because the music or the language turned them on, though it might, but because they entered into a passionate relationship with it while it lasted, and maybe longer.

Is a soccer team an ensemble of artists? Is a soccer game a work of art? And is our response to art always partly erotic? There are good and bad artists and good and bad art, of course. But the answer to each of these questions is "Yes! Oh, yes!" The experience of watching Bob Lenarduzzi lead the Vancouver White Caps (as they then were) is not like listening to the Orford Quartet play Brahms. But it is surely an aesthetic experience, especially when the opposing team is good enough to provide the tension needed for an exciting composition. One of the more paradoxical expressions of homophobia is the assumption that gay men, to whom straight society used to apply sneeringly the epithet "artistic" or "sensitive", are indifferent to sports. Gay boys, as I recall clearly enough from my own boyhood 60 years ago, certainly had an aversion to organized sports, which required that we deny or conceal our feelings toward our teammates, let alone

our opponents. We sensed, too, that sports played an important and hostile role not just in stigmatizing us but in deliberately poisoning physical intimacy between young males with hostility and competition so that love could not impede economic productivity. We couldn't have put this in so lucid a statement, of course; but many were bold enough to realize that the proper response to the fuck-you-buddy system was the simple question, "Your place, or mine?" Though even that question is phrased in terms of property rights.

The erotic persists, nevertheless; and it guides gay men to see that sports are about a lot more than winning and losing, though current extremes of commercialization may succeed in eliminating authenticity — and with it, erotic interest — where the puritan ethic has failed. Meanwhile, for those with eyes to see, sports continue to reveal a lot about the place of sexuality in culture.

Football is quintessentially American in another way. The



can watch a player for a season without learning to recognize either his face or his ass, you haven't had much of a relationship.

Soccer is at a disadvantage in North America for the very reasons that make it the favourite sport of people everywhere whose language and culture are not

looks, so that the game could continue. But somebody had to invent it in the first place.

The second and final sport I want to mention is Australian Rules Football, which is hardly played anywhere else, though it would be played in gay heaven if we had bodies there. The game is played 18 men on a side, with a ball shaped like an American football and, I believe, slightly larger. It is as fast as basketball, and the uniforms are a lot like basketball uniforms, but there is a lot of body contact. A player may be tackled, hard, by grabbing him below the neck or above the knees; but when tackled, he must drop the ball or forfeit it to the opposing team, so there are no gross pileups as in rugby. The ball must be dribbled, as in basketball, but may be carried for short distances.

In a "rules" game, there is constant palpable interaction, physical and emotional, among very expressive and usually strikingly handsome young men. In a culture as homophobic as that of North America, it would drive spectators crazy. Australia, too, has a long history of "poofter-bashing" and redneckism. I think the difference is not so much that Australia is less homophobic, but that it has a much stronger tradition of male bonding — of "mateship". Much more involvement, physical and emotional, among men is acceptable before it becomes stigmatized. Obviously, they don't think of the contact in a "rules" game as sexual. It seems to be okay to enjoy getting tackled; still, you have to drop the ball right away and as soon as you do, the guys have to get off your back. Till the next time.

All these sports, I would argue, are dramatic performances that reveal the nature of the culture that cherishes them, just as dance, theatre, or literature do. In a homophobic world, however, only gay men are likely to be able to fully comprehend the performance and take it to heart.

If you can watch a player for a season without learning to recognize either his face or his ass, you haven't had much of a relationship.

equipment conceals the face and body in the interests of security. As in much American TV, brutality replaces sensuality. It's like watching tank warfare. The inherent grace of skating makes hockey sexier; but basically, the same limitations apply. If you

English; the English themselves seem to find it too exciting. The problem, I think, is that soccer is both too sexy and too calm about it. The uniforms display the beauty of the player's body; but there isn't much contact — no sweaty scrimmages, and it took me a year to understand what constitutes a tackle in soccer. It's a very graceful sport, really beautiful, but it's designed for cultures that accept sport and sexuality as part of the natural order. Of course, spectators sometimes respond with frenzy; but that's part of the culture, too.

Two other sports are apparently barred from becoming popular in America because, I believe, their sexuality makes us nervous. Rugby football demands the most intimate — even gross — body contact of any team sport; and the uniforms conceal, and protect, very little. I suspect that the public school that gave rugby football its name, and set the pattern of clean-living muscular Christianity for other English Public schools to follow, was expressing thereby its extreme feelings about adolescent homosexuality. The paranoia and spying — homosexuality was the one offence you were expected to snitch on your friends about — were needed to keep the scrum from being as seductive as it

My summer vacation

by j.e.t.

"We may not win, but we'll be the best-looking team," jokes Jello. Jello (not her real name) is referring to her softball team — an all-dyke, Halifax-based team which has unusual plans for summer vacation.

Vancouver beckons. In the steamy month of August, thousands of gay and lesbian athletes and artists will join in Celebration '90: Gay Games and Cultural Events, an annual event drawing teams and individual athletes from around the world.

According to Jello, the 11-member team and their manager decided to make the trip to the west coast "because we like to play ball". But Sly says it was more than a competitive spirit which attracted the team to

Vancouver.

