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Dalhousie University Student Newspaper

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> pg.11



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DSU Dalhousie Student Union

11th Annual Charity Ball
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PRESENTS

TACKLES
and
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JANUARY 28, 2001

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AND

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National News

from the Canadian University Press newswire
by Wendy Sawatzky

Alberta college considers mandatory laptops

CALGARY (CUP) — Mont Royal College administration is considering a mandatory laptop computer program, despite more than 70 percent of students rejecting the idea two years ago because of the extra cost, which is estimated at an extra \$700 per student per semester.

Administrators at the college have been talking about a laptop program for about three years. But while increasing accessibility to computer labs used to be the main motive, today a laptop program would help alleviate some of the college's cost of keeping computer labs upgraded, says the chair of the college's information technology advisory committee.

Although talks about laptops will continue over the next few months, college administration says there is no formal plan at this time. The college's student association plans to conduct another survey of students, and possibly faculty, to find out what they think about the idea.

The University of Western Ontario, Laval University, Montreal University, Sheridan College and Algonquin College all have programs where laptops are mandatory. Acadia University is the only post-secondary school in Canada that requires every student to carry a laptop. With a \$5,805 price tag, it also has the highest tuition in Canada.

Students planning to sue York University over strike

TORONTO (CUP) — A group of students are planning to launch a class-action suit against York University's administration for compensation of losses suffered as a result of an 11-week strike.

The York Federation of Students says the strike by teaching assistants, graduate assistants and contract faculty, which was settled last week, cost students a lot of money — and the university is accountable. A representative said many students are concerned that they won't be able to come back next year or finish the year.

The student association is asking students to calculate the cost of damages, including additional rent, changes in travel plans, loss of summer employment and additional care costs, on their Web site. The lawsuit would not be launched by the student union, but by individual students or groups of students.

York president Lorna Marsden says the university has not been served with notice of a lawsuit. She would not comment further on the issue.

This is not the first time that the university has faced such a suit. After the 1997 faculty strike, a student launched a class action lawsuit asking for a refund for the lost class time. The student lost his case when a judge ruled the value of an education couldn't be measured by the exact amount of time spent in a classroom.

University of Manitoba soon to offer midwifery degree

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The University of Manitoba could be offering a four-year baccalaureate degree program in midwifery through the faculty of nursing as early as September 2001.

The program would be the second of its kind in Canada, if it wins the approval of the university's board of governors and Manitoba's Council on Post-Secondary Education.

Midwives provide women with comprehensive prenatal and neonatal care and allow them to deliver their babies at home, if they so desire. Recent legislation allows midwives to register in the province, but only McMaster University currently provides a degree program. Many midwives have come from outside Canada, mainly from other Commonwealth countries and the United States.

Wine bottles replace books in new library

VANCOUVER (CUP) — While most students look for books in libraries, those venturing into a new library at the University of British Columbia next fall will find row after row of wine bottles.

The new wine library — one of only a few in the world — will allow the on-campus BC Wine Research Centre to test the effects of aging on B.C. wines. Construction on the library is scheduled to begin within the next two months with an expected completion date in mid-summer. The library will have the capacity to store 30,000 bottles.

The research centre is currently soliciting bottles of wine from BC wineries for the library. Researchers are also asking the public to donate vintage international wines for a tax refund, so BC's wines can be chemically compared to distinguished international wines. The goal of the research is to learn how the local wine industry can improve its techniques.

Ontario students call millennium scholarships confusing

TORONTO (CUP) — Some Ontario students say they were confused by a letter from the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation in late December promising a \$3,000 cheque.

What the letter didn't explicitly say was that the \$3,000 bursary would replace all or some of their Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP) loan disbursement for the winter term.

Last year, the Ontario government chose to apply the bursary to students' outstanding loans — effectively paying down OSAP debts. This year, students were told they would get a cheque for up to \$3,000.

Because the letter said, "The total amount of your funding will not change," some students thought they would receive an extra \$3,000 on top of their OSAP loans. They say they didn't apply for other bursaries or scholarships, or for part-time jobs, because of the expected extra money.

The federal Millennium Scholarship Foundation gives \$285 million in bursaries each year to students who have the greatest financial need in every province and territory. It's ultimately up to the provinces to decide on the disbursement methods. Students from other provinces were notified by mail that they would receive bursaries, but not all of them were told they would receive a cheque.

A Millennium Scholarship Foundation spokesperson admits the letter was somewhat confusing, but says the foundation will work on that.

Letter directs responsibility for native schools onto government

by neeti tomar
the gazette

A number of high ranking intellectuals and academics have publicly criticized the government for its role in Native Residential Schools. A letter signed by a number of Canadian university professors, researchers, and students of Native history across the country was sent to Herb Gray, the Liberal governments' Special Representative of church organizations involved in matters affiliated with Indian residential schools. The letter was sent to Gray after his being appointed in early Sept., and was printed in the Jan. 15, 2001 issue of *The Globe and Mail*.

The letter, started by Donald Smith, a professor of history at the University of Calgary, encourages the federal government to take on a larger responsibility than it has previously taken on for problems that have arisen as a result of poor treatment towards children in native residential schools.

"The problems which arose

were primarily because the government never gave enough money, never awarded enough or granted enough resources for these schools to operate in a way where they could hire very well qualified staff. The government failed to monitor the schools. They weren't inspected properly, and we've heard the terrible stories about how there was tuberculosis and so on and so forth. This is absolutely true, but they should have had monies for the proper health care," said Janet Shute, research associate for Dalhousie University's School for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, who signed and contributed to the letter.

