

Lookin
good...

p.9

THE
GAZETTE

Volume 131, Number 25.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, April 8, 1999.

VP Internal narrowly misses impeachment

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

In the end, Nick Murphy was saved by a move that scrapped two votes against him and replaced it with a new one — his girlfriend's.

The vice-president internal of the Dalhousie Student Union was facing impeachment for charges of failing to do his job and "bringing disrepute to the union," by yelling at a staffer and shoving another vice-president while drunk.

The climax came at the end of the nearly five-hour council meeting Wednesday, as out of a vote of 31 people, 21 voted in favour of the impeachment. The vote required a two-thirds majority to pass and did, by one vote.

Immediately two people popped out of the crowd and questioned the legitimacy of two

Science Society reps whose terms had expired April 1.

The reps' votes were struck, and one was replaced with Science Society member Kathleen Terroux's. She voted against the impeachment. She's also Murphy's girlfriend.

The new vote was 19 for, 10 against, one abstention. It failed by one vote.

As Murphy's girlfriend burst into happy tears and was surrounded by friends, Murphy seemed shellshocked.

"I don't know — I'm glad council decided not to impeach me... [but] I'm a little disappointed [in the vote numbers]," he said. "It was a pretty political process. Maybe I should have done the political thing."

Murphy is at the end of his

term, with only 23 days and a paycheque left before it's officially over.

Student union president Ted Chiasson, who brought the motion to impeach Murphy forward in the first place, wasn't impressed with the results.

"This sets a new low standard for Dal students," he said. "We won't see much of him. He'll be

around for a couple of days to gloat, but that'll be it."

The meeting had a courtroom feel, with two lawyers, two third-year law students and a slew of amateur Matlocks doing their best impressions of closing arguments.

"This is like Ally McBeal," said one onlooker.

Council seemed unable to decide if the real issue were charges

of poor job performance or Murphy's drunken behaviour at the student union's Student Appreciation Night — at which he screamed "You fucking bitch you're going down" at student union employee Lilli Ju.

Murphy apologized to Ju for what he called a "minor incident"

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Breaking ground

New med school dean to focus on
advocacy, overall excellence

BY DONNA LEE

Noni MacDonald didn't think her new job would make her a ground-breaker.

"It's been called 'medical history'," she chuckled. "[It's] kind of a surprise that everybody's so interested."

MacDonald, who will become Dalhousie's new Dean of Medicine in time for the next school year, is the first woman in Canada to hold such a position. "I realized I would be the first woman dean of medicine," she said. "but I didn't realize that was a big deal."

But as more people talked with her following her appointment, she realized she was breaking a 'glass ceiling' that had been holding women in medicine back.

"It's very sad that it's 1999 before the first woman dean of medicine in Canada has been appointed. There have been women in academic medicine for a long time."

"It is a big deal, and I'm much more respectful of that now, because I have a better understanding having talked to a lot of women... they have said, 'you are providing a leadership model for people.'"

But while everyone else is focussing on her gender, her attention is squarely on her new job.

During her five-year term as dean, MacDonald says she plans to lead Dal's medical school towards overall excellence.

Her goal is to balance the faculty's emphasis in three areas: research, patient care, and education.

"Some medical schools have really focused on research as being the major thing," she said. "Others have said teaching is where it's at."

"I think all three... have to be done well."

In doing so, MacDonald says she hopes to encourage dialogue between all medical faculty members, so those who work in research can stay connected with specialists in teaching and practical care.

Apart from teaching the usual medical know-how, MacDonald also wants to educate Dal's medical students in a unique skill — social advocacy.

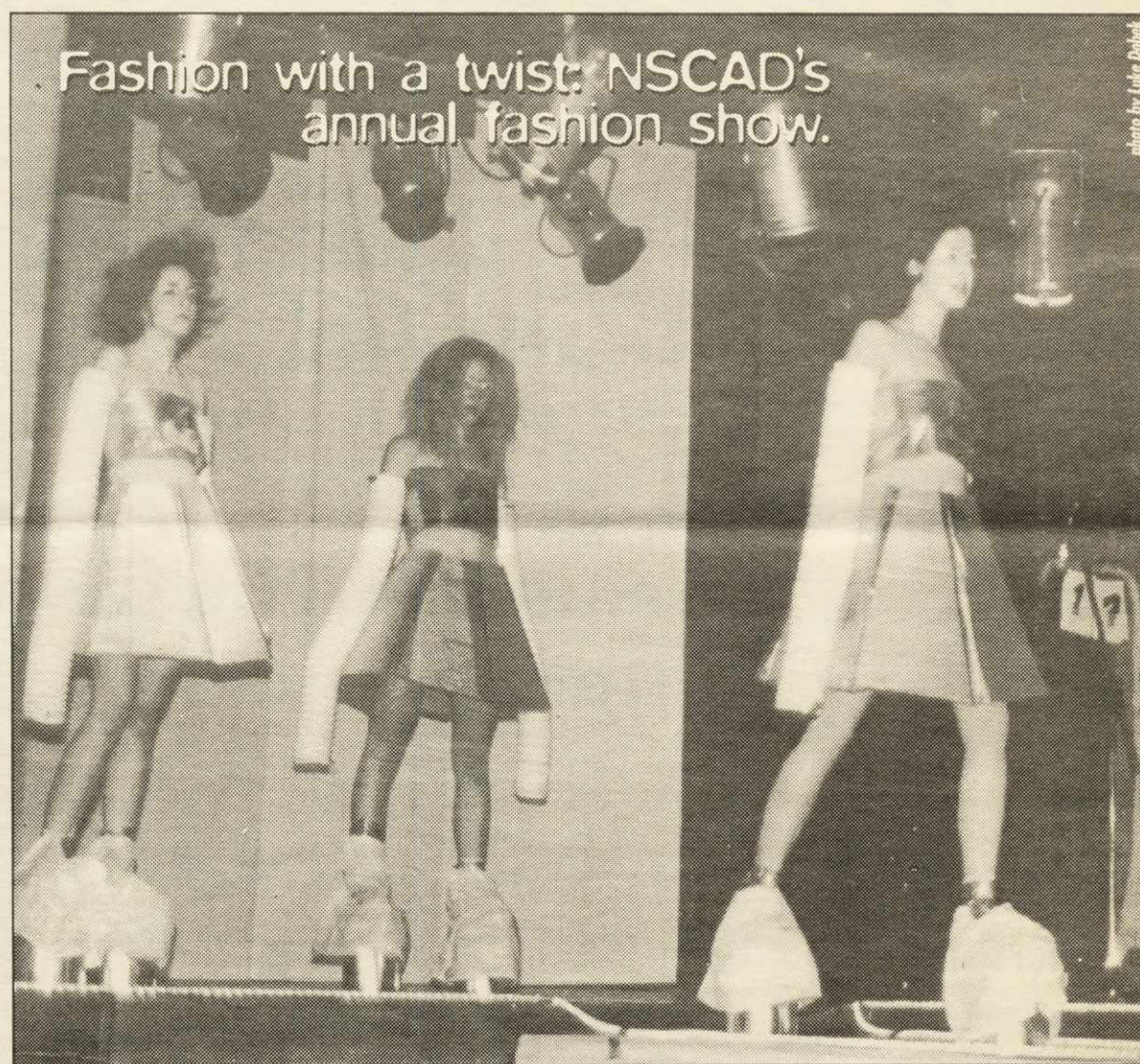
For MacDonald, advocacy is acting upon the social issues related to medicine, and she says Dal is a prime location to do it.

"Nova Scotia is the right size for there to be a really good dialogue between government, the medical profession, faculty and other health care providers," she said.

"I am interested in [students] learning advocacy skills so they can advocate for their patients."

Macdonald says advocacy can be applied to any social setting, whether addressing the needs of seniors to a town council, working with health boards to ensure access to the proper medical facilities, or improving the health components of

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UPEI dissatisfied with
MacLean's survey

BY SARAH MURPHY

CHARLOTTETOWN (CUP) — Students and administrators at the University of Prince Edward Island are questioning the methodology used by Maclean's magazine in its annual ranking of universities, saying one of its calculations is misleading.

Concerns over the magazine's November, 1998 Survey on Canadian Universities were raised in January but were only recently made public.

Fourth-year student Crystal Doyle, who sits on the university's senate, in January asked for clarification of the university's operating budget that was reported in the survey.

Maclean's reported that out of the 21 institutions surveyed, UPEI has the highest operating

expenditures per student, about \$9,577.

But after researching the matter, the university's senate reported that \$9,577 represented all expenditures related to day-to-day operations of the university, including salaries, utilities and supplies.

