

Strike aversion remains goal for both sides

BY KAVERI GUPTA
AND SHELLEY ROBINSON

A legal strike is within spitting distance after a report on the unsuccessful conciliation between faculty and administration was filed with the province.

The Department of Labour's Robert Durdan submitted his report on the conciliation talks between the faculty union and the Board of Governors on Mar. 10. After a two week cooling off period — during which negotiations are still possible — the faculty association is in a legal position to strike.

But both sides are still saying there is hope for settlement before the Mar. 24 deadline.

"Everyone's objective is to avert strike," said Dalhousie Faculty Association president Ismet Ugursal.

"I am seriously hoping that in a few days this will be unpleasant history for all of us."

University spokesperson Michelle Gallant agrees.

"Our interest is in avoiding a strike...and we're hopeful that there can be meaningful discussions," she said.

New talks have been tentatively scheduled for Mar. 12-13.

The conciliator's report was filed later than either side expected. But talk about it being stalled to avoid a strike during a provincial election campaign has been largely dismissed.

"That's fun speculation but I have no idea," said Michael Cross, chief negotiator for the faculty association.

"It seemed to me that the conciliator, Bob Durdan, has been pretty open and straight with us."

Durdan would not comment.

The two issues still on the table are professor's salaries and faculty complement. Complement is the number of faculty positions maintained by the university.

The board's latest offer to the association was a 9.5 per cent salary increase over 32 months. The offer, which included no change to the complement policy, was rejected by a strong majority of the faculty association.

Currently the university does not have to replace vacated positions, and the faculty union is trying to make sure they have to — at least until the end of this contract.

"[Complement] is the issue which most directly affects the quality of education and we simply have to have a breathing spell. We can't go on with this pattern of savaging the teaching ranks of the university," Cross said.

"We've always been prepared to be flexible but there are certain things that simply have to happen and doing something about the complement issue is one of them."

The faculty union is asking for a 13 per cent salary increase over the contract's 32 months, but while

both sides seem willing to be flexible about salary — complement is the line in the sand.

And given that the university is facing 46 early retirements in July, the issue is even more important.

But Michelle Gallant says full replacement of complement is just not possible.

"It is absolutely impractical, it's not feasible for the university to

continued on page 4...

DSU launches media campaign

\$40,000 set aside for television and radio ads

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

Although they may not know it, Dalhousie students are funding refrigerator breaks across the province.

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has launched a media campaign — that could cost up to \$40,000 — which they say will promote education issues in the final two weeks of the provincial election.

A DSU commercial began airing on Mar. 10 on two local television stations. The campaign will expand into radio and possibly print advertising next week, says DSU president Chris Adams.

"None of the three [political] parties have put enough focus on education issues — this is a chance for us to jump at that," Adams said.

"We thought it was a feasible idea that would have an impact and we ran with it."

The commercial is airing on ATV and CBC and can be seen during shows such as *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, *The Simpsons*, *Hockey Night in Canada* and the *ATV News*. Produced by the CBC, it cost about \$1000.

"We wanted something that

would send a strong message as well as being very professional," Adams said.

The student council unanimously endorsed the ad.

"We wanted [the commercial] to start off talking about the problems university students have — debts, cuts to education...then we wanted to tie it in with a statistic that would affect everyone in Nova Scotia, which was that by the year 2000, 45 per cent of jobs created will require a university education," he said.

Council approved expenditures of up to \$40,000 for the media

campaign, but the DSU has already committed half of that to television advertising.

Adams says the message speaks to people across the province on behalf of all Dalhousie students, and that it is important to promote education issues to those outside of the post-secondary community. However he does not see education as being in competition with other election issues.

"Education is a part of all the other issues, it envelops all the issues," he said. "For example,

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PROSTITUTION: A feature article examines Halifax's most secret industry. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

What do students really want?

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

Tuition freeze. It's the all-powerful phrase provincial politicians are using in their attempt to capture the student vote. Unfortunately for them, this approach might be just a bit too simplistic.

Both the Nova Scotia Liberals and the New Democratic Party have promised a tuition freeze if elected, while the Progressive Conservative Party is talking job creation and debt

relief. Education has definitely become a high profile issue and this has many students encouraged, but still looking for more.

"[I'd like to see] at least a

tuition freeze. That's what's realistic, rather than what the ideal would be," said Megan Clare, a

student in the Foundation Year Program at King's College.

Job creation is also a concern for students, particularly for those who would like to remain in Nova Scotia after graduation.

"For me, I guess Sable Gas is the big issue. As a student I'm concerned about the future, and that's going to have a big effect on the future of Nova Scotia," said Michael Landry, a Dalhousie Political Science student.

Other students were worried that

the government might hide behind Sable oil when addressing the general problem of unemployment.

"If it wasn't for offshore [oil], the government would have nothing to say or propose [about unemployment]," said Karl von Holtzhausen, a BA student at Dalhousie.

However, in many respects, the politicians are right on the mark with their "pro-student" campaigns. When asked, the majority of

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"I used to be with it, but then it changed...now it seems weird and scary to me."
—Grampa Simpson

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MARCH 11, 12, & 13

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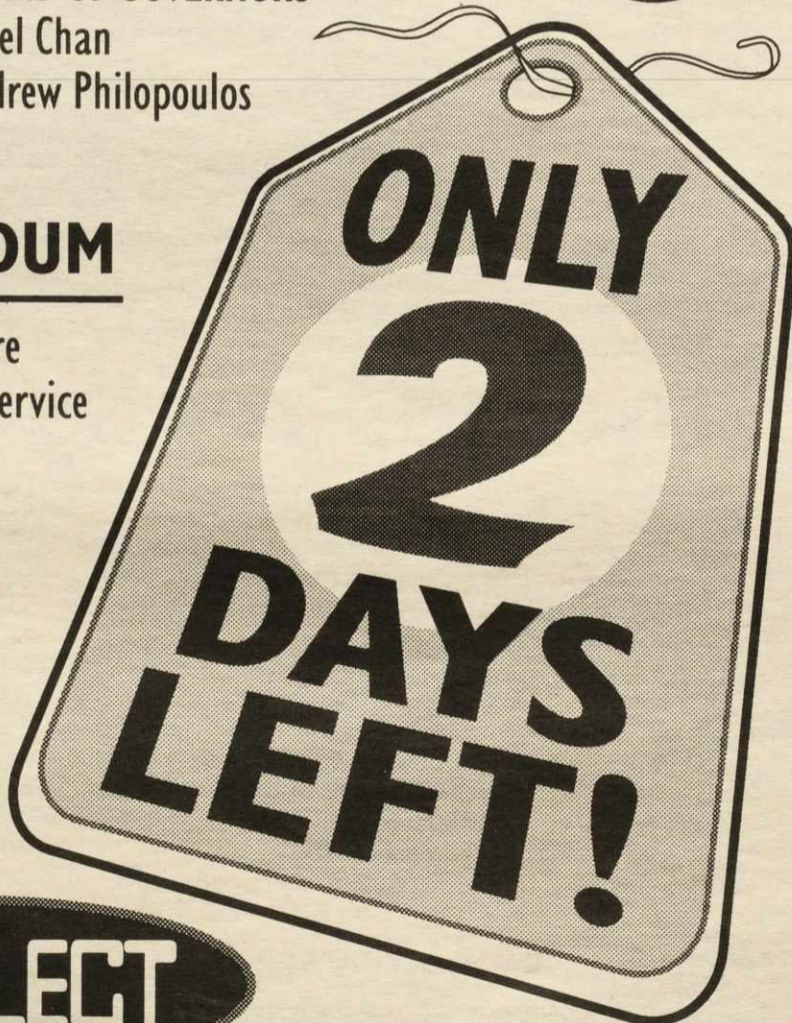
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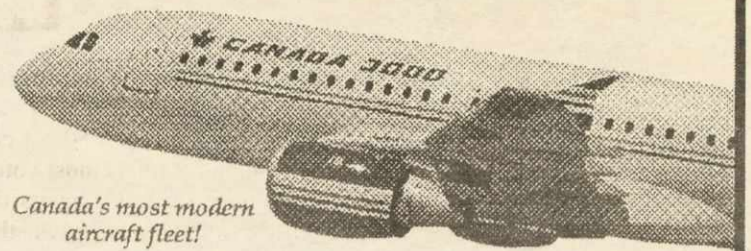
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CALGARY	—	—	18:50	—	—	—	—
TORONTO	—	18:25	11:35	22:55	17:20	11:35	—
ST. JOHN'S	—	13:25	—	18:00	—	—	—
HALIFAX DEPARTURES TO USA							
FT. LAUDERDALE	—	—	06:00	—	—	—	—
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Dalhousie part-timers & TAs are voting again

Negotiators heading back to the table after long absence

BY PAUL MANSFIELD

Dalhousie part-time instructors and teaching assistants are getting a second chance for a strike vote.

The Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) local 3912 responded to demands for the long-awaited results of the first vote, stating that because of inaccurate lists provided by Dalhousie's administration, they cannot confirm whether a majority of their members voted.

Michael Earle, treasurer-secretary for CUPE 3912, said that the voting period was too short and that the new one will give

all of the union's members a chance. In order to be in a legal strike position, at least 50 per cent of the union members must vote.

"We have several teachers that might be from out of town, they might only be teaching one class and they might have missed the chance to vote," he said.

Earle went on to comment on the inaccurate lists, stating CUPE had to either believe its own members or the Dalhousie administration.

"We would have to call the members who are not on the list liars if we went by the lists provided by the Dalhousie administration," Earle said.

However, Dalhousie's administration stated earlier — and still asserts — that the union was given accurate lists.

"We don't know the results [of the first vote], but they said that the strike vote was not completed and

I just found out they were having another," said Michelle Gallant, a Dalhousie spokesperson. "I don't know what degree of support they had but I do know that they are struggling."

Earle said it was the position of the union not to release the results of the first vote. He did say that voter turn-out didn't reach the necessary 50 per cent, but blames the results on inaccurate lists.

"I think it was more than a third, but I really don't know. I can't say for sure without proper lists. It has been the position of this union not to release any numbers until this next vote is completed on Sunday [Mar. 15]."

When asked about the possibility of the union not having a majority of support for a strike, Gallant just shrugged her shoulders.

"It doesn't change our position. With our without a strike vote the

only important thing is getting back to the table. Strike votes are just part of the process and we really only care about a resolution," said Gallant.

The union has already begun the new strike vote. It started on Mar. 9 and will continue until Mar. 15.

CUPE is doing everything it can this time to ensure that everyone votes. Members could have voted at Dalhousie's Student Union Building on Monday, Mar. 9 and Tuesday, Mar. 10. If they missed those days they can vote at CUPE 3912 headquarters in the Coburg Place Professional Centre; and if that isn't a possibility for their members, CUPE officials have said they would arrange for a volunteer to come to any place so that a member may cast his or her secret vote.

If a positive strike vote is obtained on Mar. 16, CUPE members will be in a position to strike after 48 hours.

Gallant thinks that the union's method of obtaining votes is very unique.

"I think it is unusual, but I'm not totally informed about what is required in regards to voting according to the labour laws."

While another vote is taking place, new talks have also begun. The administration and CUPE officials met Mar. 11 and 12 with a provincial conciliator to discuss some new proposals and objectives.

"The key development was the ability to reach an agreement at Saint Mary's and we saw that as an indication that there is clearly some flexibility on the part of the union. There was such a gap between [Dalhousie's] offer and their expectations," said Gallant.

Part-time professors at Saint Mary's University (SMU) voted in favour of accepting a new contract from their administration last Tuesday, Mar. 2. The pay agreement incorporates a differential between a basic rate, a rate for those on a precedence list — which includes all those who have taught at SMU during three of the past five years — and those with five years experience teaching at SMU.

There will be an immediate raise bringing the salaries of present part-time instructors up to \$6,100 for this school year. In 1998, the three categories will see part-timers make between \$6,250 and \$6,600. In 1999, that will increase from \$6,400 to \$6,750. In 1999/2000 a new contract will have to be negotiated which CUPE officials hope will bring SMU part-timers past the \$7,000 per course mark.

The union sees negotiations with Dalhousie's administration as a positive step, but feels there is much left to accomplish.

"We are far from completion, but it is coming together. There certainly has been movement on certain issues regarding part-time instructors, but the teaching assistant [TA] situation is still far from an agreement," Earle said.

Gallant says the real problem with negotiations is that the union has combined part-time instructors with TAs.

"The complicated issue here [at Dalhousie] is that we have part-timers and TAs together in the same union where the other two universities do not even have TAs. They are together in one group, but their circumstances are completely different."

Election expectations

continued from page 1...

students listed a tuition freeze, student loan restructuring and job creation among their major concerns.

But they also had concerns beyond university. Students don't remain students forever, and many are trying to look beyond their current needs.

"Well there's health care. There's education. There's jobs. And there's the balanced budget — but that seems more cosmetic than anything," said Holly Casey, a Theatre student at Dalhousie.

As cosmetic as the issue may appear to some, balancing the budget turned out to be a big concern for a lot of students who don't like the prospect of someday

paying down a debt created by earlier generations.

"I think people in the past have been spoiled, thinking the money

"No party will answer the [People Against Casinos] challenge about VLT machines and casinos. If one did I'd certainly vote for them."

would never end," said Scott Morley, a BSc student at Dalhousie. "The government has to realize, and I think they have, that you have to

run the government like you run your household — you don't spend more money than you take in."

Tania Theriault, a Masters student in International Development at Saint Mary's University, has more specific concerns.

"No party will answer the [People Against Casinos] challenge about VLT machines and casinos," she said. "If one did I'd certainly vote for them."

Students' broad range of concerns show that their vote isn't as cut and dry as it often appears. Promising a tuition freeze may not be enough. And with students representing a significant portion of the voters in the Halifax-Citadel riding, their concerns have to be addressed.

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DAGS elections: many positions left vacant

BY MARK REYNOLDS

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students has taken student apathy to a new level.

Despite an extension of the nomination period, lack of interest in the association's elections has left close to half of next year's council positions vacant — including that of president.

Of the 20 positions available on the new council 12 have been filled, and all by acclamation. The nomination period was extended from Mar. 4 until Mar. 9, but there was still not enough interest generated to elect a complete council.

"(This) is something that will likely happen every year," said Annie Crombie, the chief returning officer for the elections. She said that since many graduate students are in one-year

programs, they are unwilling to run for positions they may not be around to fulfil.

Crombie explained that the vacant positions, including that of president, will be filled in a September by-election. In the meantime, an interim president will be appointed from within the ranks of the new councillors.

Crombie said that usually the position of president is filled from the ranks of the previous year's council, but "there just wasn't any interest from this year's council."

James Leger, the current president of the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS), is optimistic about the results.

"Ideally we would have liked to have filled all 20 [positions], but I believe that sometimes a smaller group can accomplish more than a larger one," he

wrote in an e-mail interview.

Leger stated that the lack of applicants was due to a number of factors: many students do not believe they have the time to commit to student politics, DAGS has a tarnished reputation and this may have soured students on the organization, and many students don't realize DAGS can be relevant to their life.

"[It may be] a lack of understanding of just how DAGS could be involved in both the national and Dalhousie communities," Leger stated.

Leger pointed to issues that DAGS has addressed in recent months that affect Dal graduate students, including teaching assistant labour issues and reduced funding from the Medical Research Council.

"We were late getting into these issues due to distractions earlier this

school year, and it was for that reason that our smaller council amended the constitution in a referendum," he added.

"The activity of the council was determined by the interests and concerns of the council members."

DAGS weathered some turmoil earlier this year when most of its council chose to resign rather than continue to operate the Grad House, which was deeply in debt. Many of those who resigned were Masters in Business Administration (MBA) students, who have traditionally dominated the council. The new constitution calls for a more even distribution of seats. Council positions are elected in proportion to the number of students enrolled in each graduate program.

Despite what many grad students call positive changes to the council, William Schmidt, a graduate student in

psychology, says that students just don't have the time to commit to DAGS.

"What are the benefits of the positions? They let you list leadership related work on your resume, you make a few new acquaintances, but besides this, what is there?" he wrote in an e-mail interview.

Chris Riou, a graduate student in history, feels that the lack of applicants for positions has more to do with self-interest.

"People are here to get a degree, and then a job. Thus it is a very individualistic attitude. I am not sure how many students ask themselves what more there is to university than this," he wrote in an e-mail.

Riou says that students are missing out on an important part of their education by not participating in organizations like DAGS.

DSU commercial airs during election

continued from page 1...

where do the healthcare workers come from? Where do the engineers who build the hospitals come from? They come from the education system and post-secondary education."

He says he was disappointed that post-secondary education was not discussed during the Mar. 5 leadership debate and hopes the ads will help force the issue.

Media campaigns can be an effective means of gaining public support in an election says Simone Saint-Pierre, communication coordinator for the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS). The CFS has used radio messages as recently last June's federal election.

"It is important to protect student rights and we can't do that alone," Saint-Pierre said. "We have to have the general public know the student issues

before we can really make a difference...advertising is one of the tactics we use."

She says that the success of such commercials is hard to gauge but that, over time, there are gradual shifts in public opinion.

"It's hard to measure, but I know that on the issue of student debt we've seen a change of position in the general public from, 'students are whiners' to a real concern about student debt."

But Saint-Pierre also said it is unusual for one student union to fund and organize their own campaign.

Adams says because the Mar. 24 election date was earlier than expected, there wasn't as much co-ordination between Nova Scotia's student unions as there could have been.

"We made the effort to work with [the other schools] but it just didn't happen," Adams said. "In order for the

project to have been done properly, we had to do it on our own."

Ryan Marshall is coordinator of external affairs for the students' society at the University of British Columbia. He says his organization has also created its own education campaign during the federal election, which included radio and print ads that cost \$18,000.

"It's expensive and it's something you only do every four years, but it was definitely money well spent," he said.