"We want to be visible," says Sly. "There's going to be national media coverage of the Games, and we want people to know there's a strong lesbian and gay community in Nova Scotia." In addition to the ball team, four individual athletes from the province plan to attend in the track and swimming events.

The trip to the Games will be expensive — \$12,000 for airfare and accommodation, a commitment which is keeping the team players busy with fundraising activities.

"Well, we lost money on the kissing booth," admits Jello, "but we're puckering up for next time." The team is making a serious effort to solicit corporate sponsorship and provincial funding from Sport N.S. The most

ambitious fundraising effort to date has been a Valentine's dinner and variety show held at Rumours.

The biggest problem with fundraising, says Sly, is the danger the team faces of exhausting their funding base. "It's the same people in the community who are donating money, not just to this cause but to every gay and lesbian cause in town."

Ultimately, the team members are willing to pay for part of the trip out of their own pockets. Ideally, they will find a base of support outside the lesbian and gay community. "This would be a great opportunity for gay-positive people and organizations to show their support for our community," says Sly. "We'll be in touch."

New York Stories

by Matthew Rainnie

New York Stories (released to video on Jan. 31) combines three stories, all set in New York City. Each segment showcases the talent of a different director; all three are among the most renowned and respected working today.

The first "New York story," titled "Life Lessons," is the most effective of the three. This segment, which features the talents of Nick Nolte and Rosanna Arquette, was directed by Martin Scorsese.

Scorsese has had a prolific, and at times controversial career.

He was born in 1942 and grew up in Manhattan's Little Italy. After a somewhat turbulent childhood he enrolled in New York University and received two degrees in film studies.

Scorsese's first feature film was titled *Who's That Knocking on my Door* and was released in 1968. It introduced Harvey Keitel (a Scorsese favourite) to the screen.

Boxcar Bertha, with Barbara Hershey, came in 1972.

Keitel was again featured in *Mean Streets* (1973), along with another Scorsese favourite, Robert DeNiro. This film, noted for its visual style, brought Scorsese to the attention of many.

Ellen Burstyn won the Oscar for best actress in Scorsese's *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore*, released in 1974. *Taxi Driver*, a powerhouse film released in 1976, won Oscar nominations for best picture and best actor (Robert DeNiro), but not for best director.

DeNiro again appeared in *New York, New York* (1977). *The Last Waltz*, Scorsese's documentary of The Band's last concert, came in 1978.

Raging Bull (1980) presented Robert DeNiro with an Oscar for best actor and Scorsese his first nomination for best director. *Raging Bull* has been praised by many critics as the best film of the eighties.

Scorsese's other films of the eighties include *The King of Comedy* (1983), *After Hours* (1985), and *The Color of Money* (1986), which gave Paul Newman his first best actor Oscar. To much controversy, Scorsese released *The Last Temptation of Christ* in 1988, which gave him another Oscar nomination for best director.

"Life Lessons" is the story of Lionel Bodie (Nolte, in a wonderful performance), a painter who desperately wants his 'assistant' (Arquette) to love him like he loves her. Scorsese's visuals in this piece are perfect. The scenes where Nolte paints feverishly, with rock music pounding in the background, are hypnotic. The end of this segment gives the

viewer great insight into Dobie's true character.

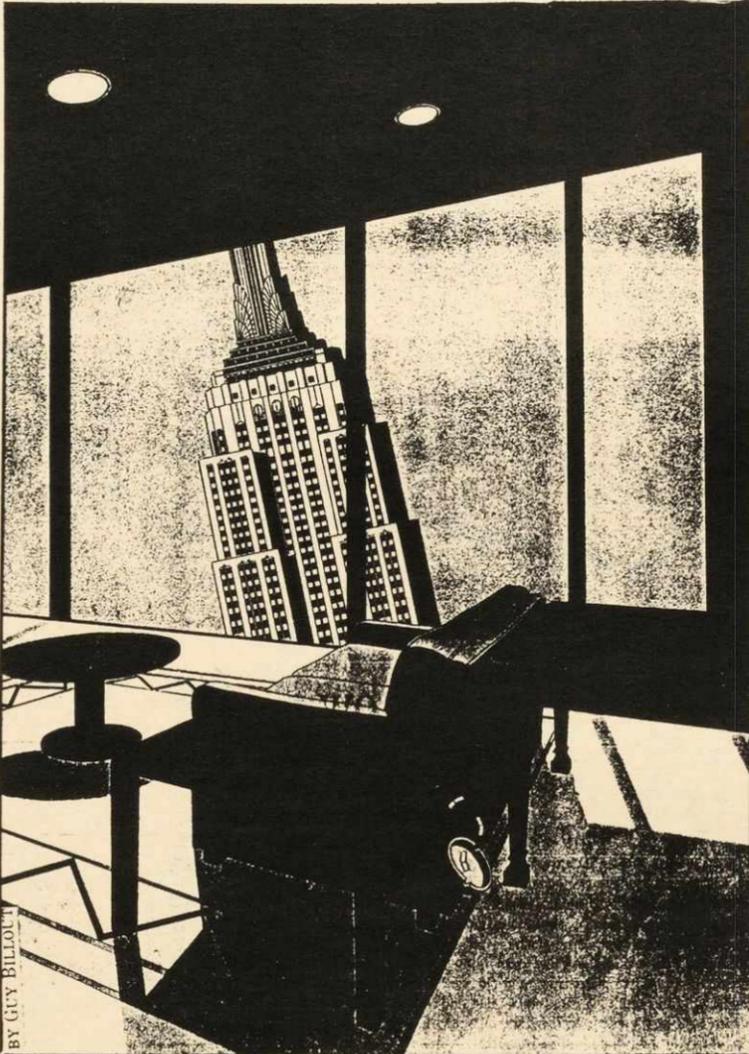
The second segment of *New York Stories*, titled "Life Without Zoe," comes from Francis Ford Coppola.