"The money needed to cover these operation expenditures come mainly from government grants and tuition revenues," said vice-president academic John Crossley in a memo to the senate.

He added that if the cost of the Atlantic Veterinary College is taken out of the calculations, the expenditure-per-student figure would drop to \$6,761.

This would place UPEI eighth out of the 21 schools surveyed by Maclean's, behind schools like Mount Allison University and

Lethbridge University.


Doyle says the survey is doing a disservice to UPEI by misrepresenting the facts.

"This small error on behalf of MacLean's may be replicated in all university stats and could be the cause of many students taking their business elsewhere."

The issue has highlighted long-standing criticisms of the methodology used for the popular survey.

"Different universities may report differently on their operations. This would likely result in variations in calculations and discrepancies in results," Crossley said. "For example certain universities will include the amount of money spent on scholarship and bursaries in their calculation, unlike several institutions which will choose to exclude them."

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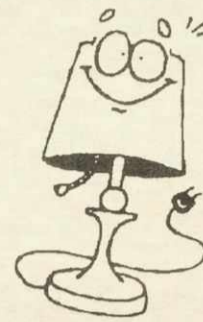
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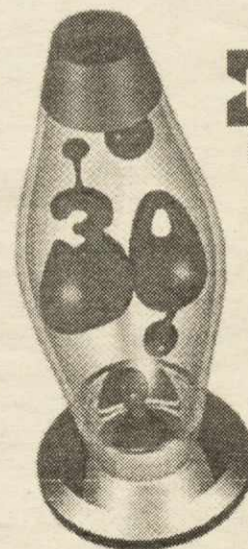
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Breaking Ground

continued from page 1

educational programs.

And as medical advocacy is not really taught in med schools, MacDonald hopes to make Dalhousie a pioneer in the field.

"[One] really can influence the quality of the care, the resources that are available, and how health care is delivered."

Dr. MacDonald begins her term on July 1.

Name: Dr. Noni MacDonald

Age: 50

Education: BSc in Microbiology (Queen's)

MSc in Microbiology and Immunology (University of Ottawa)

M.D. (University of Ottawa)

Pediatrics residency at the University of Ottawa

Infectious diseases fellowship at McGill University and the University of Rochester

Current occupations: Professor of pediatrics and microbiology at the University of Ottawa (since 1981); Chief of division of infectious diseases at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (also since 1981); Editor-in-chief of the journal *Pediatrics and Child Health*

Leisurely pursuits: Pottery, skiing, skating, travelling/exploring, cooking (her specialty is desserts), reading

What she looks forward to in Nova Scotia: Its "vibrant cultural community", and its seafood

Life after medicine: When she retires, MacDonald is interested in taking courses in comparative religion and philosophy.

22 Years Ago This Week

Wily consumer advocates unearth hair scandal

Gillette, the razor blade company, was ripping women off.

The black "good news" disposable razor for men sold for 25 cents.

The pink handled "Daisy" razor for women sold for 60 cents.

They were the same razor. Shocking.

Visiting rights not warehouses

Students at a Catholic Quebec college boycotted their classes

for a week to protest the school's policy of not allowing members of the opposite sex into residence rooms.

The administration finally conceded to convert 24 rooms into "offices" where people over 18 could "socialize" behind locked doors.

One student said the school "had to be kidding." And that they were asking for visiting rights, "not warehouses."

The school refused to budge.

When students started visiting each other's rooms regardless, 81 students at random were kicked out.

Strike averted at Dal

A strike by Dal maintenance workers was averted.

They signed a contract with the university that was being negotiated over things like sick leave and a "no-contracting out" clause.

The workers got unlimited sick leave

with a doctor's note.

Wages also rose between eight and 10 percent.

A spokesperson said they were satisfied "for the time being".

Seeking single guy for job performance

The student union had problems with everyone who wanted to be treasurer — one was a woman and one was married.

The members of the appointment committee said they hadn't received applications of the calibre they were looking for.

Three candidates had applied.

Candidate Sheilagh Beal was asked if her being a woman would interfere with her job performance.

Another candidate dropped out of the race.

He had been asked if his being married would affect his job performance.

A bar as a 'social space'?

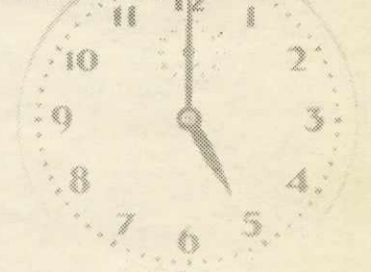
It was proposed that the Grawood be expanded.

The new Grawood would have held 100 people, and was speculated as a meeting and social space for students.

The student union hired Atlantic Business Consultants to do a feasibility study for the expansion.

The bar, which was on the third floor of the student union, would have cut into office space if expanded — possibly forcing the Gazette into the building's basement.

Guess we won.



VP Impeachment

continued from page 1

and said the only reason his job performance was being questioned was because council was trying to build a bigger case against him.

Ju said the vote spoke for itself.

In a room full of people reassuring each other that nothing was personal and that they all liked each other, the tension was thick.

"People have suggested this was personal," said executive vice-president Brian Kellow. "This

shows it wasn't. At least our side wasn't — I can't speak for the other side."

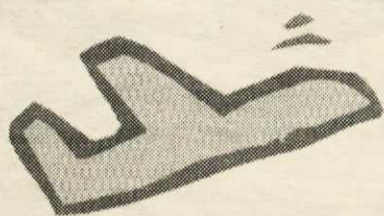
The last hour was marked by increasing frustration. As the second vote was debated and counted, those most involved were busy congratulating or venting. But the vast majority just seemed happy it was all over, joking and heading down to the bar.

"We should end it all by chucking chairs," someone commented.

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Students criticize Newfoundland employment program

BY AMAN LABONTE

ST. JOHN'S (CUP) — The province's decision to re-invest in a student employment program has sparked criticism from leaders who say the program doesn't serve the needs of students.

In its March 22 budget, the Newfoundland government announced it would put \$2 million into the Student Work and Services Program. The program will provide

jobs for 2,000 post-secondary students this year, generally lasting 14 weeks and paying \$50 a week with a tuition voucher given out at the end.

The Ministry of Human Resources and Employment says the program, which gives students valuable work experience, has assisted over 12,000 students since 1994 and has won a national award for innovation.

But Jennifer Anthony, vice-

president external of Memorial University's student council, says she has a problem with any program that holds back a person's wages.

"I think it's great that they're trying to encourage students to save for tuition, but the sort of control that's inflicted over people using the program is really repulsive," said Anthony.

Anthony says while she thinks it's a good idea for the province to invest youth employment

programs, the implications of the SWASP positions "are just ridiculous."


"The government has known that student leaders have been protesting against SWASP for years and anti-poverty activists have been protesting against SWASP for years and they're simply not listening to any of that," she added.

Allison North, chair-elect of the Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Students, says the SWASP positions don't account for students living independently.

"From the people I've been talking to, SWASP programs can be beneficial to some students, no doubt," she said. "For the most part they are somewhat unrealistic for many independent students, in that the weekly pay covers little or none of their living expenses."

She adds that unless the recipients have another form of employment, the SWASP program doesn't ease the burden of the cost of a post-secondary education, particularly for students who have dependants.

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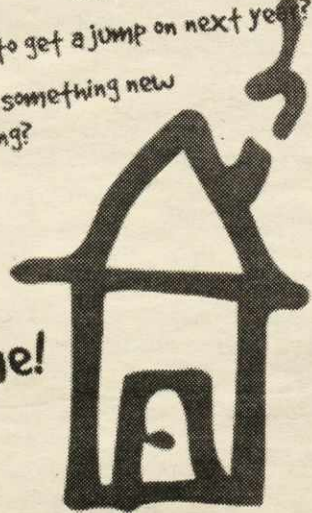
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SCIENCE / ENVIRONMENT

Our relationship with nature

Thoughts on who we are and where we need to go.

"The old question of whether a tree falling in the forest makes a sound if no one is there to hear it encapsulates the paradox: a tree standing in the forest is not a part of the "wilderness" unless a civilized observer is there to see it." — Alison Byerly, "The Uses of Landscape".

BY DAISY KIDSTON

As spring breezes through Halifax, flowers begin to tentatively bloom, the birds go crazy, flying and flirting wildly in the air, and nature begins to glow with the new green of renewal.

For me, and I'm sure I have many a kindred spirit out there, this arrival of spring has breathed in me a renewed inspiration to play

outside as much as possible, and to witness intimately the changes occurring in the great outdoors. It seems that I cannot keep my hiking boots off of my feet, and my clothes have taken on a muddy hue from tumbling around the earth. Nature has enticed me to the point of distraction, and I constantly strive to leave the city and go off alone, off into the realm of nature for yet another epiphanic experience in becoming one with the wind and sun.