"As much as we try to work together [with other schools] on certain issues, we felt it was better to do a campaign for all the students of UBC."

So far, Dalhousie students have been reacting positively to their commercial.

"I liked it," said first-year student Tanya Baird. "I think this is the only country where we're pretty lax in our rights as students...we take a back seat

to everything and it's about time we didn't."

"I thought it was a really good commercial," agreed second-year student Deborah Shortall. "Of course

it's our money that they're spending, but if it helps somebody else in the future, by decreasing tuition so that people can afford to go to school, then I don't really see it as a problem."

Faculty Strike

continued from page 1...

provide a guarantee to maintain that size of the [complement]," Gallant said.

"Given the financial constraints the university is under after so many years of drastic reductions in government funding there is very little flexibility in terms of our budget," she added.

Gallant also wants to be clear about what the complement issues are.

"We are not talking about layoffs...we are talking about an inability to guarantee full replacement

of every faculty member who

leaves," she said.

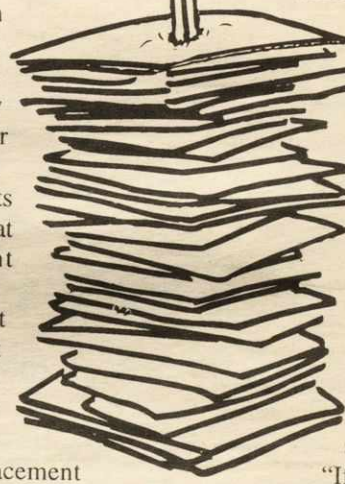
So with both sides seemingly deadlocked, there are some cracks to the optimistic fronts.

"We have to approach this with cautious optimism but we also have to be prepared for failure," Cross said.

Ugursal agrees, saying that the talks can affect the union's members' morale.

"The faculty are quite disappointed and frustrated...a lot of energy has dissipated," he said.

"If these things last too long there is a bad taste."



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Prof holds class on legislature steps

post-secondary education has to be more important, students say

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

Just like every Monday morning Andy Wainwright stood in front of his 9:30 English class playing Bob Dylan on a portable stereo and trying to make his students talk about why it was relevant. They were a little

his stereo, and his microphone, but they couldn't read the signs soaking on the outside gate. And they could probably hardly make out the "For the Public Good Support Higher Education" sign that the lone protester not allowed through the gates carried back and forth in front of them. And they definitely couldn't hear what the man in the cap was saying.

He was asking the students, huddled in hoods and soggy gloves, if they thought it was the first, tenth or hundredth time someone played

among the wet Airwalks and hiking boots. And the two people walking out of the legislature didn't seem to understand what people were doing listening and interpreting music in front of Province House.

Which just went to prove the group's point.

After all, the word "university" wasn't even mentioned in the televised Mar. 5 Nova Scotian leader's debate.

But Robert Chisholm, leader of the provincial New Democratic Party (NDP), says he recognizes the importance of post-secondary education.

"There's a problem in terms of dealing with the funding cuts to post-secondary education," he said. "[But] we don't believe the answer is to continue to increase tuition fees.

"If you sit around and ring your hands, as government, about how to properly fund universities — all the while universities are jacking up the tuition fees," Chisholm added.

David Harrigan, a spokesperson for the Liberals, says his party also understands the importance of education.

"We consider that growth in the economy, education and health are the cornerstones of what we need for Nova

Scotia's future. But we're not going to have any of those... unless we have a balanced budget," he said.

"[Education] is very much on our minds. We've said all the way along that we're going to endeavour to fund universities to a level where they can freeze tuition fees."

Tara Erskine is the Progressive Conservative (PC) candidate for Halifax-Citadel. Having graduated from law school in 1995, and still paying off her student loan, Erskine says she understands education issues.

"I don't believe students are being heard. I agree education has not been enough of an issue in this election, it's been about health care," she said. "I am in support of increased funding for education, providing we can pay for it.

"We don't want university to only be for the rich. There has to be a base

level of support so that tuition doesn't spiral further out of control."

Tim Church isn't sure of the event's tangible success, but at least he's doing something.

"I'm not sure how effective it was but it's better than nothing. It's better than saying 'yeah, I watched the

leaders' debate... and I turned it off, gosh they look like morons."

And so, no louder than when they came, but a lot more wet, the students headed back to campus, across town

— class was let out a little early.

With files from Megan Hamilton



Photos by Ryan Lamb

reluctant at first. But then again, the hail bouncing off his Arizona Diamondback's cap was the same hail that was making their clutched copies of lyrics look more like wilted kleenex flowers than demonstration pamphlets.

A class of 30 students gathered at the doors of the provincial legislature on Mar. 9 to protest what they say is a lack of attention to post-secondary education in the provincial election campaign.

The class, Bob Dylan and the Literature of the Sixties, is taught by Wainwright.

Wainwright played the 1989 Dylan song "Political World" to highlight what he says are problems with government funding for higher education.

"There's going to come a point where classes like this won't be available," he said. "On whose backs is the budget going to be balanced? [Post secondary education] can't afford to take any more hits."

The two security guards watching from inside were leaning forward enough to see the man in the cap, and

Bob Dylan on the steps of the legislature. And even though they were all cold, they all laughed.

Wainwright says some of the lyrics to "Political World" — "we're living in times/where men commit crimes/and crime don't have a face" — are particularly relevant to the problems facing post-secondary education.

"It's a crime to under-fund higher education... and that's why we're here," he said.

Tim Church, who attended the protest and is a student in the Dylan class, agrees.

"There's always got to be a group that is going to say... 'Look, we're here — we may be a small group but we don't agree with how business is being done.' We act as a check on the power structure," he said.

"I'm not that much of a leftist-pinko guy but I still believe it's important for public input."

The two pairs of dry leather loafers and heels looked out of place



News in brief

Student union develops Bill of Rights

The Dalhousie Student Union is developing a Students' Bill of Rights intended to protect the interests of students in the event of a faculty strike. The policy statement, "Taking Ownership: A DSU Plan of Action", describes the Bill of Rights and details the DSU efforts to keep students informed of what is happening in contract negotiations.

"Students are frustrated because up until now [they] have been left out of these contract discussions," says DSU president Chris Adams.

"We are using this plan of action to tell the parties involved that students' interests need to be given greater priority."

The "Taking Ownership" plan has two purposes: to create awareness among students through classroom blitzes and mail-outs; and to increase pressure on the Dalhousie Faculty Association and the administration to settle their differences.

Sweatshops not okay for Duke students

Students at Duke University will now be able to wear their school sweatshirts with pride.

The North Carolina school introduced a Code of Conduct which will hold all companies that do business with the university accountable for the conditions under which their products are manufactured. Sections cover issues such as worker treatment and maximum work hours per week. The Code was modeled largely on existing international standards, such as those embodied in covenants of the International Labour Organization and other bodies of the United Nations.

The Code is a triumph for Students Against Sweatshops, an organization whose members negotiated the terms of the code with university administrators.

Students against Sweatshops insisted that the Code include sufficient enforcement teeth so that it would not end up being a cosmetic cover for business as usual. For example, the Code requires licensees to disclose to the university a complete listing of sites which have any role in the manufacturing process, from primary contractor factories or assembling centres down through all layers of the subcontracting system, whether international or domestic.

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York prez unwilling audience to ad hoc board meeting

TORONTO (CUP) — After being trapped in her car by frustrated students for nearly two hours, York University president Lorna Marsden had to be escorted off campus by Toronto police.

The demonstration, which took place Mar. 2, began when students jammed into the senate chamber of one of York's satellite campuses and broke up a meeting of the university's Board of Governors. The students were protesting tuition hikes and the strong corporate presence on the university's highest governing body.

Students then held their own Board of Governors meeting, and surrounded a car in which the university president and another senior administrator sat.

"We tried to have a meeting, but [the students] decided otherwise," said Charles Hantho, chairperson of the board. "We had to cancel the meeting."

Hantho is a director of Camco, Inco, TransAlta, AGRA Industries and Imasco, chairperson of Dofasco and Dominion Textile and vice-chairperson of the Business Council on National Issues.

Also sitting on York's board are chairpersons of corporations including McDonald's Restaurants, Trilon Financial, Norma Industries and the president of the CIBC.

One of the organizers of the York protest, Joel Harden, president of the graduate students' union, says students are frustrated with the 36-member board which has plenty of representatives with strong ties to the corporate sector but only two students.

"[The board] is very interested in hearing our voice but, in the end, put us on the head and raise tuition anyway," he said, "and we were not going to let that happen again."

After the board meeting disbanded, Marsden sought sanctuary in her car with fellow administrator Debra Hobson, vice-president student

services. But they still couldn't get away from students even as they drove off the road and onto the campus lawn.

Hobson was formerly the vice-president academic/research at Dalhousie.

With a chairperson and minute-taker on hand, York students presented their alternative agenda.

"I move to freeze tuition fees, partially paid for by Lorna's pay cut," said one student to the cheers of the fellow mock governors, who passed the motion unanimously.

Marsden, a former Senator and vice-president of the Liberal Party and current director of Manufacturer's Life Insurance Company, Gore Mutual Insurance Company and Westcoast

Energy, is Canada's highest paid university president — bringing home \$250,000 annually.

The students unanimously called for the removal of all chief executive officers from York's board, and the full disclosure of the university's finances.

The students finished their meeting by firing Marsden.

Marsden was eventually escorted from the campus in a police car, accompanied by Hobson and a lawyer. Six police cruisers and over a dozen officers attended the scene.

The next day, Marsden's evaluation of the protest was less than glowing.

"It's just a waste of time," she said, adding that students will never be heard while using intimidation tactics.

Ontario loan program admits 'mistake'

BY CARLA TONELLI

TORONTO (CUP) — The Ontario government has opened a small window for out-of-province student loan recipients to collect what they were originally promised.

The government had calculated students' loans on the cost of living in Ontario, resulting in overgenerous loans for students studying in less expensive provinces.

In mid-academic term, over 4,000 students across the country were told that the second installment of their loans would be an average of \$1,000 less than they were expecting.

But the Personal Living Allowance Review is a new plan to repair damage caused by the improperly calculated loan assessments.

"If individual students found they were in a difficult situation,

they can apply to have their cases looked at," says Danielle Gauvin, spokesperson at the ministry of education, about out-of-province students affected by the winter re-assessment.

But some students are still unaware that the cuts to their loan may still go through, or that they had the option to correct them. Second year University of Winnipeg student William Dixon, says he might not have decided to declare bankruptcy three weeks ago if he knew about the review.

After learning at the end of winter holidays that the Ontario government's reassessment meant the income for his family of four would shrink from \$16,500 to \$13,200, he decided there was no way he could both catch up with his debt and finish his degree.

"They shouldn't be playing with students' educations like this," he says. "I don't like playing games

when I've got a family to consider."

Dixon says he won't be returning to school next year.

Dixon also questions why the onus is on students to appeal for their money back.

"They already know my budget. They don't need any stupid form to tell them again," says Dixon.

Wayne Poirier, Ontario chair of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), agrees that the ministry should take the initiative to communicate directly with students. But, he adds, at least the ministry is taking action to rectify their assessment blunder.

"It's one of the few things the government has actually responded to in a reasonable amount of time," he said, pointing to the pressure of the student and financial aid officers' lobby.

When institutional financial aid officers heard about the review plan on Jan. 30, some took it upon themselves to contact students directly when it was clear that the ministry wasn't.

it loses its momentum."

But Greg Guy, a linguistics professor who witnessed the spectacle, says he sees it differently.

"I'm very encouraged to see people active. A lot of the issues raised here were raised during our [faculty] strike. It's good to hear another voice."

During the 52-day faculty strike last year, York professors spoke out against the growing corporate presence on campus.

"The board will certainly have learned from this," said Glendon College professor, David Clipsham.

But the chair of the real Board of Governors begs to differ.

"This kind of thing doesn't help [students'] cause," said Hantho.

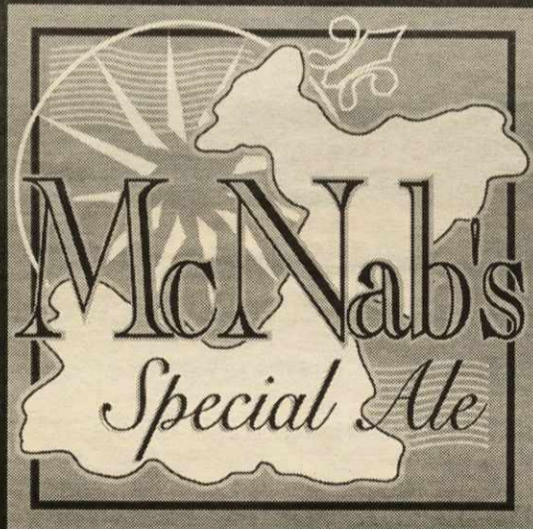
At the University of Manitoba, the financial aid and awards office phoned 200 students receiving student loans to let them know about the review, says Nancy Alrudha, out-of-province coordinator.

"Most of the students who were interested came in and filled out the form right away," says Alrudha, adding that some of the payment slips have already been received.

"As far as I'm concerned, I think the whole thing from the beginning was unfair. What struck everyone about the unfairness is that most people had already budgeted for the year. For single parents, it was particularly hard. What a mess," says Alrudha.

Helmut Zisser, director of the student support at the ministry of education, blames a computer error for incorrectly calculating the original assessments.

"It's never normal for us to make mistakes, and if we do make mistakes, we certainly try to be up front about it."



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McGill sells bookstore management to Chapters

BY SONIA VERMA

MONTREAL (CUP) — Following months of closed-door negotiations with Chapters Inc., McGill University has become the first Canadian university to contract out the management of its bookstore to the retail giant at an undisclosed price.

The five-year contract, ratified by McGill's Board of Governors Feb. 18, was based on a recommendation by a university committee struck to weigh the option of contracting out the store. Chapters, which took over management of the store Mar. 1, now pockets all bookstore revenues and compensates McGill with an annual fee.

Confidentiality clauses in the contract prohibit either party from revealing the exact amount of money the university will gain from the deal.

"We felt it was not necessary or helpful to see numbers bandied about in the press," said Phyllis Heaphy, the McGill administrator who headed up the advisory committee.

The amount is rumoured to be in the area of \$750,000.

According to Geoff Swift, director of college stores for Chapters, the company is projecting a financial windfall from the deal and expects revenues to climb under its management.

Swift says a clause that boosts the annual fee the company pays

McGill proportional to rising revenues sweetened the deal for the university's administration. And the university will continue to get its annual fee, even if the store falls on hard times.

"If the store loses money, the university still gets the revenue," said Swift.

In order to increase student traffic, there are plans to install a café in the bookstore, as well as create a periodical section and a lounging area. Chapters also hopes to increase the number of titles the bookstore carries and expand used textbook sales.

Despite the ambitious revenue projections, Swift says Chapters is "committed to maintaining the textbook pricing policy. Prices will

only go up because the supplier sets the cost, not because Chapters raises them."

But Adam Giambrone, who is running for an executive position in this year's student union elections, is not so optimistic.

"How are they going to make this money?" he asked. "Even if it isn't on textbooks it might be on all other titles in the store."

The secrecy surrounding the negotiations and sketchy terms of the contract has frustrated bookstore employees and students. Chapters has confirmed that workers will remain employees of McGill University, but says job descriptions may change.

An advisory committee, consisting of four McGill

representatives and one Chapters official, will review the transition of management to Chapters and help mediate any employee concerns stemming from the new contract.

Chapters has poised itself to break into the university market with an aggressive expansion plan which could see the chain installed in university bookstores across the country. Swift says outsourcing deals are already in the works with at least two other Canadian universities and talks are well underway with several others.

But he refused to disclose which universities Chapters is negotiating with.

"It's my guess that bookstore staff may not have even been informed that we're talking with their bosses."

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Break out the bullhorns

I have been raised by education. At the ripe age of three I was dragged, kicking and screaming, to the first institution I set foot in — nursery school. So far it's been a long 19 years of grooming filled with terrible lows and ego-stroking highs. Education is all I have known and, most likely, all you have known.

While I was attending high school in Vancouver the local teachers' union went on strike around this time of year. I remember the sun starting to hang around longer in the evening and the trees sporting embryos of leaves. I also remember the strike being the golden excuse for slacking off.

The three week holiday in March of 1993 was perfect. There was nothing to do but sleep, party and golf. No matter how often my mom yelled at me to read textbooks, english, social studies and math were no longer relevant. I had no control over the strike situation. It was being decided by a "board" or something or other. At that point I couldn't have cared less. In hindsight, I still don't care because high school was a joke. I used my time off in common fashion. I got wasted and roamed the streets for something to keep me occupied.

But the impending strike at Dal is neither high school nor a joke.

We as students have been busy taking third-person stance on this whole disgraceful thing. So far we have proven to be armchair

enthusiasts; jumping on the newest info like predators, then regurgitating it to family and friends like mama bird barfing up worms for her whining babies. We have successfully done nothing when this whole issue is about us.

Worst of all, the people we elected to represent us, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU),

administrators has affected us all. Those who worry about everything are adding to their self-induced stress. Those who wear letters on their sweaters are currently planning "Strike Bash 98" — the biggest kegger this side of Montreal. But whether you view the possible strike as a blessing or a nightmare, all the uncertainty has diverted our attention from Dal's real problems.

Dal's undergraduate programs are no longer competitive with those of other universities. There are less real professors,

classrooms or services for the bulk of the Dal community.

Have you thought about that lately? Have you been wondering why the course calendar lists so many classes that Dalhousie doesn't really offer? Did you become angry when you realized the calendar is merely a recruitment tool — an advertisement masked under the auspice of intellect? Have you wondered why Dal pumps so much money into graduate and professional programs while those programs serve a fraction of the Dal community? Probably not. We've been too busy sucking up this "Prof vs. Suit" pre-game show.