Coppola was born in 1939 and studied film at UCLA. His early films included *Dementia 13* (1963), *You're a Big Boy Now*

delayed the film's production. It earned Oscar nominations for best picture and director.

One From the Heart, in 1982, was a major failure, eventually forcing Coppola's film company, Zoetrope Studios, to file for bankruptcy.

Other Coppola films include *The Outsiders* (1982), *Rumble*



(1967) and *Finian's Rainbow* (1968), which starred Fred Astaire.

The Rain People, released in 1969, featured James Caan and Robert Duvall.

In 1972 Coppola was given the chance to make the film adaptation of Mario Puzo's novel, *The Godfather*. The film starred Marlon Brando and Al Pacino, as well as Caan and Duvall. *The Godfather* did well at Oscar time, receiving awards for best picture and best actor (Brando). Coppola did not win for his directing but did receive an award for the screenplay he co-wrote with Puzo.

In 1974 Coppola released two films, *The Conversation*, with Gene Hackman and *The Godfather II*. Both films were nominated for best picture but it was *The Godfather II* that obtained the award. Coppola won for his directing and co-scripting on the sequel.

Apocalypse Now came in 1979, after several problems (including Martin Sheen's heart attack)

Fish (1983), *The Cotton Club* (1984), *Peggy Sue Got Married* (1986). Coppola is currently preparing to direct *The Godfather III*.

Coppola's segment of *New York Stories* is the least interesting. Heather McComb stars as Zoe, a little girl who lives in a hotel with a butler (Don Novello, AKA Father Guido Sarducci) because her parents are often travelling. Although the piece is visually appealing it never seems to get off the ground in terms of plot. "Life Without Zoe" also stars Talia Shire (Coppola's sister) and Guancarlo Gianini.

Woody Allen concludes the film with his amusing segment, "Oedipus Wrecks" starring Mia Farrow, Mae Questel, Julie Kavner and Woody himself.

In 1935, Allen was born Allen Stewart Konigsberg in Brooklyn, New York. He began as a stand-up comedy writer (for such people as Sid Caesar) before getting into stand-up comedy and, eventually, film-making.

For his first film in 1966, Allen redubbed a Japanese spy movie, turning it into a very funny comedy called *What's Up, Tiger Lily?* He both starred in and directed *Take the Money and Run* (1969), *Bananas* (1971), *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex (But Were Afraid to Ask)* (1972), *Sleeper* (1973), and *Love and Death* (1975).

In 1977, Allen decided to make a serio-comic film about relationships. Originally titled *Anhedonia*, the film became *Annie Hall*, which featured Allen and his one-time lover Diane Keaton. Woody netted Oscar nominations for acting, directing and writing — the first time anyone had done so since Orson Welles (for *Citizen Kane*) in 1941. The film won best picture and Woody collected Oscars for directing and writing, though he was playing clarinet at Michael's Pub while the ceremonies were being conducted.

Allen followed *Annie Hall* with a drama, *Interiors*, in 1978. *Manhattan* (1979) was a critical success, yet *Stardust Memories* (1980) received a mixed response from critics. Mia Farrow joined Allen for *A Midsummer Night's Sex Comedy* (1982), *Zelig* (1983), *Broadway Danny Rose* (1984) and

The Purple Rose of Cairo (1985).

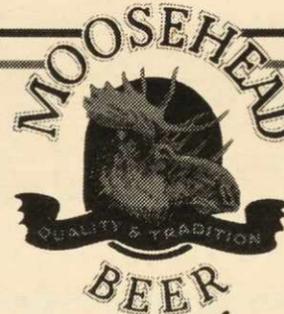
Hannah and Her Sisters, released in 1986, was nominated for best picture and Allen for best director.

More recent films include *September*, 1987), *Radio Days* (1987) and *Another Woman* (1988). *Crimes and Misdemeanors*, released in 1989, may earn Allen another Oscar nomination.

One can guess from the title of Woody's segment in *New York Stories* that it involves the relationship between mother and son. Woody's character, Sheldon Mills, is a successful lawyer who still feels intimidated and embarrassed by his mother (played to the hilt by Quetel). This piece is truly enjoyable from beginning to end. Sheldon's mother's disappearance and subsequent 'reappearance' are hilarious. You'll leave this one with a smile.