Sounds pretty cool, right? Well, I thought so too, and I thought I had this whole human/nature relationship figured out. However, I recently stumbled upon the book *The Social Creation of Nature* by Dr. Neil Evernden of the Environmental Studies department at York University, a complex, philosophical book that probes at our western conception of nature as a distinct and separate realm from humanity.

Dr. Evernden, in his exploration of western historical conceptions of nature, likens humanity's discovery of nature as an entity in itself to the fish that discovers that there is an ocean. Before the fish had active awareness of the medium that it swam through, it viewed it "without awareness of [the water's] existence, and certainly without a concept of the whole body of water being collectively containable in a concept called 'ocean' However, once the water is categorized as a thing in itself, and is given the name, 'the ocean' becomes an object distinct from the fish."

This same process occurred between humans and nature once "nature" was "captured in a word-cage" as Dr. Evernden puts it.

According to Dr. Evernden, "all of creation became our object when the Greeks were able to capture it in a word-cage. Earlier humans could only conceive of a

single world, of which they too were a part." So once nature was given a name, a category, it was able to be viewed as something separate. Quite an example of the power of language.

This seed of division between nature and humanity continued to grow throughout the ages of humankind, though it did differ from period to period. For instance, in the medieval period, nature was viewed as a symbolic message from God — everything in the natural domain was seen as having a Godly secret meaning that the viewer "must read like a book, not dismantle like a machine." Hence humankind's relationship with nature was not scientific but based on empathy in which humanity viewed nature as intertwined with the social fabric.

However, with the arrival of the Renaissance, and the birth of humanism which put humankind on a pedestal above all other creatures, any personal, anthropomorphic, symbolic relationship with nature was frowned upon, as humanity was viewed as above nature. Thus nature was once again viewed as something separate and distant from humanity which could be dissected scientifically, but could not be empathized with as part of humanity.

Though from the Renaissance on, our popular perceptions of nature have altered between the ideas of nature as distinct and as a part of us. According to Dr. Evernden, the present day views nature as something separate and distinct from the realm of human life, with science viewed as the purest way of understanding and learning about nature.

However, with the birth of ecology in the 1960s, the science which studies the

"inter-relatedness" of things, the viewpoint of nature and humans as separate has begun to erode.

No doubt us humans are becoming more aware that we are indeed connected to nature, and it is not just a scenic backdrop in which we occasionally wander into for a hike. With such movements as deep ecology, ecofeminism and ecoactivism raging strong there does appear to be a bridging of the gap between humans and nature.

Yet we have a long, wide gap to bridge, as our perceptions of Nature are deeply rooted in our western society and our individual psyches. I feel, as with many ecologists and environmentalists out there, that until the gap between nature and humanity is bridged, our environmental crisis will continue to worsen. Until we view nature as intimately a part of us, and us a part of nature, we can easily continue to abuse it.

Easier said than done though. Even for the environmentally inclined it is difficult to view oneself as directly connected to the earth. I myself feel I am an environmentalist, yet I still tend to treat nature as something I go into when I wish to go hiking or study the coming of spring. When I go hiking, I frequently stay on the comfort of a human-made path, and gaze soulfully at the "scenery" of nature. When I return to my home, I return to the sphere of civilization and nature becomes but a fond memory.

Yet all is nature! Or is it? Can we consider parts of nature that we have altered so much into other materials such as cars and computers natural? Well, I'll have to end here, sans any closure to this issue. Let this be food for thought on your next outdoor adventure this spring.

Timberlea Green Bin Composting grows

BY ALAN MACGILLIVRAY

A survey of twenty households was recently conducted by members of the Dalhousie Nature Conservation class to sample public opinion and participation in response to the Halifax Regional Municipality's "green bin composition program."

The community of Timberlea, located at the head of St Margaret's Bay, was the location of the survey. One of four pilot projects chosen by the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) to test the feasibility of the of green bin composting.

The residents of the community have a pretty good idea of the pros and cons of green bin composting. The community has been participating in the composting program since 1996, while most other communities have not started since 1998.

The survey examined several areas of the composting program including overall effectiveness, reduction in the number of garbage bags per household, and whether the green bin program should be extended to include businesses and apartment buildings.

The results of the survey were encouraging. The average household contained three persons

and the majority of those questioned said that all of those in the household were participation in the program. This is a significant improvement since only about 45% of respondents said that they had participated in composting before the introduction of the green bins.

Most people thought they had been given sufficient information regarding the correct use of the bins, and considered themselves aware of the environmental benefits of composting. In additions, collection schedules for both compost and regular garbage bags were satisfactory to most residents.

Interestingly, many residents were unaware that the green bin program did not include businesses or apartments, and in most cases strongly supported the idea.

Probably the most impressive statistic that came out of the survey was the overall reduction in waste destined for landfill. Every household surveyed showed a significant decrease in the number of garbage bags produced. The average reduction was around 50%. Such a reduction goes a long way towards meeting the province's waste resource management goal of recycling or composition up to 75% of the municipal waste.

In general, the results of this survey indicate that the green bin composting is an effective system

and community acceptance for the program is high.

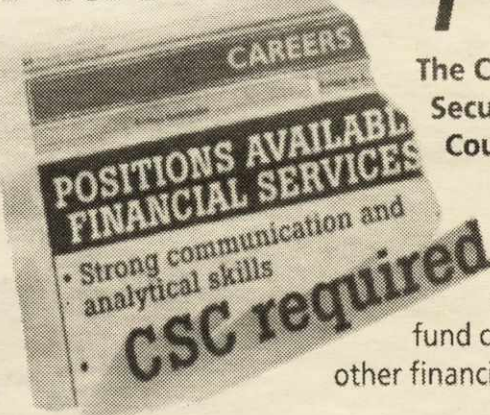
The history of green bin recycling began in 1995 with the imminent closure of the Sackville landfill site. By that time, the Sackville landfill had been receiving garbage from Halifax and surrounding areas for more than twenty years and had nearly reached capacity. In 1996, Nova Scotia's waste resource management strategy had come into effect. After a series of public consultations, provincial legislations was then passed banning all organic materials from provincial landfill sites after the fall of 1998.

In the fall of 1996 the HRM responded to the ban by distributing 2000 green bins to four municipalities, including Timberlea. The results were impressive, not only did residents approve of the bins, but landfill usage was down 50%.

With the success of the pilot project, another 103,000 bins were distributed through the HRM and by the fall of 1998 green bin composting was in full effect.

As a result of the green bin program, the HRM is now recognized nationally for its effort to reduce garbage and has become the model for municipal waste reduction in Canada.

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The Gazette year slams to an end

As the year stumbles to an end here at *the Gazette*, we find it necessary to reflect on the people who made the year possible.

As a student newspaper, *the Gazette* has had to rely and will continue to rely on the kindness of strangers. And to students who feel that they have something to say and who have the 'balls' to come forward and contribute.

To all of you, thank you. It's your selfless contributions

that made *the Gazette* possible this year, and continuing support that will make it possible in the future.

Something that people fail to realize, however, is that *the Gazette* is a student paper, run by students, read by students. If you have an objection to a story, or perhaps an idea to assist the paper's content or quality, don't just whine about it, do something. Because we rely on volunteers for our publication, we rely on anyone willing to help.

Well, not all, per se, but most. The small percentage of the mentally deranged at Dal don't help much, but everyone else does.

A lot of people don't look at it that way. Some people feel that they can only write for *the Gazette* if they have some experience, or if they are sleeping with one of the editors, which is not always true. We want anyone and everyone to contribute what

they can, even if it's only once or twice a year, and even if they don't have any experience.

In particular, the writer's who dedicated such an enormous amount of their time to the paper, for little reward other than their name in print and the occasional free drink.

We want to thank those who

EDITORIAL

have participated in various Streeters, and even those who told us to "fuck off" or "get away, I hate the Streeter." Hey, at least they know what the Streeter is.

People that stir and maintain controversy are also key to the success of *the Gazette*. The people that submit letters to the Editor or write opinions are doing the paper surprisingly good.

Thanks to all the people and animals who volunteered to pose on the back of *the Gazette* for our "Keep Dalhousie Decent" campaign, and an equal thanks to all the people who said what we

were doing was wrong.

Thanks to *Playboy* for existing on Dal's campus, and thanks for Bruce Yip and Bruce W. Wildsmith, the Dal's 'superheroes' of pornography for giving *the Gazette* an argument to mediate.