It's safe to assume that we're all sick of being used as pawns. We are caught in the middle of a labour dispute, with people we don't even know making decisions which could make this year a total waste of our money and time. Sure we're angry, but students aren't doing anything. Our apathy has become something to count on. No doubt the administration and the faculty association expect us to do nothing. For once, let's prove them wrong.

A strike is unacceptable. Professors wasting class-time to garner support from students is unacceptable. The DSU's passive stance is unacceptable. That leaves us. What are we going to do to ensure the education that was promised when we coughed up tuition continues?

We can take control of this situation. The only thing that's stopping us is our general laziness.

JOHN CULLEN

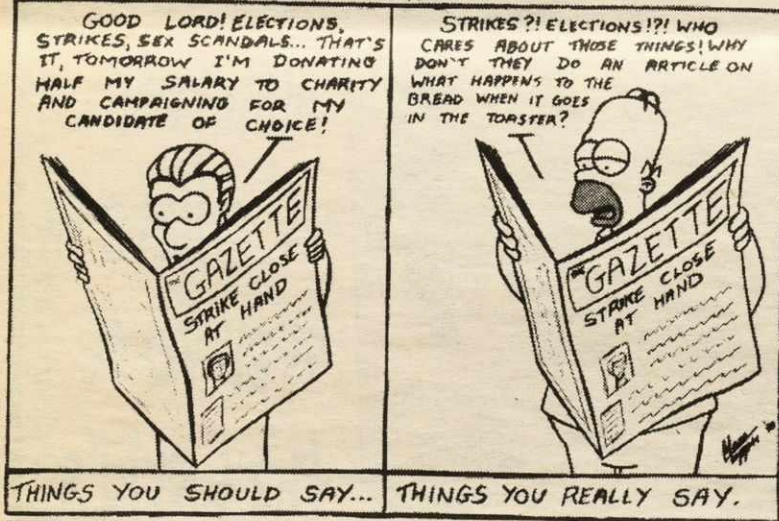
Editorial

have done little either. This is shameful because these situations are perfect for student representatives to prove they serve a real purpose. This year, the DSU is starting a postcard campaign and writing a "Student Bill of Rights".

What the hell kind of leadership is that? During Dal's last strike the DSU held protests, information sessions, and generally got in the face of profs and administrators. By the time the postcards get to wherever they're going, it won't be worth a damn. As for this Bill of Rights, the DSU is wasting it's time with committee thinking. I think it's pretty obvious that tuition paying students already know their rights. Do something visual and loud, because your initiatives to this date are propagating the myth that student government is irrelevant powerless.

The six-month debacle at Dal between profs, TAs and

CHANGING TOONS BY ADAM TUPPER



THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

editorial board

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All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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Letters

Halifax MLA speaks out on strike

To the editor,

I am an Associate Professor of Surgery at the Dalhousie Medical School. Post secondary education; including teaching and research from my daily routine for many years. In November 1997, I was elected MLA for Halifax Citadel and am now the Liberal Candidate for the Mar. 24 provincial elections.

I wish to comment on possible strike action by the Dalhousie Faculty Association(DFA). I am appealing to the Dalhousie Administration and the DFA to continue negotiations until the end of the current year. Public support for both sides will vanish if students, especially those graduating, lose their academic year.

Strike action, if unavoidable, would be less damaging to all concern after the April exams:

(i) the parties would have four months to bargain;

(ii) an early settlement would avoid injury to the university's reputation among prospective first year students; and

(iii) most importantly, it will show that both sides care about the welfare of their students.

As the Liberal Candidate seeking re-election, and as a faculty member, I recognize the significance of the *Technical Report on University Funding* from the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education(NSCHE). This report, well researched, recommended and additional \$23-million injection into university funding, \$8.3-million for Dalhousie. In addition, federal funding must follow the 25 per cent of students in Nova Scotia universities who are from out-of-province. The value of investment in Post-Secondary Education (PSE), to individuals and the community, is well documented. Discussions are underway for developing a Research Development and Innovation Policy for Nova Scotia, and a research foundation has been proposed.

I acknowledge, like all Nova Scotians, the requirement for continued fiscal responsibility. I recognize, also, the need for additional university funding as recommended by the NSCHE, and the necessity for provincial support for PSE research.

C. ED KINLEY MD
Liberal Candidate
for Halifax-Citadel

Wake up — the almighty dollar rules the world

To the editor,

I was amazed to read the opinion outlined in 'Standing up for the hostility in the Gulf' featured last week. It is obvious that some people still need to get their heads out of the sand.

I can't help but laugh as Mr. Leblanc naively outlines Canada's diplomatic prowess at averting war. So, sending missile-carrying naval frigates to the Persian Gulf is not a hostile act of war?

To suggest that anti-war protesters of mid-east descent are actually siding with Saddam Hussein is a ridiculous statement — did you not notice the people of other races that participated?

The whole basis for conflict in the Middle East is engineered by western nations who are in short supply of their own oil reserves. Over 75% of the world's oil lies underneath the Middle East, with a significant portion in Iraq. Did you not hear of the OPEC oil embargo of the 1970s and the strain felt by the American economy? Obviously not. If you naively think the US and other UN nations are in it to uphold democracy and save the rest of the Mid-East from peril, you are sadly mistaken. The only real concern is oil, not human life. This was aptly expressed in the UN deal for oil.

I would like to know how you can expect us to discredit stats and figures put forth about the death of children in Iraq when there are no stats of this nature being put forth by the UN. Do you think it is in the interest of the UN to reveal statistics regarding civilian deaths? No, that is why there are none, because it isn't an issue of concern. It is, however, more useful to portray all people of Mid-East backgrounds — especially Muslims — as war-mongering terrorists and I am afraid that Mr. Leblanc has obviously fallen for the stereotype.

You say that with the US strategic bombing of military targets they are not interested in hurting 'villagers'. Don't you think that economic sanctions hurt people? A lack of medical supplies, food, and clothing — necessities we take for granted — are certainly decreasing life expectancy and have most assuredly taken lives.

Throughout your diatribe you constantly equate the misdeeds of Hussein with the average Iraqi and anti-war protestor too. Do you really think that images transmitted to the West showing Hussein supporters marching through the streets are not simply government engineered propaganda, the same tool we also use? I shudder to think that the idiotic actions of Jean Chretien could possibly be linked to me. This is such a narrow adolescent view that does not even scratch the surface of understanding. It is time to stop watching CNN and falling for UN rhetoric.

Yes, Hussein is an aggressor. Yes, Hussein needs to be held in check. Yes, biological weapons and weapons of mass destruction must be destroyed, but lets be realistic about the UN's real interests here — power, given by money, given by oil. Wake up — the almighty dollar rules the world.

KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Check out our web site
<http://is2.dal.ca/~gazette>

The Letters/Opinions section of the Gazette is meant as a campus forum for all Dalhousie students. The opinions expressed within may not necessarily be those of the Gazette staff or editorial board. We welcome all submissions, but reserve the right to edit for style and content. It is the Gazette's mandate not to print racist, sexist or homophobic material.

Don and Abhi; expressing their view

At the conclusion of CBC's coverage of the Nagano Olympics, Don Cherry, the outspoken Canadian icon, made some choice comments which upset the Bloc Quebecois. Cherry called Jean-Luc Brassard, the Canadian mogul skier, a "French guy, some skier nobody knows about." This was in response to Brassard's earlier comments regarding his regret for carrying the Canadian flag in the Olympics opening ceremonies. Brassard, who won gold in the 1994 Olympics, failed to have even a podium finish in Nagano and attributed his poor performance to the coincidence that flag bearers typically do not do well in their events.

It is understandable that the Bloc would be upset with such

a comment made towards a French-Canadian from Quebec. To further upset the Bloc, Cherry commented on the Bloc's complaint that there were too many Canadian flags at the Olympics. Cherry was quoted as saying "I've never seen such a bunch of whiners in my life...They don't want the Canadian flag but they want our money."

As a result of these comments, the Bloc requested that Cherry be taken off the CBC because they felt his remarks were unjustified and that they go beyond the ethics of allowable sports commentary. The CBC's response to these demands were that Cherry is hired to express his opinions, as strong as they may be. Furthermore, the CBC

stated that they do not necessarily share Cherry's view. In summary, the CBC is not firing Don Cherry because in Canada free speech and freedom of the press are fundamental rights.

This story is a familiar one for the *Sextant*, as we often receive complaints regarding the opinions expressed in our publication. One column that generates such feedback on a routine basis is Abhi Samant's opinion column "From the mind of Abhi." In each issue, Abhi expresses his view on a particular subject and at times this view is controversial to some readers. As a result, some individuals write to the *Sextant* complaining that such views are not appropriate for publication.

It is important to remember

that viewpoints expressed in any publication are exactly that — opinions. There is no right or wrong; an opinion is only an individual's notion or belief. That is why the *Sextant*, just as the CBC, has a disclaimer that states that opinions expressed, whether it's from Don Cherry or Abhi Samant, are not necessarily shared by the publication. Having the opportunity to share ideas and opinions is the fundamental idea behind freedom of the press. Taking thoughts and ideas, which are otherwise trapped in the minds of individuals, and bringing them to a public forum for discussion is the foundation of today's society. To quote Thomas Jefferson, "Where the press is free and every man is able to

read, all is safe."

That is why, as advertised by the Gazette, voting yes for the Sextant's referendum question is saying yes to your right to know what is happening at Dal, and the right to voice your own ideas and opinions. You may not share the views of Don or Abhi, nor will everyone necessarily share your viewpoint on any particular topic. However, what we must share is the ability and the means to communicate information to each other.

Vote yes to the Sextant referendum question. Vote yes to freedom of the press.

TIM SCHAEFER
Editor-in-Chief,
DalTech Sextant

Five seconds of silence: prelude to an oops

It is amazing how five seconds can epitomize 18 years. Five seconds of Russell MacLellan's "deer in the headlights" impersonation during last Thursday's leadership debate was like a preview to his biography, "Life as a Liberal" — blank.

For 18 years MacLellan sat in Ottawa and earned, courtesy of the kind folks of Cape Breton, a nice salary, a huge pension, and federal perks that would make the Canadian Union of Postal Worker's mouths water.

In that time he did an impressive impression of expelled Senator Andrew Thompson. He was often absent and, even more often, silent. Supposedly he chaired a

committee, but no one knows which one, or what it did.

And now Russell has come home. In nine months of leadership he has become best known as "the guy with the toll highway". After five years of cuts to education and health care, in a vain attempt by John Savage to balance the budget in one term, Russell assures us that despite more than \$100-million in new spending the budget is still balanced. Really. He promises. Really, he does.

Then came the fateful moment last Thursday night when Tory leader John Hamm asked the question his advisors had pleaded him to ask: "Russell, if the budget isn't balanced, will you resign?"

Liberal hopefuls were waiting for a violent exclamation or derision or acceptance of the challenge. They wanted their leader to exhort his certainty in his budget. They pleaded for Russell to say...anything.

There was no joy in Wolfville, for mighty Russell struck out. Liberals across the province were doomed as their leader looked straight into the camera and said, not a reply of eloquent mastery, not a brilliant retort, but...nothing. And he said it twice.

CBC's *NewsWorld* reminded viewers across the country every hour on the hour — all night long. Late night shows, morning shows, talk shows, and

opinion shows, all reminded the voters of the Liberal loss the night before.

Just three years ago an upstart golf pro from North Bay, Ontario, rode an offer of resignation all the way into Queen's Park. Russell MacLellan may well ride his

inability to do so all the way back to Cape Breton, and like David Dingwall before him, Russell MacLellan's business card may soon read "the former member from Cape Breton".

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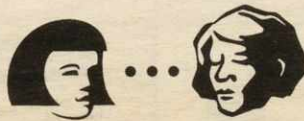
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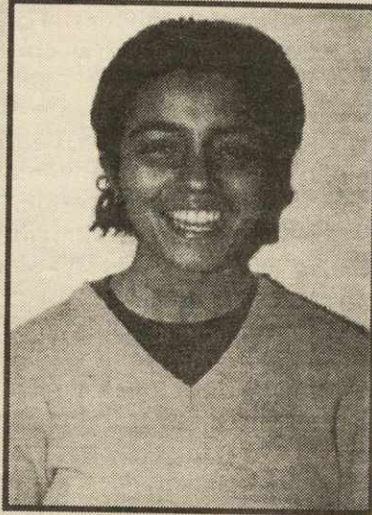
Streeter

Interviews by Barry Goldberg, Photos by Myke Palmer

How will you decide who to vote for in the upcoming provincial election?



"I would vote for the guy with the best hair."
- Dawn Laing, 1st year BSc, Cole Harbour, NS



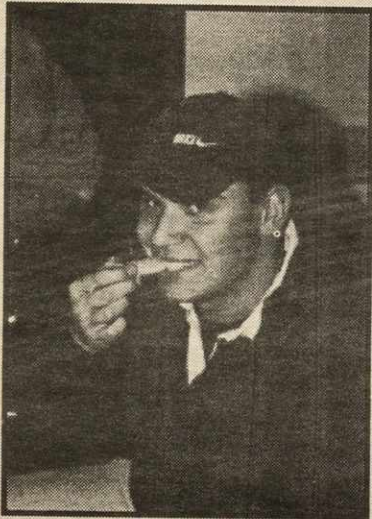
"I don't vote and I am not going to vote."
- Agnef Elenida, 1st Year BA, Thunder Bay, Ontario



"Not Liberal, because I don't like what they did to health care and education."
- Nicole Wournell, 1st year BSc, Lake Echo, NS



"Whoever bullshits the least."
- Colin Phillips, 1st year IDS, Bedford, NS



"I would find out what they are going to do with matters concerning health care and how we are spending our surplus."
- Joe Buldusk, 1st year BSc, Dartmouth, NS



"I would just take a look at what each individual would stand for, try to figure out who is basically the least corrupt politician, and whoever is more able to do the job."
- Ian Robson, BEd 1st year, Dartmouth, NS



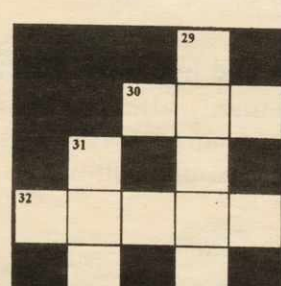
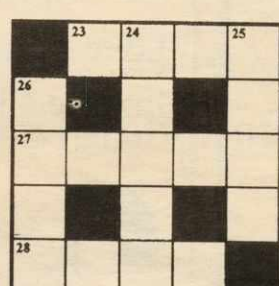
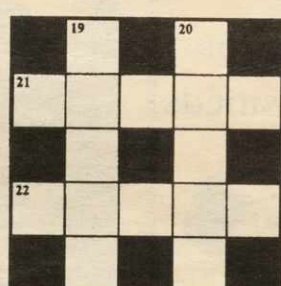
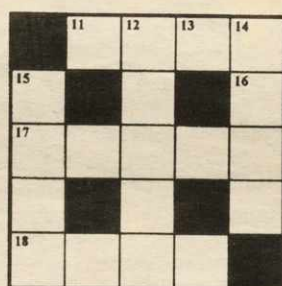
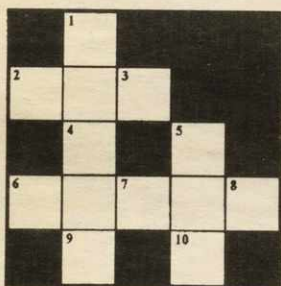
"I am going to vote NDP. The guy on our side of Dartmouth, where I live, helped us quite a bit. We have a handicapped child and he helped us [get] stuff for him. I feel like I owe him the vote."
- Joseph Roach, #10 Metro Transit Bus Driver



"I guess I am big on social issues. How they balance the budget, health and social programs."
- Reney Sullivan, 3rd year BSc, Halifax, NS

3D Crossword Puzzle # 13 — by Eric Fielding

A 3D crossword grid has words across, down, and deep.
In the example DAB is across, DOG is down, and DEN is deep:



Across

- 2. Tuned In (3)
- 6. Change The Price Of (5)
- 11. Evils (4)
- 17. Hamburger Loving Friend Of Popeye (5)
- 18. Make Much Of (4)
- 21. Vocabulary (5)

- 22. Reaps (5)
- 23. Halifax Or St. John (4)
- 27. After A Bit (5)
- 28. Be Jaunty (4)
- 30. Friend (3)
- 32. Horseflies (5)

Down

- 1. Became Informed (5)
- 5. Name For A Gal (3)

- 12. Boundary Line (5)
- 14. Inflamed Swelling Of Skin Near The Eye (4)
- 15. Overwhelmed (4)
- 19. Exercise For Stomach Muscles (5)
- 20. Well-Coordinated (5)
- 24. Extrinsic (5)
- 25. Misdemeanor (4)
- 26. Fly Like A Bird (4)
- 29. Leisure Sport (5)

- 31. Letters Before "POND" Or "TRAIN" (3)

Deep

- 1. Lock Of Hair (4)
- 2. Fifty Percent (4)
- 3. Cheesecake (5)
- 4. Ravi Shankar's Instrument (5)

- 5. Inquire (5)
- 6. Brief Summary (5)
- 7. Ceramic Flooring (5)
- 8. Great Adventures (5)
- 9. Narcotics (5)
- 10. Close Relatives Of Onions And Garlics (5)
- 13. Animal Fat (4)
- 16. Implement (4)

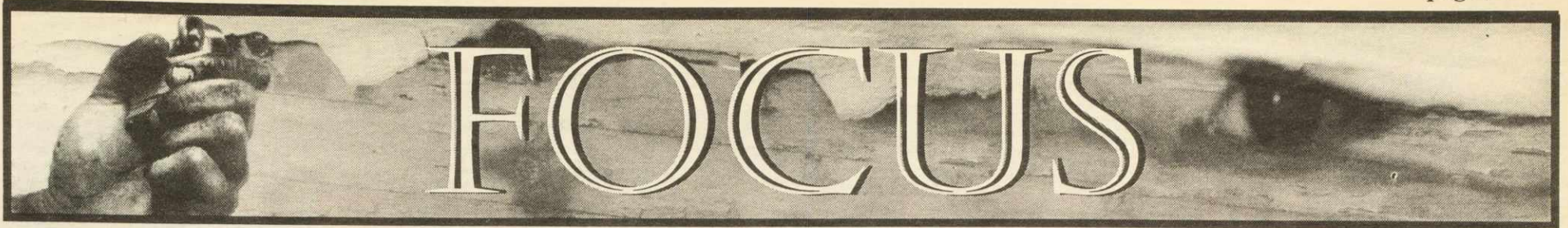
Answers To 3D Crossword Puzzle # 12:



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Escort service girls versus street corner women

The dangers of the sex-trade

BY GLENDA MACLEAN

"My husband's first wife was a prostitute and she was murdered," says Lynn, a former prostitute who worked the streets and escort services of Halifax for over five years. "So I followed in her footsteps and I did the street for not quite a year, you know, maybe six or seven months. The violence was too much. I've had a knife to the throat, been ripped off, been left out in deserted areas. [Working the streets is] more unsafe than I found with the escort service. The other [prostitutes] would sometimes try to jack you up — take your money. But, the escort [service] is safer."

