

things...

THE
GAZETTE

Volume 132, Number 21.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, March 16, 2000.



Blues you never get over. Get a beer company to sponsor your summer, but maybe don't stand so close to the pool.

submitted by Scott McFarlane

Ottawa takes over student loans, banks pull out

Student organizations respond positively

BY BRIANNE JOHNSTON AND
SHAWN KEHOE

The federal government is taking over the Canada Student Loans program from some of the country's major banks, a Human Resources Development Canada official announced Thursday.

Thomas Townsend, director-

general for learning and literacy at Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), announced in an afternoon press conference that the Royal Bank, Bank of Nova Scotia and CIBC were no longer interested in administering the \$1 billion a year national student loan system.

Since 1995, the banks have assumed the risks of the loans, while

the federal government has provided between \$50-million to \$75-million a year to offset risks.

Responding to the move by the banks, Townsend said, "[The government] will step in to provide funding directly to run the student loan program."

Some 450,000 students each year rely on the loan program,

which has been operating since 1964.

Student reaction to the HRDC announcement was positive.

"This situation presents an unprecedented opportunity for students to be involved in retooling student loan programs," said, Jason Aebig, National Director of the Canadian Alliance of Student Associa-

tions (CASA).

CASA's message to students is not to panic, there will be money for student loans.

The Canadian Federation of Students was also pleased with the news.

"Our general reaction is to

continued on page 3

International Women's Day honours Dal women

BY AMY DURANT

A number of Dalhousie women were honoured this week when they appeared on the Wall of Nostalgia in the Student Union Building for their achievements in the Dalhousie and Halifax communities.

This year marks the first year of what organizers hope will become an annual event on the Dalhousie campus.

"It's very much a work in progress," said Anne-Marie Long, Policy Implementation Coordinator at the Sexual Harassment Advisory Committee. "We didn't want to imply that these are the only women in the area with achievements. We're still accepting submissions for next year."

The Wall of Nostalgia, organized by Susan Brousseau, Sexual Harassment Adviser at Dal and student Danielle MacNeil, describes the achievements of a variety of women throughout Halifax — including students, professors, politicians and activists.

One of the women appearing on the wall was Melanie Dobson, an associate professor of Biochemistry at Dalhousie.

"It's very nice to be asked, [to be represented]," said Dobson. "Having done my undergrad and spending a number of years here, I feel a real affinity with [Dal]."

Susan Stackhouse, a Dalhousie theatre professor was also acknowledged for her efforts.

"I was honoured — so thrilled that I went to see the wall with my husband, child, Mom and Dad," said Stackhouse. "It was lovely. And I'm in such incredible company, that in itself is such an

honour."

Roseanne Cousins, the current Dalhousie Student Union Vice President of Community Affairs, and next years Vice President Executive, was also one of the women featured on the wall.

"I was pretty honoured to be on that wall," said Cousins. "It's amazing to be up there with all of those other women, I don't really feel like I've done a whole lot in comparison."

International Women's Day was celebrated throughout Halifax with a number of events that lasted for much of the week. The highlight being March 2000, a rally at Grande Parade and march to St. Matthew's Church, where women like Patricia Doyle-Bedwell spoke to the women.

Doyle-Bedwell is currently the Director of the Transition Year Program at Dalhousie, Professor at Dalhousie's School of Resource and Environmental Studies as well as the Chair of the Nova Scotia Council on the Status of Women, and one of the many women honoured on the wall.

March 2000, which drew an estimated 300 Haligonians, was considered to be a very important event and a success to its participants and organizers.

Patti Thompson, director of the Dalhousie Women's Centre said March 2000 was so important because it was not just a local event — March 2000 occurred all over the world.

"It's the one day of the year when we celebrate women," said Thompson.

"A lot of the time we don't know about what's going on in other departments," said Long. "You may

know the woman across the hall to see her, but never really know what she accomplishes."

Long says the day also serves other purposes.

"It's a way of recognizing the progress women have made — but also to point out the areas where progress is still required."

Just as the day serves many purposes, organizers and women in general agree there is no set definition for women.

"I don't limit the definition of women to be just someone with a certain biology, race, class, etc.," said Long. "It's impossible to define woman, there are so many similarities and so many differences."

Dobson says that one positive aspect of Dalhousie is the fact that her gender doesn't come into play.

"When I came to Dal everyone wanted to talk about my research, nothing else came up. And that's where I want to be," said Dobson. "I'm in an environment where I don't think of myself as a woman. [Biochemistry] has nothing to do with whether someone is a man or a woman, it's about the research they do."

Cousins agrees and says that while her gender is a part of her, it is not the only part.

"I've never considered my gender a limiting quality...it's not something that comes into play. I guess in the same breathe, I'm proud to be a woman, and to see the progress of women — just as it's great to see the progress of men."

After giving the question some thought, Stackhouse agreed that being a woman is a wonderful feeling.

"To be a woman is to be a member of a compassionate, nurturing sisterhood."



NSCAD students put fashion and art to the test. See story on page 13.

The Hurricane's Lesra Martin talks to Dal

BY AMY DURANT

Lesra Martin, whose early life was chronicled in this year's blockbuster movie *The Hurricane* spoke to a captive audience at the Weldon Law Building last Thursday evening.

Martin, currently a prosecuting attorney in British Columbia, returned to Dal where he studied law to speak to the large crowd of

law students, undergraduates, faculty and community members.

He briefly outlined his life story — his beginnings in a Brooklyn ghetto, and his grade 11 meeting with three Canadians who took him under their wing and provided him with the education the New York system failed to give him.

This is where Martin's story

continued on page 3



GENERAL ELECTIONS 2000

OFFICIAL RESULTS

PRESIDENT/EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

(Results after 4th Ballot/Recounts)

| Count | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Final |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------|
| Steven Cote/ Rosanne Cousins | 678 | 59 | 120 | 56 | 913 |
| Zac Crouse/ Jarrod Crouse | 234 | *** | *** | *** | 234 |
| Mark Galley/ Chauncey Kennedy | 465 | 38 | *** | *** | 503 |
| Leon Thomas/ Catriona Macfarlane | 455 | 65 | 95 | 41 | 656 |

COTE/COUSINS WIN ON FOURTH BALLOT

VICE PRESIDENT POSITIONS

(Final Results after 1st Ballot)

| VP | Student Advocacy CHRISTAL MACAULAY | Community Affairs SHAWN TRACEY | Internal BRIANNE JOHNSTON |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| YES | 1611 | 1611 | 1532 |
| NO | 181 | 186 | 266 |

ALL VICE PRESIDENTIAL SEATS WON

REPRESENTATIVE POSITIONS

(Final Results after 1st Ballot)

| Board of Governors Representatives | YES | NO |
|------------------------------------|------|-----|
| Jo-Anne Galarneau | 1511 | 245 |
| W. Ian Robson | 1256 | 393 |
| Senate Representatives | | |
| James Eaton | 1320 | 399 |
| Ryan Macdonald | 1355 | 375 |
| Devin Roberts | 1160 | 472 |

ALL REPRESENTATIVE SEATS WON

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO VOTED!

For More Information Please Contact:

Douglas Gordon, Chief Returning Officer

Or any member of the elections committee

Neil Horsley • Nadia Fournier • Pete Robar • Randy Nanjad

Rm 220, Student Union Building

(902) 494-3854 E-Mail: election@is2.dal.ca

Campus caravan comes to Dalhousie

BY DANIEL McKILLOP

An annual promotional event organized by Campus Canada magazine and sponsored by various private companies and corporations took centre stage at the Dalhousie Student Union on the afternoon of March 15. Prospects for students included the opportunity to win a car, a contest for an expensive mountain bike, and several free products given out to anyone interested.

"The Ford Focus Campus Canadian Caravan event is organ-



ized by Campus Canada Magazine," said organizer Chris Shea. "It is a cross-Canadian tour that visits campuses and colleges, and offers displays and demos by sponsors. The event brings valuable products to students for usually only one day out of the year."

Brian Kellow, executive Vice President of the Dalhousie Student Union, (DSU), said the event was beneficial for Dal students.

"I don't think it's any big deal," said Kellow. "The event brings in a significant amount of

money for one day, and it's only one day that it lasts. We're a community of adults," said Kellow. "This isn't a high school or an elementary school. These are university students, they are the brightest and best. A view that suggests the contrary illustrates a remarkably low opinion of the average student, which I don't have."

He elaborated to say that "many of those employed for the event are Dalhousie students, who are getting a day's work, which doesn't cost the student union anything. The advertisers have something to gain from it, or they wouldn't be here."

Students agreed with Kellow, saying the event was not a bad thing.

"Giving out free things is the only way to get students' attention," said Dal student Ryan Campbell. "I wouldn't pay attention if they just called me on the phone for my time. They should do it more often."



Sign-up lineup: Campus Caravan had no trouble tempting students with lip balm and deodorant sticks, plus the chance to wear both while driving a brand spankin' new car (left).

Lesra Martin at Dal

continued from page 1

began, and where he read the book, *The Sixteenth Round*, which would not only change his life but that of the author Ruben "Hurricane" Carter.

While walking through a used book sale, Martin came across Carter's autobiography and remembers being drawn to the scratched up book.

"There was something about that book when I first saw it — I had to have it" said Martin. "Stumbling through that book changed my life and I needed to tell the author how he'd affected me."

After reading the book, Martin wrote Carter a letter in prison. The two began writing back and forth and Martin visited Carter in prison soon after their letters began.

"As I stepped up to the stone wall [of the prison], I was visibly shaken, but absolutely frozen in my step," said Martin. "He hugged me."

The correspondence between Carter and Martin, along with the determination of the Canadians, ultimately resulted in Carter's release from jail.

Yet Martin explains that, even before meeting Carter, he had come a long way from the ghetto in Brooklyn.

When Martin first met the group from Toronto, he was the top third student in his English class of 40 students, but only had a grade two reading level.

Martin says the education system continues to fail inner city students, the same way it failed him.

"The system isn't improving — it's predicted that over the next decade, it'll be necessary to hire two million teachers," said Martin. "I think it's impressive that we can allow those minds [in inner city schools] to go to waste. How do we know there isn't something in there to make a difference?"

Despite his rough beginnings,

Martin quickly rose above what many people around him could never do.

Yet Martin believes that while everyone has their own difficulties in life, they have the ability to overcome them to some extent.

"The point is this, I'm convinced we all have our own battles we need to overcome. They may look different but they aren't," said Martin. "Hurdles are placed in our path only to show us what we are able to do; only what our spirits can achieve."

Speaking with his own experiences in mind, Martin said there are three essential tools necessary for success in life: commitment, flexibility and belief.

"There's nothing wrong with setting goals, but a plan without commitment would never work," said Martin. "At 15, my plan was to master reading and writing. Ruben was no part of that goal, but it was my commitment to that original goal that brought me to him."

Martin says that inspiration is one aspect of commitment. He left the audience with this thought.

"Take hold of the coincidences and opportunities that life presents to you."

Dal security week kicks off

BY RACHELLE DUMAS

Security week ran from March 6-10 in an effort to raise the level of student campus awareness.

The week seemed especially important this year considering the amount of recent assaults that have occurred on campus.

Security week included showing movies and handing out pamphlets dealing with campus crime prevention. Dal security also used the week to recruit potential employees for Tiger Patrol and student security positions, which have a combined availability space of 120.

Throughout the week, security staff gave out hints as to how to be safe on campus. Staff highlighted such services as Tiger Patrol — Dal's walk home service — and the blue light system. The blue light system has been in effect for a few years at Dal — it allows someone walking across campus who doesn't feel safe to contact security immediately.

Security Chief Sandy MacDonald says it's important to act responsibly.

MacDonald also noted some tips for walking on campus at night. He suggested that students "not walk alone on campus and stay along well-lit routes."

MacDonald suggests that instead of walking home alone, take Tiger Patrol. Each team is made up of one male and one female student. Tiger Patrol staff are available September through April, seven days a week from 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. The Tiger Patrol shuttle bus, which makes 12 stops throughout Halifax also runs every night.

MacDonald suggests that students remain informed of the latest security issues by reading the security bulletin board notices in the Student Union Building. These notices give detailed descriptions of dangerous suspects who may be roaming around and if there have been any attacks.

Feds in, banks out

continued from page 1

applaud the federal government for standing up to the banks and not bending to their demands," said Michael Conlon, the federation's national chairperson. "The banks walked away from the deal because they wouldn't make a profit."

The Canadian Press reported Thursday that the banks wanted an extra \$100-million from the federal government to continue administering the loan system.

Conlon, meanwhile, said he would be willing to sit down with federal and provincial officials to come up with a better loan model.

Jane Purves, Nova Scotia's Education Minister has made the

commitment that a government-run program for student loans will be available for the upcoming academic year but is uncertain of how it will function.

Kelly MacKenzie, Dalhousie Student Union President, feels that the Canadian Student Loan Program reform is still in the early stages of, but believes that the experience may very well be a positive one.

"I hope the government commits to meeting with student groups. Their contribution will be valuable in trying to improve the program," said, MacKenzie

(With files from the Canadian Press and the Canadian University Press)

20 years ago this week

Cameron House at it Again

At a recent Cameron smoker, someone (unbeknownst to Howe Hall executives or deans of residence), brought in a female stripper to dance for the people at the smoker. A suggestion from the floor was then considered and happily accepted to auction the girl off so that one lovely boy could take her home. Executive council said they were disgusted by the event and had no idea it was going to happen. Cameron boys defended themselves by saying they had just wanted to increase the spirit level in Howe in an interesting way.

Women Unite in Rally

In honour of International Women's Day, approximately 160 women took to the streets of Halifax to protest the provincial governments' inaction concerning women's issues.

The women, joined by men and children, belonged to one of 16 women's groups in Halifax and called for universal access to community based free day care.

Effective Evaluations and all of that hoopla

The English department started it all when they decided to begin asking students to evaluate their English 1000 level classes. Depending on the results of this very first evaluation, other departments would begin to give their students evaluations too. And, the results of these evaluations would be made public for the students — so they wouldn't find themselves in their third year finding classes that sucked arse.

GAZETTE EDITORIAL ELECTIONS:

EDITORIAL BOARD POSITION OF PHOTO EDITOR MUST BE ELECTED BY APRIL 1st

For nomination information, call 494-2507, or drop into the office, room 312 SUB.

Regular meetings are held every Monday at 4:30 as well.

The debate on training medical students to perform abortions

BY NYRANNE MARTIN

VANCOUVER (CUP) — Abortion is the most frequently performed operation in Canada, but controversy surrounding training and education for the surgery continues.

Between 30 and 40 percent of Canadian women will have an abortion at some time during their reproductive life, says Gary Romalis, assistant clinical professor in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

But Romalis, who teaches and provides abortion care, said he believes that medical students aren't offered adequate abortion training options during medical school.

The decriminalization of abortion occurred in 1988, and the

average age of abortion providers is nearing 60.

At UBC's medical school, abortion care has been integrated into specific areas of the undergraduate medical school curriculum since 1998.

"I don't think that the abortion education that the medical students are getting is adequate," said Romalis, while adding that the number of women who have abortions is increasing. "I think there should be more mandatory education in abortion."

The only required undergraduate medical school course at UBC that offers a session on abortion is known as "Doctor/Dentist, Patient and Society," a multidisciplinary course which looks at ethical and social issues in healthcare.

But as Romalis points out,

this course does not look at the medical or technical aspects of abortion.

In their third year of medical school, students who take an obstetrics and gynecology specialty receive a one hour and 15 minute lecture from Romalis on issues surrounding abortion.

Yet Romalis believes this is insufficient time to explore all of the technical, social and medical aspects of abortion.