Who knows what's going to come here at *the Gazette* in the next year. Maybe a few lawsuits, maybe more nudity, less (or more) sex-related stories. Maybe more spoofs, maybe more drugs. Who the hell knows?

But that's all yet to be decided, and if anyone has any ideas, we want 'em. No, wait, we need them. Stroll on in and give us any suggestion you can think of, no matter how screwy.

The future of *the Gazette* depends on it.

Brianne Johnston —
1999/00 Editor-in-Chief
Patrick Blackie —
1999/00 Copy Editor



THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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The *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. All letters will be printed up to four per week. The printing of additional letters will be at the discretion of the Opinions Editor. Letters may be edited for length above 300 words and we reserve the right to edit commentary.

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.

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the *Gazette* is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the *Gazette* is published every Thursday by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all students of Dalhousie University are members. The *Gazette* exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. All editorial decisions are made collectively by the staff. To become voting staff members, individuals must contribute to four issues. Views expressed in the *Gazette* are not necessarily those of the editors or the collective staff. Unless otherwise noted, all text © 1998 the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.
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Resumés and cover letters must be received before May 15th. Drop off resumés to rm 312, Dalhousie Student Union Building, 6136 University Avenue, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3H 4J2.

Interviews will be conducted during the summer. Only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The following elected Editorial positions are open to interested students:

- Sports
- Managing Editor
- Dalendar
- Opinions

Anyone interested in holding an elected Editorial position should attend the *Gazette* general meeting at 4:30pm, September 13th.

For more information, contact Brianne Johnson at 494-2507.

First Gazette Fall Semester Meeting:
Monday, September 13th, 4:30pm,
rm 312 SUB

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

OPINIONS

The Mask of Terroux

In last week's edition of the Gazette, Kathleen Terroux submitted a piece on the nature of student politics. More specifically, it dealt with the issue of council members influencing others with their opinions. To be understood, I genuinely appreciate Ms. Terroux concern for the student body. However, I feel that it is useful to examine the issue from another angle as well.

In her article, Terroux asserted that DSU members should refrain from making statements that could influence others when making decisions. Citing DSU president Ted Chiasson's comments about the current impeachment, Terroux asked "how councillors are expected to make an informed and unprecedented decisions when they are not presented with an unbiased

view from their leaders," in reference I believe to Chaisson's actions. This for several reasons makes no sense to me.

First of all, all opinions are by definition 'bias' as they belong exclusively to each individual. Terroux concedes this point later on her article when stated that "I have my own biases, as does anyone who writes an opinion piece. ... but I love Dal."

That's very nice. However, because the fact that Terroux loves Dal has absolutely no bearing on the issue whatsoever, her argument is reduced to the fact that she accepts the existence of bias as a part of human nature on a whole.

This brings me to a second point. What Terroux is effectively suggesting is that the opinions of student leaders have no place in

issues such as Nick Murphy's impeachment. While I will totally ignore the impeachment ordeal, I would like to comment on this idea of withholding opinions while serving on council. As representatives of the student body, individuals such as Ted Chiasson are specifically elected to council on account of their effectiveness in government. Who wants a leader with no backbone, one who simply states the fact and nothing else? Of course people are going to express their opinions on certain matters. If DSU reps were not allowed to do so, they would be nothing more than information databases, there to do nothing other than 'give the facts'. What student governments need are direction, and direction often comes from those willing to speak their minds.

Terroux is correct in saying that the student body often lacks the appropriate information necessary to make decisions. However, that is why we elect persons whom we feel will act in our best interests, and whose opinions are in alliance with our own. On the same note, Dean Naugler's "slandering" of Dan Clarke, while perhaps unwarranted, indicates a certain degree of backbone on his behalf. He's not

afraid to speak his mind, a quality to be respected and not rejected.

I urge Kathleen Terroux to reconsider her opinion. The kind of government representation she would like to see is not representation at all. I only wish Ted Chiasson had not retracted his statements, not for the sake of Nick Murphy, but for the sake of the student body and its leadership on a whole.

Peter Tsuluhas

Politically Corrected

After reading Kathleen Terroux's April 1st article "Politically Correct", I feel compelled to respond to a few points raised.

My first concern is regarding her description of what took place at the Dalhousie Science Society (DSS) AGM on March 29th. Ms. Terroux states that I "slandered" one of the candidates who was running for a position as a DSU representative. The fact is what I expressed during that meeting does not constitute slander. Unfortunately, there are no minutes to either prove or disprove Ms. Terroux's allegations. Why? Because the discussion on the candidates was held during an in-camera portion of the meeting.

This section of the meeting was a confidential, open forum for expressing our opinions about the candidates, and regardless of what was said and by whom, it was understood that it was not to be repeated openly. Needless to say, I

was shocked to read that Ms. Terroux (who has just been acclaimed the new president of the DSS) had submitted an opinion piece to this paper in which she not only discusses confidential issues, but also accuses me of slander. I think this is a disgraceful way for the DSS and their new president to start off the new year.

Ms. Terroux's article next takes up a more contentious matter, the motion for impeachment of VP Internal (Nick Murphy) made by the rest of the DSU Executive. The article states that councillors cannot be expected to make an informed decision because of the biased opinions of their leaders. I do not feel that we resort to "political manipulations;" rather, I think that we would be very poor leaders if we were not willing to take a stand on issues of accountability and present our opinions clearly.

Ms. Terroux closes her article by urging us to realize that we should be more understanding and

that "sometimes compassion is the best example." In terms of Mr. Murphy's job performance, the rest of the Executive has in fact been very forgiving. We have had informal talks with him throughout the year expressing concerns, only to be let down time and again. Job performance aside, we believe that the incidents which occurred at the DSU's Student Appreciation Night, in which Mr. Murphy verbally assaulted one student and physically assaulted another, are in themselves serious enough that we had little choice but to make the motion for impeachment.

We all regret that our year will not be ending on a positive note. However, we firmly believe that the DSU Council will review all of the information presented to them in an objective manner and make a decision that they feel comfortable with.

Dean Naugler

VP Community Affairs 1998-1999

Not to long ago I had the pleasure of sitting on the DSU's riveting Election Trail '99 forums. Here the respective candidates were able to showcase to us the twenty students in attendance and what they had to offer us as students. Boring shit, you are probably thinking. Well it was, until a certain Mr. Brian Kellow took the floor in response to one of my friend's questions.

To be brief, the question had to do with the accountability and how as future presidents and vice-presidents the candidates could make themselves more accountable to the students.

To be even briefer, Mr. Kellow's response sucked. Incised about something my friend said, "Daddy B" responded with the eloquence and tact of a fourth grade schoolchild.