The stereotypical image of a woman, with tight clothes and high heels, is probably not an accurate representation of the average Canadian prostitute. In some cities, like Halifax, escort services, massage parlours and nightclubs are the primary venues for prostitution.

"If you don't see it, people don't think it's there. Escorts are a big thing. There's a lot of girls out there with pagers," says Lynn.

She went on to explain the distinction between working escort services and working the street.

"There's a big difference. Your escort service is like your pimp. There's a misconception out there that if you work the street you have a pimp, but that's not necessarily the case. [Escorts are] safer than the street because you have to give a call in and they get the phone number and where you're at. If you're not done by say, an hour, they'll call to check on you.

"You don't have the police harassing you in escort, but on the street they have the police harassing them and scaring the johns away. The police...really hound the people working the street, which is a drag because...they're trying to make some money. I mean they're not hurting anybody."

And what they are doing is legal, sort of.

"Prostitution is not criminal. You can live off the avails of your own prostitution," says Sergeant Tim Moser, project coordinator for the Task Force on Prostitution.

It is the activities surrounding prostitution such as pimping, operating a brothel or 'bawdy house', and any communication for

the purpose of buying or selling sex which are considered offenses. These laws send mixed messages to prostitutes.

"You're fine as long as you don't mention money. You mention money and then you're caught. Then you're screwed. Then you're busted," says Lynn.

Lynn claims that when the police try to catch prostitutes, "they...have an undercover cop in a vehicle and he will try to get you

"You're fine as long as you don't mention money.

You mention money and then you're caught.

Then you're screwed. Then you're busted."

to...name a price. It's not entrapment by their case standards, but as soon as you mention money you're busted. And how women get around that is...they say... 'show me, show me your dick,' because he can't do that."

Although escort services and prostitution may often be selling the same things, "the laws are different and you're doing the exact same things. I've worked for a number of escort agencies and I've never been busted through an escort service. I've been harassed more on the street," says Lynn.

According to research by Simon Fraser University criminology professor John Lowman, of the yearly 6,000-10,000 prostitution-related charges between 1986 and 1995, five per cent were for pimping charges and three per cent were bawdy house charges. The remaining 92 per cent were related to communications for the purpose of buying and/or selling sexual services.

Sergeant Moser disagrees with the idea that street prostitutes are more heavily targeted by the police and suggests that escort services are a major focus of police investigations.

"A pimp is a pimp is a pimp, whether it's street level or at an escort service. We charged an escort service in August, and we just laid more charges against the same person with respect to some other witnesses that came forward. So, yes, [escort services] are targeted. They're harder to investigate, but nonetheless they are targeted.

"So, I would suggest [to] those who are operating illegal escort services [that] time is limited. Eventually, I'm sure that they will be caught."

John Lowman has published several works on the topic of prostitution. In a recent article, Lowman suggested that most cities in Canada benefit financially from prostitution by licensing escort services and other fronts for selling sex.

Street prostitution also puts money back into the system.

Lynn says, "it's funny because if you get caught and you get a ticket, [you] get a fine, and how

else are you going to pay it but go back to the street? You've got to pay the ticket — so the money can go back to the city that way."

Most of the excitement about prostitution in Halifax relates back to the Halifax-Toronto pimping ring that was uncovered in 1992. A media frenzy followed the arrest of three Halifax area men on pimping and assault charges. At the time it was suggested by Toronto police that Halifax was an ideal training ground for prostitutes who could then be sent out into an inter-city pimping network. The result was the creation of the prostitution task force.

"Originally the task force was set up in 1992...to reduce the exploitation of juvenile women in the sex trade. That remains our goal or mandate to this date, except that we've dropped juvenile and we've added [male prostitutes]," says Sergeant Moser.

Moser defines a pimp as a person who "forces a girl into prostitution, and works the girl in prostitution. So I guess that we're talking about the types of pimps that the task force was originally set to deal with. These were the violent guys, they were living solely on the avails of prostitution. They were taking [girls] across the province, provincial borders, [and] down to the States, on the circuit.

"There was a considerable amount of violence involved — we [still] deal with that. But because the task force dealt with that problem, it's not [such a] big problem now."

Lynn feels that the events of 1992 were distorted by the media.

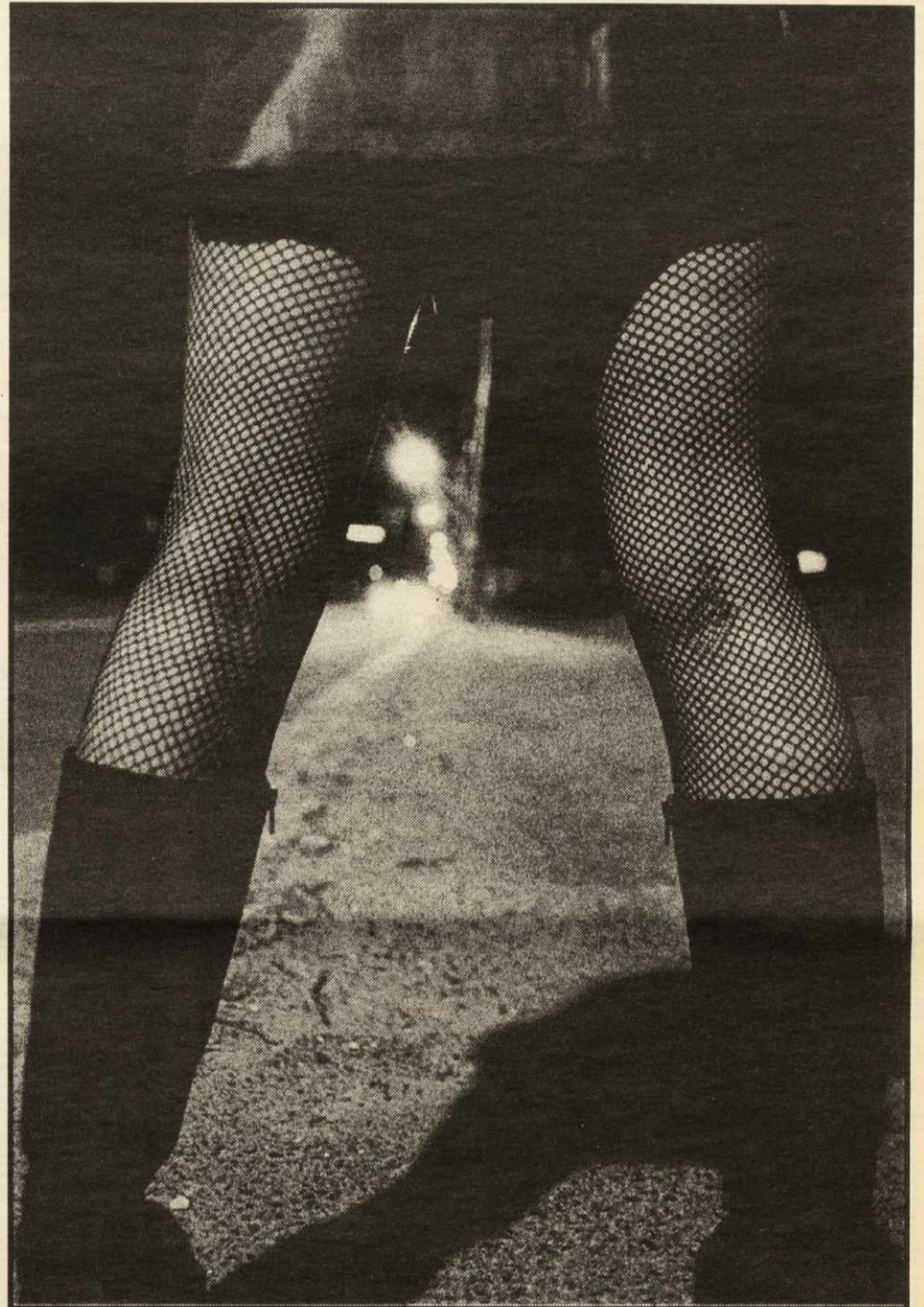
"My opinion is that [the pimping ring] was not as serious as they foresaw it to be. I'm not saying it doesn't take place, but it was truly blown out of proportion. The way the government swooped down and said 'let's rescue these people,' [when] there was a place like Stepping Stone [an outreach program for prostitutes] fighting to stay open — it was kind of like a disappointment."

The media continues to plague individuals who work in the sex trade. John Lowman has drawn links between increased police vigilance and an increase in

for sexually transmitted diseases, Lynn disagrees.

"They're the cleanest. They use condoms."

And what if a john refuses to



PROSTITUTION: Police sources say "a pimp is a pimp is a pimp", but what are the underlying differences between 'street-walkers' and 'escorts'? (Photo by Ryan Lash)

violent crimes against prostitutes.

In one of his articles he wrote, "this anti-prostitute rhetoric made it that much easier for sexual predators and other sexual misogynists to justify violence against street prostitutes."

Lynn supports this idea. "If you see a media rush, sometimes you can see the effects on the bad-trick list."

The bad-trick list is a record of descriptions, licence plate numbers, and other information on johns who have beaten, robbed or in some way mistreated a prostitute. When asked if these trends were noticed by police, Sergeant Moser took a more moderate stance.

"There will always be violence towards a prostitute because ultimately they are being victimized...by the pimps or by the johns."

However, he did not feel that this violence was a result of media attention.

Although many believe sex with prostitutes puts one at risk

wear a condom?

"The majority of women will say, 'what [disease] do you want to give me?' Some of [the clients] will offer extra money [for unprotected sex], but the majority of prostitutes use condoms."

Of the 110 juvenile prostitutes who participated in a 1994 study in Montreal, only one girl was infected with the HIV virus. She was also an IV drug user.

Moser believes part of the problem for those trying to prevent prostitution is that "prostitution has been glorified to some extent by the pimps."

However, Moser is adamant that "prostitution is not a glamorous lifestyle by any stretch of the imagination. You're a piece of property."

Lynn simply wants people to know that there is a face behind the label "prostitute".

"People forget that they're a mother, they're a sister, they're a brother. Everybody has their own story."

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ARTS & CULTURE

FOCUS ON HALIFAX

Local busker makes ends meet

BY AVI LAMBERT

Wherever you go in downtown Halifax, it is hard not to notice the buskers and homeless by your sides.

Some are more aggressive than others; they have their routines — like the guy in front of the liquor store, while others choose to entertain.

We can depend on these people for a good time, a laugh and sometimes a pain in the ass.

Sean Meisner is the long haired busker who plays guitar at the edge of the Halifax Regional Library grounds. All of us who have been down to pizza corner enough know his face, but most of us don't know his name.

Meisner has been playing guitar since he was six years old and has been busking since he graduated from Dalhousie in 1990 with a BA in English.

"It's not an easy way to make a living...but it's enough to pay the rent, eat, and keep the student loan people at bay," says Meisner.

"[My lifestyle] isn't much different, it's just the means," says Meisner of busking. However, during the eight years he's been busking in Halifax, he has had to be an entertainer, social worker, tour guide, information center and babysitter. The *Gage Canadian Dictionary* defines a Busker as "a strolling entertainer of passers-by". Go figure.

Meisner told me he has seen "every

possibility of human behaviour."

He reported that 80 per cent of the people that walk by ignore him completely. The remaining 20 per cent give him money because he's either

"The city doesn't treat the homeless well...they don't want to deal with the problem, they just want to get them out of sight."

there, they want to have fun, or in Dylan-esque reflection, "they just wanna abuse you."

"It's a hard way to make a living," says Meisner. He's been beaten up twice for the change in his guitar case.

"You have to be prepared for any possibility."

Despite the odd problem, Meisner says he is happy.

When asked if competition from other buskers is a problem, he proudly replied that Halifax buskers don't see their profession as a contest.

"We support each other...we don't look at it as a real competitive thing. We're all trying to pull money out of people's pockets."

Busking has come to be a globally renowned profession. You would think

that the organizers of the Halifax International Busker's Festival, which takes place on the waterfront every August, would include locals. But according to Meisner, locals are no longer allowed in the festival.

"It's a shame that the festival is closed to local artists...we could do with the exposure. [The local presence] could add an air of simplicity [to the festival]," he notes. "The performers [at the busker festival] simply aren't busking. They're too aggressive. You shouldn't ever ask for money."

Meisner has given money back when it was given for the wrong reasons. Among other things that have ended up in his guitar case, he has received cigarettes, candy, joints, condoms, buttons, and hubcaps.

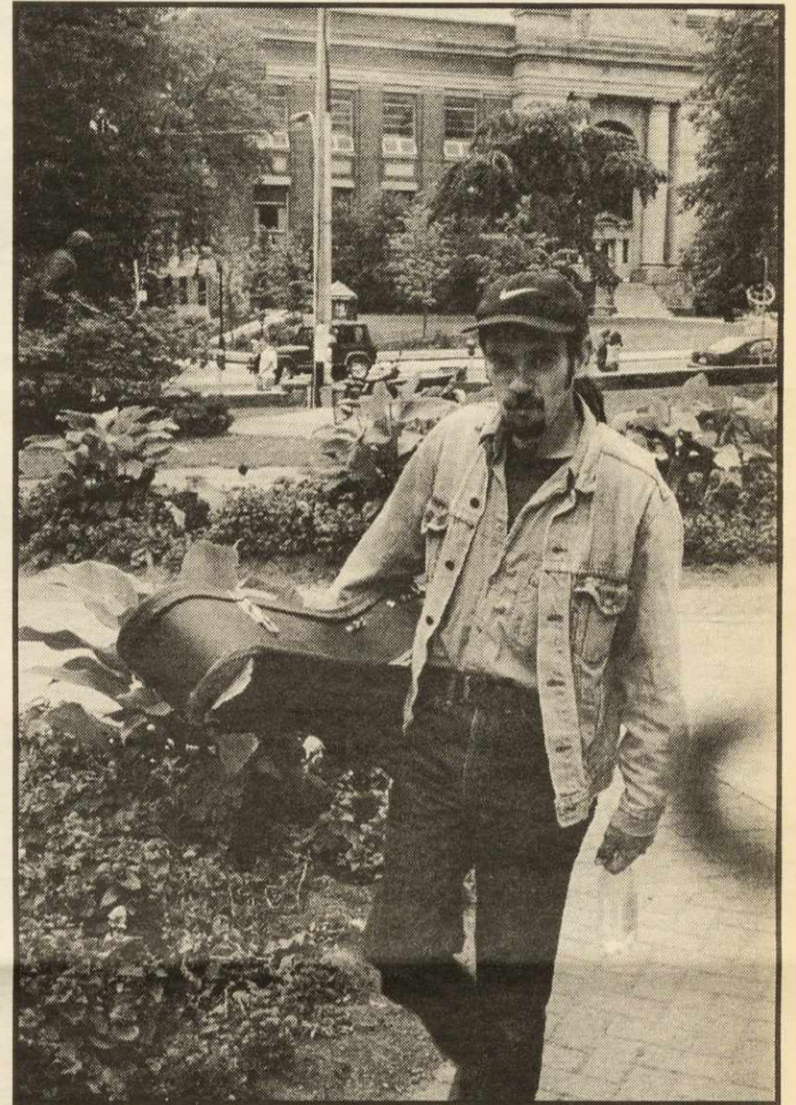
Meisner's job has seen him befriend many of the homeless in Halifax. He openly criticizes Halifax's treatment of the less fortunate.

"The city doesn't treat the homeless very well...they don't want to deal with the problem, they just want to get them out of sight," says Meisner.

To those people who look at Meisner and think or say to him "cut your hair and get a real job," he offers, "do my job and I'll do yours. We'll see who's singing at the end of the day."

I asked him if there was anything he'd like to say to Halifax. With a grin he finished the interview.

"Champagne for my real friends, and real pain for my sham friends."



Sean Meisner carries his guitar to his regular spot at the Spring Garden Road Public Library grounds.

Aristophanes' *Clouds* captures student life

BY GREG MCFARLANE

Despite the daunting task of muddling through Greek plays and philosophy, Greg Robic is convinced that there is something for everyone in his adaptation of Aristophanes' *Clouds*.

The former University of Toronto student wrote the musical as an anticlerical for high school students to study classics in university. And from the moment of the play's inception, Robic has kept the world of students and academia at the

heart of the comedy's story.

"I wrote the play as a student at U of T. They have these days where they invite high school students to the university in order to show them that classics is a viable subject to study. I wrote it for one of those days," said Robic.

"I'm hoping that students will laugh, particularly at themselves."

As a student of classical Greek comedy, Robic spent a lot

of time in a university environment, surrounded by professors, administrators and



worrisome students. He found particular inspiration in this setting.

"[The main message to people is] not to take oneself and one's pursuits too seriously," said Robic.