"It's clearly impossible to cover the whole spectrum of education that they require on the subject," he said.

Other than these two sessions, students who are interested in learning how to perform abortions must go to free standing abortion clinics or to Vancouver General Hospital on their own time to receive additional training, said Romalis.

Students can also spend a one-month period with an abortion provider during a fourth-year elective.

There is some reluctance, however, within groups that oppose abortion to increase medical training of the procedure.

Stephanie Gray, president of Lifeline, a UBC group with this stance, said she would like to work with the medical school to educate future doctors on their anti-abortion position.

"I would disagree completely with the mentality that we should be showing doctors how to kill their

own patients," said Gray, referring to her group's belief that the fetus is a person. She added that just because abortion is legal doesn't mean it should be taught to future doctors.

The controversy surrounding the abortion debate has led many schools across North America to avoid the issue entirely by excluding it from the undergraduate medical curriculum.

But while Romalis is worried that the lack of education is preventing students from including abortion care as part of their practice, he believes issues of safety are more powerful deterrents.

"People are definitely concerned about their personal security because of the abortion providers, who have been subjected to violence or threats of violence," said Romalis, who was shot and seriously wounded by a sniper outside his Vancouver home on November 8, 1994.

Romalis believes the mentality of students is another factor in the decline of abortion providers. He explained that most current medical students grew up after abortion was decriminalized, and therefore are often not aware of what the situation was like for women before this period.

"Someone like me grew up through the years when abortion was illegal, and saw the personal devastation," said Romalis. "Even deaths that resulted from women having illegal and unsafe abortions,

has a much stronger incentive to provide abortion services."

Joyce Arthur of the Pro-Choice Action Network — an organization that advocates abortion rights — agrees that students are being deterred from abortion training. She said the small number of abortion providers are often isolated from the rest of the medical community, and become high-profile targets.

"The medical community doesn't do enough to stand up for and protect abortion providers," she said, adding that if more doctors performed abortions as part of their regular practice, isolation and violence would diminish.

Christine Singh, a second-year undergraduate medical student at UBC and spokesperson for the university chapter of Medical Students For Choice, did a voluntary internship in an abortion clinic this past summer and is optimistic about the situation.

While she admits she would be worried about her safety, she hopes to do her specialty in family practice and have abortion care as one of the many services she will offer to her patients.

"It's an essential part of health care," she said. "Reproductive choice is essential to one's liberty and dignity and ability to choose one's own destiny. I think if we're not taught abortion, and when you don't have access to it, you're doing women a disservice."

Ontario considers private universities

By Jason Maclean

TORONTO (CUP) - The Harris government is doing its best to establish private universities in Ontario.

It is weighing a proposal from an American university to establish a campus in the province, said provincial New Democratic Party Leader Howard Hampton last week.

"This is a direct assault on Ontario's public universities and colleges by a big box American education conglomerate," said Hampton. "We don't need or want a post-secondary Wal-Mart education for our children."

The University of Phoenix is the American school in question. It is a private, for-profit institution that has 67,000 students enrolled on campuses across 15 states and another 10,000 online.

According to Hampton, the school employs three full-time lobbyists whose job is to woo Ontario Premier Mike Harris.

And Harris is listening.

"We are considering the option to allow private universities to operate in Ontario," admitted Kerry Delany, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. "The minister [of education] has met with contacts from the University of Phoenix and several other private universities from the United States."

Hampton calls the University of Phoenix a "dubious" American product, noting that the U.S. Department of Education ordered the school to pay \$650,000 in fines after an audit exposed "system-wide problems" in student aid programs. For example, it refused to return public funds even after students had

dropped out.

The University of Phoenix applied to operate in New Jersey but withdrew its proposal in November 1999, in the face of stiff opposition.

Opponents charged that the school failed to meet the state's required levels of library resources and qualified, full-time faculty.

Hampton's real worry, however, is that once established here, the University of Phoenix, or any other private university for that matter, will aggressively seek public funds.

"Once they get their foot in the door, the for-profit institutions become high-powered lobbyists seeking more money from tax payers," he said.

The provincial government dismisses this concern.

"If private universities are allowed to operate in Ontario, they would be fully funded by private money with no support by Ontario tax payers," Delany said. "That's what private means."

But the Conservatives' promise not to provide public funds to privatize educational institutions is "misleading," says Jim Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers.

"There are several ways in which private education would end up being underwritten publicly," said Turk.

Students enrolled in private universities would, for example, be eligible for interest-free government student loans.

Private universities, especially in their formative phase, would likely borrow resources from public institutions, including library and laboratory materials and even faculty

members, especially those presently employed as contract sessionals with little job security.

Donations to private universities, meanwhile, would be tax-deductible.

And zoning changes to accommodate private universities and related real estate developments would produce a huge, non-taxable boom to these institutions.

"All of which amounts to a sizeable and largely unaccountable subsidy," said Turk.

But notwithstanding Hampton's reservations about the University of Phoenix, the real concern may reside closer to home.

According to Turk, a more likely scenario is the local establishment of a private, not-for-profit university here in Ontario.

A coalition, which includes local MP Betty Stevenson and former University of British Columbia president David Strangway, is attempting to create a private but not-for-profit university in Queensville, 10 kilometres northeast of Newmarket, to be called "Wolfe University."

"This proposal is more likely to succeed because it is more politically palatable than the prospect of a for-profit university, but it would be no less of a drain on public resources and therefore no less a threat to public higher education," warned Turk.

"As soon as the first private university opens in Ontario, NAFTA and [World Trade Organization] trade laws will make it impossible to turn away private universities from the United States and other countries," he added. "Once the door is opened, there will be no shutting it."

SEARCH

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BE CLOSED, AT ALL
3 LOCATIONS, FOR
INVENTORY ON
MARCH 30TH, 31ST
AND APRIL 1ST.**

Student newspaper at University of Alberta censored

BY ALEJANDRO BUSTOS

What began as an editorial endorsing Students' Union candidates has deteriorated into a debate over freedom of the press at the University of Alberta.

The Tuesday issue of *The Gateway* was impounded after an electoral official ruled that an editorial in the paper was biased.

"If we don't allow the campus Muslim Association, the chess club or the Star Trek club on cam-

pus to endorse candidates, then why should we allow *The Gateway*?" queried Stacy Prochnau, Chief Returning Officer for the SU election.

Prochnau argued that the paper is not autonomous the Students' Union is the official publisher and as such is not a separate legal entity.

She compared *The Gateway* to any other service on campus run by the SU, including the bar and photocopier room, and said the paper is "effectively a newsletter of the

Students' Union."

This description of the paper was categorically denied by *Gateway* staff.

"That's stupid," said Neal Ozano, *Gateway* Editor-in-Chief. "We are a newspaper. We are not the pamphlet for the Muslim Association or a newsletter for the chess club."

The controversy stems from a March 7 editorial by Dan Lazin, the paper's Production Editor. The editorial listed Lazin's preference

for each of the portfolios, but urged students to do their own research before voting.

When it came to endorsing a candidate for the position of Vice-President (External), the paper opted for Barrie Tanner, who happens to be the paper's Sports Editor.

After receiving the complaint, Prochnau ordered that copies of the paper be locked away until the SU's Discipline, Interpretation and Enforcement Board had a chance to make a ruling.

After *The Gateway* appealed to the board, the issue was delivered to stands Tuesday evening.

But the experience left reporters on campus worried about their freedom of speech.

"It would have set a horrible precedent if an uninformed individual could have made a decision to censor the paper," said Ozano.

In response, Prochnau said she was only trying to be fair and avoid the publication of allegedly libelous material.

Election officials were worried the editorial may have libeled Tanner's opponent, and that the paper had too much influence on election results.

Mike Chalk, Students' Union President, said, "I have been in the Students' Union for two years, and I have never interfered with content [in *The Gateway*]. I despise people who want to interfere with content."

But Chalk then said the real issue is not about freedom of the press, but whether the paper had broken its own internal bylaws by publishing libelous content.

He also said he wasn't sure how much influence the paper had on student election

"I won last year by 1300 votes," said Chalk, who received the paper's endorsement during his campaign. "I don't think *The Gateway* is worth 1300 votes."

The student president said, however, that the paper might be able to influence elections in close races.

Miners, construction workers support striking UCCB profs.

BY CUP STAFF

SYDNEY, NS (CUP) — The president of the University College of Cape Breton (UCCB) has filed a defamation suit against the school's faculty association, the association's president and a professor.

The suit by Jackie Scott, UCCB president, against Michael Manson, the faculty president, and Professor Rod Nichol comes in the midst of a bitter campus strike.

The strike, which is now in

its fourth week, began February 11 when 115 professors, specialists and librarians walked off the job demanding more money and better working conditions.

George MacDonald, Scott's lawyer, says the suit refers to statements that were published or broadcast.

The university president has refused to comment on the lawsuit.

Students, meanwhile, are calling on the Nova Scotia government to appoint a mediator, reports the Canadian Press.

In related news, unionized construction workers and miners joined the striking professors this past Wednesday on the picket lines.

The unionized workers, who held a two-hour demonstration, temporarily prevented students and staff from entering the university and a nearby community college.

The blockade affected 500 students and 300 staff at the university, while an additional 1,000 students were affected at the college.

(With files from Canadian Press)

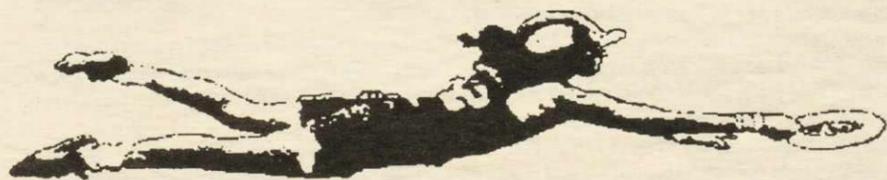
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SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

A circumpolar perspective on murre

BY DANIEL MCKILLOP

A presentation on seabirds was delivered at the Museum of Natural History by Don Chardine in the evening of March 8.

Don Chardine received his doctorate at Durham University in England, and has worked as a research scientist for the Canadian Wildlife Service in Newfoundland. He has also had a great deal of experience with the management and population modelling of murre, particularly in the nine years he spent in Newfoundland working on murre.

At the opening of the presentation Dr. Chardine provided a slide of the rocky coasts on Prince Leopold Island, located in the Arctic, which he described as the world of the two species of murre he was to discuss that evening.

The two species of murre in the world are the thick-billed murre, which has a jet-black coloured head and neck, and the common murre, which is closer to brown than black. Both species have white-coloured fronts, and the common murre is slightly larger in size.

"They are long-bodied, fairly chunky, relatively short with stubby wings," Dr. Chardine explained. "Murre are about 1 kilogram in size, which is close to the limit at which they can fly, given the evolutionary development of their wings." Dr. Chardine presented slides of both living and extinct relatives of the murre, which include puffins and gulls, as well as the great auk. "In the case of penguins," he said, "their wings have evolved to be used [exclusively] in the water, since their bodies have grown too large in size. Murre are a diving species as well, with wings that are relatively small and stiff, but not as extreme as penguins. They are able to fly, but barely...they are at the [evolutionary] edge [of flight]."

The main feature that distinguishes one murre species from the other is their distribution. Common murre can be found as far south as California and in places like northern France, though not as abundantly. The thick-billed murre are generally found further north.

Murre breed in colonies, and nest closely together on the ledges of cliffs, or huddle together in large groups in flat areas.

"We don't really know why seabirds nest in such dense colonies...there are [only] a lot of theories," said Chardine. "Murre do not build actual nests at all, but lay their eggs directly on the rocks. The colonies are very tightly packed, with 20 to 25 birds per square meter."

In Canada, the majority of large murre colonies are located in the east; there is an estimated 400,000 birds on Akpatok Island, for instance. The largest colony of common murre in Canada, however, is on Funk Island, a tooth-shaped island located near the northeast coast of Newfoundland. Funk Island was the last breeding place of a large, penguin-like bird called the great auk, now extinct.

According to Chardine, "it is difficult to assess the status of the species. Breeding success is only studied from remote positions...and is very tedious." In order to measure hatching success, researchers must closely and faithfully number

the eggs and chicks in a given colony, as well as know the time of breeding, and collect the data from previous days. "The data is like gold...[and is] very satisfying," said Chardine.

Murre lay a single large egg per year, which is slightly more narrow and pointed than the eggs of many other bird species. A popular explanation for this adaptation suggests that, since the egg rolls more in a circle instead of a straight line when moved, the shape of the egg would more likely result in the egg remaining on the narrow ledge than if it were shaped like a more conventional egg.

Parent murre often have less than one chick per year, since only 36 to 70 percent of the chicks born into a colony survive into adulthood. The infrequent breeding of the murre, known as the "life history strategy," is compensated by a lengthy lifespan of a potential 20 to 25 years. "You very often see the bird tightly holding the egg between its feet, and pressing very tightly on the egg with its breast, so that the egg doesn't fall into the water," Chardine said. The young accompany the male parent out to sea to hunt when they are only a quarter their adult size.

By the time the young reach 14 to 20 days old, they can glide into the sea from the tops of the cliffs where they nest, though they are not able to actually fly.

"It is interesting to see how the male parent will stay close to the chick by gliding alongside it, and follow it into the water," said Chardine.

He also explained how the chicks squeal if separated from the parent, who are able to recognize the chick's call.

Thick-billed murre mostly feed on crustacea, and common murre generally rely on fish for their diet: small herring during Maritime winters, and capelin, a silvery North Atlantic coastal fish that is high in energy. Since murre have difficulty flying, there is a limit to the amount of food they are able to carry back to the nesting site, known as a payload size. When chicks reach a quarter of their eventual size, they are too large to be fed by the parents; at this age the young are waterproof and barely, but able, to feed themselves. During their migration, many murre end up in Greenland and Newfoundland, from various northern colonies.

Dr. Don Chardine also discussed the need to conserve seabird species like murre, by protecting them from the damage of oil spills. The problem of oil being dumped by vessels into the water is a chronic one. The oil from the sea surface will kill murre by affecting the waterproof protection of the birds' feathers. Only a small amount of oil can make the murre heavier and unable to maintain their body temperature. Because they also preen themselves and ingest the oil, it can take as few as two to three days before they die.

"We're doing a lot of work in reducing the amount of oil going into the ocean, and thereby helping to preserve the seabird life. I think we're having an effect, very slowly," said Chardine.

Since they are a diving species, murre often get caught in fishing nets as well, thus the issue of

industrial development on the coasts is also sometimes a problem.

In Greenland and Newfoundland, Murre can be hunted legally, and have been for generations.

"The problem is that the privilege to hunt murre is often abused," said Chardine.

In Newfoundland, and elsewhere in North America, it is not permitted to sell seabirds, since they are protected as a migratory bird. However, there has been a decline in the population of many colonies, since historically, the hunts reduced the murre numbers below a level of sustainability.

"Despite the lack of concrete evidence, we were concerned," said Chardine.

The Migratory Convention Act came into effect in Newfoundland when the province joined Canada in 1949. The Act, written in 1916, classified murre as non game birds, which included auks. Despite this, hunts went back and forth, and people turned a blind eye.

No permit was needed to hunt murre in Newfoundland, and there was no legal limit to the number of birds that could be hunted. However, only residents of the province were able to hunt murre, and only for food. In 1993, a "bag limit" of 20 birds per hunter, per day was introduced, with hunting seasons varying from zone to zone (two to four months, depending on the area

in Newfoundland). Between 1983 and 1984, an estimated one million birds were hunted, while current annual estimates indicate that around 100,000 to 200,000 birds are killed.