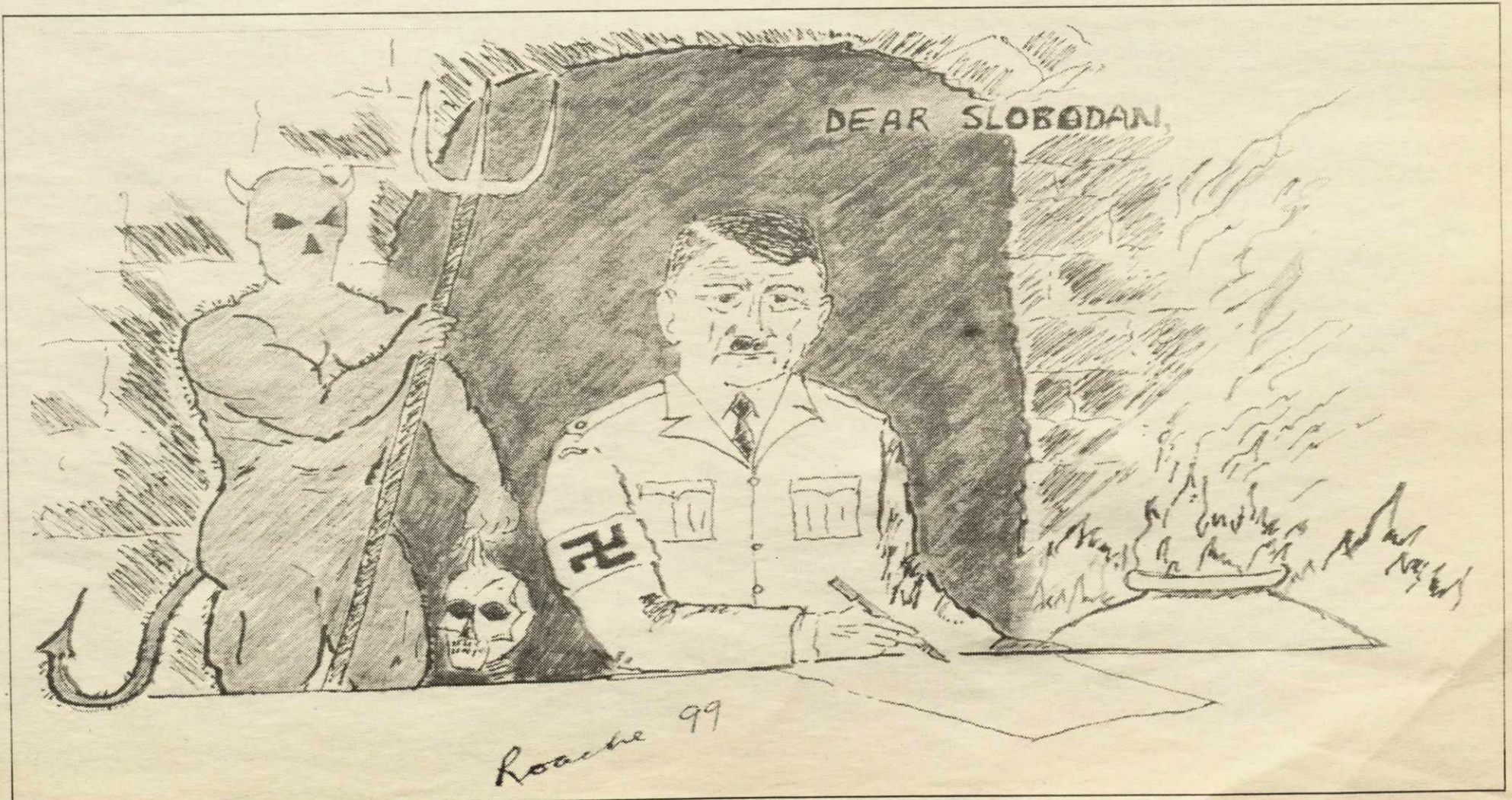
The question went something like this; "Every candidate here keeps referring to accountability and representation. In my three years here, and despite being on campus about 8 hours a day, I almost never see the people that have been chosen to represent me. What do each of you plan to do, if elected, to bring yourselves nearer

to the students you represent?" A reasonable question.

Now while I cannot remember exactly what was said during Mr. Kellow's response, I do remember the words, "No, I will not give you a break," and "you are totally wrong," appearing somewhere within his answer. From what I understand, Mr. Kellow may have taken offense to the question as he was a member of last year's executive council. However, perhaps the reason why I cannot remember the rest of his answer was because it was poorly answered and poorly delivered.

But what really struck me as odd about the entire situation was the manner in which Mr. Kellow replied. He was abrupt, unresponsive, and rather insulting. If my friend had not been of stronger character, he may have been discouraged from participating in student politics again. Yes, the question may have been critical, but Brian, that is part of the job. If questions, criticisms, and concerns will be handled in such a manner in the future, the student body will only become even more alienated from the union. Well done. Congratulations on your victory.

Peter Tsuluhas.



FOCUS

GREATER THAN THE PARTS

The social history of the Catruck/Trar

BY MARKIAN SARAY

MANITOBAN — Everyone remembers their first time. It was probably a little cumbersome, a little nerve-racking. But nonetheless, the memory remains. Was it going to be as good as everyone said it was going to be? How long would it last?

Would you remember the morning after?

Of course you would. Because everyone remembers the first time they saw their first Catruck/Trar.

What's a Catruck/Trar? You know — it's those cars that look like trucks or those trucks that look like cars. For those into names, the most popular brand was the Chevrolet El Camino. Others tried to compete with the El Camino's stylish looks and exceptional handling, but they all failed.

One look at those things, no matter the brand, and your life will never be the same. What were these designers thinking? Combining the front of a car with the back of a truck doesn't, in the least bit, sound like a good idea.

But many things have been combined with one another which really shouldn't have.

In 1969, Hop 'n' Gator beer was put on the market by the Pittsburgh Brewing Company. It was a mixture of beer and Gatorade, with approximately 25 percent more alcohol content than your standard brew.

Yes, people who play sports drink Gatorade and people who watch sports drink beer, but the mixture of the two is bound to lose somebody their job.

In 1964, Post cereal had developed a freeze-drying process, whereby food is quick-frozen and then placed in a high vacuum to remove all its moisture. When liquid is added, the food is reconstituted.

The "new" cereal was launched, but there was a problem: it took about 10 minutes of soaking for the fruit to reconstitute properly, at which point the cereal turned soggy.

It seems fairly logical that the first El Camino was made in 1959, which was around the same time these other items were taking form.

Cale McCann is an El Camino lover and his website at <http://elcamino.home.mi.org> proudly displays his love for this vehicle. He says he gets e-mails all the time from people calling it a cruck

("Cruck?" I guess they mean "catruck." Those Americans - sheesh!) and a trar. But he feels it has its own look and style.

"The El Camino is very light in the back, so they do real nice burnouts. And huge motors can be added these days. The frame is very strong and so is the body. I think it'd make a great race car — other than aerodynamics. I just wanted something to be able to tow the dunebuggies and throw the dirt bike in the back. The problem is that people know what an El Camino is, but they know it for the ugly years — the late seventies and early eighties," said McCann. "But that's not all they made. I like the looks of them from 1964 to 1969."

The debate of whether it's a truck or a car will go on as long as those Energizer battery commercials.

McCann thinks it's a truck.

"It has a bed and is longer than a car. That makes it a truck," said McCann.

But the argument doesn't stop here. Self-proclaimed El Camino expert Jon Moore, who's e-mail address is <coolcamino@usa.net> believes the El Camino is a car.

"If you want to get detailed, the El Camino is more a car than a truck. Reason being, it drives like a car, it corners like a car, it generally performs like a car. Being modelled after the Chevelle in the mid 60s through early 70s, most parts are interchangeable. So traction control for the Chevelle works with the El Camino. Front and rear coils for suspension, rather than out-of-date leaf springs, helped the car find a home in drag racing," said Moore.

People purchase El Caminos for many reasons. All of them are bad.

Anything looking this hideous should be banned. There are all those lobby groups out there who want to rid television of sex and violence, but what about a lobby group to rid the world of bad designs?

I'd rather have kids see robberies on T.V. than have them be subjected to viewing Catrucks/Trars. The nightmare must be horrendous. Worst of all, who wants to claim to have made out in an El Camino?

Some people, however, have good reasons for purchasing an El Camino. Bob Hughes, member of the Canadian Classic Chevilles and Beaumonts, wanted a used pickup for his business, but didn't want to pay a lot of cash. The alternative: a

1967 Custom El Camino, Tahoe Turquoise, 396 V-8, four-speed, Rallye Wheels, PS, PB.

Moore values his El Camino because of its top-end performance. "It all matters what you want the El Camino to do for you. Just like any car, the El Camino needs TLC, and maintenance, and a good owner. The El Camino was a solid car. Still is to this day. Anyone that wants a muscle car and a truck to move the dresser and bed into a new home will respect the El Camino."

So who in the world thought about combining the features of a truck and car into one and what bad drugs were they on? I know I've done a lot of dumb things like combine lettuce, ground beef, ranch salad dressing and tomatoes for tacos (bad move). Or there's the time I combined a whole pack of bacon (using the oven and the microwave at the same time) with six eggs, or the time I ate a whole watermelon. But not even I could concoct such a thought to combine car and truck.

There are two myths going around explaining why this vehicle was created. The first legend has it originally being a Cadillac for funerals. However, someone wanted a flower car, so the roof was removed from the back of the Cadillac and the back was filled with flowers. The look was neat, and soon, another creation was born.

The second legend has it that, when houses were being built, their garages were too low for trucks to enter. So, instead of building a higher garage, someone decided to incorporate the back of the truck onto the front of a car.

For a while it made a lot of sense, until some smart contractor built a higher garage. You'd figure this would have caused its extinction, but no - the spirit of the Catruck/Trar lived on.

Sometime after its early success (22,246 sold in 1959, 14,163 in 1960 and 48,385 in 1969), the Catruck/Trar eventually faced extinction, but in 1978, Chevrolet re-introduced the El Camino in a new skin, with a body that was much smaller than it had been only a year before.

There were several option packages available in the first year in 79. Those in the market seized the advantage and Chevrolet began to see much higher El Camino sales.

In 1979, a new T.V. series emerged called The Dukes of Hazzard, about a small town in

Hazzard County run by a crooked sheriff, Roscoe P. Coltrane and Boss Hogg. A down-home rural family, comprised of Uncle Jesse Duke, a former moonshiner with Hogg, Daisy Duke, who wore short shorts, Bo and Luke Duke, who rode in the General Lee, a 1969 Dodge Charger, tried to ruin Coltrane and Hogg's evil schemes. The show's first season featured many Catrucks/Trars in the show's ubiquitous car chases, which probably caused viewers - primarily rednecks and young boys - to hold the Catruck/Trar dear to their hearts.