Despite the fact that Robic is making fun of student life and university in *Clouds*, he makes it clear that he loves the student lifestyle. He notes that good humour is not overly aggressive; yet there are no sacred cows.

With that in mind, viewers should expect the play to

parody many modern cultural phenomena, from Gilbert and Sullivan mega-musicals to operas, and material geared towards satisfying the less culturally adept.

"There is plenty [of material] in the play for complete morons, which I am myself," Robic said, "but there are levels to the humour; it is very unlinear. There is a lot going on at once, and in that sense, it is in the style of Monty Python."

The show is about a father and son who attend university in order to acquire knowledge that will help them make money to alleviate their debts. The father fails to succeed, but the son does, and ends up swindling his way out of debt. From there, the play takes a skewed look at society, post-secondary education, and father-son relationships.

Set to the tunes of Handel and Verdi, as well as others, *Clouds* offers viewers excellent singing and comedic lyrics in what promises to be a timely and accessible musical play.

Clouds will be showing at the Dalhousie Arts Centre on Saturday, March 14 at 8:00pm.

Never too much to swallow

BY DAVE MACDONALD

Stevie Starr put a load of dry sugar into his belly, drank a glass of water, did some stomach exercises, then brought the sugar back up — totally dry.

How does his job grab you? You put crazy things into your stomach: light bulbs, billiard balls and the like, then bring them up again. I don't think you need to pay \$10,000 a year for a university education to get this job.

Starr hails from across the Atlantic — Glasgow, Scotland to be exact. He tours the world with his amazing

show and claims that there is no trickery. Starr combines quick one-liners and the ability to regurgitate everyday objects to keep the crowd laughing.

The stuff he crams down his throat is downright weird. Among other things, half a can of butane, ten loonies, a rubix cube and two goldfish, got to see his insides.

When the butane was brought back up, he made a fireball that burned the hair off his arm, as well as the poor audience member who had to hold the lighter.

He then swallowed the ten loonies one by one. You could hear them

click as they hit each other in his gut. When it was time to bring them back up, he brought up six at once, then the next three one at a time. But the last one was stuck. So down went the pool ball. It knocked the dollar loose, Starr coughed it up, and then produced the newly cleaned ball.

But Starr wouldn't stop there. He swallowed a solved rubix cube, jiggled his belly, then squeezed out the cube with two sides turned. *What the fuck was this?*

For his grand finale, he used the two goldfish. He called his fish by name and slid them down into his food pit. He asked the crowd how

they wanted them regurgitated: tail first, head first, dead, alive? And, if dead, in halves or whole?

The sadistic audience wanted one dead, but Starr wouldn't do it. After all, these were his babies. He brought them up, put them back into their tank, and they started to swim around as if nothing had happened.

There was only one thing wrong with the whole evening (if you don't consider a guy stuffing things down his throat for money wrong). It cost \$6 to see him perform for 45 minutes. But then again, how much shit can you cram down your throat?

Travel to the place where Nova Scotia's great brewing tradition started.

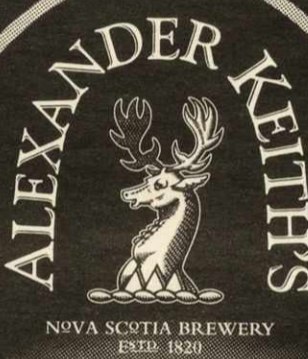
The year was 1817. The place
was Halkirk, Scotland.

Alexander Keith had just finished his
brewing apprenticeship. It was time to
make the next momentous step — to
Halifax. The rest, as they say, is history.


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April 15, 1998. And as they say in
Scotland — "*Slainte!*"



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Commercial hedging and the decline of radio

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

There was a day, not too long ago, when radio was a powerful medium.

Through the radio we heard the news and listened to hockey games. We heard comedy shows and radio plays. Through the radio, the world made Elvis Presley a star.

But radio has gone downhill over the years. First, it took a blow from television, but it made it through that one OK. Now, radio is taking a blow from itself.

"[Radio] used to be more of an active listening experience, and people were moved by it, people talked about it in social gatherings. Radio announcers and personalities were an important part of the community. Now it's become more of a background 'muzak' kind of thing — it really has changed," says Doug Barron, a DJ at CKDU, Dalhousie's FM radio station.

Barron is one of four DJs now working at CKDU who used to work in commercial radio. He came to CKDU looking to do something different from what commercial radio allows.

"I guess I've always been a fan of alternative radio — radio with some variety and different styles of programming," says Barron. "I was influenced a lot by campus radio when I was younger. It's basically what got me into it in the first place."

"Radio should fully involve the community," states Barron. "Radio should serve the community not only in representing it information wise, but also in reflecting the arts and culture of the community — music and artists that are indigenous to the listening area. That should be their focus. And offering people a voice and a chance to become involved in the programming."

Barron hosts the Sunday evening show *Everything and More* on CKDU.

"It gives me a chance to take in all my old vinyl records and as well explore brand new stuff."

Barron is happy with the work he is doing at CKDU and is dubious about getting back into commercial radio.

It would be fun to start a new station and maybe do something different, but the way radio stands right now, it would be pretty hard to see anywhere where I could fit in and be happy," he says.

Barron was also sceptical about the recent cooperative formed by five of Halifax's major radio stations. Two weeks ago, SUN FM, Q104 and KIXX Country joined forces with C100 and CJCH. The

five stations broadcast out of the same building on Agricola street.

"I feel pretty strongly that it is going to drastically water down the quality of radio that has already been deteriorating locally over the past ten years. It's really a bad, bad thing," says Barron. "It's going to make the radio stations sound even more alike and become even more of a commercial and a corporate entity, with less spontaneity, less local coverage, less local music, fewer people on the radio, and more canned programming."

Nick Barrington, another DJ who

came to CKDU from commercial radio, has a similar view. Barrington described commercial radio as being "desperate for listeners", and eager to merge with the competition "rather than do something imaginative."

"[I came out of] the desire to do the sort of radio I had in mind when I started in the first place — talking about what I want to talk about, not being a mouthpiece for someone else," says Barrington. "There was a creative aspect to commercial radio at one time when I was involved in it."

"[But] it's been musical wallpaper for years now. That's how they define their role."

Barrington, although pessimistic, still believes in radio's potential as a meaningful media outlet.

"I still think it can be the best medium there is if it is used right," Barrington maintains. "The way the commercial stations have been adopting it to sell rather than serve...they're signing their own death warrant. I'm surprised the [Canadian Radio and Telecommunications Council] doesn't pay more attention to it."

Wormwoods Cinema and the truth

BY PHIL E. LEWIS

Despite the fact that Wormwoods Dog and Monkey Cinema closed its doors to the public last week, co-owner Meredith Hutchings is confident that the theatre will re-open soon.

Although rumours about the end of the independent film outlet remain plentiful, the owners insist the closure is only temporary.

Hutchings and an undisclosed silent partner have decided to leave the independent movie house and move on to other things. However, Hutchings said that she has already spoken with a couple of prospective buyers.

Wormwoods was started by Hutchings' late husband and a silent financial partner. Upon her husband's death in 1993, Hutchings inherited half of the cinema. Recently, the silent partner has decided to move on to other ventures.

"I am not in a position to run the theatre, so we decided to sell the business," Hutchings said.

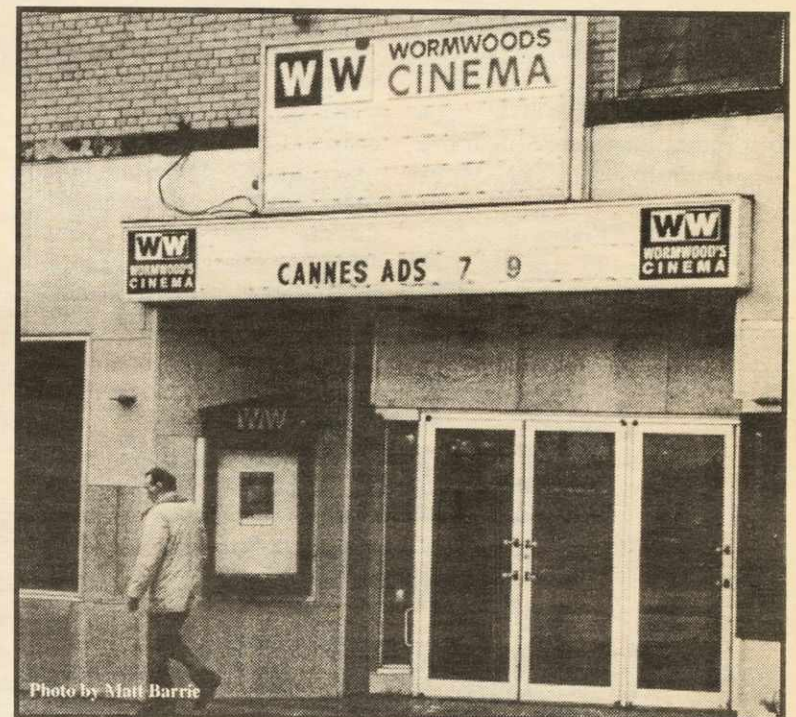
"However, Wormwoods will continue to operate as the heart and soul of the East Coast independent film industry for a long time to come."

Wormwoods is the largest independent film outlet this side of Quebec. The theatre garners wide recognition every year during *The Atlantic Film Festival* in September.

Hutchings said that the success of Wormwoods had not been affected by the recent opening of the Empire multi-plex and IMAX cinemas.

"Wormwoods is a very viable business. Those theatres are servicing a different clientele than we are. The people who frequent Wormwoods are looking for something that the mainstream theatres cannot offer them," Hutchings said.

The larger theatres provide customers with movies that have a heavy financial backing to attract publicity. Wormwoods is the only theatre in metro that offers the public smaller independent films.



This gives Canadian film-makers a great opportunity to showcase their work.

"Wormwoods will remain a strong part of my life and others who like to see good quality

films," Hutchings said.

While the owners assure that the theatre will re-open, due to the nature of the closing, it is uncertain how long doors will be locked.

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The Big Lebowski picks up a spare

As always, mixed reviews follow the latest Coen brothers film

Films by the Coen brothers are rarely ever seen in the same light by anybody. Some critics love them, while others have a field day lambasting their work. Keeping in form, two Gazette reporters couldn't agree on the Coen's latest offering, *The Big Lebowski*.

THE DUDE NAILS A STRIKE

Joel and Ethan Coen attack the world of bowling

BY AMBER MACARTHUR

The Coen brothers have done it again. Without the wood chipper. Without the darkness. Without the drama. In fact, with their new movie, *The Big Lebowski*, the brothers have turned 180 degrees to produce a comedy that glamorizes the life of the bowler, the pot smoker, and the boozier — personified by one man they call "the Dude".

The Dude (Jeff Bridges) lives a very simple life in Los Angeles. He's unemployed, unmarried, and not the

least bit unhappy. He spends his days smoking pot and drinking White Russians with his two best bowling buddies, Walter (John Goodman) and Donnie (Steve Buscemi).

Whereas the Dude is the epitome of relaxed, Walter is the epitome of rage. He is a Polish-Catholic turned Jewish Vietnam war veteran. He is trigger happy, to say the least, and always gets his way. Donnie, on the other hand, is a coward. He does not say much and when he does speak he is terrorized by Walter. Nonetheless, the three men are good friends and spend an outrageous amount of time at their home away from home — the bowling alley.

The scenes in the bowling alley introduce us to some hilarious characters. One such character is a convicted sex offender named Jesus (John Turturro). He and his bowling partner Smokey are determined to win the league championships against the Dude, Walter and Donnie. But suddenly the bowling alley takes on a secondary

role when the Dude is involved in a vicious game of kidnapping along with a wealthy man who just happens to have the same birth name as the Dude — Jeffrey Lebowski.

The wealthy Lebowski wants the Dude to deliver ransom money for the safe return of his kidnapped wife, Bunny. The Dude accepts the mission, even after he is repeatedly assaulted in his home by Bunny's pornography associates, whom he calls the "carpet pissers" because they destroyed his carpet with urine.

The kidnapping turns out to be much more complicated and involves a number of other parties. There are three Germans after the Dude who continuously threaten castration. The Germans are the artsy-fartsy friends of the wealthy Lebowski's daughter, Maud (Julianne Moore). Despite the

Germans, Maud and the Dude develop a unique sexual relationship.

This movie exposes an often absurd high-arts culture. It also looks to the pornography industry for some laughs when Bunny's involvement with well known pornographer Jackie Treehorn is revealed. And through no fault of his own, the Dude gets caught up in both of these cultures, all the while maintaining his cool.

Throughout *The Big Lebowski* you know and understand that the Dude and his friends are low-lives, but you can't help but love them anyway. Their lives are simple and remain simple, even in the midst of disaster. Sure, the characters don't have the depth or intensity of those in *Fargo*, but they are just as nutty. And the bizarre scenes the Coen brothers have created will have you laughing long enough to

know that the two hours spent with a character as original as the Dude were well worth the time and the money.

LEBOWSKI MISSES THE MARK

BY KARAN SHETTY

The Big Lebowski is the first Coen brothers' movie I've seen that I didn't like. The reception to most of their works has been extremely mixed (with the obvious exception of *Fargo*), but I have always been an ardent supporter. I loved *The Hudsucker Proxy*, *Miller's Crossing* and of course the Palme d'Or-winning *Barton Fink*, which many critics found a little too self-indulgent. However, this movie comes across as if some other director was trying to make a Coen brothers rip-off.

continued on page 17...

The Gospel of Oedipus

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

The Gospel at Colonus... well, what exactly can I say? To quote the program: "Greek mythology melds with hip-

swaying, hand-clapping, roof-raising gospel music."

I was hand-clapping, yes. But my hips were still and the roof stayed right where it was.

Neptune's production of *The Gospel at Colonus* was the Canadian premiere of the Broadway hit, and it was also the play's first independent production.

The Gospel at Colonus is Sophocles' play *Oedipus at Colonus* set in a Black Pentecostal Church. As the Pastor (Troy Adams) and the visiting Preacher (Walter Borden) tell the story of Oedipus, the members of the church take on roles and act out the story of Oedipus' redemption.

For those of you who don't know, Oedipus is a character in a trilogy of ancient Greek plays who solves the riddle of the Sphinx, kills his father and marries his mother (unknowingly).

So in the play, the Preacher is reading from the Book of Oedipus and the choir is Hallelujah-ing left, right and centre. It's a bit odd for someone who has studied classical mythology, but it was entertaining.

Jackie Richardson did a wonderful job as Oedipus' daughter Antigone. Jeri Brown, an internationally respected jazz vocalist, played the other daughter, Ismene. While she wowed the audience with her voice, she was far from convincing as an actress. Jeff Jones put in an amazing performance as Oedipus.

In general, *The Gospel at Colonus* gives a pretty fair representation of the Oedipus story, but with a few minor exceptions.

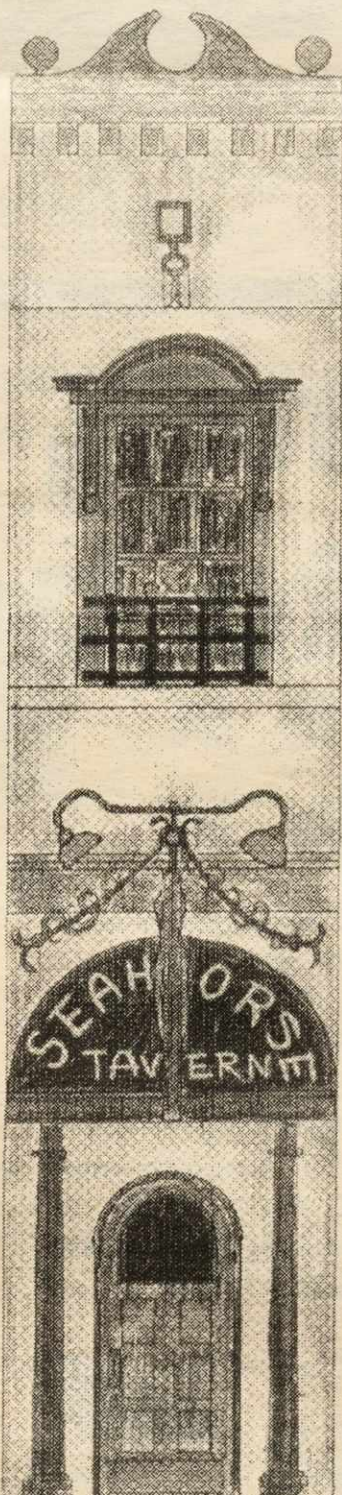
Polyneices, Oedipus' son/brother comes to Colonus for his father/brother's blessing and support in his war against his other brother. Oedipus refuses to support either, and he curses both sons/brothers, hoping they will kill each other in battle. Then Polyneices dies. Just like that. He falls and dies. It was supposed to be symbolic of a later death, I think, but the symbolism seemed so out of place with the rest of the play that I only got it because it was in the program.

Then there was Oedipus' death. He knows it's his time and everybody is singing about it. The floor opens up and Oedipus sinks down gloriously. And it hit me. Oedipus was Jesus. It was ingenious and appalling all at once. I was suddenly watching a passion play. Amazing.

Only minutes later, my theory was proven as the people are celebrating his redemption, and out of the sky comes Oedipus, looking glorious in a white robe, and he sings along with them, glowing in the grace of God.

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Celtic covers and Michael Jackson

What's under the Kilt?

BY JEREMIAH HIERS

Last Friday at the Grawood, Kilt, an atlantic celtic-rock band, jiggled, reeled, punked out, and generally entertained Dalhousie students yet again.

If you haven't heard of these guys, there is a good chance you haven't yet realized that university is not all about studying. They have made multiple Halifax appearances in the past few months, and as far as being provincially diverse, they've got all of their bases covered. Kilt hails from Nova Scotia, Newfoundland, PEI and Cape Breton (yeah, yeah, I know Cape Breton is part of Nova Scotia...supposedly).