As a member of the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna, Dr. Chardine said that "all countries are worried about oil pollution, by-catch problems, over-hunting, and other issues. There is no evidence of a decline in Canadian species [of murre], but this doesn't mean there isn't any. We don't want the murre to suffer the same fate as the [great] auks, and if we continue down the present path, they won't. But we want to be knee-deep in them. We want to be sure."



DID YOU KNOW?

A big problem facing our world is that there is little information and education about environmentalism. The best thing you can do is get informed. You should check out these websites:

www.greenpeacecanada.org—Greenpeace's goal is to ensure the ability of the Earth to nurture life in all its diversity.

www.lunatree.org—Julia Butterfly helped protect California's redwoods by spending one year 180 feet up a tree called Luna, protesting logging practices.

www.greenspiration.org—Canadian web for environmental activism and action.

www.earthfirstjournal.org—Earth First Journal—A radical newspaper focused on the (deep) ecology movement.

www.northwestwatch.org—NEW's mission is to foster a sustainable economy and way of life.

www.adbusters.org—Culture jammers who are turning advertising on its head.

ASK

GREEN GIRL

Dear Greengirl,

I'm a dal student more than a little confused by the excess paper distribution that occurs every week especially when contrasted to your new "enviro-page" addition. What's with all the waste? It's one thing for *the Gazette* to want to reach as many students as possible, but it's another thing to be dumping massive loads anywhere that will let you, in the vain hope that each and everyone will eventually be read. Almost half of them aren't even opened. This has nothing to do with the quality or popularity of the paper — there are just way too many printed. Can we do anything about this? I'm sure it must have been noticed by someone else on your distribution staff. Such a relatively small change, (as easy as checking out how many papers are being consistently left unopened, over a projected period of a few weeks; something that would save \$ that could go towards something more fun, or worthwhile than an old pile of fermenting papers!) sets good examples. I ask you — WILL *the Gazette* put its effort where its mouth is and take an initiative on the reckless, senseless killing of tree's, polluting of rivers?

Rhetorically yours,
Milena Gibson



Thanks Milena for bringing up such an important and controversial issue! And kudos to you for your logic and resoluteness! I know that here at *the Gazette* there has been much talk regarding our wasteful distribution, and yet typical to many organizations, there hasn't been much action. This isn't because none of us care, but rather that there are a couple obstacles to coming up with a solution. Here is the situation as I understand it:

The national advertising agency (C+) which supplies the university papers of the Canadian University Press (CUP) with ads attributes different 'line prices,' or ad prices, according to the size of a paper's distribution. The cut off between a 'small' and 'medium' sized paper is a distribution of 10,000 papers. So, if our distribution was less than 10,000, our ad revenue from national ads, which C+ provides, would be significantly reduced. Not only would *the Gazette* receive less money per ad, but we might also receive less ads, as fewer companies would want to advertise in our 'small' paper.

So this aspect of the problem comes down to the bottom line: could we afford to still run the paper with the significantly reduced revenue? Since we would enjoy minimal savings from reducing our distribution size — the answer to this is no, not unless some alternatives are explored, including possibly procuring more local advertising.

But there is another, potentially more feasible solution. Though our distributor *does* remove unused papers each week for recycling, there is a lot *the Gazette* can do to make our distribution more efficient and effective. This could include changing our distribution pattern so that we disperse a few papers in many places, as opposed to many papers in a few. Indeed we should be better tracking our distribution now so that we are aware of where we can move a lot of papers, and where the demand is low.

But, like anything else, it is money that makes the wheels turn. Both increasing our area of distribution, or conversely reducing our size of distribution to under 10,000 will cost money. And money is not something that a typical student newspaper has in excess. More than that, it requires someone to put in the energy to make the changes. With this editorial year nearly over, and with the scramble to get people to run for next year's positions, energy is something we don't have an excess of.

Though *the Gazette* hasn't made any changes yet this year on this issue, it is something that I would certainly like to see changed for next year. However it will be up to the new editorial board. If you want to see a difference, how about coming out to a meeting? Every Monday, 4:30 pm in SUB rm. 312.

From addictions to piercing

BY NAOMI FLESCHHUT

It appears that Western medicine ain't so Western anymore. There are now two free acupuncture clinics in Nova Scotia; one in Dartmouth, and the other in Metro Halifax. That's right, free...funded by government dollars, and provided to the public at no cost.

The relatively recent opening of these clinics sets a surprising precedent in the public health climate of Canada — as usual 'alternative' health practices like Naturopathy, traditional Chinese medicine, and even midwifery are not paid for under our Canadian health insurance plan. Indeed it has been an uphill battle for these types of healing practices to be recognized.

Yet, since July of 1999, the Dartmouth Hospital has been offering a free public acupuncture clinic, originally as part of a smoking cessation program, and now expanded to a five morning a week barrier-free clinic to treat the symptoms of withdrawal from addictions, as well as depression, anxiety, stress and disrupted sleeping patterns. The success of this program has enabled the opening of another free clinic, a little closer to home with Matrix Women's Services — a Halifax treatment centre for women.

Both these clinics use a five point system of auricular acupuncture — acupuncture on the ear — which was developed at the Lincoln Hospital into a procedure which is easily and effectively taught to health care workers unfamiliar with acupuncture.

This approach, though unorthodox within the history of Western medicine, has proven to be both very successful as well as quite inexpensive.

Health care workers are easily trained in this protocol, while the procedure does not practically require many inputs. After all — we are just talking about putting a couple needles in a person's ear and leading them through relaxation exercises with a cup of tea.

And yet the results have been dramatically positive. According to Chris Willette of Matrix Women's Services Clinic, there have been extensive clinical trials over the past 10 to 15 years which demonstrate that activating the pressure points used in auricular acupuncture does help the body detoxify and heal from an addictive illness; while it also helps even out the emotional symptoms like depression and anxiety.

The Lincoln protocol uses five such points on the ear to stimulate the patient's internal life energy — thereby positively affecting both the body and the psyche. Two of these points focus on relaxation: shen men and sympathetic. The other three points each correspond an organ in the body: the kidney, liver and lungs — and function to help move energy through these vital organs. During each treatment, the needles are left in place for forty-five minutes, while the participants are also lead through relaxation exercises, and can enjoy some detoxifying seven-herb tea.

It is interesting that these three particular organs are targeted under this treatment. According to Western medicine, the kidney, liver and lungs are organs of detoxification, while they are also those most affected by certain addictions. For example, the liver may become seriously diseased from alcohol abuse, while the lungs are obviously impacted by smoking addictions.

Yet in Eastern medicine, each of these organs has a significance beyond the biological. The lungs rep-

resent grief and letting go of the past; the liver gives focus and the ability to carry through with plans, while the kidney signifies courage and the control of fear. There seems to be a parallel here between the purely physical functions of these organs and their more metaphysical implications. Indeed in Eastern medicine, there is no real defined distinctions between the work of physical healing and emotional work.

Yet, until recently, Western medicine has typically been rigidly focused on the purely physical, rejecting any notion of the importance or existence of flows of energy within the body. This is at odds with the Chinese understanding of human biology, which indicates that the body can be mapped according to the flow of meridians of energy. Similar to the concept of Chakras, this involves an understanding that illnesses, both physical and mental, arise as the result of blockages of this flow; an imbalance in the body's energy. Acupuncture functions to attempt to restore balance, and resume the smooth flow of energy which leads to optimum health.

The skeptics may wonder how much of this healing is authentically related to the actual acupuncture, rather than just 'all in the mind,' as they say. Is it possible that the proven benefits of this procedure arise from the simple therapeutic effects of gathering together regularly with others who experience similar problems, relaxing and feeling as though one is being healed?

Though Chris Willette acknowledges the potential beneficial healing effects of "being in a room of like-minded people," she mentions that there has been clinical research which accounts for this possibility. Controlled trials in the United States studied whether or not the five pressure points used are actually relevant to healing. Some of the participants received acupuncture using the five standards points, while others had needles placed in five irrelevant points on the ear. The result was that there is a statistically significant difference between the average relapse times of the participants, with the control group returning to addictive behaviours in a shorter period of time.

It is not surprising, then that acupuncture has been gaining a widespread, popular acceptance, particularly in the US. Willette mentioned that in parts of California and New York, "persons who are harmfully involved in substance abuse are mandated by the courts for acupuncture therapy."

Don Himmelman, who has incorporated his training in acupuncture into his work in the field of drug dependency, said that although this use of acupuncture is "setting a precedent in Eastern Canada and Canada as a whole," this method has been around for 20 years, and is now used in over 1000 clinics internationally. Five hundred out of 10,000 US addiction clinics use acupuncture, while here at home the Mount Sinai hospital in Toronto has incorporated an acupuncture program to treat reactions to chemotherapy and post-operative pain. In fact, according to Chris Willette, the Medical School at McMaster University is planning to undertake a large research project on acupuncture.

This growing trend probably has as much to do with the low costs

of acupuncture its proven benefits. But perhaps it also reflects a growing questioning of the limits of the typical reductionist approach inherent in much of Western medicine. With the increasing incidence of environmental illnesses, along with the higher costs of our under-funded health care system, people are searching for a more holistic perspective on health. One which also focuses more on prevention and non-intrusive healing rather than high-end and invasive procedures.

And in such conditions as substance addiction, many contemporary treatments simply cannot treat the full range of ailments which are associated with addiction, such as mental and emotional stresses. Acupuncture thus provides an alternative method which treats not only the biological consequences of addiction, but also provides therapy for the more elusive afflictions of the mind and soul.

For more information on the barrier-free public acupuncture clinics, contact Matrix Women's Services, or Simpson Hall of the Dartmouth Hospital.

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Dumping crap and eating organisms

You would not believe how long I have spent trying to come up with a way to use this editorial to speak out about what I think is wrong — here at Dalhousie, in Canada, in the world, with humans. Obviously therein lies my problem; there are too many issues to possibly draw attention to all of them.

Yet, how could I ever pick one idea, one problem, which is more important than any others?

I can go on for days about injustices against animals, crimes against the earth, and problems with our government, education, health and social systems. I think many of us could. And there are so many issues right here that don't seem to be raising enough of a ruckus.

If I am paying nearly 5000 dollars for eight months of mostly meagre, uninspired and completely orthodox education, why is it that I also have to stare at ads telling me I'll finally have something to shout about if I can only rid myself of facial blemishes, or that I can find everything I'm looking for, and even more if I hook myself up to the internet — *while I am using the toilet!* I could also complain about actually paying fees which support the 'perks of office' student council executives enjoy — how did that piece of animal flesh on a bun go down? — while council itself can be viewed as little more than a right-wing think tank. Thanks for representing my rights, DSU council; has anyone else heard of a student council who repeatedly retains neutrality in the face of national student protest against rising tuition and funding cuts? But I guess we're with CASA; the protest was endorsed by the CFS — it's good practice for budding young politicians to segregate themselves according to party affiliation.

I digress. The issue of student rights, and even of democratic representation are mere drops in the bucket, or ocean, of problems needing attention.

We live in a city that literally dumps its shit directly into its own harbour, and furthermore we live in a world that we are pumping full of

human wastes while we also destroy its resources and casually annihilate its other inhabitants. Even though people all around the world realize this, including members of govern-

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ment, corporate employees and even the general public, there is a general air of our hands being tied. Everything is going to shit, injustice is everywhere, but it doesn't seem like there's a lot we can do.

The ridiculousness of this statement is obvious to me — I hope it is to you as well. But the sad truth is that most people don't catch the irony of our apparent inability to stop ourselves from destroying the world, ourselves and other life. It is not surprising; consider the fact that no uproar was to be heard when institutes of 'higher learning' such as Dalhousie started resembling more a glorified vehicle for marketing to students. People pretty much don't seem to have too much of a problem with it.

On a grander scale, consider the fact that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) have been a part of our food supply for a number of years — without most people either knowing or caring. It has not been until recently that more people have been moved to consider the concerns of the few scientists and activists who have been warning us since they found out. And yet despite a great deal of public outcry, the relatively recent convention in Montreal of what will be called the Cartagena Biosafety Protocol (which was the focus of much activist attention) dealt with the issue of handling, labelling and transporting GMOs, rather than questioning their existence in the first place. In other words, it presupposes that the genetic manipulation of other life should continue — and in our food supply no less. It appears that we can barely accomplish the regulation of biotechnology; the consideration of banning it outright is somehow unreasonable.

So, what am I getting at? I

guess the source of my frustrations with the world has a lot to do with the prevalent human perspective, especially in our society. The attitude, first of all, that what we're fed (literally and figuratively) is what is good, necessary, or even inevitable, severely undermines both the questioning of the status quo, and any possibility for constructive change.

If we don't examine our society, lifestyles, attitudes and constructs, then there's no point in asking why we aren't making changes. But the problem is not only one of the apathy and ignorance of people — it is what encourages these attitudes. Why is it that people roll over again and again to the claims of government, corporations, media... whoever, that economic and technological progress are ends in themselves, and that silly concerns over quality of life and culture, environmental integrity, and the interests of the other millions of species on earth are insignificant or impossible to address. And why, in particular at this supposed place for the pursuit of knowledge, are we still fed these same lies rather than encouraged and indeed required to question, and catalyze the world towards a sustainable, balanced existence.

As I see it, the answer is that the dominant human paradigm is one which gives power to the concentration of wealth, and thus perpetuates the ideology that to concentrate wealth is what it means to be successful and happy. Once again: corporations own the world, and it is because we say they do. We say they do because we've been taught that they do, and so on it goes...

Those who do not accidentally gain some authentic knowledge about the true state of affairs of the world will waste their life and energy on fuelling this system of consumerism, global marketing and technological worship. They'll do it because the meaning of life is not only hidden from them — but coopted and manipulated by the global economic market. Will they be happy?

Who knows. I would hope that any rational, conscious indi-

viduals would grow dissatisfied with the corporate economic model of progress and success, and would perhaps also have some notion of responsibility for the impacts of human actions.

Yet when I step out of my bubble, beyond the activists, vegetarians and good sisters and brothers — I see people working, making money, consuming, wasting and mindlessly taking part in the earth's destruction. What is truly mind-boggling is that this Western consumerist paradigm is also destroying our culture, our health and our sanity! Our culture is culture of consumerism; advertising (both in its direct and more subtle forms) is our education; and both our minds and bodies suffer as a result. This culture is now consuming the world, as we export our notions of material 'progress' to nations which al-

ready disproportionately suffer the effects of our industrialized, market driven society.

And even those people within my idealistic bubble have to struggle every day to try to live authentically in a society and world which doesn't seem so designed anymore. It can be done, but trying to live an alternative life, sustainably existing with the world is a very difficult and sometimes alienating experience. It has come to the point now where if you want to live right, you must hermit yourself away from all the influences of our technologically advanced world.

I've ranted long enough. I'll try to make my final point a positive one; though the world is literally riddled with problems, don't let this discourage you. All that needs to truly be changed is one simple thing: humanity's ego.

NAOMI FLESCHHUT

On a finer note in cuisine we present you this recipe...

AMY'S CHICK PEA PASTA

(serves 4)

- 4 handfuls of pasta (room temperature)
- 1 large can chick peas
- 1 teaspoon diced garlic
- 2.5 teaspoons olive oil

First you should boil your pasta (to preferred consistency). Spiral pasta is recommended, but feel free to experiment.

Then cover a separate pot with the olive oil and add your garlic.

Allow garlic to sauté in olive oil for a minute on a medium heat.

Then add the can of chick peas (remove can first). Heat for a couple of minutes allowing the chick peas to take on the savour of the garlic.

Then remove half of the chick peas from the pot and purée in a blender (or mash with fist where blender is unavailable).

Return purée of chick pea to pot with other ingredients and add pasta.

Toss and enjoy.

A garden salad is an excellent companion dish along with a bottle of fine white wine.