As the eighties came along, the El Camino paved its way to its own grave and, in 1987, it was officially discontinued. This was also the time when people started penny pinching and governments began to notice the existence of national debts and deficits.

The El Camino symbolized the freedom of the open air, that money didn't matter because everyone could afford almost anything they wanted. The sixties and seventies were times of experimentation and angst, and the El Camino was there. And when the yuppie eighties emerged, when people became more self-conscious about what they wore and about what people thought of them, the El Camino vanished. People talked about you if you weren't a hipster/hipstress and people were going to talk about you negatively if you owned a Catruck/Trar.

However, the diehards remain. Jerry Webb is president of the California Classic El Camino Club. He believes that the El Camino is far better than the cars of today.

"The body is unique, having chrome. Anywhere you park, people stand over it and stare at it and go over how beautiful the car

is. It's a good feeling being able to restore this vehicle," said Webb.

And now we can put to rest the is-it-car-or-truck debate, because Webb knows the real answer.

"It's a truck. You have to license El Caminos as a commercial vehicle because you can haul stuff in them." So there.

A big problem faces those holding on to their Catrucks/Trars in the United States. Many states are introducing legislation that any auto made after 1968 must undergo annual testing for air quality. Only 1969 to 1972 models that have been restored and have classic car plates will be exempt from future smog testing.

These people driving these cars may have lost their brains, as well. The California Classic El Camino Club is encouraging members to sign petitions to stop smog tests for street rods and classic rods.

To me, it makes sense. These guys go through the embarrassment of driving a Catruck/Trar, the least the government could do is let them pollute.

So if there's anything to be gained, here, it's that you are not alone. You've seen these Catrucks/Trars all over and you've taken in the pain internally. It's okay. It's time for you to release your frustrations. Your life isn't the same after seeing one. You get a tingle down your central nervous system every single time. The pain doesn't go away and the government is too cheap to fund a Catruck/Trar 1-800 crisis number (1-800-CAT-RUCK) for those times when the suffering gets unbearable.

Hopefully, seeing them stops other people from combining things that sound good together, but really aren't.



What do you look like?

Streeter

INTERVIEWS BY SHELLEY ROBINSON, PHOTOS BY PASCAL LANGUILLON.

"Not tall and I've got short hair, I'm black, I'm not very light and a little bit fat I would say. I've got small eyes and black lips. And, no — I think that's about it."

Faith Mumba, Zambia, 1st year Arts



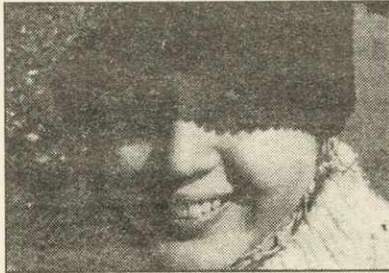
"I look like an Egyptian — like a Pharaoh. I think that's it."

Sameh Boulos, Egypt, 3rd year SMU Computer Science and Business Admin.



"I look like myself."

Krista Vick, Florida, 2nd year IDS



"Asian, a girl, medium hair, medium height — pretty much that's all I think."

Loretta Li, Hong Kong, 1st year Chemistry/Math



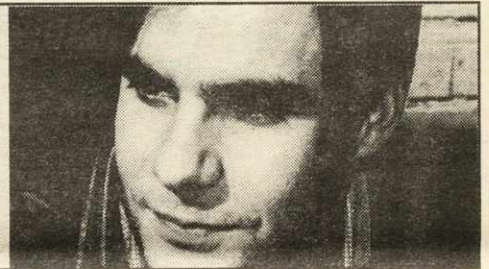
"A homo sapien. I look alright I guess."

Jonathan Penny, Sidney NS, works at Omnisearch



"What do I look like? What do I look like? I know what I look like but... I dunno. Mediocre height... (friend): 'You're tall' 'Not tall. I'm probably serious, very observant, taking everything in and that's all you're getting.'"

Ryan Johnson, Fall River NS, 4th year Bio.



"I'm rather tall, short brown hair, green eyes, freckles. Some people say I look French, and I am so..."

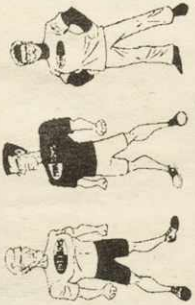
Sophie Huss, France, TA



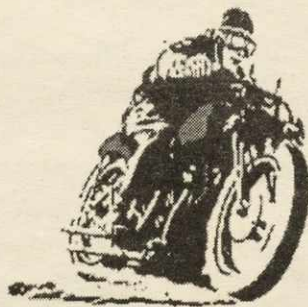
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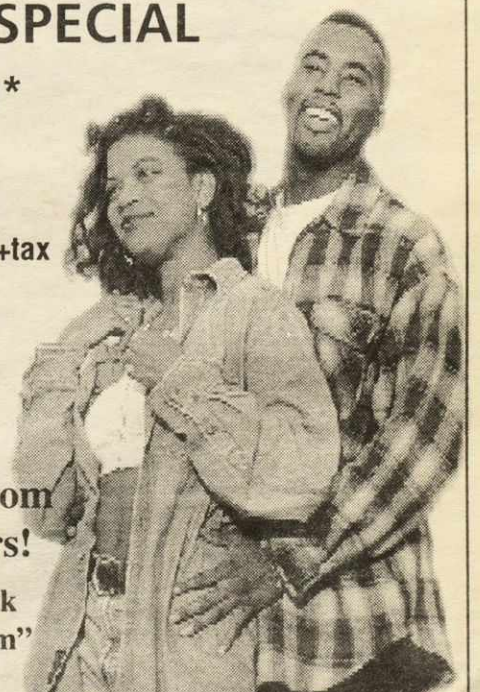
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ARTS & CULTURE

The Planet of Junior Brown work of art



BY DAISY KIDSTON

It was a strong sadness I experienced when I saw *The Planet of Junior Brown*, the final movie shown in the series of international films by black directors at the Dalhousie Art Gallery.

In keeping with the excellence of the other films shown in the series, this film was wonderful, both in terms of content and artistry. However, I enjoyed this movie the most because it broke my heart by forcing me to look at things that are difficult to acknowledge the existence of in our comfortable society. In fact, I was exhausted by the end of the film, rather overwhelmed with emotion, as were others with me.

The Planet of Junior Brown, made in 1997, is directed by Clement Virgo, a Jamaican-born film maker raised in Canada.

The film takes place during Christmas time on the streets and inside dark, strange buildings in a poor district of Toronto. Junior Brown (Martin Villafana) the central character, is an obese teenage piano prodigy who lives with his diabetic, rather insane, possessive mother (Lynn Whitfield).

His best friend who looks out for him is Buddy Clark (Rainbow Sun Francks), a gentle but tough street kid who is scarred physically and mentally by a family fire that killed his baby sister. Sarah Polley,

who you may know from the TV series *Road to Avonlea* and such films as *The Sweet Hereafter*, plays a young street girl nicknamed Butter who is a victim of sexual abuse.

The film follows the lives of these three characters, giving us gritty scenes of the lives of poor street kids, and the stunted genius of Junior Brown who, because of poverty and cruelty, does not have access to a real piano.

It is frustrating to watch Brown play at a piano without strings, or on the coffee table at the impoverished apartment of his so-called piano teacher, the crazy Miss Peebs.

When Buddy and Junior are not in the basement of Junior's school contemplating a model of the solar system under the guidance of the school's janitor, Mr. Pool (Clark Johnson), they go to a piano store to ogle at a baby grand which the store owner will not let Junior touch.

The movie kept me on the edge of my seat, waiting for the climactic moment when Junior is actually able to play a real piano. Fortunately, it does happen.

The lives of Buddy and Butter are also compelling (if not gut-wrenching to watch) as they are a combination of both violence and innocence. As is likely the case for most street kids, Buddy and Butter live in two worlds or "planets". Though they experience daily the

tough, violent world of the streets, they also have the safe haven of what Buddy calls his "planet", an abandoned room which, despite his scars from the fire, he fills with candles giving it a warm, maternal glow. It is no coincidence that this safe haven is the setting for almost all the happy scenes in the movie.

The Planet of Junior Brown is also a provocative film for the reason that it artistically cloaks different facts about the characters' lives in mystery, choosing to enlighten the viewer with sudden flashbacks to the past giving the viewer an idea, but not completely providing all the pieces of the puzzle.