New York Stories grabs its viewers' attention from the beginning and will undoubtedly leave them satisfied. Unfortunately, the film sags in the middle. But a fast-forward button may be able to solve that problem.

Scorsese, Coppola and Allen are true geniuses of the cinema, and will hopefully continue to bless us with work comparable to that in the past.



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A NEW MARITIME TRADITION

Lethal Weapon wanna-be

by Gurn Blasten

What can you say about a film like *Loose Cannons*? This slipshod effort is yet another cop-buddy movie that tries to be *Lethal Weapon*. However, this time it is Dan Aykroyd and Gene Hackman who team up as a mismatched pair to solve a very poorly realized plot involving

Nazis, Israeli agents and a porn king.

Normally, one would assume that after their recent critical and financial successes, the two stars would avoid duds like these, but one only has to watch carefully in order to see that this film is two years old. Originally slated for release last summer, it was pulled at the last minute in order to avoid the stiff competition of the

big summer blockbusters. In retrospect it was a wise move. *Loose Cannons* is a poorly written, directed, and edited film. If you would have avoided it in the summer in favour of such superior products as *Batman* and *Lethal Weapon II*, then there is no reason to lower your standards now and pay seven dollars to see it.

The problem with the film does not lie with the actors. Aykroyd and Hackman do what they can with the meagre material they are provided. The big problem is behind the scenes, namely director Bob Clark (*From the Hip, Turk 182!*). Clark is more of a loose cannon than the characters in the film. He allows the film to go in all directions at once, and as a result he cannot retain any con-

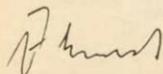
sistency of tone. This is particularly evident when scenes try to build up suspense and then are utterly sabotaged by the slapstick antics of Aykroyd's character.

The editing is equally abominable. Scenes change location with little or no explanation and the villain appears to have had a larger role, but in the final cut he is in only two scenes. These are minor points, however, when compared to the plot of the film. Not only is it confusing and sloppy, it is misleading and manipulative as well. This film caters to the lowest common denominator and even judged on that basis it is sadly lacking. This is Bob Clark's first action film, and it is clear that he is not up to the task. But what can you expect from the director of *Porky's*?



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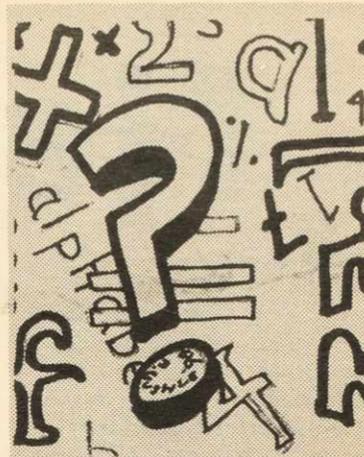
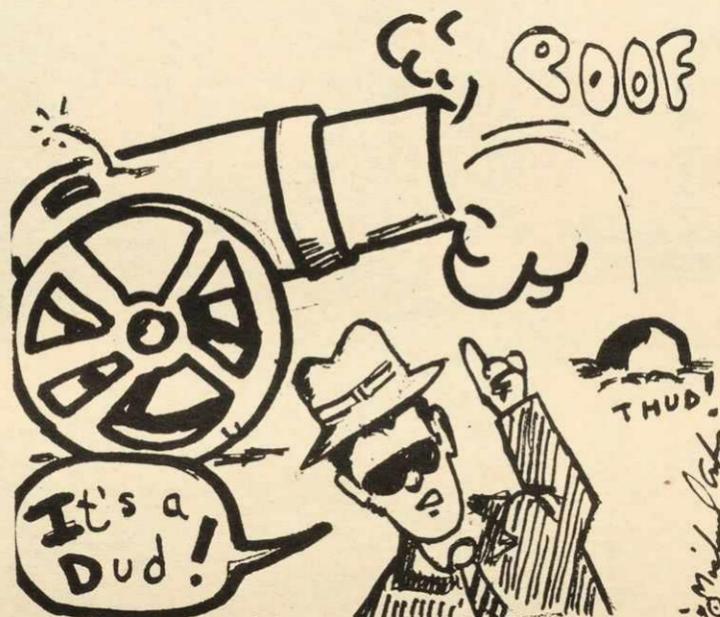
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Equation Analysis

Each equation below contains initials of words that will make it correct, e.g. 26 = L of the A would be:

- 26 letters of the alphabet.
- 7 = W of the A W
- 1001 = A N
- 12 = S of the Z
- 54 = C in a D (with J)
- 9 = P in the S S
- 88 = P K
- 13 = S on the A F
- 18 = H on a G C
- 32 = D F at which W F
- 90 = D in a R A
- 200 = D for P G in M
- 8 = S on a S S
- 3 = B M (S H T R)
- 4 = Q in a G
- 24 = H in a D
- 1 = W on a U
- 6 = D in a P C
- 57 = H V
- 11 = P on a F T
- 1000 = W that a P is W
- 29 = D in F in a L Y
- 64 = S on a C
- 40 = D and N of the G F

Few people can solve more than half on the first try; many experience 'eureka's' long after the test had been put aside; some complete it over a period of days. It is certainly not a test of intelligence, fluency or mathematical ability but rather a gauge of flexibility and creativity.