Comments?

email your comments to:
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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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Honesty policy ineffectual

The start of the winter term means those all-too-familiar introductory classes for each course you attend. However, one part of the whole 'first class of the year' spiel is really starting to annoy me. Specifically, I am talking about the very common or handout or mention of Dalhousie's intellectual honesty regulations, which occurs in just about every class.

Many professors make the point that if, in their view, dishonesty has occurred, then they MUST report it to the Senate Disciplinary

Committee. Profs are quite vocal about this, telling us that they are sorry, but they have NO CHOICE in this matter.

Well, here's my problem with that. In two different departments last term, I know of two instances of students being accused of academic dishonesty.

In one case, two students were accused, by an instructor, of passing in identical lab assignments. I know for a fact that this situation was not taken to the Senate, and although I did not hear what the final

punishment was, I'd assume it was very minor.

Two other students, in a different department, were accused of copying off of each other during a test. After a lengthy tirade, the prof told the students that if they admitted to their wrong-doing, they could have their test marks cut in half in exchange for not being reported to the Senate. The intimidated first-year students agreed.

My point is not that these students may have been wrongly accused — I don't know if they were dishonest and I don't care. The real issue is that in both of these situations — and I'd imagine these occurrences are more frequent than I would ever have suspected —

Dalhousie's academic honesty policy was not followed. From what I have read on the plethora of sheets handed out in my classes this term, a professor's only discretion is to "...decide whether the infraction and the evidence are sufficient to merit a charge." And if the "...infraction is minor, the faculty member may treat it as sloppiness, and grade accordingly." However, this exclusion seems to refer to things like term papers, because sloppiness cannot be the cause of identical assignments or tests.

Come to think of it, identical work is the result of extreme sloppiness! So both of these matters should have been brought to the Senate. In both of these situations,

the students were robbed of the opportunity to properly defend themselves in the manner that is supposed to be provided by the university, with two of them having to take a plea bargain-like agreement. If a prof doesn't have sufficient evidence against a student to take the matter to the Senate, or if they are just too lazy to interrogate the student by way of the Senate, then they should never mention the suspected plagiarism in the first place.

If Dalhousie's academic honesty policy is not being followed, then it is not worth the paper it is printed on, and everyone might as well stop wasting their collective breaths by mentioning it at the start of each term.

David Ripley

Music and the Backstreet Boys

Some people like vegetables, some people like meat. There are those who prefer a tall, cool glass of Colt 45, while others insist on a glass of fine wine. Computers are somewhat easier to understand to some than others, but that's life. That is the way that things work. Diversity is the crownjewel of humanity, and that's not likely to change any time soon.

One thing that is equally as common and diverse in the world is the love of music. Not every person in every region in the world is as liberated and rejuvenated by music, but there is a common bond despite a wide variety in the taste of music lovers.

Firstly, lets clarify 'music.' I consider anything that a person can relate to, something that they can plug their head and bodies into and exude the atmosphere — that's music. I honestly don't consider anything as heinous as Will Smith/Britany Spears/Backstreet Boys to really be music, and I feel comfortable saying that because I'm pretty sure that no Backstreet Boys fans have the cranial capacity or the physical means to communicate their displeasure. These marketing tools do little more than smudge the name of music and drive me to violence.

Music has a phenomenal history. Since communication was possible, the need for musical expression has been there. From primitive string instruments to vocal expression to the complex arrangements of Bach, Beethoven and the likes, to present-day musical architects like Trent Reznor or Paul Oakenfold, music has been a part of the creative human mind.

Music is a representation of mood. I listen to a CD based on where I am, what I'm doing and what kind of mood I am in. People have such a wide variety of moods, but the music is out there for any mood.

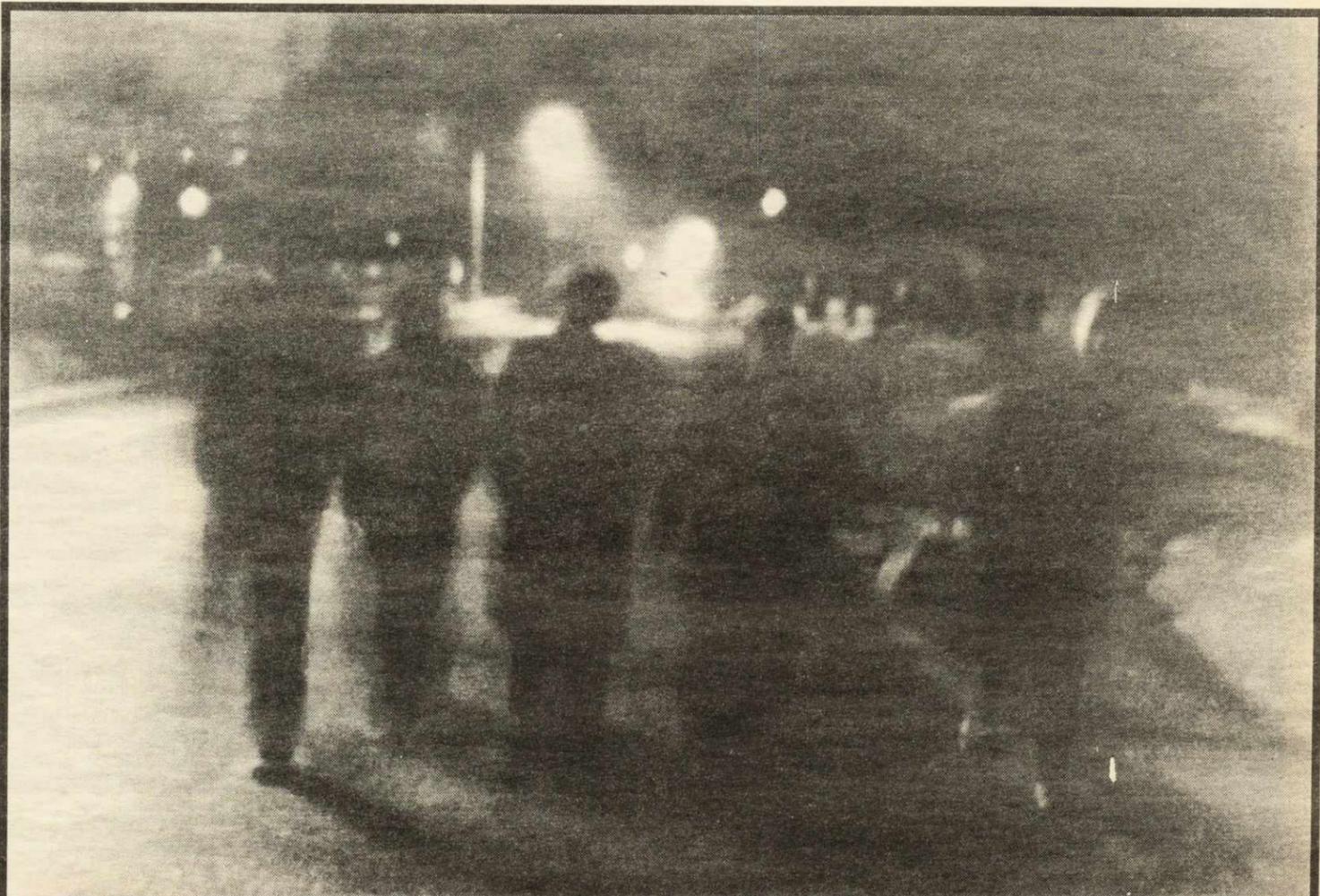
The thing that I don't get, despite my virtually unbreakable patience, is all the stupid people who don't listen to music. The only reason I can think of for someone not to like some kind of music is that there is no brain to process the sound (ie: Will Smith fans). Not finding music is a sad thing, because it deprives people of a wonderful experience. It's like consequence-free crack — you can smoke the shit all day, on the streets, at work, in elevators, and still retain your mental and physical integrity.

"Turn that shit off," my roommate exclaims every time he hears

a bit of punk or hip hop pouring out of my speakers, totally intolerant to certain types of music, while at the same time, a large music connoisseur himself. He doesn't like it, but it's not "shit." I don't skateboard, but I like the straightforward fuck-the-yuppies approach of punk. I often can't really relate to the content of some hip hop, but I enjoy the beats and the lyrical skill of some hip hoppers. I was born in 1980, but I like classic rock and old country because of the splendid use of guitar and improvisation. I am without body piercings and face paint but I like a lot of heavy industrial bands, and the list goes on. Music is there for everyone — you don't need to be part of any social clique.

Music is a vast sea of unexplored ideas and thought put in the form of sound. There is no excuse for abusing this, or even ignoring this. Music is a common bond that all people should take part in, and it's unfortunate that so many people are oblivious to the reality of music — it's got something for everyone.

Patrick Blackie

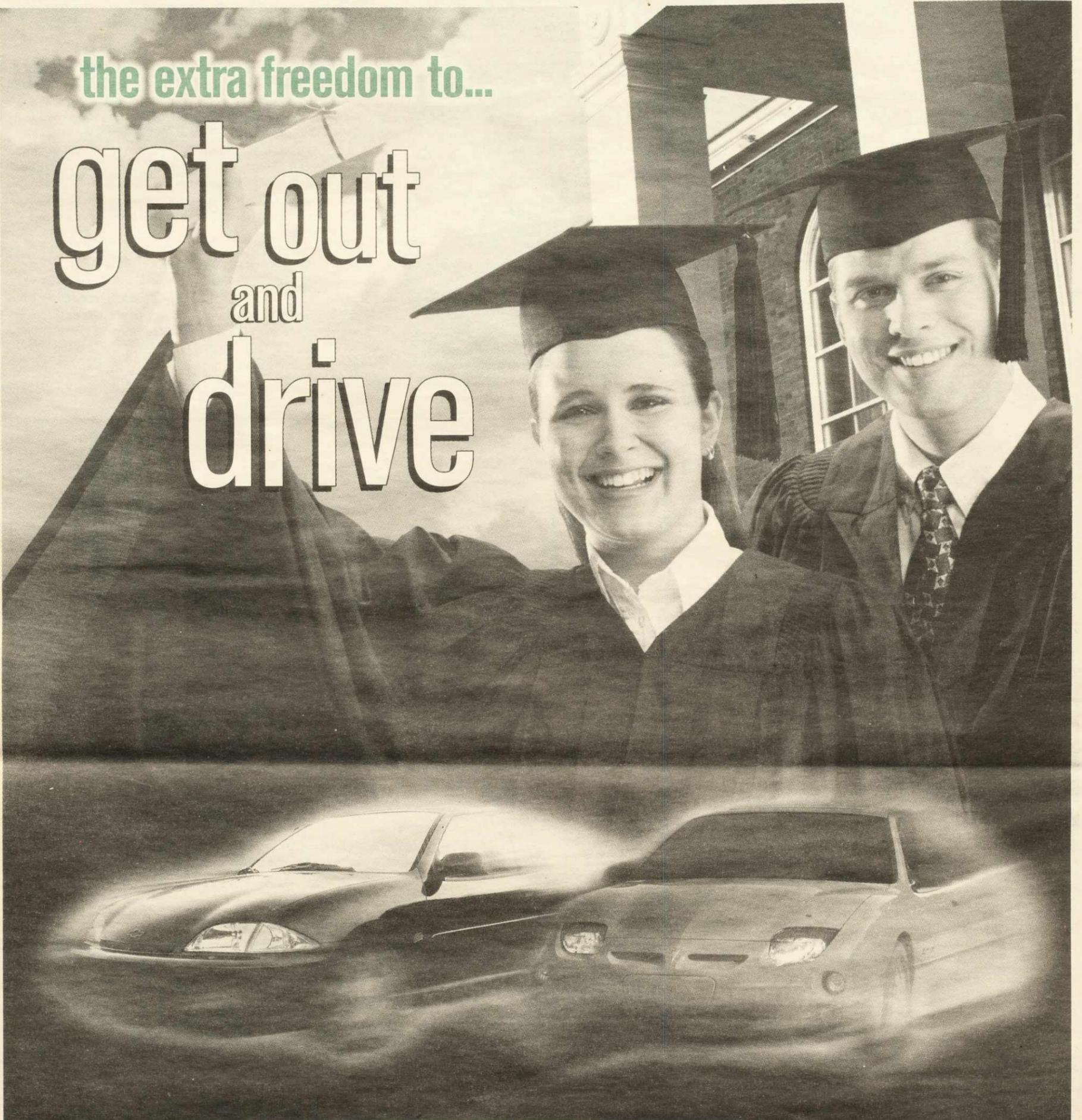


Close Encounters of the Blurred Kind

Photo by Patrick Blackie

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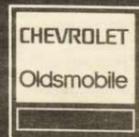
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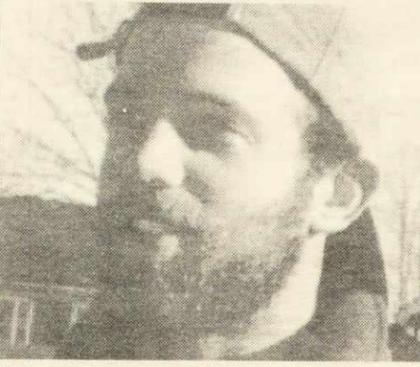
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Andrew Patton
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Halifax




"Not one."

Lee Sampson
2nd year Computer Science
Halifax

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Moneesa Sinha
4th year Psychology
Bedford NS




"We pay student fees."

Scott McCormack
2nd year Spanish
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"I don't think I know any."

Sheton Harley
1st year Biology
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"The health plan?"

Matt Heekskerk
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Kate Perry
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FOCUS



Mera Dil...Mere Sapne — Indisa Night 2000 An insider's perspective

BY NEETI TOMAR

For some it took weeks, others months, and for many others, it took the entire year to prepare for "Mere Dil...Mere Sapna" (My heart...my dreams).

"Mere Dil...Mere Sapna" was the name of this year's Indisa show, the annual cultural show performed by members of the Dalhousie Indian Students' Association, on Saturday, March 4, in the McInnis room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building.

I was part of this year's show and I could hardly believe the day had come. Not only is the annual Indisa show the biggest fundraiser for the organization and the largest event they hold each year, but it's also an event that is much anticipated by the Indian community in the Metro area. It is an event where people from all sorts of backgrounds can eat, drink, socialize, and be entertained.

The day had finally come, and I was going to be a part of it. For months before the show, any students representing Indisa could be seen running around the SUB, whether it be in the rooms or in the hallways, practicing for various acts for the cultural show. The acts varied from singing and dancing, to skits and the much-anticipated fashion show. I was involved in a group dance and the fashion show, and I could be seen in the SUB almost on a daily basis for well over a month before the show.

This year's show was about a love story between two young people. This was a different approach from other years where emcee's introduced acts, told jokes and warm up the audience. Instead of having the emcee, short skits were played out in between acts, which was the glue that held the show together — it told the love story and linked the different performances.

People contributed by organ-

izing, preparing music, making arrangements for food, working with technical people, co-ordinating decorations, putting together programs and so on.

My personal pride and joy was the mural I designed and painted (with the help of a few generous people of course). I had one week to work on it, and that's exactly what I did! The mural, which had a man and a woman on a balcony with stars and the Earth in the background, was the backdrop for the stage.

When the night had finally arrived, the pressure was on. The tickets had sold out and the audience's expectations were high. I guessed that there were 300 people or more dressed

marvelously in their formal attire. As audience members walked into the McInnis room, they were greeted with extraordinarily detailed decorations on the walls, which were large paintings of men and women (who seemed to be in love) and designs resembling folk art of India. They sat at tables scattered with rose petals, with blue and white centrepieces.