Some things eternally remain in mystery, such as the couple who videotape Butter for some likely dark and twisted purpose, or the story of Mr. Pool, the janitor of the school, who in his spare time, has become an underground philosopher, teacher and astronomer, sharing his wisdom with Buddy and Junior in their clandestine classroom.

The Planet of Junior Brown is Virgo's second feature length film, following his first successful 1995 film *Rude*, which he wrote, produced and directed. Virgo has also won numerous short films which boast some colourful names such as *A Small Dick Fleeshy Ass Thang* (1991), *Split Second Pullout Technique* (1992), and *Save My Lost Nigga* (1993).

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VANCOUVER	—	18:55	—	—	—	—	—
CALGARY	—	18:55	—	—	—	—	—
TORONTO	—	16:05 ¹⁰ 22:15 ⁷	—	16:05	11:30 ¹ 16:35	—	—
ST. JOHN'S	—	06:00 11:05 ⁴ 17:15 ² 20:10 ⁶	—	06:00 ⁵ 10:25 21:35 ³	—	—	—

HALIFAX DEPARTURES TO USA

ST. PETERSBURG	—	—	17:50	—	—	—	07:20
FT. LAUDERDALE	—	—	07:00	—	—	—	—
ORLANDO	17:50	11:05 ⁸	07:00	—	—	—	—

¹ Begins April 12 ² Begins April 19 ³ Ends April 18 ⁴ Week of April 1 only
⁵ Week of April 5 only ⁶ Begins April 5

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The Reminiscent Beauty of the Group of Seven

BY ANDREA FOSTER

I have been twice now to visit the Group of Seven exhibit at the Dal Art Gallery. Having always been a fan of the seven Canadian artists' work, I was very impressed by the collection of paintings. My last visit however, was an experience in itself, for it evoked my own memories of great Canadian experiences.

The most moving painting in the collection is A.J. Casson's High Water. The painting, which depicts a dramatic autumn landscape in Ontario, made me homesick for the majestic Haliburton Highlands where I have spent most of my summers. The hypnotic golds and browns and the icy river dividing the forest, reflected a similar scene from my cottage window. The visual affects drew me right into this painting.

Casson was pleased with this work and submitted it to the 77th Annual Exhibition of the Ontario Society of the Arts in 1949, where the asking price was six hundred dollars.

Another Casson, Little Farmhouse, uses vibrant color and in combination with simplified form create awe-inspiring

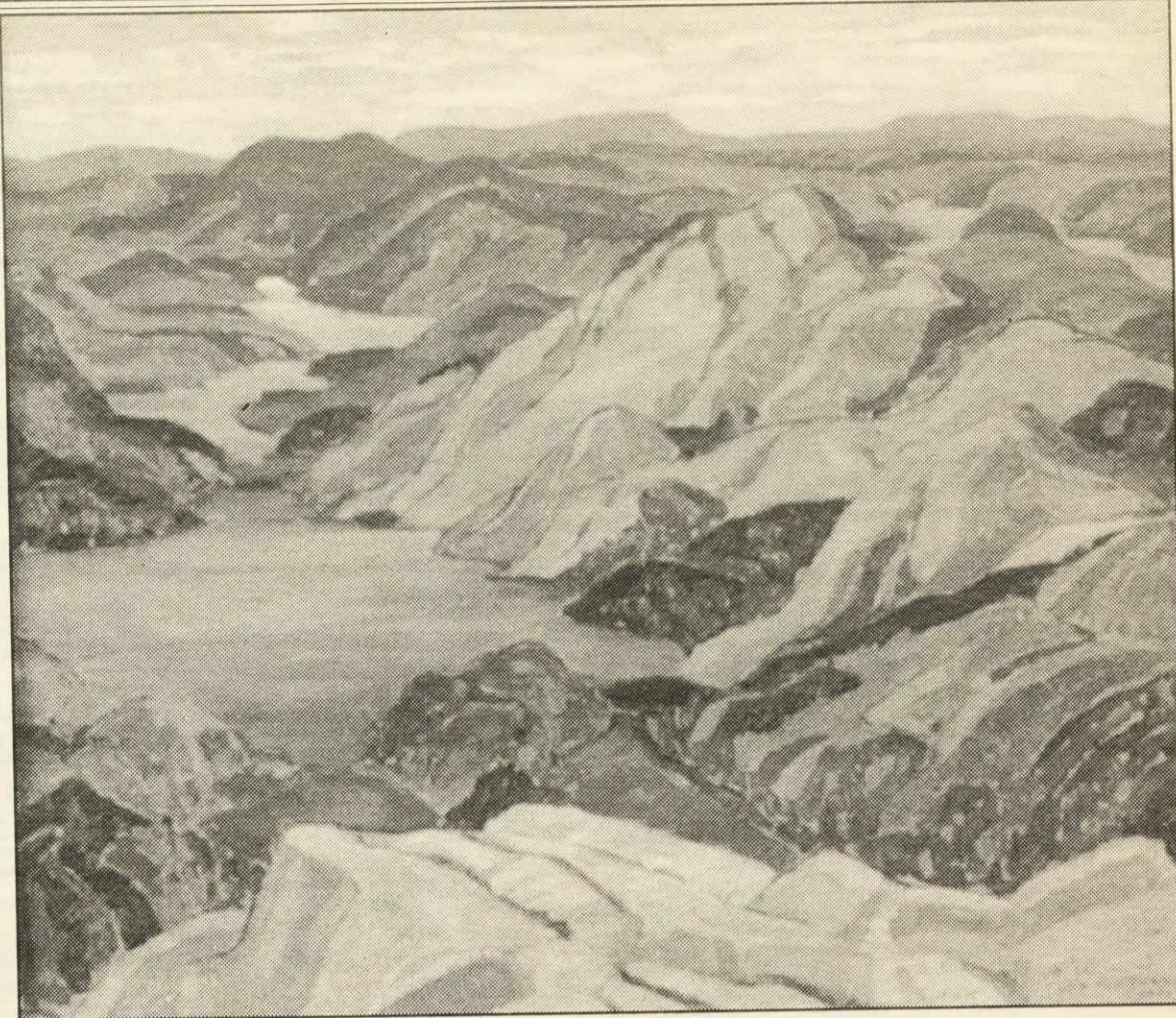
impressions of rural Ontario. This particular painting also reminded me of a scene straight out of Disney's Beauty and the Beast. With its cartoon-like appearance, I half expected Belle to come running out of the forest.

The second artist whose work touched me is A.Y. Jackson. His Northern Landscape, a scene modeled from Great Bear Lake, was completed between August and September 1938 and was painted near the Eldorado mines on Great Bear Lake, Northwest Territories.

As curator Charles Hill noted: "the barren lands, ruggedness, and solitude of the North were genuine stimulants" for Jackson.

His painting is a stunning recreation of the typical silhouettes of stunted pines whose fiery color and severe nature pay homage to the untamed wilderness of the North.

Jackson also depicted the bleak landscape of Quebec. Two of his paintings, St. Agnes, Quebec and Quebec village near Les Emboulements, brought back memories of drives through Quebec to reach my favorite ski area in the Laurentians. Jackson displays an intricate talent in portraying small churches and farms that can be seen from the country highways



La Cloche #2, Franklin Carmichael

spanning Quebec.

The final reminiscent painting in the collection is Tom Thompson's Moonlight. This is one of four paintings exhibited by Thompson at the March 1916 Annual Exhibition of Members of the Ontario Society of Arts. Thompson's work illuminated

memories of a white water canoe expedition in the secluded river systems of Northern Ontario. This moody piece of art is a tribute to luminous full moons that reflect off the bountiful lakes and rivers of this region.

These are the paintings which sparked memories of some of my

great Canadian adventures. My exposure to Canada's wilderness is reflected in the works of selected members of the Group of Seven. Their attention to detail combined with their varied talents creates a moving experience for any Canadian who has traveled the wilderness between the coasts.

Irving novel perfect summer read

BY SALLY THOMAS

The time has come to start searching for the first of the great summer reads and I have the perfect suggestion: John Irving's *A Widow For a Year*. It's a thick and juicy book, perfect for breaks at the summer job or car rides out of town or lazy afternoons on the back patio. And it has some jaw dropping moments and weird twists.

Irving's novel is filled with adultery, betrayal, abandonment and death. Oh yeah, and sex, lots of sex. In fact, the opening scene of the book is a sex scene.

The book cannot be summed up in a few paragraphs. It follows a bizarre family of writers starting in

1958. Two sons die, there's a four year old daughter named Ruth, the parents split up, a writer's assistant named Eddie comes to town and woos the mother, and the mother splits at the end of the summer.