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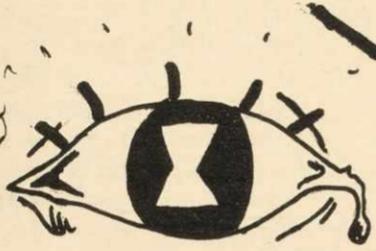
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 To announce the dawn
 Pronouncing what has gone on
 And the frigid morning air
 Cold day without shame
 Reminds me of the sleep
 Perhaps I've fallen too deep
 Rather a double bed than this single chair
 But remember sleep is only dreams
 And slumber as good as it seems
 Life is only awake; to care and be aware

John Rosborough

poetry

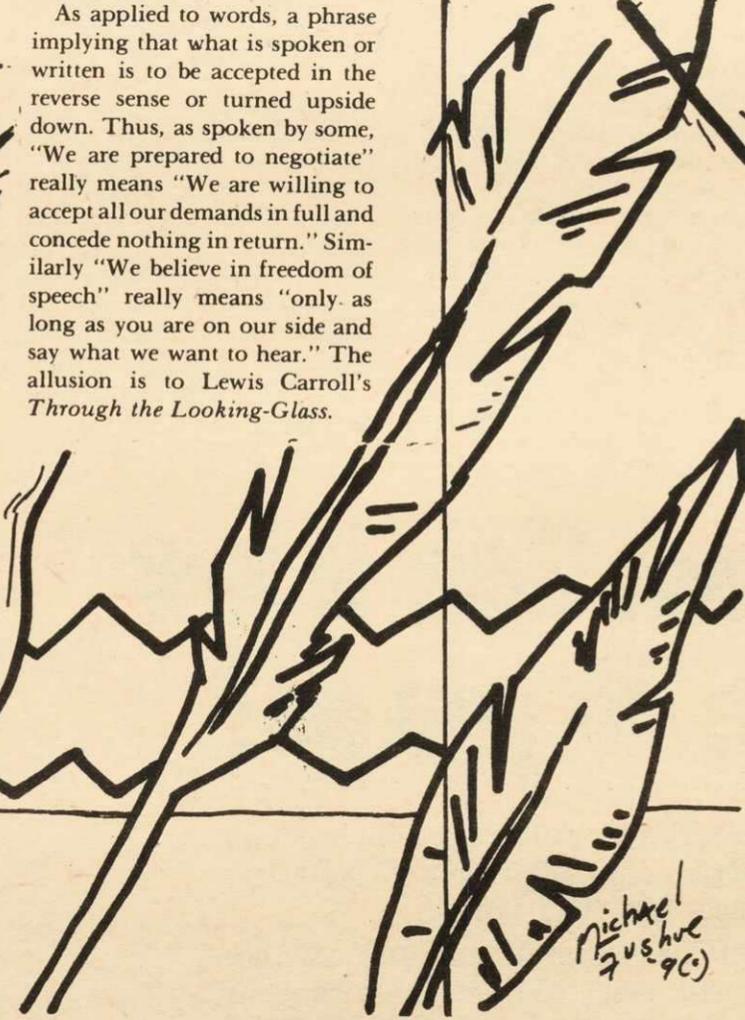
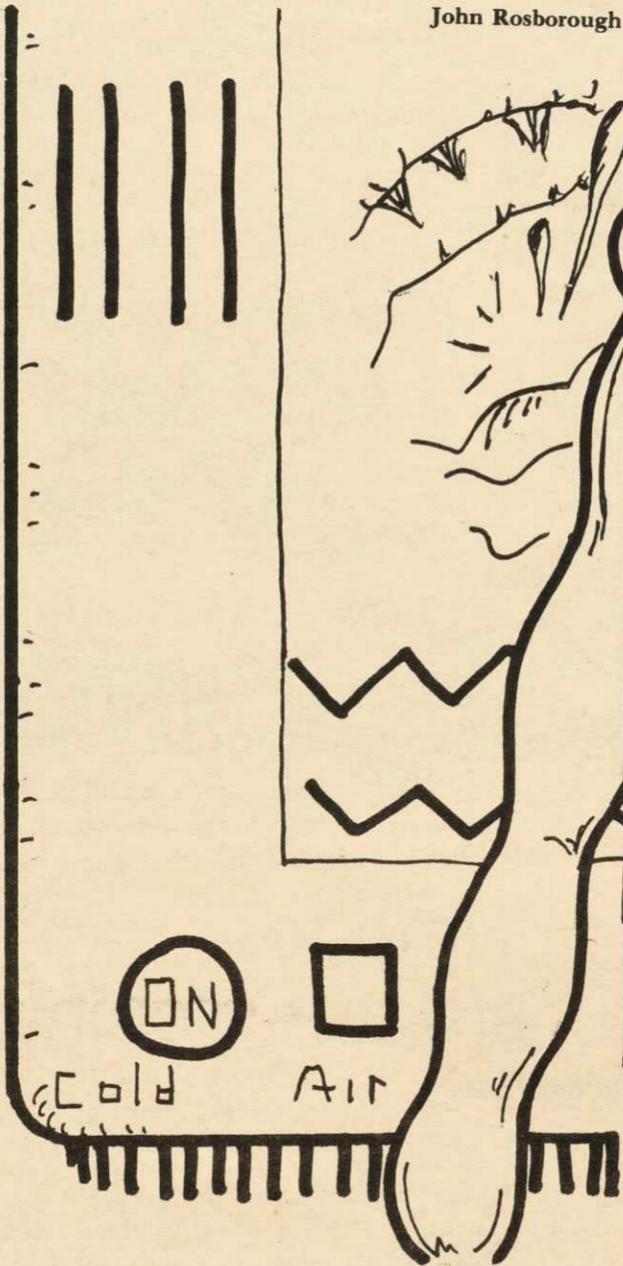
Free