Backstage, things were much more chaotic. The 60-70 performers were running all over the place. In the dressing room, one would see clothes, jewelry, safety pins, bobby pins, and make-up scattered about. Throughout the show, participants would be seen squeezing in their last minute practicing and frantically trying to change from one outfit to another for different acts. The sounds of jingling jewelry could be heard as people would run from one place to another, and at any given point someone could be heard yelling, "Where is so and so? They are supposed to be on stage RIGHT NOW!"

Onstage however, once people actually made it there, the lights would come up and things would run ever so smoothly and glamorously. Well, that is smoothly and glamorously for an amateur run

show. There were a few moments of entertainment that had not been anticipated previous to the show. One funny incident occurred during a boys group bhangra dance — a type of dance that is especially known in India for its accompanying drum beat — where dancers were wearing lungi's, a cloth that is worn around the lower body sort of like pants. But for one dancer, things didn't go quite to plan. His lungi came right off in the middle of the dance. The crowd laughed and cheered in amusement as he ran off the stage holding on to his lungi in attempt not to bear all. The crowd cheered even louder and welcomed the dancer back as he ran on stage a few moments later to finish the dance with the rest of the group, with his lungi tied properly and his shirt tucked in.

During the intermission, a delicious and spicy traditional Indian meal was served, catered by the Taj Mahal restaurant, which gave the audience a chance to eat and socialize.

I was impressed with how well "Mere Dil...Mere Sapna" went over. The audience seemed to enjoy it and the performers had fun too.

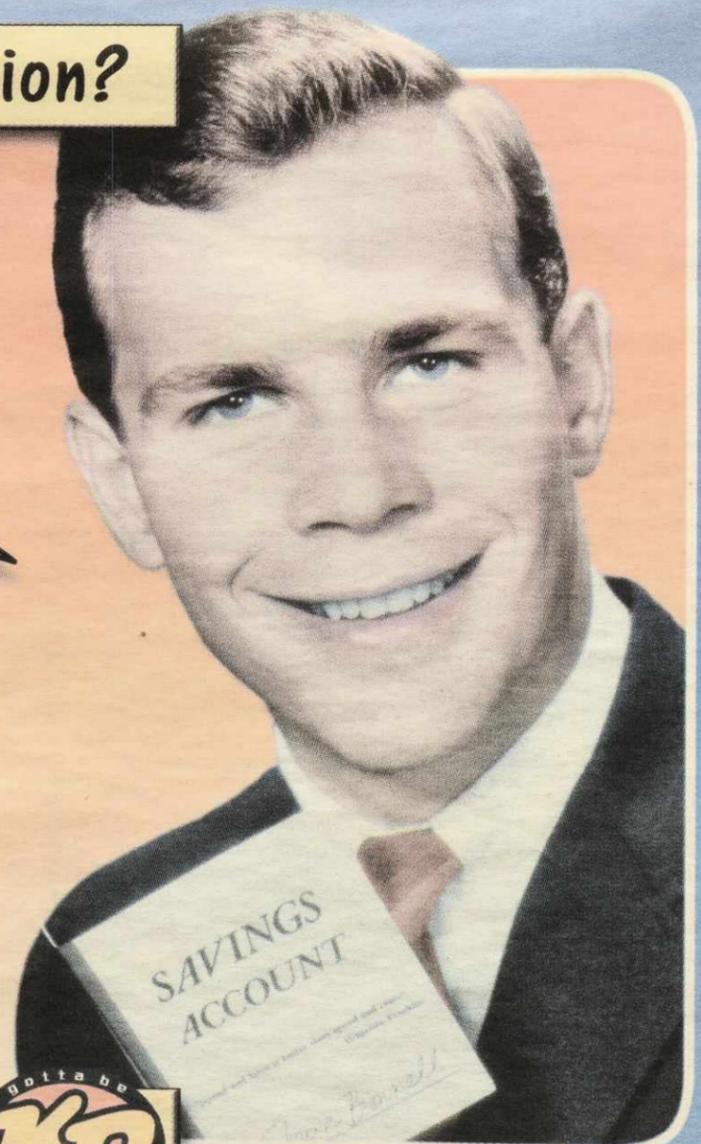
I look forward to taking part in it again next year.



photos by Neeti Tomar

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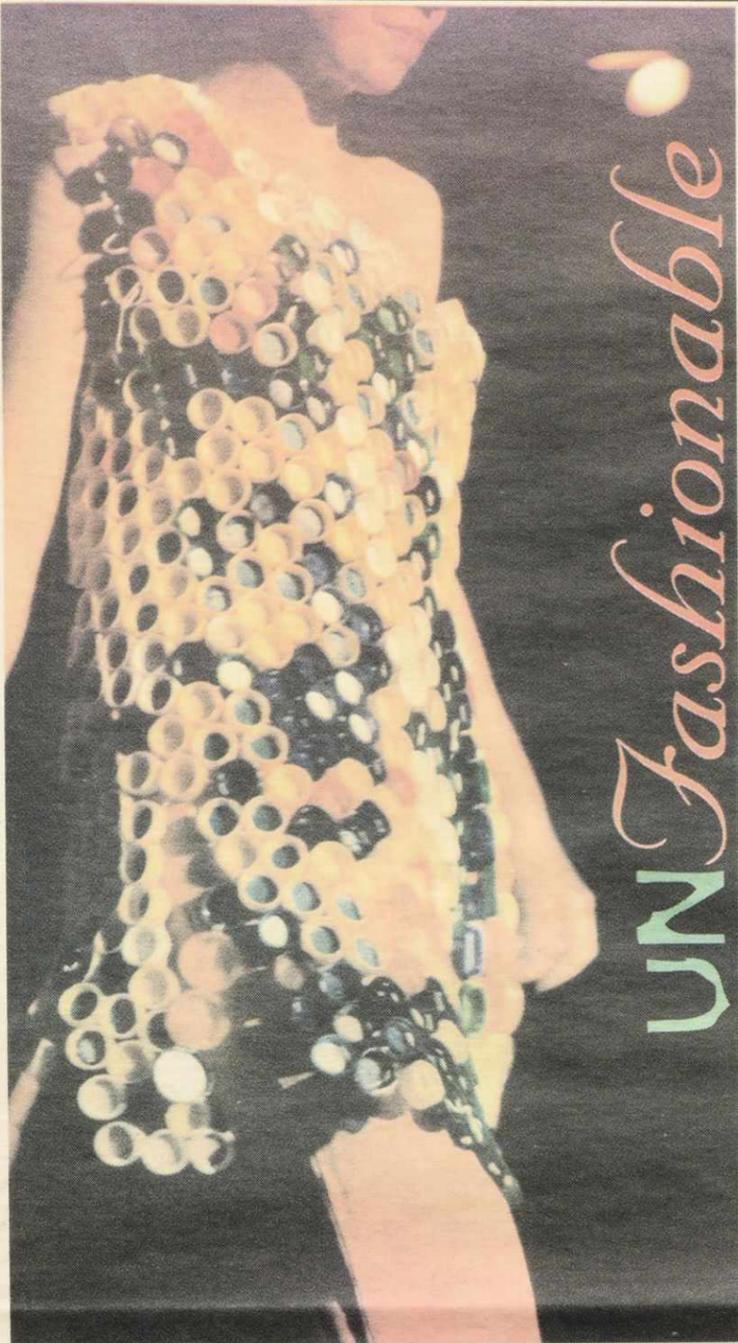
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ARTS & CULTURE



**PHOTOS AND WORDS
BY JENN BETHUNE**

Students from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) staged the 10th annual Wearable Art Show at Reflections Cabaret on Friday, March 10.

Over 20 student artists put their work on the runway before a capacity crowd. All proceeds from the event were donated to the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.

The collective emphasis of the show seemed to be on the exploration of the relationship between the ways we choose to adorn and cover our bodies and the worlds, material and natural, in which we live.

Some artists represented this through the use of non-conventional materials — designs were made of paper, fun fur, plastic, natural fibers, and found objects, among others. Sophie Pilipezuk showed a brightly coloured dress made of plastic bottle tops, Sheila Wilson and Tricia Close created a garment made almost entirely of artichoke leaves, called "Artichoke Armour."

Other culinary clothing creations included a silk and tea bag dress called "Tea Bag Princess," by Amanda Louise Emsley; and an edible tunic, made of fruit puree and licorice by Kerri Ann Croft. One of the most humorous pieces was "Playwear," by Thomas Doucette: the artist and a female model wore strategically placed doll parts, and little else.

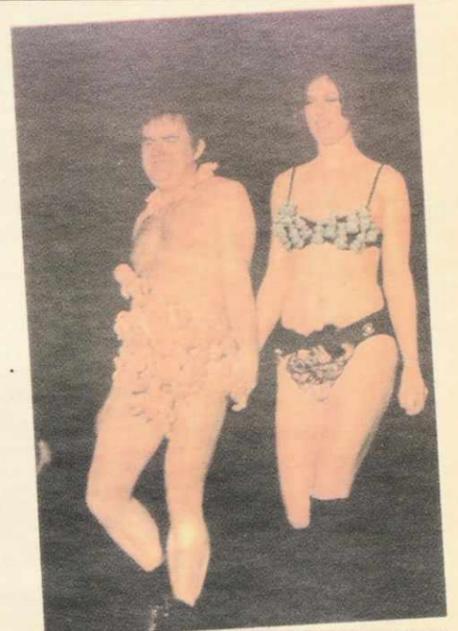
Many designers turned to the natural world for inspiration. Janet Howse created an Elizabethan collar made of twigs, Junam Kim showed copper and steel bug-eye glasses, and Jessica Rowland's plastic and packing tape "Raincoat" imitated the fluid essence of a raindrop. Sarah Alford's "The Magpie

Bride" bridged the animal and human worlds with a skirt made of pockets containing scavenged odds and ends and a crown made of a birds nest, complete with eggs.

The manufactured world also showed up as an influence. Holliby Ross presented "Electra + Electra" — models dressed in human x-rays and plastic struggled awkwardly down the runway. Alyssa Robichaud created a dress made of AstroTurf.

The fashion show was as much performance as it was a simple display of garments. The A-Leens, a group of giant dancing puppets made of cardboard and tissue paper lightened the mood, and Sarah Kilpack's, "The Wife Gives Away the Bride" ended the show with an intensely powerful statement, or question, about the sacrament of marriage.

The NSCAD student artists presented a varied show, laced with wit, absurdity, and complex aesthetics. Those unlucky souls who missed the show on Friday may check out the pieces at the Anna Leonowens gallery on Granville St. until March 18.



Wearable art & edible clothes

Clockwise from left;

Bottle Cap Dress by Sophie Pilipezuk.

Playwear by Thomas Doucette.

Red Ribbon, Aids Coalition of Nova Scotia.

Electra and Electra by Holliby Ross.

Rough country riders

**BY JAMES DICKIE
AND JENN BETHUNE**

After a small hiatus, Joel Plaskett is back gracing the pages of *the Gazette*. Last week his emotionally involved drumming energized Neuseiland's performance at the Marquee, this week he led his Emergency Band through a rocking preamble to Toronto's The Sadies set, only a few days later — when does he sleep?

While Joel Plaskett may be great, the Sadies (guitarists Travis and Dallas Good, upright bassist Sean Dean and drummer Mike Belitski) were who the crowd at the Marquee on Friday had really come out to see.

If I ever write a brilliant, critically acclaimed movie, I want The Sadies on my soundtrack. I don't know, though, if I could ever approach the complexity, variety and depth that The Sadies present. Their

sound — an organised smorgasbord based on bluegrass, country, and rock and roll — is challenging to categorize.

They started out in 1995 as a rock band. But with Travis and Dallas being the sons of one of the Good Brothers, country was closer than just around the corner for The Sadies. Don't be mistaken though, The Sadies sound doesn't approach anything you'll hear on Halifax's only FM country music station, CHFX Hot Country 101.9 FM. It resonates with the kind of early 70s country twang that you might be able to catch on the AM side of things, but it goes well beyond that.

They, incredibly, manage to both impress Blue Rodeo's Cancan, popcountry loving fans, and fill the Marquee with decidedly non-mainstream music lovers.

On Friday night, The Sadies treated the audience to a double length set that had the diversity of a

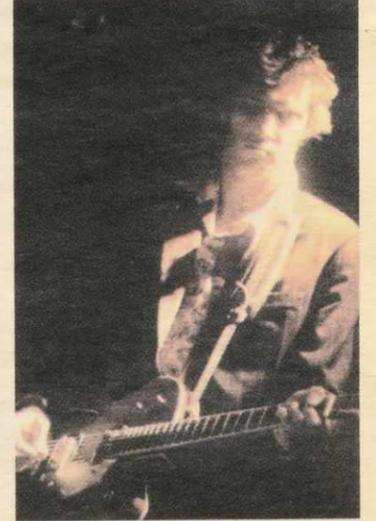
New York subway car. They stormed through an Everly Brothers cover, some gritty garage rock and Travis pulled out a fiddle to saw out some gritty, foot-stompin' bluegrass.

Their lyrics are fun and

throughout the show, they related directly to their audience, fielding requests, and stretching their stamina to provide a satisfying encore.

The Sadies have released several albums on Chicago's Bloodshot

Records, one of which, *Pure Diamond Gold*, was recorded in collaboration with R&B legend Andre Williams. They plan to do like the prolific country bands of yesteryear, and produce at least two more recordings this year. Cool, huh.



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Boys Don't Cry

BY MARK EVANS

People go see *The Matrix* for both escapism and showy special effects; people watch *Heat* to see a drama about the lives of very different sorts of people. Then there are those films like *Schindler's List* that are important and take an unflinching look at some of the harshest realities of human nature. *Boy's Don't Cry* is one of those films, one that deserves to be seen beyond any inherent entertainment value.

Not to say that *Boy's Don't Cry* compares to *Schindler's List*. The latter is a grim testament to the most brutal atrocity perpetrated in modern times, while the former is a re-telling of the life of one lone girl. This movie is a monument to her life and the prejudice and hatred evidenced in some parts of our species. Things are examined on a small and minor scale, the details of the life of one person amongst the billions that make up our world.

Teena Brown, or, as she was more commonly known, Brandon Teena, was a young girl with troubles. She started off as a female, but over the years slowly reached the point where she adopted the role of a young man. Brandon felt she was meant to be a man and planned to get a sex change operation eventually. She dated young women, but never considered herself to be a lesbian. She also lied like a rug and was a petty thief.

Drowning her sorrows at a bar one night, Brandon (Hilary Swank) meets Candace (Alicia Goranson) and John (Peter Sarsgaard), whom Brandon befriends after initiating a bar brawl to protect Candace from some unwanted attention. These friends take Brandon with them to their small Nebraskan town where she soon becomes involved with Lana (Chloë Sevigny), who is semi-involved with John.

Calling John unstable would be putting it mildly, and things soon grow very strained between all con-

cerned. Finally, when Brandon's secret is discovered, things come to a shocking and tragic end. Although possibly less shocking given what we've learned of the characters by this point.