Inside the bar, I waited an hour to see the band. I decided I needed a drink if I was going to wait any longer. At the bar, a kilted bartender raised his eyebrow and oddly accused me of being a Capers based on my choice of beverage — coffee.

The band finally took to the stage. In about three minutes they left again due to problems with the sound system — loud popping and hissing noises to be exact.

During the wait, I procured a refill of my drink and was looked upon rather suspiciously by a neighbouring customer who exclaimed, "Coffee? What

the hell?"

I was beginning to feel a bit self-conscious about my drinking habits.

About ten minutes later, Kilt began to play their first set. As usual, the set consisted of some traditional Celtic tunes interlaced with covers of well known Canadian-grown bands such as Great Big Sea and Spirit of the West.

Between songs the audience got an earful of the lead singer's rather obnoxious "wit". I've seen these guys before, and I have one suggestion for them: either gag your lead singer between songs or make him get some new jokes. "The more you drink, the better we sound..." wore thin after awhile.

The show wasn't all bad. As a matter of fact, in spite of the lead singer and the attendance of the *Dalhousie Coffee Hatred Team*, the evening was rather enjoyable. For those whose tastes lean towards the more contemporary (if the 1980s can still be called 'contemporary'), there were covers of "Come on Eileen", "I Was Made for Loving You, Baby" and other 'classics' best forgotten.

One of the biggest highlights was watching the Grawood crowd, now pleasantly drunk, erupt into moonwalking and falsetto voices as Kilt launched into "Billie Jean". This was entertaining in two aspects.

First, drunk people dancing always amuse me. Secondly, I enjoyed hearing a fiddle, mandolin, bass, rhythm guitar and traditional percussion playing Michael Jackson's brand of '80s synth-pop which a large, goateed, black-leather-jacketed man did an acceptable impersonation of Jackson's, shall we say, distinctive voice.

Kilt finished up, or so they thought, with a traditional medley of songs. But it wasn't that easy for the band to leave the stage. Immediately upon completion of the last song in the medley, the crowd began the inebriated chant of "Kilt! Kilt! Kilt!"

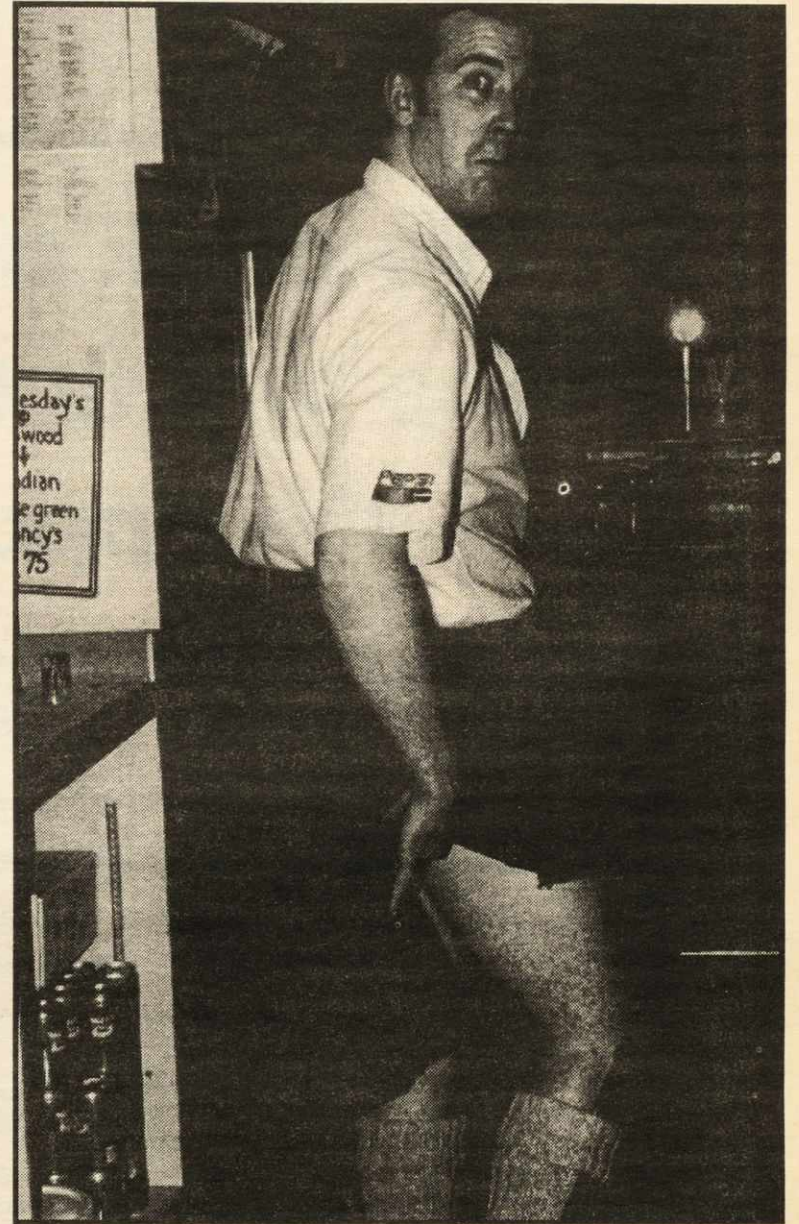
Not to be outdone by the crowd, the band leapt (well, sauntered) back on stage for an odd (remember there's a mandolin and a fiddle here) version of the Ramones' "I Wanna Be Sedated". This made my evening, loving the Ramones as I do.

So the morals of the story are:

If you have a chance to see Kilt, do so.

If you have a good band, don't make stupid jokes.

Not all people who drink coffee in bars are Capers. I, myself, am a Yank.



Bartender Ian MacLachlan shows off the Scottish in him in the Grawood during Kilt's show on Friday, March 6. (Photo by Tamara Bond)

Playwright's Cabaret supplies practical experience

BY GREG MCFARLANE

Trevor Pierce plans on opening his own theatre company in Yarmouth over the summer, and he believes the Dalhousie Theatre Department's *Playwright's Cabaret* is giving him the experience and ideas he needs to do just that.

The fourth year Theatre and English major is a student in Dr. David Overton's playwriting class, as are all of the writers being featured in the cabaret. Pierce's creation, *To Thine Own Self*, is to be performed this weekend.

Pierce, like all playwrights, had to hand his play over to a director who has the power to adapt it in any way he sees fit. Sometimes Pierce has not been totally satisfied with the results.

"It's a little annoying," Pierce said with a smile. "I'm helpless. You want to change things, but it's

out of your hands. But I love my director. He's really great to work with."

Yet it is that kind of experience that Pierce is looking for. As someone planning to make a career out of theatre, he knows that he has to be prepared to accept another artist's interpretation of his work.

"You write the play, give it to the director and he does whatever he wants to do with it," Pierce says of writing. "You can't do anything. Shakespeare would be rolling over in his grave if he saw some of the shows being done [with his original plays]. For example, [the Dal Theatre Department] is cross-casting *The Merchant of Venice*...guys are playing girls, girls are playing guys."

Also, although the series is called *Playwright's Cabaret*, it benefits many students who haven't had the chance to play larger roles in major

department productions as well.

Stuart Greer, who is in the technical program in the Theatre Department, has worked minor jobs on the technical crew for major productions. Now, he is the stage manager for the *Playwright's Cabaret*. He feels that the series will give him and others enrolled in the theatre program practical experience.

"It's student acted, student directed, and the technical aspects are all run by students," Greer said. "I get the experience of calling a show, [and] it gives the playwrights and the directors the chance of putting on a fairly professional production in that they have a thrust stage and they have a large quantity of well-hung lights."

"A lot of the actors are in second year acting class. It is only in third year and fourth year that [students] actually perform in departmental

productions. [For the time being], it gives them a chance to practice their craft."

Pierce agrees.

"The focus is on the playwrights, but it does spread out," he said. "We have twenty-one plays, so we need twenty-one directors, eighty to one

hundred actors and technical people for every show. It is a big group effort."

The Playwrights Cabaret takes place in Studio One in the basement of the Dalhousie Arts Centre from Mar. 12-14 and Mar. 19-21.

Bowling, beer, pot

continued from page 16...

The story is about Jeff Lebowsky, the laziest man in L.A. County; a man who does nothing else but bowl. His name is the only thing he has in common with a local millionaire whose much younger trophy wife has been running up his bills.

The voice-over at the beginning of the movie promises an extra-ordinary tale but all we are left with at the end is a stupid story of a botched kidnapping with a little twist at the end. Sure, the previews looked good, and with Coen

veterans John Goodman, Steve Buscemi and John Turturro taking part, one would at least expect some great acting. But the problem here is the actors are scripted such flat characters that no amount of great acting could save this movie.

The Coen brothers are famous for having surreal dream sequences in their movies. These might seem superfluous and distracting to some, but I have always thought that they add to the overall feel of their movies. But the dream sequences in this movie seem

totally out of context and are only excuses to spend large amounts of money on lavish sets and fancy camera work. I can excuse a director for having a bit too much fun with his camera, but only if the product is well worth watching. If there is any underlying message in this movie, and I'm not sure there is, its lost under layers of allegory. Sometimes, hiding meaning behind too many symbols turns the act of watching a movie into something as mundane as solving a crossword puzzle.

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Canada



SPORTS

Track and Field Tigers devour competition at AUAA

Dalhousie co-captain Baker AUAA's Athlete of the Meet, Manuel Rookie of the Year

BY CARMEN TAM

The Dalhousie men's and women's track and field teams destroyed their competition at the AUAA Championships held once again at the Université de Moncton in New Brunswick. The Tiger teams captured 11 out of 14 track titles, all six relays, and produced 14 conference champions in individual events.

The women's squad won the AUAA team title with 141 points, led by co-captain Terri Baker who competed in seven events, winning two of them. The St. Mary's Huskies were second with 78 points and the Moncton Aigles Bleus lagged with 28 points. The Dal men's team captured their team title by compiling 146 points over SMU (114) and Moncton (37).

TRACK EVENTS

60M

Angela Ripley won the women's 60m for Dal in a time of 7.99 seconds, her personal best, over SMU's Joanne Donnelly's time of 8.20. Rookie Lauren Maher placed fourth at 8.37 for the Tigers.

Dal's Nick Soh placed second in the men's 60m sprint final at a time of 7.15 behind SMU's Jason Hilchie who crossed the line first in 7.00 flat. Dal's Paul English, who won his semi-final heat, did not compete in the final after sustaining a season-ending injury in the race.



Photo by Dan Hennigar

AUAA athlete of the Meet, Terri Baker prepares for the shot put final.

60M HURDLES

Baker defended her 60m hurdle title in a winning time of 10.46. Dal's Nicole Pike who had never competed in this event came in second at 11.73 over seasoned SMU competitors, a definite highlight of the meet.

Dal's Tito Sealy gave a valiant effort in the men's 60m hurdle final, competing with an ankle injury to take second place at 10.76, behind SMU's Jason Bunton (10.15).

300M

Baker eclipsed the field in the 300m final in 42.64 over Moncton's Amy Caissie who came in at 43.02. Baker,

who shaved 1.45 seconds from her semi-final win, successfully defended her title. Maher had placed second in her semi-final heat and did not qualify for the final.

her title in the 3000m final in a time of 10:39.31 over teammate Kelly McKean.

Dartmouth's Tim Lindsay won the 3000m on the men's side in 9:08.58,



Photo by Dan Hennigar

Mike Manuel hands the baton to Scott Fowler in the 4x200m relay.

Rookie Mike Manuel shone for Dal in the men's 300m final with a winning time of 36.68. Soh overcame a tough lane one draw to come in second at 37.68. Dave Pelletier of Moncton settled for third place with a time of 37.72.

600M

Last year's AUAA MVP, Richard Menzies poured it on in the last 30m to overtake Tiger teammate Scott Fowler in the last stride in the 600m final to take his second AUAA title in this event in 1:25.10. Fowler settled for second spot with a time of 1:25.30 and the Huskies Pelletier was third at 1:27.20.

The women's 600m final was won by Caissie with a time of 1:38.30. Dal's Kelly Prendergast and Amy Higgins's times of 1:40.94 and 1:44.67, respectively, was good for second and third place.

1000M

The Tigers grabbed top spots in the 1000m finals with Higgins winning at 3:14.31 followed by Juliet Thorton in second place at 3:16.28.

On the men's side, Matt Richardson placed first with 2:37.42 for Dal in a field of six competitors. Dal's Jason Paris was second at 2:41.28 while Chad Decker of Moncton collected third at 2:46.41.

1500M

Dal's Kristen Lewis and co-captain Jessica Fraser took top honours in the 1500m final with Lewis finishing first in convincing style with a time of 4:55.01 and Fraser at 4:59.11. Collen Doiron from SMU was third at a distant 5:30.77.

Dal sophomore Jamie Blanchard outran and outclassed the field with a winning time of 4:12.50 in the men's final over second-place Andrew Pepper of SMU at 4:20.22. Blanchard stayed with the pack until the 800m where he broke ahead and stayed there. He showed an injury, Dal rookie John Menzies showed a lot of class surging into third place from last position, finishing with a time of 4:21.52.

3000M

Fraser, a five-year veteran, defended

1.88 seconds ahead of Tiger teammate Mark Gardner by putting forth a strong bell lap. Gardner, a first-year competitor who has improved considerably this term, led for most of the race but was unable to respond to Lindsay's challenge. The next opponent, Pepper crossed the finish line at 9:21.77.

RELAYS

4x200M RELAY

Dalhousie dominated the relays taking all six events. The women's team of Ripley, Prendergast, Maher and anchor Baker captured the 4x200m a full ten seconds over SMU at a time of 1:55.34.

Despite losing English in the 4x200m, the Dal team kept their focus and replaced English with Fowler. Fowler was joined by Soh, Manuel and Richardson who showed their depth by winning their final with a time of 1:35.98 over SMU's time of 1:37.59.

4x400M RELAY

SMU dropped their baton in a sloppy exchange in the final leg of the women's 4x400m, but regardless, would not have been able to overtake Dal's winning time of 4:20.41 run by Ripley, Higgins, Prendergast and Baker.

Dal's team of Manuel, Fowler, Blanchard and Richardson conquered SMU by winning the men's relay in 3:38.77 over the Huskies' time of 3:48.40.

4x800M RELAY

A mix up of lines by the officials resulted in some confusion in the women's 4x800m relay which Dal ran in a time of 9:35.12 by Prendergast, Higgins, Fraser and Baker.

The men's team won the 4x800m final which included Fowler, Blanchard, Paris and Richardson at a time of 8:45.58 over SMU's 8:55.09.

Richardson, who anchored all three men's relays, said, "The AUAA conference is weak. Dal has national class athletes who are suffering from a lack of facilities and competition, the least we could do was win the AUAA title."

FIELD EVENTS

HIGH JUMP

Sasho MacKenzie seized his first AUAA high jump title for Dal with a jump of 1.84m. MacKenzie, who is also a member of the volleyball team, trained for six weeks leading up to the AUAA finals. Dal's Brendan O'Neil was third at 1.70m.

Maher was second in the women's final with 1.40m and Prendergast collected third place with 1.35m. The event was won by Moncton's Micheline Allain who finished at 1.52m.

TRIPLE JUMP

Baker placed second in the women's triple jump final with a score of 9.04m while teammate Pike finished fourth at 7.79m. The event was won by SMU's Donnelly (10.13m).

MacKenzie also placed second for Dal in the men's final with an effort of 12.36m, just behind SMU's Dave Kemeka's winning jump of 12.41m. Dal's Peter Bienkowski was fifth at 11.41m.

LONG JUMP

Bienkowski bounced back in the long jump where he successfully defended his title with a winning performance of 6.63m. MacKenzie captured third place with 6.08m.

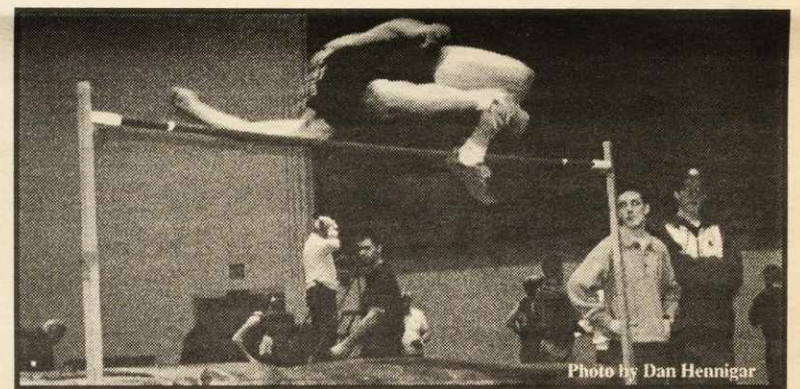


Photo by Dan Hennigar

Sasho MacKenzie shows off his winning form in the High Jump finals.

Maher obtained second place for Dal in the women's long jump at 4.49m and Baker took third with 4.14m. The event was won by SMU's Donnelly who finished at 4.59m. Maher finished her meet by establishing four PBs and 15 points for Dal.

SHOT PUT

Dal's Tracey Acker finished second in the shot put final with 8.85m while teammate Baker placed sixth. Moncton's Chantal Bourque won the event with 10.38m.

Manuel's effort of 12.45m was good for second place in the men's final. The event was won by Moncton's Chris Reade who had 13.06m and O'Neil placed fourth for Dal at 11.27m.

POLE VAULT

O'Neil remains undefeated in AUAA pole vault competition, capturing the title at 2.70m for the Tigers over SMU's Brad Corbett's 2.55m.