If I put a feather in my cap
 Will I fly away
 If I put a feather in my cap
 Will I be free as a bird
 All the other roads I have travelled are gone now
 There is only one way for me to go now
 If I put a feather in my cap
 Will I be free as a bird
 If I put a feather in may cap
 Will I fly away
 If I put a feather in my cap
 Will I be free as a bird
 If I put a feather in my cap
 Will I be free today

Bob Keeler

Looking Glass:

As applied to words, a phrase implying that what is spoken or written is to be accepted in the reverse sense or turned upside down. Thus, as spoken by some, "We are prepared to negotiate" really means "We are willing to accept all our demands in full and concede nothing in return." Similarly "We believe in freedom of speech" really means "only as long as you are on our side and say what we want to hear." The allusion is to Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*.



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Each nomination for this award must be made by two or more sponsors, at least one of whom must be a faculty member appointed halftime or more in the Faculty of Science. Nomination forms and further information are available from: Office of the Dean of Science, Room 324 or 328, Arts and Administration Building, 424-3540 or 424-2373. The deadline for nominations to reach the Dean's Office is March 15.

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Sunday, February 18

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 12:00 pm. College and Careers Luncheon

Wednesday, February 21

7-8 pm. *Our Spiritual Journey — Death: End or Beginning?*
 Rev. John E. Boyd, Minister Rev. Adele Crowell, Associate
 David MacDonald, Director of Music

Tigers build late season momentum

by Gordie Sutherland

It took two overtime periods, but the Dalhousie Tigers defeated the Acadia Axemen 6-5 to repeat as champions of the General Motors Lobster Pot Hockey Tournament.

Last Wednesday night's game was played in front of a mere 850 fans. The attendance in the spacious Metro Centre resembled a classroom on a Friday afternoon. The fans that were there witnessed an exciting contest between the division's top two teams.

Scott Meek and player of the game George Wilcox each scored twice for the Tigers. Alan Baldwin and Brian Melanson were the other Dalhousie marksmen.

Captain Kelly Kolke spearheaded the Axemen offence with a pair of goals. Steve MacIntyre, Darren Colbourne and Jeff Carter rounded out the Axemen attack.

Acadia led 3-2 after one full period of play. Dalhousie tied the game at 3-3 with a goal early in the second frame. Tiger Mike Griffith picked up a loose puck and wheeled from his own blue-line to create a two-on-one break. Griffith slid a pass to Alan Baldwin, who neatly tucked the puck past Acadia goaltender Chris Churchill. The two teams traded

goals over the next fifteen minutes to end the second period in a 4-4 tie.

The Axemen came out strong in the third period, outshooting the Tigers 7-2. Dalhousie took a 5-4 lead at the 9:11 mark before Acadia came back with the equalizer just under six minutes later. The Axemen had several scoring opportunities over the last five minutes of play, but Pat McGarry stood tall in the Tiger cage. The two teams ended regulation time locked in a 5-5 tie.

Tiger right winger Scott Meek ended the marathon thirteen seconds into the second sudden-death overtime period. Dalhousie defenceman Bill Wiseman made a pass to Scott Anderson, who managed to feed the puck to Meek. The speedy Meek took a low backhand shot that beat a sliding Churchill.

The championship did not count in the league standings, but the Tigers felt the win was important in building late-season momentum. "We have been in every game but tonight we put in a full 65 minutes and 13 seconds," said head coach Darrell Young, obviously delighted with the victory. "Hopefully this is the turning point. From tonight there are two weeks before playoffs and hopefully there are good things to

come."

The Tigers placed three players on the six-spot tournament all-star team. Dalhousie's Scott Anderson joined Acadia's Darren Morrow to form the all-star forward line. Tiger assistant captain Brian Melanson paired with Acadia's Kevin Stover to claim all-star readguard honours, while Pat McGarry was selected by the media panel as the tournament's top goaltender.

Defenceman Brian Melanson was presented with the tournament's Most Valuable Player Award. Melanson had seven points in Dalhousie's two Lobster Pot games. "What can you say about Brian?" asked teammate Scott Anderson. "He is one of our leaders out there, he has been a leader all year, and he will lead us right into the playoffs."

The Weekend

The Dalhousie players were hoping that last Wednesday's Lobster Pot championship would represent a turning point in the season. Playoffs are just one week away and early indications seem to suggest that the Tigers are indeed beginning to peak.