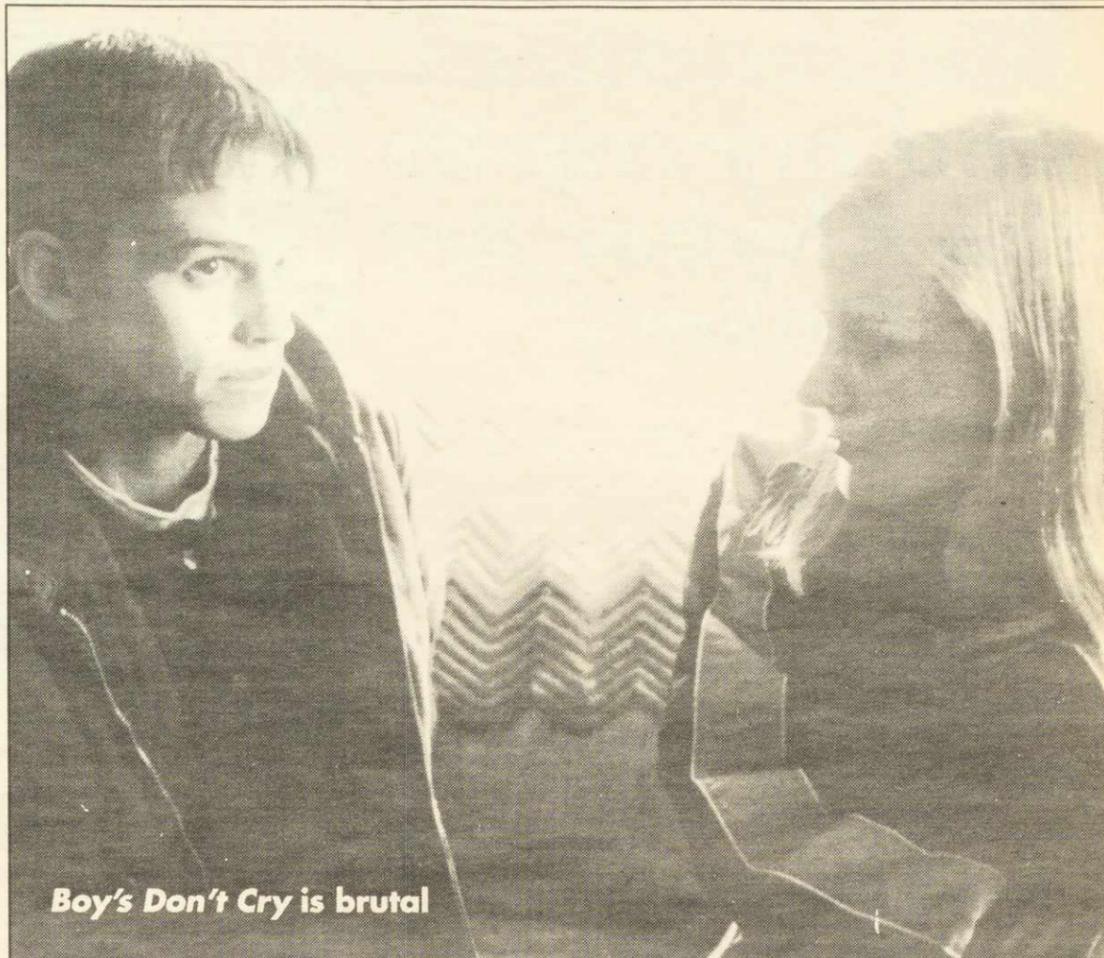
One of the unique aspects of *Boy's Don't Cry* is the nature of the people involved. I'd doubt very much that any of the characters were altered to make this more of a "movie" because none of them are particularly likeable. These are base trailer trash characters, outright rednecks who encompass every bad stereotype associated with that image.

The one possible exception here is Lana, who, while maintaining the very naïve nature of all the players in this drama, clearly grows up as a result of her relationship with Brandon. Their love shows her just what kind of a life she's leading and the people she's hanging around with and motivates her to actually try and change the status quo in her life. It's a very effective transformation.

Brandon, as I said, was a liar and a thief. She does not come off as a sympathetic character, she comes off as somebody who should have known the situation she was getting into — with regards to the people she fell in with. What is doubly sad about her death is that she not only was killed for no good reason, but that she had a number of chances to escape from the circumstances she found herself in.

Great acting abounds in this movie, no question. It's unsurprising that both Swank and Sevigny are up for Oscars for their performances. Sevigny's role in particular is very noteworthy as she moves from being a trashy drunkard to somebody whom the audience really cares about.

There are a couple of things that are worth noting about this film by way of warning. Firstly, this film is graphic. It was originally rated NC-17 before being cut, but it's still plenty adult. When dealing with a



Boy's Don't Cry is brutal

subject of this nature it is expected that there'll be a certain amount of sex, and the nature of the sex makes it something that will be hard for some people to watch. Second, and far less importantly, things do drag a little towards the end of the film. A little more editing might have tightened the pace a bit better.

Bottom line: When I say *Boy's Don't Cry* is brutal, I'm not kidding. The last half hour in particular doesn't pull any punches in terms of bringing its point home to the viewer. Still, even for those whose particular views would stop them from seeing this film, I recommend it anyway. It shows the most ugly side of prejudice that can possibly exist, and it's all the more important because it's based on a true story. To think that somebody actually lived Brandon Teena's life is a cold reminder of the reality of the world we inhabit. Three and a half stars out of four.

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Me, machines and my trip to the Khyber Art Gallery

BY FREDRICK VOKEY

It was the stern-faced insignia of the Autobots that brought this toy store, nostalgiaophilia to Peter Flemming's latest art exhibit now showing at the Khyber Art Gallery, *Why Do Machines Think They're Human?*

Anticipation, not unabated by my editor who brought me this story with more enthusiasm than meets the eye (despite popular opinion, bad puns *are* sexy), overrode my otherwise Homer Simpson take on climbing three flights of stairs.

It was almost well worth it.

What I should have encountered was a television displaying my image via VCR-video camera hook-up that, courtesy of a system of plastic, metal, and electric doodads — not unlike the Robotix toys against which you and your grade-two buddies judged the coolness of all possible Christmas gifts — taped me and played me back along with the tapings of all the past viewers, and

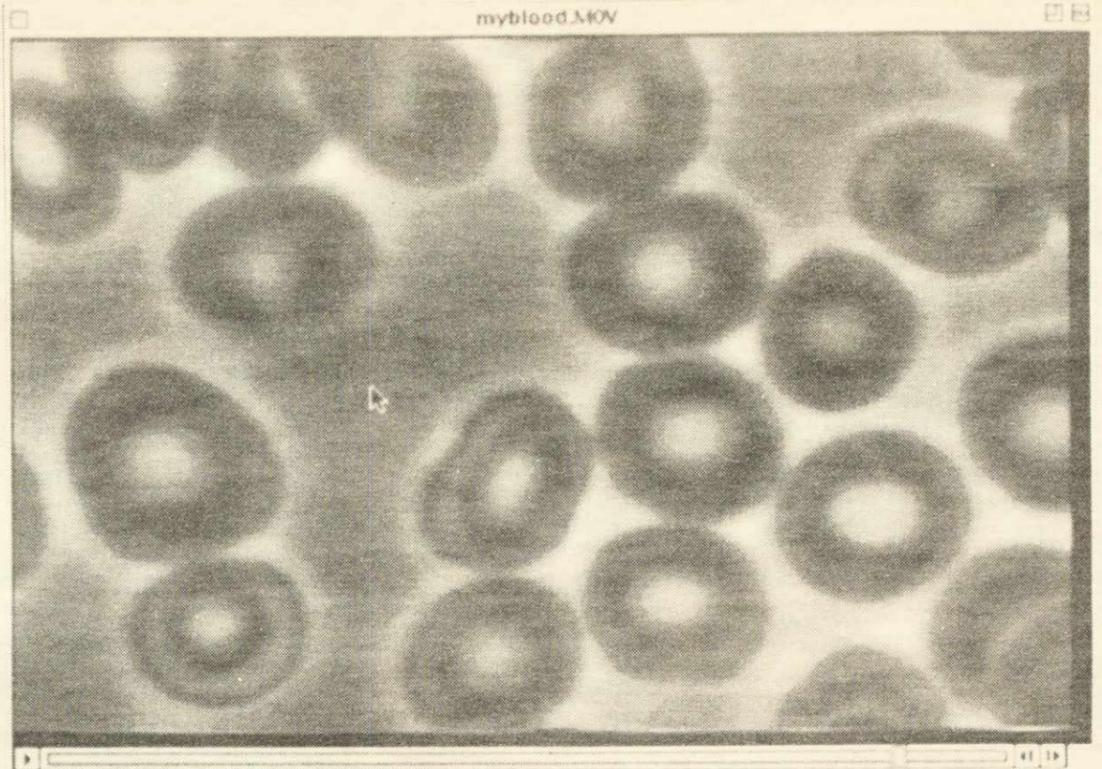
all to the tune of the audio track of a "How to Program Your VCR" instructional tape. Pretty cool, hey.

Well, I say, "should have encountered" because it was broke, which — given the title — is kinda funny (not haha funny, but 'hey, you just slipped on the ice' funny).

Well, "to err is human," as the story goes. So I guess if we demand Flemming get everything right down to the tiniest detail we'd be demanding he be a machine, at least a machine that is not too stupid to program a VCR.

But aren't we all machines? I say to the mirror amidst deciding which beret best matches my black turtleneck. Indeed some philosophers insist we are simply wet machines. So I guess some machines could be considered dry humans, hahahahaha!

Whether or not we are on the same continuum as computers, Corvettes and condom dispensers, the juxtaposition of the mechanical and the human has embodied itself in



Machinate: a new installation at the Khyber Arts Centre.

such cultural icons as the beloved Robocop, that prick Data from Star Trek and the reason you know Steve Guttenburg's name, Short Circuit's Johnny 5.

While a little more highbrow than my examples, Liawan, an artist not unfamiliar with the Halifax scene, has decorated the main gallery of the Khyber with *Machinate*, his "anthropomorphic and ethnographical study of machines as a species." Whether it is a slide show

composed of dead plant life, the tripod-mounted Chinese radio gadget that hums a quiet Buddhist chant or the televisions playing videos of the gooey workings our intestines, esophagi, rectum or anywhere else a doctor can cram a camera, one walking into Liawan's display gets the creepy feeling of intruding on these half-human, half-mechanical creatures who are just hanging out quietly doing their thing.

In fact, they're doing it right

now. While you're reading this the Buddhist chant is still humming, the slide show still flicking, Flemming's VCR still thinking it's human. If I were you I'd take a moment out of your day to go see them while the good folks at the Khyber have them in a controlled environment. Before long they'll be out roaming the streets, going for coffee and reading terribly terrific articles in the school paper.

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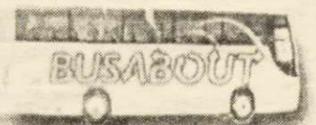
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New exhibit 'engaging' the imagination

BY SHAWN KEHOE

I'm no art critic. I wouldn't know the difference between a modernist or an impressionist painting if my life depended on it. But I know what I like. I like computers. I like lasers and physics. And I definitely like "Engaging the Virtual."

"Engaging the Virtual" is the newest exhibit at the Dalhousie Art Gallery, a weird mixture of technology and expression drawn from talent from across the country. Curator Doug Porter spent two years researching and gathering works for the exhibition, which runs from March 9 to April 23.

Some of the works, like Norman White's "The Helpless Robot" took nine years to develop. David Rokeby's "The Giver of Names" has been in development since 1991, and is a work in progress.

Catherine Richards' "Charged Hearts" consists of two glass models of human hearts, each in a glass case that can be lifted by the visitor. Between the two hearts lies another glass structure, encasing a device similar to a cathode ray tube. When the heart is lifted, an array of

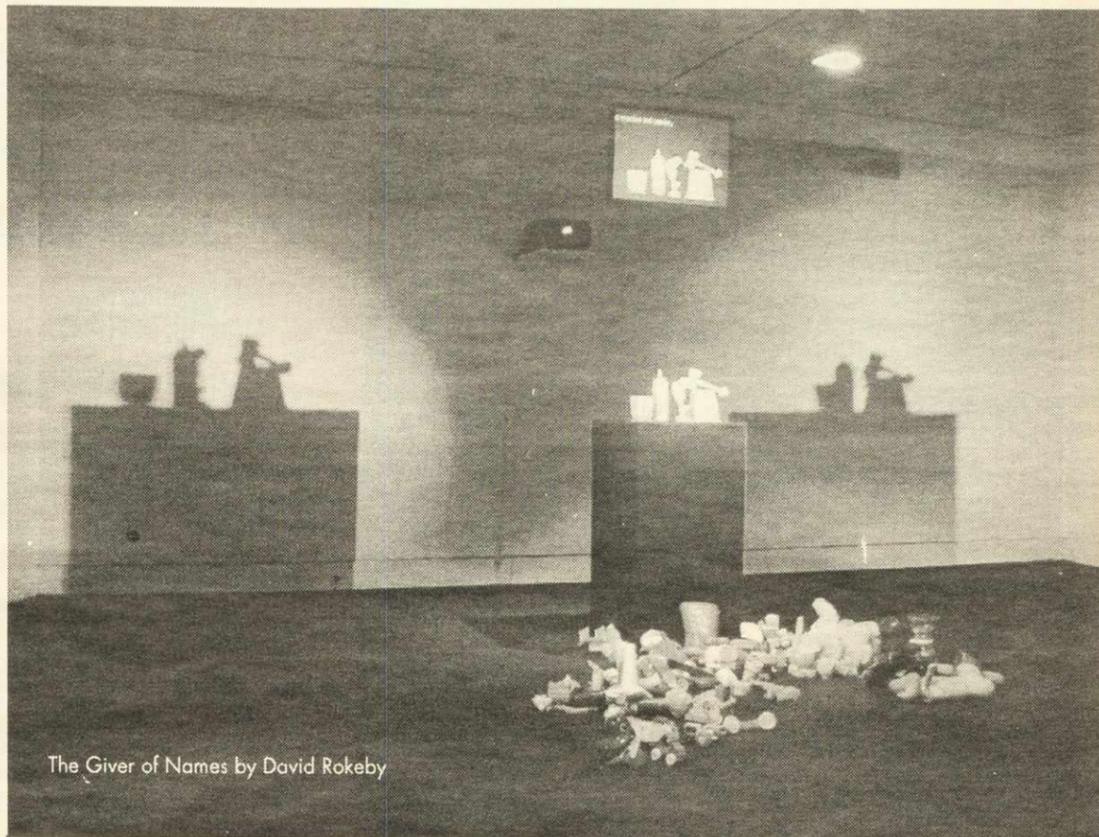
electronics causes pulses of light to pass through the tube, mimicking the beat of a human heart.

"It's about our connection with the electromagnetic...how we plug our bodies into machines," said Richards about her creation, which took three years to design and four months to construct.

"Charged Hearts" demonstrates the multiple levels of this exhibit; it appeals not only on an abstract artistic level, but also on a purely technical one, as a marvel of construction and applied physics.

Artificial intelligence also plays a large role in the exhibit. Norman White's "The Helpless Robot" consists of a visually unimpressive structure that rotates like a round-about. The robot pleads with the visitor to rotate him to a specific point, scratching his robotic 'itch.' If the visitor complies, the robot will continue to ask for such favours, becoming increasingly abusive in its demands. Once it has driven the visitors away, it begins to revert to its polite persona, utilising its impressive repertoire of 256 pre-recorded quotes.

"It's a comment on human



The Giver of Names by David Rokeby

nature. We treat strangers more kindly than we do our friends," noted White, who worked on the project from 1987 and 1996. The age of the project shows in the technology used; "The Helpless Robot" runs on an 'obsolete' 386 computer. White notes that a gallery isn't the best place for such a creation; he feels it more suited to shopping malls.