At the AUAA awards banquet, Baker, who competed in five events and two relays, was recognised as the female Athlete of the Meet. Outstanding performances in the 300m, 4x200m and 4x400m relays from Manuel were rewarded with AUAA male Rookie of

the Year honours. Manuel was passed over for AUAA MVP recognition that went to SMU's Jason Hilchie. SMU's Donnelly was named the AUAA female Rookie of the Year for strong showing in the field events. Longtime head coach for the Tigers Al Yarr was named AUAA Coach of the Year. Yarr was aided by assistant coaches Peter Lord (jump coach), Dan Hennigar, Louis Brill, Rob McKechney and sprint coach Steve LeBlanc.

The AUAA track and field league should be more competitive next year as UNB and Memorial's intention of fielding full teams for the 1999 season was announced at the banquet.

"There will be more competition next year [and] it will give us more of a challenge," notes Fraser.

"Coming into AUAA's, there were several 'last minute' logistical problems due to the date of the meet being changed. The athletes didn't seem to let it phase them at all. We had several injuries going into the meet but, thanks to our excellent trainers, we 'held it together,'" said former Tiger LeBlanc.

"I can say that I am always amazed at the depth we continually have in all events. As a coach, it makes it difficult when picking individual events and relay teams, but, as coach [Al Yarr] said, 'what a nice predicament to be in'."

Four Tigers, Manuel (300m), Fraser (3000m), Blanchard (1500m) and Bienkowski (long jump) qualified for individual events at the CIAU Championships hosted by the University of Windsor this weekend. The women's 4x400m relay squad along with the men's 4x200m, 4x400m and 4x800m relay teams will also be competing. The men's 4x800m team is currently ranked third in the country and will be in the hunt for gold while the 4x400m (7th) and 4x200m (10th) will also look to move up.

"The relay teams haven't really been challenged [in the AUAA] and it will be exciting to see what they can do against other universities," says Fraser.

"We will be going after the medals in the relay events primarily, however we could potentially be sending some serious contenders in a couple of individual events as well," adds LeBlanc. "The women's 4x400m team could definitely come together to provide one of the most surprising performances of the year."

"It was a good meet overall, we competed well as a team," said Manuel. "Some people had to step in for others that were injured and I think that shows a lot of character. For Nationals, we plan to run our best and be competitive."

Women's hockey tie X to end season

Team gearing up to defend NSWHL championship title

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

The Dalhousie women's hockey team tied St.FX at 1-1 to end their season on Saturday night at Memorial Arena. They finished, with a 10-3-2 record, in fourth place in the Nova Scotia Women's Hockey League.

The Dal team were forced to play without captain Tanya MacDonald, Nadine Hopkins and Simone Page who are members of Nova Scotia's provincial team. They were playing against New Brunswick and, though they arrived during the second period, were prevented from playing as St.FX contested the fact that they were not in the building for the opening face-off.

Dal, last year's NSWHL champions, easily dominated the first period, outshooting and out-chancing St.FX while exhibiting strong defence the few times it was

necessary. Their starting line-up of Sara Keyes, Laura Cormier, Beth Sharpe, Ros Day and Nancy Austin set the pace from the opening face-off. The visiting team got few chances to test blueliner Treena Hansen, who was tending goal, with a notable two-on-one performance late in the frame. Sarah Racicot broke away with less than six minutes left, faked a shot and passed to teammate Lesley Mosier who failed to score due to a huge pad save by Hansen. Dal kept control of the puck despite upsets in the game, largely caused by St.FX bruiser Beth McCharles. Center Keyes opened the scoring at 19:11, putting Dal on the board with a slapshot from the slot which went in off St.FX goaltender Janice Elliot's stick.

Hansen was a force again in the second frame as she denied St.FX forwards repeatedly. However, Heather Gilfoy took a rebound pass from Michelle Foitier and potted it from the slot with Hansen still down on the ice to tie the score at 12:20. Dal blueliner Allison Henneberry

put in a solid performance both offensively and defensively to keep St.FX out of firing range.

However, St.FX came out stronger in the final frame which resulted in chippy play. Dal regained control of the game as Kenzie Tobin checked McCharles in the latter half of the period and the home team took

the resulting penalty in stride. Sharpe stepped up the pace of the game in the dying minutes of the game and it was all the St.FX defence could do to keep her from getting a clean shot on goal, making for an exciting finish.

"We're very pleased with the season and we're just waiting for

league playoffs," Cormier said.

The NSWHL playoffs begin on Friday, March 27 in a single elimination format. The championship game will take place on Sunday, March 29, 8:30-10pm at the Memorial Arena. Come out and support the team as they defend their title!



St. FX's Shauna Beaton (no.8) tries to fend off Dal forward Sara Keyes. (Photo by Ryan Lash)

Women's Hockey

Saturday March 14 - Exhibition game at Memorial Arena versus Shearwater Flyers. Game time is 8pm. Admission is free.

Playoff schedule

Game	Date	Time	Location	Teams
1	Friday, March 27	5-7pm	Alumni Arena (SMU)	#4 vs. #5
2	Saturday, March 28	6-7:30pm	Memorial Arena (Dal)	#2 vs. #7
3	Saturday, March 28	7:30-9pm	Memorial Arena (Dal)	#3 vs. #6
4	Saturday, March 28	9-10:30pm	Memorial Arena (Dal)	#1 vs. winner of game 1
5	Saturday, March 28	10:30-midnight	Memorial Arena (Dal)	winner of game 2 vs. winner of game 3
6	Sunday, March 29	8:30-10pm	Memorial Arena	winner of game 4 vs. winner of game 5

AUBC PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

- 12:30pm Acadia vs. UPEI
- 2:30pm UNB vs. St.FX
- 6pm SMU vs. Dal
- 8pm MUN vs. UCCB

SATURDAY, MARCH 14

- noon Semi-final (winners of games 1 and 2)
- 2pm Semi-final (winners of games 3 and 4)

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

- 2pm Final

There will be a pre-game party on Friday, March 13 at JJ Rossy's starting at 3pm. (No cover charge, happy hour prices).

MANAGER WANTED...

The Dalhousie men's varsity hockey team is looking for an energetic student-manager to assist with the day-to-day operation of the team.

Applicants must be goal-oriented, able to manage time very wisely, capable of budget management, and familiar with the game. Knowledge of skate-sharpening and equipment would be an asset. They must have great interpersonal skills and be assertive. There will be some travel involved, mostly on weekends.

If you think you are up to the challenge, please call 494-6673 and/or drop off a resumé at the Dalhousie Hockey office (located in the lobby of Memorial Arena).



Athletes of the Week



SARA HENNENBERRY
BASKETBALL

Sara scored 14 points in the Tigers' victory over arch-rival Saint Mary's at the AUAA Basketball

Championships at UPEI. She also played inspired defence on AUAA Player of the Year Jad Crnogorac of SMU and on AUAA All-Star Jen Deveraux of Memorial. Sara is a second-year Science student from Sackville, Nova Scotia.



BRIAN PARKER
BASKETBALL

Brian saved his best for last, putting up incredible numbers in his final home game at Dalplex. He scored 32 points,

hauling in 5 rebounds, dished out 7 assists and collected 8 steals, on 12 of 18 shooting, including 6 of 8 behind the 3-point line. This performance allowed him to capture the league scoring championship at 23.1 points/game. Brian is a fifth-year Arts student from Laurel, Maryland.

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ARGYLE & GRAFTON STREETS

Volleyball Tigers finish eighth at Nationals

BY EUGENIA BAYADA

The women's volleyball team captured the AUAA championship title on February 22, earning the right to represent the AUVC nationally for the fifth time in the last eight years. The Tigers failed to improve on their showing at CIAUs, finishing eighth overall, as they did two years ago.

"It wasn't our best tournament," said fifth-year veteran Jen Parkes of the CIAU championship, noting that the team didn't show as well as they had expected to.

In AUAA action, the Tigers, top-ranked in their league, enjoyed a bye into the semi-finals of their conference, as did the second-ranked Memorial Seahawks. The Université de Moncton Anges Bleues and the Acadia Axettes survived quarter-final action on February 20 at the Dalplex, earning their berth in the semi-finals. The third-seeded Anges Bleues spanked last year's conference champions Saint Mary's Huskies 3-0 (15-1, 15-10, 15-5) while the Axettes defeated the UNB Varsity Reds 3-1 (4-15, 15-6, 15-2, 15-6).

The third-seeded Anges Bleues posted a major upset the following evening as they took Memorial to five sets, rebounding from a 2-1 deficit to take the match by scores of 12-15, 15-2, 14-16, 15-12, and 15-13. The Tigers had no trouble eliminating fourth-ranked Acadia as they were in complete control of the match, not in doubt buoyed by the supportive crowd.

In Sunday's final, the Tigers did not let the loss of team captain Parkes early in the match deter them. Middle blocker Parkes suffered a torn ACL as Dal was trailing 13-14 in the opening game and had to be helped off court. The team bounced back to take the set 16-14. Even though the Tigers dropped the next set by a close 13-15, they were never really threatened by Moncton as both teams rallied for points.

The Anges Bleues jumped to an early lead in the second set and were leading 10-6 before Dal turned it around to 13-11. Strong defensive play from the Moncton team allowed them to rally for the final four points to take the game 15-13.

The Tigers appeared relaxed on court for the final two sets, winning them 15-5 and 15-4, largely due to MacKenzie's strong hitting. She took playoff MVP honours for a solid performance all weekend and was also named to the All-Star Team (Second Team), as was veteran setter Michelle Aucoin who was named to the First Team. Parkes was honoured as the AUVC's Most Valuable Player. MacKenzie was the Conference's nominee for the TSN Award for academic achievement, athletic excellence and community service.

"It was a huge team effort," said Parkes of the win. "Everyone stepped up [their game] at the right time and we realized that we had the potential to do it."

On Thursday, March 5, Dalhousie fell 3-0 to the top-ranked Manitoba Bisons by game scores of 2-15, 2-15, 6-15. The Tigers had to adjust to a higher standard and consistent play from the winners of the Great Plains Athletic Conference, who made few errors. Dal adjusted their game and rallied for points in the third set, but not quickly enough to be a contender for the match. MacKenzie was the Dalhousie Player of the Match with 13 kills and 6 digs.

The Tigers faced the fifth-seeded

Saskatchewan Huskies in the following day's consolation semi-final and were swept 3-15, 2-15, 10-15. Despite initial disappointment at her injury, Parkes, who plays out her eligibility this year, was back in the line-up sporting a knee brace.

"I didn't get [the brace] until we got [to the tournament]. I had no time to practise with it and get used to it," she says. "I felt helpless, especially when the team was struggling."

In spite of that, Parkes played as well as could have ever been expected of her under the circumstances, contributing both offensively and defensively to the two sets she did play.

Aucoin was named Player of the Match for Dalhousie as she set up MacKenzie for most of her 8 kills, also contributing 7 digs in the effort.

Even a strong performance from

MacKenzie couldn't help the Tigers pull past the University of Western Ontario Mustangs for seventh on Saturday. She contributed 17 kills and 9 digs to be named Player of the Match as Dal lost 10-15, 6-15, 12-15.

"A lot of rookies got to play and that's a great thing for them to build on," said Parkes, noting that the opportunity to be part of a team which finished the season in the conference's top spot despite strong competition, won the AUAA banner and then went on to Nationals will prove invaluable in the future for first year players.

"We certainly trained very hard," she added. "We realized that we had the talent but we couldn't get it together."

"We could've physically beaten all those teams but having to adjust took the mental edge off our game," said MacKenzie. "The other teams

were consistent in their play [and] we adjusted too late... Everyone's got to play at the top of their game."

The Tigers are losing their starting line-up of seniors Parkes, MacKenzie, Aucoin, Alicia MacFarlane, Denise Chapman and Melanie Hopper to graduation this year. MacKenzie expressed disappointment that the team did not show as they had expected to — Dal had been aiming for a respectable and realistic fifth place — yet does not dwell on it. She feels that her teammates shouldn't either, especially those graduating.

"How we played at CIs wasn't indicative of how we played all year and [this year's graduates] have to remember that. We had a good year," she said, adding that credit should go to head coach Lori Welsh-Hawley for

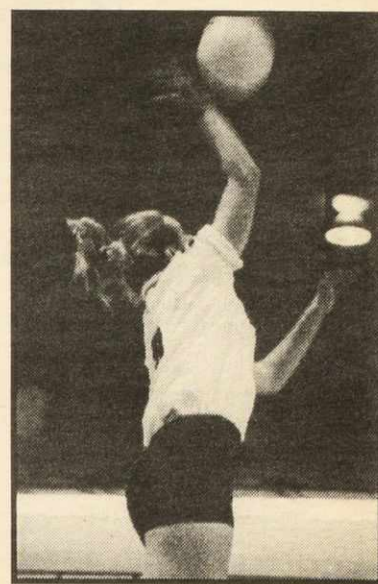


Photo courtesy Dalplex.

her coaching prowess and support throughout the season.

Parker lights up Dalplex in final home game

BY SUMANT KUMAR

On Sunday afternoon, the Dalhousie Tigers hosted the nationally ninth-ranked Saint Francis-Xavier X-Men in their final home game of the year. This marked the final regular season game in the brilliant career of the Tigers' All-Canadian guard Brian Parker. To honour Parker, head coach Tim McGarrigle made a brief presentation prior to the tip-off in this pivotal game, one which would have major ramifications in the playoff structure.

Both teams began the half playing aggressive basketball and after seven minutes the game was still even. However, from this point on, the Tigers began to play the best basketball fans at Dalplex had seen all year. They were able to open up a large lead; highlighted by the strong shooting of guards Parker and Darryl Baptiste and effective inside play by David Mullally, including a strong one-handed dunk which actually

brought a response out of the usually-efficient Dalhousie fans. With their efficient play, the Tigers went into halftime ahead by the score 51-39.

In the second half, usually a strong point for the X-men, Dalhousie continued to dominate. Parker continued his sizzling shooting while guard Tremayne Howe also started to make quick penetrations for tough lay-ups. On two separate occasions, Dalhousie was able to open a 24-point lead, one which they would not relinquish. The X-Men were able to make a couple of brief comeback attempts but they never got within 8-points, and the Tigers eventually won by a score of 95-86.

Brian Parker capped off his remarkable Dalhousie career by having one of his finest games. He scored 32 points on 12-18; shooting including 6-8 from 3-point range (5-5 in first half). He also added 7 assists, 5 rebounds, and 8 steals.

Howe was the second leading scorer with 23 points, while Baptiste added 14. Mullally turned in a strong inside performance, grabbing 12 rebounds while also netting 11 points. Rookie forward Scott Devnick, who was little used for most of the season, continued to earn increased playing time with another inspired effort, this time grabbing 8 boards and 7 points. He will be a key player off the bench in the Tigers' upcoming playoff run.

Sunday also marked the return of Paul Williscroft to regular playing action. Although rusty due to a long pneumonia-induced layoff, he showed he can play four positions and no doubt will have a major impact offensively and defensively in the playoffs.

The leading scorers for the X-men, now losers of two straight, were Fred Perry and Marc Chisholm with 14 each. With the loss, the X-Men were bumped from a possible second seed to fifth for this weekend's playoff action while also

losing any chance at a wild card bid for the nationals.

The Tigers will meet the SMU Huskies in their AUAA quarterfinal game in the Metro Centre. The Huskies have defeated the Tigers in three straight games, but only by a combined 13 points. With all of Dalhousie's key players now healthy and playing the best ball of the season, the Tigers are primed for a strong push towards their second AUAA crown in three years.

The other evening match-up on Friday will feature the UCCB Capers and the Memorial Sea Hawks at 8pm. The afternoon quarterfinals will have the Acadia Axemen meeting the UPEI Panthers at 1pm and the X-Men meeting the UNB Varsity Reds at 3pm. This will set up Saturday's semi-finals at noon and 2pm while the final will be on Sunday at 2pm.

Wrestling have best ever showing at CIAUs

BY KATHLEEN MATTHEWS

Dal Wrestling gave a best-ever performance at the National Championships at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario this past weekend. The team drove for twenty-four hours, leaving last Wednesday evening to arrive in time for the weigh-in on Thursday evening. After a grueling trip, Dal still managed to show some spark.

The tournament included fourteen teams and forty competitors from the Canada West, Ontario, and Atlantic conferences battling for supremacy in ten weight classes.

This year, Dal sent five athletes to the Canadian University Championships compared to only two last year. Competing wrestlers included Scott Aldridge and Logan Ward, AUAA champs at 90 and 52 kilograms respectively, as well as Andrew Moebus (68kg), Scott Malcolm (82kg), and Gavin Tweedie (72kg).

Aldridge thumped Memorial's Jason Delaney 10-0 in his first round only to lose 10-0 to Manitoba's Alf Wurr in his second match. In the third round, Aldridge rebounded with a 7-1 victory over Guelph's Brian Merker to move into the playoff round. Aldridge lost 6-1 in the final round to Sean Pierson of Brock to take fourth overall.

"I really wanted to win a medal," says Aldridge, "not just for me, but for the team."

Even though Aldridge failed to win a medal, he had the highest placing of any AUAA competitor and surpassed his fifth-place finish last year.

Ward started off action by trouncing Memorial's Simon Moreton 11-0. In the second round, Ward was pinned by Manitoba's Mike Elder, and lost 11-0 in the third round to Lakehead's Jon Smith to take sixth overall.

Tweedie also posted one win to finish sixth overall. He lost in the first round by a pin to Wade Elliot of Calgary, 13-3 in the second round to Manitoba's J.P. Dorgan, and won his last match by default due to injury to make it into the playoff round. He lost to UNB rival Mark Chesser to finish sixth overall.

"Tweedie had some of the toughest wrestlers," says Aldridge "He improved his performance against the UNB guy."

Andrew Moebus and Scott Malcolm both finished eighth.

This young team exceeded expectations.

"All of the guys wrestled well," says Aldridge. "This is their first Nationals so it is good for them to see the next level of wrestling competition, and to hold their own here is great experience too."

Overall, coach Aldridge is pleased with the team's performance and expects big things next year.