The Tigers left for Antigonish on Saturday morning for a two-

game road trip and returned Sunday with their first road (games outside of Halifax) points of the season.

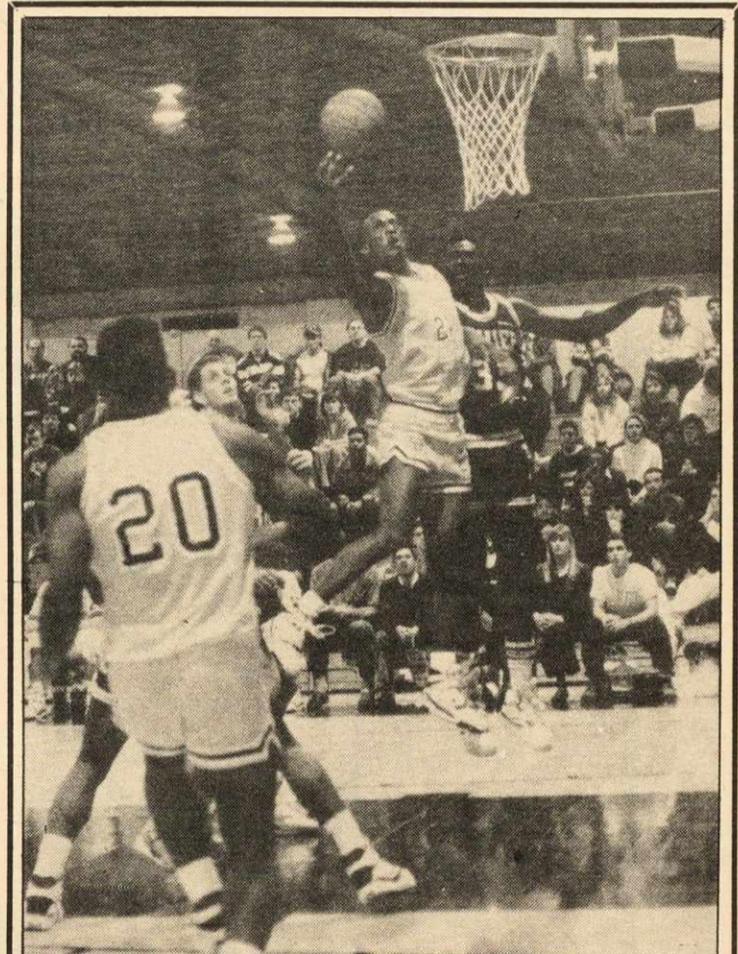
On Saturday night, Kelly Bradley contributed three goals as the Tigers earned a tie with third-place St. F.X. (8-10-1). Derrick Pringle added the other Dalhousie goal.

Ottawa native Ben MacIntosh led the X-Men with a pair, while Steve Pascoe and Allan MacIsaac chipped in one each.

On Sunday the Tigers travelled

to Cape Breton to play the Capers in an afternoon affair. The Black and Gold blasted the last-place Capers 5-0. Cape Breton's record dropped to five wins and 14 losses.

Acadia (15-5-0) has wrapped up first place in the Kelly division with 30 points. The Tigers (9-8-2) are in second place with 20 points, just three points ahead of the X-Men. Dalhousie and St. F.X. both have two games remaining in the regular schedule.



Paul Riley, power forward, goes for hoop as (No. 20) Andrew Meritt waits for the rebound.

photo: Bill Jensen

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Time to start crunching

by Brian Lennox

better on Friday.

The Dal Tigers men's basketball team has been struggling of late. Two weeks ago, the Tigers were 6-3 in conference play, but after three consecutive losses the Tigers are 6-6. The panic button should not be pushed yet. The Tigers remain in excellent position to make the playoffs.

On Friday night, the Tigers will face the number-two ranked team, St. Francis Xavier's X-Men. The game will be held at the Metro Centre as part of an AUAA double-header. Organizers of the double-header expect between 5,000 and 6,000 fans. The last time the Tigers faced the X-Men, they were blown out at the Dalplex 95-64. The Tigers that night were very flat, and there is no question that they will have to play much

The X-Men bring possibly the most balanced team in the country. Two weeks ago they lost the services of point guard Augy Jones, but Danny MacFarland has stepped in as a starter and the X-Men continue to win. For Dalhousie, through, the key will be to stop Wade Smith. Smith, a certain all-Canadian this year, is the key to the X-Men's attack. Dalhousie can match up to the X-Men better than anyone in the AUAA.

With six games left in the regular season, it is down to crunch time. The Tigers have to forget about the recent slump and play the way they are capable of playing. Dalhousie will also be in the action on Sunday against the Acadia Axemen at the Dalplex, which is another critical game.

Calendar

Events

Thursday, February 15th

Dr. Barbara Houston, a professor at the University of Western Ontario, will be speaking on "Women's studies: Issues and Challenges" at 4:30 in the Multi-disciplinary Centre, located at 1444 Seymour street.

A discussion of the role of science in the environment will be held at 7:30 PM in the McInnes room of the SUB. Presented by the Dal Science Society, the discussion will feature various speakers and is free to all.