Perhaps the most ambitious project from a technological point of

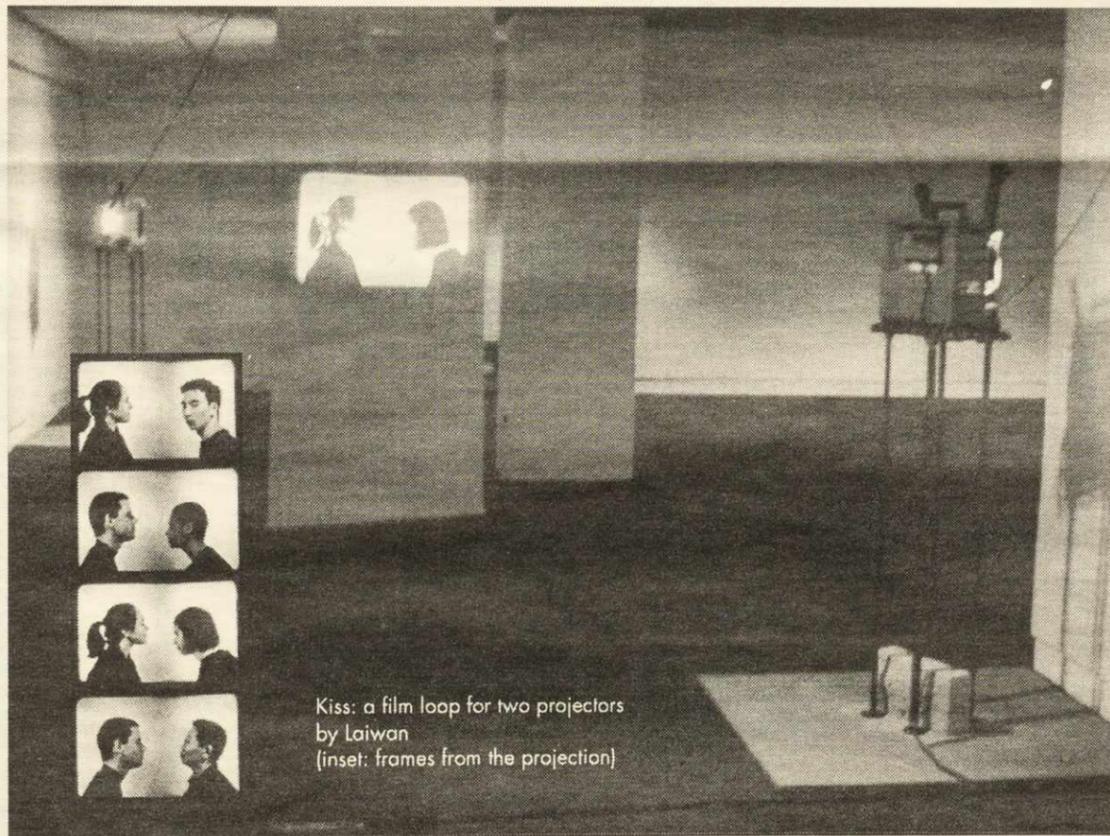
view is David Rokeby's "The Giver of Names." The work consists of two pedestals, one empty and one supporting a computer. When an object is placed on the empty pedestal, a video camera interacts with custom-designed software to analyse the object in several ways, including colour, shape and texture. Using a vocabulary of 150,000 words and a word association program, "The Giver of Names" goes about its task, creating a sentence based on its observations, then creating further sentences using word associations from the previous sentence.

The sentences are grammatically correct, albeit strange. One such sentence was "Lemons, more eyeless than other beady sectors, would pardon no optical drops." While watch-

ing the giver in action, I was reminded of the old joke about 1000 monkeys on 1000 typewriters reproducing the works of Shakespeare. We may be getting close to that day.

In the end, "Engaging the Visual" has something for everyone. If you appreciate the deeper symbolism of artistic expression, you'll find it there. If you admire fine work in construction and technological innovation, there's something for you. And if you just like lasers, physics and talking robots, stop by the Dalhousie Art Gallery in the next four weeks. You don't need to be an art critic. This is an exhibit anyone can enjoy, be they an arts, engineering, commerce or science student.

And there was peace in our time.



Kiss: a film loop for two projectors by Laiwan (inset: frames from the projection)

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Fartknockers and hosers

West Coast band searches for porn

BY BETH DALTON
AND CAITLIN KEALEY

Category: In Yer Face Surf/
Ska

Ingredients: 1 part Craig Burnett — Trombone, 1 part Pat Westamacott — Guitar, 1 part Mark Amereo — Drums, 1 part Scot Rounding — Trumpet, 1 part Megan Frederick — Fretless Bass and 1 part Mathew Carter — Baritone Saxophone. 1 stage, a lot of beer and liquor, and many crazy dancers.

Mixing Instructions: Shake band vigourously in a tall glass then add the stage, lights and a sound system. In a separate container mix together people and copious amounts of alcohol. The timing is vital to combine the two together to result in an explosion of smooth tasting ska. Pour over ice and serve.

Once again, on a Saturday night, the Attic was an eclectic mix of the sluts from downstairs, the jocks looking for the sluts and the people that actually came out for the band. No one left disappointed, whether they were fully aware

of it or not.

The Killlifters, who actually aren't named after the alcoholic beverage, hailing from Nanaimo, B.C., skanked their way across the country on their second tour to land in Halifax. If you missed it, go ahead and cry.

They combined original tunes with covers by such bands as the Pietasters, the Planet Smashers, the Specials, the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and Sublime.

They performed, bouncing, shaking, and shimmying, while dazzling the crowd, not only through their energy but with their talent. All six were music school students and joined forces to become the Killlifters. The name arose from Pat's 19th birthday, when he decided to show passing cars what he had to offer under his kilt.

And yes, if you are wondering, he still has absolutely NO problem showing it, I got an eyeful (wish I had a camera!).

With heroes like Powdered Toast Man, a strong fascination with porn and the search for porn shops, and Matt thanking his pants for holding up his underwear, you should realize that this band is in it mainly for fun.

When asked to choose between World domination or fun, Pat

chose the obvious — "World Dominatrix!" Don't get the wrong idea though, they have a serious side.

Fuelled by the recent shooting of a six year old girl in Michigan, Pat and Megan told us the story behind the song "Fuck the NRA." When they were in highschool a guy brought a fully loaded gun to school. He was flashing it around, showing it off. His name was Tyler like the song says "Tyler brought a gun to school today." He got suspended for the maximum sentence of a year and a half instead of getting expelled and two weeks later being in a different high school, which would have been just a slap on the wrist. Ironically, when he returned to school, he was elected class president.

Pat recounted the story and became visibly upset: "The stuff that is happening in the States scares the shit out of me. The fact that a six year old can have the ability and desire to bring a gun to school; the desensitization of kids and the media portrayal of violence..." he trailed off.

FYI: To get more information on this ball of ska-energy go check out their web page at <http://members.xoom.com/killlifters/>

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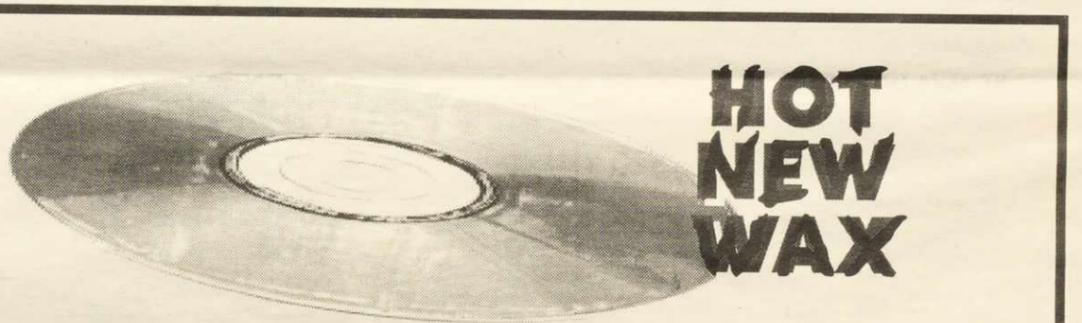
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Billy Mahonie — *The Big Dig*

(Beggars Banquet)

A seriously worthy piece of plastic this record is, let there be no doubt. An all instrumental morph of *Modest Mouse*, (*Ickey Mettle*) *Archers of Loaf*, *Tortoise* and a flavouring of *Sharks Keep Moving*, but in a way that makes me say not 'they sound like' but rather 'if you like those bands, you'll like what Billy Mahonie is doin'. Even if you haven't realized that instrumental rock is going to rule the world, you still have time. Get it? Naw man? — Jon.

MTV presents *Masters of the 1 & 2*

(Virgin)

Anytime MTV gets their fingers wet with a major label, a certain demographic is immediately alienated, the fact that it's a DJ comp only magnifies that. But don't be afraid, the big boys on the block may have struck a chord; and if not, at least they included the disclaimer that due to copyrighting of some samples, many of the most influential DJ's had to be left off this record — good they know. Covering some important aspects of the DJ game, including hits by DJ Babu, Grand Wizard Theodore, DJ QBERT and Gang Starr, a couple tracks really anchor this record, most notably *Coldcut's* blow up rip up of "Beats and Pieces". A score to find in the cheap bin, I wouldn't think too many serious beat-headz are going to need this record otherwise. — Jon.

Blue Rodeo

BY KATIE TINKER

Rounding off their *Days in Between* tour, Blue Rodeo gave a typically crowd-pleasing performance last Thursday at the Metro Centre. And if the band seemed a little more mellow than usual, it was mellow in a comfortable, confident sort of way — perhaps a reflection of their current success.

The *Days in Between* is the ninth album the band has released in their 13 years together. It is a solid collection of songs that should give these well-established Canadian musicians every reason to be happy with where they're at.

Blue Rodeo has a sound all their own, one which defines all their music. Yet they're constantly growing both as musicians and as songwriters, and with every album they put out there is a marked development. This latest work contains some of their most well-crafted lyrics yet, combined with a spontaneity reminiscent of their immensely successful *Five Days in July*.

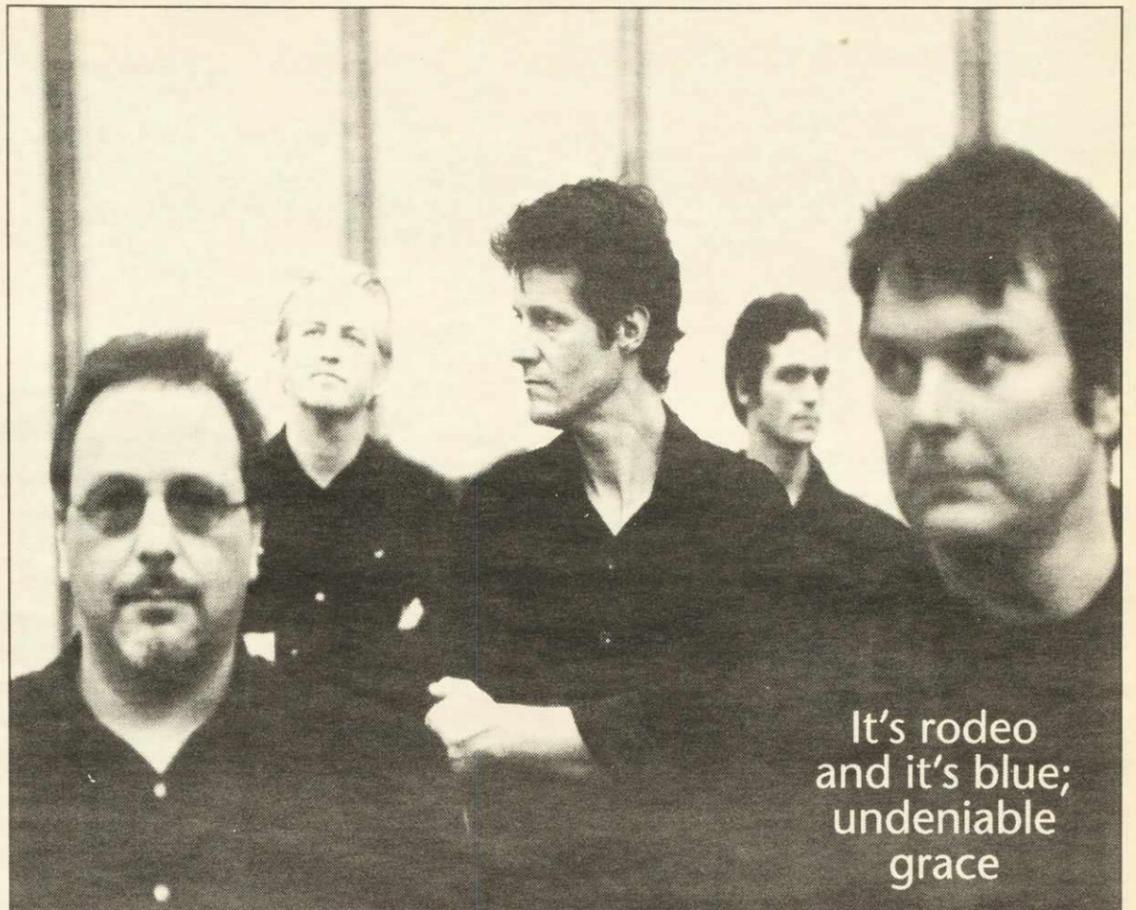
The newer songs they played at Thursday's concert were met with an enthusiastic reception by a crowd already well warmed-up by the Sadies, a Toronto band. Enthu-

siasm swelled when Blue Rodeo returned to traditional favourites like "Try", "Till I Am Myself Again" and "Five Days in May".

Lead singers Jim Cuddy and Greg Keelor struck up an easy interaction with their audience, at times joking around with the people dancing under the stage. It was amazing to see how the crowd responded so strongly to both of these two very different personalities.

Cuddy has an undeniable grace when he sings; his whole body becomes caught up in the pure, natural melodies and rhythms of his songs in a way that captivates anyone watching. Yet people were equally drawn in by the quiet, sometimes troubled intensity of Keelor — most memorably when he sang his solo ballad "Motherless Son," about his recently discovered Cape Breton heritage. Every other band member had their shining moments, too; drummer Glenn Milchem was particularly impressive in one spectacular solo that was enhanced by creative lighting effects.

One of the remarkable things about the appeal of Blue Rodeo is how broad it is. You'll see people of all ages, all inclinations, every-



It's rodeo
and it's blue;
undeniable
grace

one caught up in the excitement and having a fabulous time. A Blue Rodeo concert is an experience which rarely disappoints those who are there.

Is hip hop an art, culture or sexual lifestyle?

BY ASHA TOMLINSON

Windsor, (CUP) — Many young people are confused as to the true meaning of hip hop. When viewing most hip hop videos, negative images of women scantily clothed and sometimes even bare breasted are shown shaking their "thangs" in front of the camera. Usually male artists and other men in the video watch and touch these women.

Q-Tip, an artist who has been known to write lyrics with a deeper meaning, has recently released two videos filled with women who leave little to the imagination. The women are present in the video only to show off their bodies wearing nine-inch heels, barely-there shorts and skimpy tops.

According to an insider involved in one of Q-Tip's video shoots, three of the women were actual dancers, one was a stripper and the rest were models.

Although we are sexual beings by nature, the fantasy-like images created in these videos produce a beauty type many young women feel they must emulate.

But videos are only the tip of the iceberg — hip hop lyrics are not much better. Artists such as Juvenile have created songs about women "backing their ass up." In their video, there are various women showing their "asses" to the rest of the world. Some look as young as 16-years-old.

Women being called bitches and ho's are common terms in songs by Jay-Z,

Eminem and Snoop Doggy Dog. Even Canadian hip hop personalities have been resorting to misogynist lyrics about women.

Choclaire, an artist who is rising to the top quickly, has lyrics like "I like my girls face down. Ass up. Pillows on their mouth so they can muffle out the sound."

In a recent article published in *the Excalibur*, York University's main student newspaper, Choclaire said his lyrics are part of a stage persona and not an indication of his real identity and beliefs. He compares it to acting.

"When you go and see an Al Pacino movie, you might see him shoot people, but you never ask whether he does that himself," he said. "He's an actor."

Unfortunately, these explicit lyrics are being taken at face value by many, which is creating a culture of gender hierarchy and a degradation of women and their bodies.