"Each year we have been getting bigger, stronger, and better," he says,

"and next year will be even better."

There is great interest growing in wrestling at Dal and the team will be growing in size too.

"Next year, we will be getting ten new recruits," says Aldridge "And with only one guy leaving me we will have some valuable experience as well."

Coach Aldridge has big expectations

for the team next year.

"I am looking forward to next season," he says. "We should be hosting the Atlantic University Championships [AUAA's]."

"We are hoping to fill all ten weight classes next year, and challenge for the AUAA's at home."

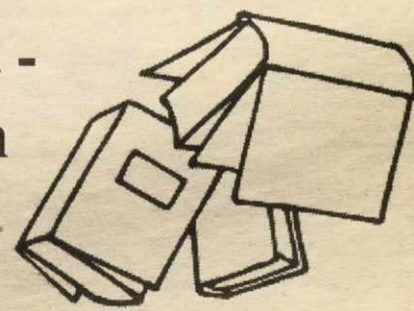


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Everyone wins at IWK Charity Cup

BY LEVEL CHAN

About 200 fans were on hand at Dalhousie Memorial Arena on Saturday as the defending champion Alumni All-Stars faced-off against the 1998 Howe Hall All-Stars. In what proved to be a chippy and intense game, the Howe Hall All-Stars doubled the Alumni 6-3 to take the 1998 IWK Charity Cup.

As Howe Hall head coach David "Super" Brophy put it, "it was a great game. The boys kept the intensity high and never gave up. Zane and RJ were great in nets and there were a few great goals by Ben Cotter, Mike Waterbury and Joe Walsh."

Intensity was the word as the Alumni jumped to a 2-0 lead by the end of the first period. Things began to look like the 7-1 rout that the Alumni handed out last year.

But Howe Hall responded with two goals in the second to go into the final frame tied at 2-2. The partisan crowd really got into it when Howe Hall took its first lead of the game and never looked back. Shoddy Alumni defence led to

several odd-man rushes which handed Howe Hall the victory. A spirited Alumni comeback effort was easily handled by the strong Howe Hall team.

"Teams were more evenly matched this year so everyone got into it, both the fans and the players... and the sportsmanship still showed," said Howe Hall captain Blair Neil.

"Howe Hall pride shone when Blair accepted the Cup on behalf of the team," said event organizer and Howe Hall Sports Rep., Ann-Margaret McCuaig.

Charles Maxner, Howe Hall residence co-ordinator and captain of the Alumni team, was happy to take this writer's attention away from the game, noting, "For us [Alumni], it's a chance to reminisce and, as important as the game is, we always look to the post-game."

However, McCuaig is the first person to emphasize that the event is more than a game.

"This is a great opportunity for the alumni to come back and to relive their residence hockey days," she said.

"It's a chance to share stories with the current residents and a chance for us to reflect on the fact that... uh... we're getting slower. Congrats to the young guns," added Maxner.

What's not getting slower is the amount of money being earned by the event. Over \$700 was raised this year for the IWK Grace as well as sponsorship money for new jerseys

that will be used annually.

"I was very happy with the financial sponsorship that we got which enabled us to purchase jerseys for both teams," McCuaig said.

Sponsorship for the event was provided by JJ Rossey's, Moosehead Breweries, the Dalhousie Alumni office and Cleve's Sporting Goods.

In addition to helping a great

cause, the Charity Cup illustrates the immense role that residence hockey continues to have in the Dalhousie community.

This is something that has to be preserved for future students. The event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were a part of it and special thanks must be extended to Ann-Margaret McCuaig for doing an awesome job. Until 1999...

CIAU awards first-ever women's university hockey championship

BY MATT DWYER

MONTREAL (CUP)—Following the success of women's hockey on the international stage, the sport has awarded its first Canadian national university championship.

On Mar. 1, after a six-team round-robin tournament, the Concordia University Stingers defeated the University of Toronto Varsity Blues 4-1 to capture the Golden Taft — the CIAU women's hockey trophy.

For Concordia players, the victory was especially sweet as it was the first of a kind.

"It's incredible," said Mai-Lan Lé, the Stingers' second-line left winger. "After the Olympics, this is the biggest female hockey event. It's a big step for women's hockey, and for women in general."

Team captain Kari Colpitts agrees. "We're so excited to be the first ever to win the gold medal," she said. "Everybody remembers the first one. To be able to host the tournament, put on a good show and then win it is something that no one will ever take away from us."

"It's a great feeling." For some of the sport's veterans, the championship is vindication for the years when women's hockey was often

ridiculed.

"It puts a stamp on our sport," said Concordia coach Les Lawton. "Nobody took it seriously 15 years ago. Even the players themselves didn't."

One of the biggest obstacles the sport has encountered over the years is the inevitable comparison to men's hockey. Women players have had to endure discrimination and sexism because they were not viewed as capable of playing such a male-dominated sport.

"We had to struggle through a number of things to get on par with the men," Lawton said. "There's a lot of trailblazers who had to dress in their own dressing rooms and get picked on by the boys, and stuff like that."

Regardless of past problems, the sport is now booming. Player participation is increasing steadily and fan support is flourishing — the Stingers and Varsity Blues played to a sell out arena in the championship game.

Tom Allen, president of the CIAU, says after years of discussion and planning, recent growth in Canadian women's hockey aided the decision to initiate the national championship. He added Canada's success and popularity at the World Championships and other international events influenced the union's decision.

"It was certainly prudent for the [Union] to jump on women's hockey as quickly as we could," he said.

Karen Hughes, head coach of the Varsity Blues, says she is looking forward to the sport's continued success and growth.

"I think you're going to see it grow, hopefully at the university level and club level in Canada," she said.

There is talk of establishing a professional women's hockey league in Canada, but both Lawton and Hughes say they have concerns about the viability of such a venture.

"I think you may see some start at these professional leagues, but I'm not sure how successful that will be yet," Hughes said.

"Women's hockey is not like men's hockey. We don't have a junior draft where they go to the NHL," Lawton said. "The women have other lives. Either they are students or they're working."

"I think you're going to have a tough time having players giving up either their academics or their careers to play hockey."

With files from the Concordia Link

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Mar. 15 AUAAs@Metro Centre
Mar. 20 CIAUs@Metro Centre
Mar. 21 CIAUs@Metro Centre
Mar. 22 CIAUs@Metro Centre

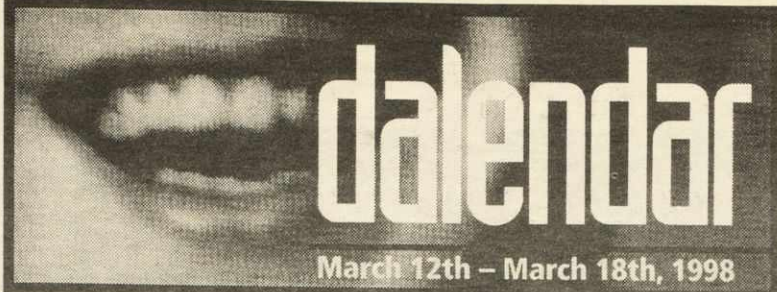
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March 12th - March 18th, 1998

Thursday, March 12

The Bisexual, Gay and Lesbian Association of Dalhousie will meet at 7pm in the Council Chambers, 2nd floor SUB. For more info call 494-1256.

Economic Justice, a working group of NSPIRG, will meet at 5:30pm in the SUB. All are welcome. For location call 494-6662.

People for Animal Welfare will meet at 4pm in the SUB. Call 494-6662 for more info and location.

The Dal Spanish Society meets at 4pm in the Spanish Department, LeMarchant St. All students of Spanish are welcome to attend.

"The Translator as Writer" — Betty Bednarski will give a presentation on the subject of the translator as writer. This event is sponsored by the Canadian Literary Collections Council and will take place at 7:30pm in the Special Collections Reading Room, Killiam Library.

"The Halifax Solar House" — Dimitri Procos, Faculty of Architecture, DalTech will be lecturing from 4-5pm at 1322 Robie St, room #41. Refreshments will follow, all are welcome to attend.

Friday, March 13

Women's Health Collective will meet at 3:30pm at the Dalhousie Women's Centre. For more info call 494-6662.

Dinner and Dancing — The Dalhousie Resource Information For Travellers (DRIFT) is having a fundraising event featuring dinner and dancing at The Mediterranean, 1571 Barrington St. Tickets are \$10 for info email drift@is2.dal.ca.

Saturday, March 14

Dal Magic Association meets from 12-6pm in room 318, SUB. Everyone welcome. For more info call Steve at 494-3407.

Sunday, March 15

Sunday Mass — The Dal Roman Catholic Chaplaincy celebrates Mass every Sunday at 11:30am in room 307, SUB. All are welcome to join us in a

youthful, modern liturgy that reflects university life and experiences. For more info call 494-2287.

Brown Bag Lunch — The Dal Roman Catholic Chaplaincy will be hosting the event at 12:30pm in room 307, SUB. This week's discussion will focus on the stations of the cross. For more info call 494-2287.

Monday, March 16

The Bluenose Chess Club will meet at 7pm, room 307, SUB. E-mail jafraser@is2.dal.ca for more info.

Humans Against Homophobia will be meeting at 6pm, room 316, SUB. People of all sexual orientation and all walks of life are welcome.

"Living with Death in Wagner's Ring Cycle" — Literary critic Linda Hutcheon and her husband Michael will give a lecture at the Dal Art Gallery at 7:30pm in the Dal Arts Centre.

Tuesday, March 17

Women's Health Issues, a collective of NSPIRG, will meet at 5:30pm at the Dalhousie Women's Centre. For more info call 492-6662.

Eco-Action, a working group of the NSPIRG, will meet at 5:30pm in the 2nd floor lounge, SUB. All are welcome. Call 494-6662 for more info.

Chinese Relaxation Exercises at the King's College Fitness Centre are available from 11am-12 noon. The cost is \$20 for the next five weeks. Everyone is welcome to join anytime. For more info call Sandra Nichols at 857-9531

"Double Standards and International Law: The Case of the Middle East" — Dr. Ismail Zayid will be lecturing in room 105, Weldon Law Building at 5pm.

School of Human Communication Disorder's Open House — If you are searching for a rewarding career, or would like to know more about the professions of speech-language pathology and audiology, then you will want to attend this open house. The event is to take place at 5599 Fenwick St, from 4-6pm. A door prize and refreshments will be provided. For more info call 494-7052.

Wednesday, March 18

Taoist Tai Chi will be held by the Ward 5 Centre at 1:30pm. There is a \$2 drop-in fee. To register call Susan Nordin at 454-7003.

Burma Support Network, a working group of NSPIRG, holds regular meetings at 5:30pm in the second floor lounge, SUB. For more info call 494-6662.

Learn how to relax and think more clearly during exams. A program will be held at the Counselling Centre, 4th floor, SUB. This four-session program will include physical relaxation, mental coping and exam writing techniques. For further info information call 494-2081.

The Navigator, a film by Vincent Ward, will show twice daily at the Dalhousie Art Gallery with viewings at 12:30pm and 8:00pm. Admission is free. The Dal Art Gallery is located at the Dal Arts Centre, and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11-4pm. For more info call 494-2403.

General Announcements

Peers Against Sexual Assault is a student-run peer education group whose goal is to promote healthy sexual relationships and educate students and faculty about the prevention of sexual harassment. For more info call 494-1137.

Do You Love Animals? Elephants and Tigers need your help now. Find out more about the circus please e-mail jesmith@is2.dal.ca or call Julie at 423-5422.

Make a New Year's resolution to make a change — come to the Student Volunteer Bureau and find out how you can make a difference in your community. The SVB is located in Room 452 of the SUB. For more info call 494-1561 or e-mail svb@is.dal.ca.

Be a Volunteer! Talents to share? Time on your hands? Meet new people and enjoy new experiences by volunteering at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. For more info call 473-5420.

Wanted: a Chief Returning Officer for the NSPIRG election of the 1998/99 Board of Directors. Honorarium of \$100 for the position. Responsibilities include: presiding over elections, helping to publicize and organize nominations and elections, establish polling stations and announce the results. Start date is March 10, end date April 1.

Nominations Wanted: Halifax Students for International Health are

now accepting nominations for the positions of Society co-ordinator, treasurer and secretary. Nomination deadline is March 16. For more info e-mail Lisa at lunderhill@is2.dal.ca.

Dalhousie Association for Graduate Students (DAGS) is looking for a secretary and treasurer for their 98/99 term. This is a paid position. If anyone is interested please apply ASAP to dags@is.dal.ca. DAGS is also looking for student input for the upcoming newsletter. Please submit your society update or any other article concerning graduate students by March 16. You can forward your submissions to DAGS@is.dal.ca.

Theartum Mundi: The 1997 Marion McCain Atlantic Art

Exhibition, an exhibit featuring the work of 25 contemporary artists from all over the Atlantic provinces is showing at the Dalhousie Art Gallery until May 16. The Dal Art Gallery is located at the Dal Arts Centre. It's open Tuesday to Sunday, 11-4pm, and admission is free. For more info call 494-2403.

Art Show and Sale — The Contemporary Art Society of Nova Scotia is having a show and sale at Park Lane Mall, Spring Garden Rd. The show will be held from March 20 to April 4.

Love connection. Gazette Classifieds

CLASSIFIED SECTION

REACH YOUR TARGET!!! ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE'S GROWING CLASSIFIED SECTION...IT REALLY WORKS!!!

INVESTMENT

IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEUR SOUGHT for business venture. For further information call 425-3196 ask for Lisa.

HOUSING WANTED

NEW FACULTY MEMBER LOOKING FOR A THREE BEDROOM HOUSE to let within one half hour walk of Dalhousie University (starting Sept. 1/98). Please contact the main office of the Economics Department at the following numbers 494-2026, 6998, 2037.

HOUSES FOR SALE OR RENT

LARGE 3 BEDROOM APT, 2 MINUTES FROM DAL. Parking, yard. \$1200 including utilities. Available May 1st. Call Pearl 454-6255.

FOR SALE-ONE BEDROOM CONDO COBURG PLACE. Custom draperies, fridge & stove, and new bathroom fixtures all included. Quiet, well maintained, secure building across from Dalhousie University. Walking distance to schools, hospitals, churches. Bus stop at door, overlooks the Arm. Inquiries: Sunday through Wednesday evenings @ 429-1776 (4-9 pm); or by email: vfraser@is.dal.ca Available: July 1, 1998. Asking \$78,900.

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TOWNHOUSE/CONDO FOR SALE ON DAL CAMPUS \$134,900. 2 bedroom + office, LR/DR, Laundry, 1 1/2 bath, deck, yard, prkg + furn. Call Sue 835-7192.

SMALL FURNISHED BACHELOR APT. Henry St. near Law building. \$369. including all utilities. 425-5843 evenings or leave message.
INCOME COUNSELLING PROGRAM- We teach others to make money. National service industry. Generous binary compensation plan. It's better than a summer job!!! contact at minipub@ns.sympatico.ca

MAKE MONEY!!! EMPLOYMENT

MARKETING Representative needed to work on contract with 12 year old manufacturing company. Part-time. Residual commissions. Looking for self-starters. Phone Bob 425-1300

!!! TRAVEL TRAVEL !!!

2 RETURN AIR TICKETS, ANYWHERE IN N. A. Dates open, must sell before April 30. One stop over available. \$1100 for the pair. HFX-NY-LA-HFX, as example. Call 454-4693.

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DALHOUSIE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTRE

AMS Management Systems Canada, Inc. (a subsidiary of American Management Systems) have **career opportunities for consultants** who will fulfill a variety of roles such as Systems Analysts, Application Developers and Business Analysts. They are looking for candidates with a degree in Computer Science, Commerce or a related Engineering degree. Opportunities for relocation to the United States (several locations) and to Ottawa, Toronto or Montreal. **Deadline Date: 1:00 pm, March 17, 1998.**

Sight & Sound Productions, Canada's video dance party!!! ... has postings for 4 full-time jobs: Comptroller, Sales and Marketing Manager, position in Sales & Marketing Dept., and Office Manager. **Application deadline for all positions: April 15, 1998.**

Insurance Bureau of Canada are seeking a **Community Outreach Program Ambassador** for full time work this summer (from mid June to end of August). Travel with a four-person team to summer fairs and festivals province wide. Team will set up an interactive display to help promote road safety. Driver's license and clean driving record required. **Deadline: March 20.**

Consumer Impact Marketing - A dynamic, innovative sales, merchandising and promotions management company are looking for energetic and enthusiastic leaders to join our winning team. For more info visit student employment centre. **Deadline Date: March 27, 1:00.**

Lotus Development Canada Limited - Now recruiting for **Communication Support Analysts.** If you are a graduate from a computer science program or related discipline, or are planning to graduate in the upcoming months, and possess experience in information systems. For more info visit the student employment centre. **Deadline date: June 1,**

Communications Security Establishment - Recruiting for Careers in Languages and Intelligence Analysts. Is a federal government agency located in Ottawa, offers a dynamic, stimulating workplace where specialists from diverse backgrounds share expertise and commitment. For application visit student employment centre. **Deadline date: May 1.**

If you are a Dalhousie, Daltech, Kings student or recent Alumni, please visit the Dalhousie Student Employment Centre or check out our website at <http://is.dal.ca/~sec/> for further information on the above jobs.

DALHOUSIE STUDENT EMPLOYMENT CENTRE * S.U.B., 4TH FLOOR * MONDAY TO FRIDAY * 9:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.

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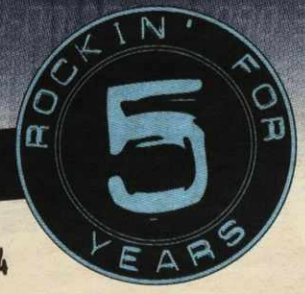
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FREDERICTON, U N B., APRIL 3 • ANTIGONISH, ST. FX, APRIL 4

DATES AND VENUES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

MUST BE 19 AND OLDER