Dalhousie's week of discussion on Women, Men and Violence continues with the "Women in Film" series, at 9PM in the Kings Wardroom. Call 429-3399 for more information.

Friday, February 16th

Dal's "Week of Reflection" ends off with a tribute to Jennifer Hodge, Canada's first black woman filmmaker, at 8PM in the NFB cinema at 1571 Argyle.

Sticking around for spring break? Check out the basketball action at the Metro Centre as the Tigers take on St. FX at 7PM and SMU meets Acadia at 9. Dal students can get free tickets to the games at the Dalplex with a valid student ID.

Saturday, February 17th

The weekend of sports continues with a swim meet at Dalplex. Call for more information.

Today's the last chance to catch an exhibition of works by Lisa Martin at the Anna Leonowens Gallery II, at 1891 Granville Street.

Sunday, February 18th

The Neptune Theatre is presenting *Amadeus* until March 4th. The play is "90% sold out" as of publication, but Neptune's management say tickets may still be available. Call 429-7300 for more info.

Monday, February 19th

The Wormwood's showing "Breaking In", a comedy about two mismatched thieves, at 9:15. Tickets are \$5.00, and you'd be wise to call 422-3700 to check for scheduling changes.

Munju's room (#5) needs painting. If you're in town over the break, drop by and lend a hand.

Tuesday, February 20th

In a noon luncheon at the Sheraton today, Sally Brayley Bliss will introduce Halifax Dance's *Young Company*. There will also be a performance by company dancers. For more information, call Halifax Dance at 422-2006.

Wednesday, February 21st

TESL will hold a meeting on *Resources in English as a Second Language* and literacy at 7PM. The meeting will take place at the North Branch Library, 2285 Gottingen.

No Gazette layout this week because ... well ... no Gazette.

DAGS' elections are upon us — the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students have opened nominations for president, vice-president, and councillors-at-large. Nomination forms are available at the Grad House. Call Damon Loomer at 422-6943 for more information. Nominations close February 28th at 5PM.

CUSO will be at SMU on Monday, February 26th, at 7:30 PM in the SMU Student Conference Centre. Their West African field rep will be discussing job opportunities in developing countries. For more information, call CUSO at 423-6709.

The Neptune Theatre and Dramaworks Theatre Group, two non-profit theatre organizations, need Disney memorabilia for their upcoming play, *Walt & Roy*, which opens March 1st. Props can be left at the reception desk of the Neptune, or you can call Mark Stevens at 429-7300 for more info.

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Elections for the following 1990/91 student union positions will be held on March 13, 14 and 15:

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- Board of Governors Representatives** (2)
- Senate Representatives**, 1 each from:

- Arts
- Dentistry
- Graduate Studies
- Health Professions
- Law
- Management Studies
- Medicine
- Science



Nominations open Feb. 5 at 8:30 am. and close Feb. 26 at 4:30 pm. Forms and further information can be obtained from room 222 of the SUB or from Edythe McDermott, Chief Returning Officer, at 424-2146.

This is your chance to make an impact on life at Dalhousie!

ATTENTION GRADS

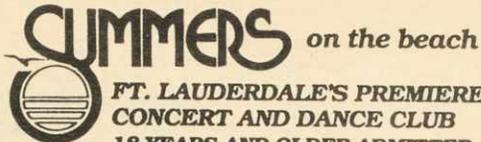
Last day to submit black and white graduation portraits to the yearbook is March 9, 1990.

Photos may be delivered to the yearbook office (Rm. 418, SUB) or to the SUB enquiry desk in care of Pharos. Write your name and degree on the back of the photo. For more information contact the yearbook office at 424-3542.

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Bridgewater, 543-2491

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This is your opportunity to come and work at **CANADA'S PREMIER THEME PARK**. Canada's Wonderland is a 370 acre entertainment facility located 10 minutes north of Toronto, Ontario which offers over 3,000 seasonal positions and welcomes over 2 million guests each year.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

120 Positions available in Rides, Games, Merchandise, and Food Service speciality positions.

FREE TRANSPORTATION

Depart Halifax May 23, 1990 and return September 6, 1990. Transportation to Toronto and return to Halifax conditional upon employment through September 3, 1990.

ACCOMMODATION

Affordable air-conditioned accommodation at a local university residence. Bus access to Canada's Wonderland.

PREMIUM PAY AND BONUS

Each position offers a wage of at least \$6.00 per hour and offers an End of Season Bonus of \$.50 for each hour worked. Overtime paid after 44 hours are worked in one week.

PARK BENEFITS

Unlimited use of most rides and attractions at Canada's Wonderland. Free entry to other Toronto attractions. Staff Events including picnics, barbecues, staff parties, Employee Appreciation Week, video dances and MUCH, MUCH MORE!

APPLY TODAY

Contact your On-Campus or Local Canada Employment Centre for information and applications. Representatives of Canada's Wonderland will be on Campus at Mount St. Vincent University from Wednesday February 28, 1990 through Friday March 2, 1990. Successful applicants must be available for an Orientation and Information Session to be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday March 3, 1990 at Mount St. Vincent University.

CANADA'S

WONDERLAND

(416) 832-7000. Canada's Wonderland is an equal opportunity employer.

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