This "blatant and explicit" sexuality appears in hip-hop stage shows in which artists such as Redman and the Alkaholics have been known to "encourage bitches to take off their tops and expose themselves."

This quote is from an Internet article written by a young, black man named "Davey D."

"Women were being grabbed and consistently accosted. I happened to run into two women who stopped to chat with me and for the next 15 minutes everyone who walked by made it a point to grab their asses or poke some other body

part."

Davey D documented his experience on his website, www.daveyd.com, after attending a Redman concert. He says disrespecting women is becoming a disturbing trend.

In Davey D's article, he indicated that the hip hop culture is permitting this kind of behaviour, and young men are getting more aggressive with young women.

"During a recent Uncle Luke show in San Jose, fools decided to tear the clothing off a female concert goer. This is unfortunately an increasing phenomenon. If females "get out of hand" and "don't respond accordingly," there is a good possibility she may find her clothing being torn off her body."

There are many things other than videos and lyrics that contribute to such behaviour, but these are two of the largest influences on the hip hop culture.

Critics say that what hip hop needs is an alternative image that promotes sexuality in a tasteful way and eliminates gender hierarchy. A positive change that starts with the viewers and listeners of hip hop music. They need to be aware and take an active role in what they deem acceptable.

"All of us are responsible for helping create that demand because we support the supply," wrote Davey D. "Those of us reading this article may not be doing the actual slapping of women, but we are directly and indirectly supporting an environment, myself included, that allows this to continue."

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Another interlude brought to you by The Gazette
(take as long as you need)



"Let the 'Ah' go..."

Taking advantage of the unexpectedly fine weather, Patrick Christopher, Head of the Dalhousie Acting program (left foreground with checked jacket) leads a class through warmups and breathing exercises in front of the Rebecca Cohn Theatre on Wednesday. Warmups are routinely done before doing scenes. The class, Theatre 2800 06R, is part of the Acting second year program.

Playwrights Cabaret: straight up theatre

BY CHRIS OULLETTE

For once, a theatre function where everyone in attendance seems to be here on their own free will, that's my initial reaction of the *Playwrights' Cabaret*.

When you first enter, you may notice the atmosphere's congenial, if not a little over the top. Most people in attendance sport creative facial hair or faux fur of one sort or another and best of all, there's a bar.

That's right kids, a bar. The theatre is converted into a cabaret of sorts — chairs set around tables where patrons can enjoy a beverage in the company of friends, indulge in some people watching and take in some theatre.

The *Playwrights' Cabaret* is designed to allow playwright students of Dalhousie to transform their words from paper to the stage. It consists of a compilation of about a half dozen pieces that range from the serious and mundane to the lurid and obscene. Each play is short, so those who find their attention wandering can always go back up to the bar.

Some of the pieces are rather anti-climatic, but for the most part, they're interesting. *Tar Babies*, writ-

ten by Paloma Hanlon, tracks the breakdown of a Cape Breton family struck by ironic tragedy.

Nicole Heringer's *Modern Love* pits a feisty Aphrodite against an egomaniacal Cupid in their quest to help others fall in love. And if the action on stage isn't enough to keep you engaged, then just look around and take in the sights of those sitting near you.

The crowd consists mostly of current and former Dal Theatre students who have come out to show their support and vie for the off-stage spotlight. Except for the four guys getting wasted to my left, most of the audience was as much in-tuned with themselves as their counterparts on stage.

Not since *Medieval Times Dinner Theatre* has atmosphere played such an integral role in the enjoyment of theatre. Why? Because the *Playwrights' Cabaret* is more than just theatre, it's a night out of drama on and off stage. So throw on some pleather, have a few gin and tonics and enjoy the show.

The *Playwrights' Cabaret* is free and runs until March 18th at the Arts Centre. Performances begin nightly at 7:30 — arrive early to ensure prime see and be seen seats.

THE GAZETTE EDITORIAL BOARD ELECTIONS for 2000/2001

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Election day is Monday, March 27th, 2000.

For nomination information, call 494-2507, or drop into the office, room 312 SUB.

Regular meetings are held every Monday at 4:30 as well.

SPORTS

Peerless Pandas win sixth straight volleyball title

BY JOSEPH KUMPULA

SAINTE-FOY, QC (CUP) — "Team of destiny" has been the calling card for the University of Alberta's women's volleyball squad all year.

At no time has their slogan rang more true than during the Canadian Inter-university Athletic Union (CIAU) championships, held this past weekend at Laval University, where they brought an intensity and confidence that their opponents simply found overwhelming.

After spending the year living up to their number one ranking, they swept the regular season behind them and went for gold firing on all cylinders.

As expected, the Pandas kicked off day one of the three-day marathon by coasting to an easy victory over the hapless Regina Cougars in three straight sets.

Day two presented a bigger

challenge: a rerun of the Canada West final against the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds. With the gleam of gold already in their eyes, the Pandas team rolled by the T-Birds to enter the final unbroken in sets.

In the final the Pandas went up against Manitoba, which was no surprise, considering the Bisons and the Pandas have been swapping the number one and two rankings all season.

The Pandas had something to prove coming into the match, not only by going for a record of six consecutive titles, but by trying to do it in front of the Bisons' crowd.

Even before the game began, the pro-Bison crowd showed their determination to be a factor in the game. Thousands cheered as the Bisons took to the court.

Despite the loud Manitoba crowd, the Pandas had their own section of supporters, dedicated fans and relatives who had made the long

trek to the Investors Group Athletics Center.

"I've got to thank the supporters, parents, friends, the athletics department," said assistant coach Carrie Barrett. "It makes a big difference, not in the final but for the whole season."

Set number one set the tone for the match: mental and physical toughness.

Players had to be prepared to sacrifice the body for digs and play a one-upmanship game of power as both teams did whatever it took to get the ball over the net just one more time. An edge in skill gave the Pandas an edge in points to take the first set 25-18.

Set two changed the flow of the game into the emotional roller-coaster that both teams would have to ride to the end result.

After being down 11-1, unbelievably, the Pandas came back to take it 25-22. Much of the credit for the comeback belongs to Tashie

Macapagel, who stepped in when her team was down, and showed what championship experience can do for a player in a big game.

"We've had leaders all year," said Panda head coach Lorne Sawula. "But when it comes right down to it, someone has to come in and turn it around."

After the "hail mary" comeback in set two, it looked like nothing could stop the Pandas. As much excitement as the Pandas generated, Manitoba responded by playing even more methodically, piling up

points like clockwork to take the next two sets 25-20 and 25-22.

And so the gold medal came down to who could get to 15 points first. A combination of skill, luck, and desperation helped the Pandas take the final set 15-13, taking the gold, and leaving the Bisons, who stuck faithfully to their game plan all afternoon to wonder what went wrong.

"It was any team's game," said Sawula. "In the end, the girls felt it was their game, and there was no way they were going to lose it."

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| CALGARY | — | 18:55 | — | — | — | — | — |
| TORONTO | — | 23:25 | 13:50 | 12:10 ¹ 20:35 ¹ 23:35 | — | — | — |
| ST. JOHN'S | — | 18:30 | — | 18:40 | — | — | — |
| HALIFAX DEPARTURES TO USA | | | | | | | |
| FT. LAUDERDALE | 17:40 ² | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| ORLANDO | — | 06:00 ³ 15:50 ¹ | — | 18:05 ³ | — | — | — |
| ST. PETERSBURG | — | — | 06:00 | — | — | — | — |

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UBC searches for new basketball coach

BY NAOMI KIM

VANCOUVER (CUP) — While the high school, college and university men's basketball playoffs are coming to a close, another basketball race is underway.

But instead of the players it's

the head coaches who are now in the spotlight.

With the recent announcement that Bruce Enns, coach of the University of British Columbia's men's basketball team, is resigning, there has been speculation around the province about who would re-

place him.

"[It's] probably most prestigious job in the country," said Rich Chamber, who had a taste of the position when he filled in during Enns' one-year leave of absence in 1997-1998. "I think it will attract applicants from all over Canada and

it's a wonderful university...If it's not the best, it is definitely one of the best coaching jobs in Canada."

Enns has held the position for the past 15 years after coming from Winnipeg in 1985. During his time, his overall Canada West regular season record was 159-101.

Applicants for the job will be considered based on two main factors: one, coaching ability and technical skill, two, the ability to recruit new local and national talent to UBC.

"In Canadian universities, head coach is a tough job because you don't have that big recruiting network," said UBC Athletic Director Bob Philip. "You've got to do a lot of that yourself. Somebody that's technically qualified and somebody that can recruit and that can get along with people and put together a good program."

As well, candidates with university degrees will be preferred and a level three basketball coaching certificate required.

Potential local candidates include Chambers, who held the reigns of the UBC basketball program two seasons ago. He said he is "considering it, but still wound up with [high school provincial championships]."

"I will sit down with my wife and my family and probably discuss it at more length this weekend when I have time," said Chambers. "I thoroughly enjoyed the experience [at UBC] but I love what I'm doing now, too. So, it's a tradeoff."

UBC basketball alumni and coach of the Langara Falcons Kevin Hanson, whom Chambers considers to be a top candidate, is also thought to be in the running.

Scott Clark, the head coach of the Simon Fraser University men's basketball team, found out about the position through some of the players that he was fighting to recruit along with Enns.

The UBC coach had let the players know that he would be retiring.

Clark said he will wait and see the job posting for specifications.

"I'll look at it," said Clark, adding, "I really have no idea what the position looks like or entails or what the offer is like."

The attraction of the job includes UBC's strong athletics and academics programs as well as a favorable location. The position will also likely garner interest not only from within BC, but from other provinces as well.

Dal's Leblanc wins AUAA heavyweight, fifth at CIAUs

BY GAZETTE STAFF

The AUAA wrestling championships were held February 12, with four Dal wrestlers in attendance. Mike Leblanc won the 90kg division and Bret Leblanc the heavyweight. Benji Parks took silver in the 72kg weight class and Paul Rhyno in the 82 kg class. Dal's Scott Aldridge was voted AUAA coach of the year.

CIAU were held at Western University from February 24-26. Dal's top finisher was by Bret

Leblanc, who finished fifth in the heavyweight division, picking up two wins and losing twice.

He put two wrestlers out of the tournament.

He beat Concordia's representative and lost a controversial match to an opponent from Guelph. This was followed by a loss to an Alberta wrestler. Bret easily defeated the OUAA champion from Western for fifth in the tournament. Benji Parks and Mike Leblanc placed seventh in their respective weight classes.

Benji Parks and Tracy Morine

will depart on March 15 for the National Junior Championships from March 16-19 in Scarborough, Ontario.

Also, with the help of Dalpex's Shawn Fraser, the Canadian Amateur Wrestling Association, Wrestling Nova Scotia and the National Sport Centre Atlantic Canada, have awarded Scott Aldridge a grant of \$5000 a year for the next three years which will make Dalhousie the provincial wrestling training centre. Anyone who is a member of Wrestling NS can now practice at Dal.

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DALENDAR

Friday, March 17, 2000

"Use of NMR Imaging in the Optimization of Novel Ways to Deliver Drugs to the Body" is a talk by Dr. Brian Fahie of Eli Lilly and Company. Chem 226 at 1:30 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be provided at 1:15 in Room 225 (bring your own mug).

Monday, March 20, 2000

Gallery Reading Series: Poet Eric Ormsby reads in the Loyola Building on Robie Street at 5:30 p.m. For more information call 420-5715 or 4200315.

Tuesday, March 21, 2000

The Animal Liberation Collective meets every single Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the NSPIRG office (room 314 of Dal SUB). Call 422-8454 for more information.

Cinema PIRGatory presents *A Cow at My Table*, brought to you by the ALC. McMechan room of the Killam Library at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Free tetanus and diphtheria clinic. Green room of Dal SUB, 10 a.m. until 2

p.m. For more information, write kimmie_747@hotmail.com. Brought to you by SAHHPer, the DSU and Students of HEED 3335.

Humans Against Homophobia meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m., Dal SUB. All ages and orientations welcome. HAH is a working group of NSPIRG. For more information, call 494-6662.

The Sodales Debating Society meets every Wednesday at 7 p.m., room 224 Dal SUB. Everyone is welcome to practice the art of persuasion and to develop public speaking skills.

Announcements

NSPIRG is accepting nominations for board members until March 22.

A small group of Dalhousie students are collecting seeds, gardening tools and financial donations to be delivered to Cuba in May. The above donations can be delivered to the Multi-disciplinary centre located at 1461 Seymour St.

Match your skills and interests with a volunteer program and make a difference! Please call the QEII Health Sciences Centre 473-5420 to make an appointment. Opportunities are available now!

To list non-profit events free, email gazette@is2.dal.ca, or fax 494-8890

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Saxophone teacher from NYC (via Toronto) available for private lessons. All levels. Call David @ 423-7991

Researcher Wanted- Author of unusual statistics column requires the assistance of top quality researcher. The researcher must be able to write well and use the internet and library with equal ease. The candidate must have a keen eye for the absurd or unusual and work well without supervision. Candidate must own a computer and have email access. This is a part-time position of between 8-10 hours/wk. Pay rate is \$6/hr. All inquiries should be forwarded to Unusual Stats. Box 1645 Station M, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2Z1

Hiring a highly motivated outgoing individual who is looking to be part of the Largest Student Network in Canada, and would like to earn some cash. Call 1-800-252-3212.

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DYNAMIC STUDENTS WITH GREAT MCAT SCORES WANTED to teach summer prep courses in Halifax and across Canada. Great PT job, great pay. 1-800-2-REVIEW. Info.toronto@review.com

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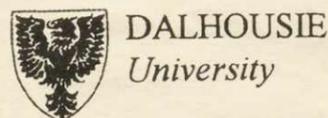
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STUDENT EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Dalhousie's **Student Employment Centre** is your one-stop student employment location. Offering on- and off-campus employment opportunities as well as summer and permanent placements, SEC services are available to Dalhousie, DalTech and Kings students as well as recent Dalhousie graduates. Visit us on the 4th floor of the SUB, 9 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, or on our web site www.dal.ca/sec. The **Dalhousie Tutoring Service** and **Dalhousie Student Volunteer Bureau** are also services of the Student Employment Centre and are located next to the Centre in the SUB. Visit your Student Employment Centre today!



COMING ATTRACTION!

Cultural Career Connections - A unique arts & culture career fair focussing on careers in the cultural sector will be held Thursday, **March 23, 2000**, Pier 21, (behind the Westin) 12 - 6 pm. Did you know that the cultural sector is the fourth largest sector in the Canadian economy? Did you know that 70% of cultural workers have post-secondary education? Come to Pier 21 on March 23 to find out opportunities for you in this growing and exciting area.

Visit our website at: <http://users.andara.com/~culturalcareer/>
Free Admission! Free Transportation!
(Check out website for bus schedule)

CAMPUS WORKLINK

If you are a student or recent graduate, Campus Worklink can help you with your job search. Hundreds of full-time, part-time, summer and internship opportunities are advertised through this site each month. With Campus WorkLink, you can post your resume on line for employers to see, search through job postings and recruitment campaigns, research employer information and read up on the latest career tips. The service is free! Check it out at: www.worklinkngr.com 1-800-930-9643

NEW FEATURE: CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!!

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY POLICE RECRUITING

To learn more about a career in policing you are invited to attend a drop-in session on Wednesday, March 29, from 1 - 3 pm, Council Chambers, SUB.

INFORMATION SESSION

Communications Security Establishment - Careers in Language, and Intelligence Analysts. To learn more about these exciting careers, come to the Information Session on March 20, Room 307, SUB at 12:00 - 1:00 or 3:00 - 4:00 pm.



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