Then we meet again in 1990 where Ruth is a writer herself. Eddie is back in the picture and is still madly in love with the mother. Ruth is writing a new book and goes to Amsterdam where she falls into a heap of trouble.

We then meet again in 1995. Through all this Ruth and the writer's assistant keep waiting and hoping for the mother to reappear. It's a hard book to sum up quickly. I would hate to have been the jacket writer.

There are no peripheral

characters in this novel. Everyone we meet has a history and we are told what it is. We know all about Ruth's slutty friend, we know all about Eddie's childhood, we know all about the death of the brothers, we know all about a prostitute Ruth meets for a couple of days. We know everything. Maybe that's why the book is 537 pages long.

This is one of those novels where you are sucked into the character's lives to the point of where you might actually care what will happen next. There are parts of this novel that will leave you with your jaw hanging open. It's long and winding and it will take you more than a week to finish. In other words, the perfect novel for summer.

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April 8 - April 11, 1999

Dalendar

CLASSIFIEDS

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Thursday, April 8
NSPIRG Vegetarian Workshop — Rm 318 of the SUB at 4pm. Call 429-3225.
Dr. Claudia Card from the department of Philosophy will give a talk on "Women, Evil, and Gray Zones" at the McMechan Auditorium in the Killam Library at 8pm.

Friday, April 9
Dalhousie Christian Fellowship welcomes all who are interested - meet in the SUB, 7:30pm.
 Peace vigil, for war in Kosovo. Spring Garden Library, noon.

Saturday, April 10
Corte - The Dance Club of Halifax is having a Spring Ball from 8pm to midnight in the McInnes Room in the Dal SUB on Saturday, April 10. Admission is \$10 and attire is semi-formal.

A Mountain Bike Commissaire's course will be held on April 10 and 11. Cost is \$20. To register contact Randy Gray at (902) 477-1888 or Jim Brard at (902) 765-6022.

Saturday, April 10
Music for Peace: The Pavillion. Benefit for children affected by war in Kosovo (through UNICEF). Call 492-1112.

Announcements
The Centre for Art Tapes is looking for individuals who wish to develop curating skills. The deadline for application is April 19th, 1999 and the project should be completed by August 1999. Call (902) 420 4580.

Works from the Sobeys Collection, by members of the Group of Seven Chrystal Clements — *Home is Where the Heart is* and *Jan Peacock* — *Video Installations*, are now on display in the Dal Art Gallery.

Spring Exams! The Spring Exam schedule is now on the web. The URL is: <http://www.registrar.dal.ca/exam>.

Help a Newcomer Adapt to Canada. The Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association invites you to join its volunteer tutor programme. Volunteers are matched with new Canadians to provide them with language practice. Call 423-3607 for info.

Queen Elizabeth High School is presenting the musical *Pyjama Game* from April 15 to April 17 at 8pm. Tickets are \$8 for students and \$5 for seniors. Call 421-6797 for info.

The Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia is celebrating its 51st year and is having a Spring Show at 8pm in the Burke Auditorium at SMU on Saturday, April 24. Admission is Free.

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary be praised, adored and glorified every day throughout the world. Amen. Say 6 times a day for 9 days and remember to promise publication and your prayer will be answered no matter how impossible it may seem to you before the 9th day. G.C.W.



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The Bluenose Cat Club will be hosting their 27th and 28th Championship and Household Pet Cat Show on Saturday April 17 and Sunday April 18 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex.

Cardiac Information Session — held every month on the second Wednesday from 1-3pm on the 2nd Floor, Rm 2012, Halifax Infirmary, Summer Street.

A Maritime Cycling Adventure will take place from August 19 to September 2. Join 20 university students from across the country in an exploration of your world and world view. The trip will be from Fredericton to Halifax. Contact Kevin at jolly@istar.ca. Sponsored by the Navigators.

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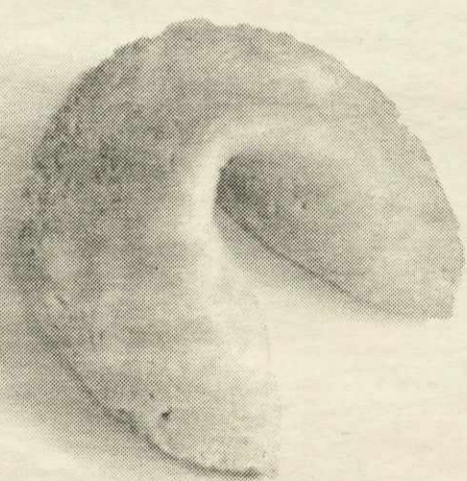
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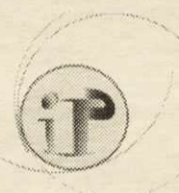
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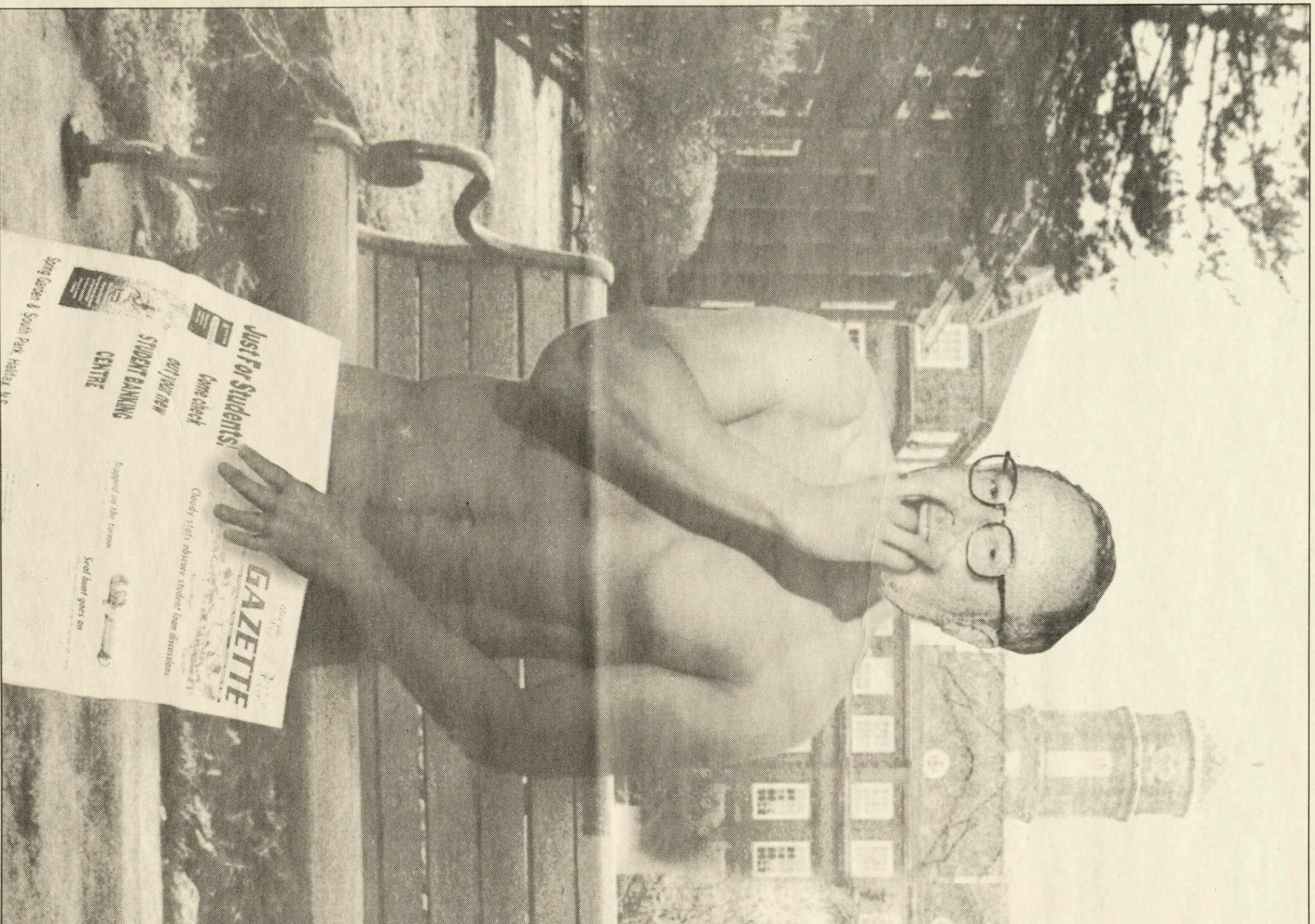
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