The letter states that, "the current 60-40 allocation of financial responsibility... recommended by the courts is too onerous and unfair. The primary financial responsibility belongs with the federal government."

Without there having been any response to the letter on Gray's part, a copy was sent to *The Globe and Mail*.

"We thought adequate time had passed for a reply and that perhaps it was probably correct time to hand the letter on to a broader audience," said Shute.

Shute expresses that the purpose of the letter is to emphasize the importance of a refocus in liability.

"So it was to redirect responsibility, not wholly from the churches because the churches aren't responsible, we're not saying that, but it should be redirected onto the government at this point."

Shute stresses that the most effective way to resolve the issue is a redirection in financial responsibility from churches and native communities to the government.

"[This would] also help the native communities which are in bad need of this kind of help and are not getting the money needed because the churches can't pay... Churches are giving as much as they can give. More money is needed... we're saying that the government should give more money."

Snow can't cool the gardening spirit

NSPIRG members make plans for future of organic garden

by jay nathwani
the gazette

You might think that this would be a strange time to talk about gardening, considering that Halifax is covered in a thick blanket of snow. But the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) is already making plans for the future of its organic garden.

NSPIRG has been cultivating a garden since 1996, but it has been faced with many challenges since then. Janet Burt-Gerrans, a member of the board of directors of NSPIRG and a volunteer in the garden, says that two years ago, Dalhousie erected a house on the location they had been using as a garden, relocating them to a patch behind the History building. The university threw in a dilapidated shed as an indication of goodwill, but it couldn't quite compensate for the fact that there was only one inch of soil. (The carrots were somewhat stunted.)

Last summer, much of the volunteers' time was spent building raised beds — putting wood around the garden to allow them to fill in soil, deepening the garden. In addition to improving growing conditions, they hope that this will make it less likely that the university will drop a house on them, again.

The garden grows a variety of good food, including lettuce, tomatoes, strawberries, herbs, green peppers, spinach, zucchini, and carrots. Their experiment with corn last year was less than successful because of a late planting, but the group

perseveres.

People's motivation for joining the project varies, says Burt-Gerrans. "Some people like to garden. Some see value in green space and in working the earth. And some people just want good food to eat." She admits that she's part of the latter group.

The garden is completely organic. Ms. Burt-Gerrans says, "We don't use pesticides or artificial fertilizers. If we fertilize with manure, we try to make sure that it's from a cow that's been fed organically." This can be a challenge, she admits.

The garden is also run cooperatively. "Decision-making is completely by consensus." All the volunteers work the entire garden, and after harvest everyone who's worked on the garden gets to take some of the crop home.

The growing season can be incompatible with many students' schedules. Ms. Burt-Gerrans says, "One of the main problems is having consistency in membership because there are a lot of students who can't stay for the summer, then they don't always come back."

NSPIRG is a student-run

and -funded organization that funds research and operates working groups, with a focus on issues of social justice and the environment. The garden was the initiative of some of the members. While it is technically just one of the working groups operated by NSPIRG, it has a somewhat special character.

The group is now planning for the next growing season, and is open to anyone who's interested in being involved or who's simply interested in learning more about gardening. The next meeting is on Feb. 5 at 7pm in the NSPIRG office on the third floor of the SUB. Planting will start after the last frost, probably at the end of April, and continue well into May.



Stopping the Presses

Student Union cuts at Mount Saint Vincent threaten student newspaper

by andrew gillis

the gazette

With no Student Union funding this year, the Mount Saint Vincent University student newspaper, *the Picaro*, may be on its way out.

The Mount Saint Vincent University (MSVU) Student Union gives 40-60 percent of the paper's budget. The loss of funding leaves Melissa Melanson, Editor-in-Chief of *the Picaro*, in the awkward position of trying to find a replacement for the \$15,000 it receives from the MSVU Student Union.

With the sudden loss of 60 percent of the entire budget, Melanson feels that the future doesn't look good for the paper.

"From their position they are not funding us because they don't have the money," Melanson said. "It really isn't feasible for a school our size to have a paper without funding. We print 3,000 issues every two weeks. In order for us to have money on top to cover more than just our printing costs, we'd have to run a paper that is extremely small and almost entirely advertising. That isn't a quality product for our students."

We are the only form of student media on campus. So as far as voicing student concerns, we are it. There is nothing else. And really, why shouldn't Mount Saint Vincent have a newspaper?"

The Picaro staff was assured by the MSVU Student Union throughout the summer and school year they would be

receiving money, but during a union meeting in December, a budget was passed and "beside *the Picaro* was a zero. So the union changed their mind at some point," says Melanson.

Melanson says that the union money covers only the printing costs, and does not cover staff honourariums and other occurring bills.

Melanson hasn't been paid thus far all year.

Colette Nickerson, President of the MSVU Student Union, says expenses occurred by past Union executives, combined with other reasons, is why *the Picaro* didn't receive funding this year.

"I don't think that we should say *the Picaro* is the only place that we cut the funds," Nickerson says. "Funds were cut in every single line item in our budget."

Nickerson was quick to point out the tensions created because of the move. She says that the situation is being made to look like a Student Union vendetta against *the Picaro*.

"I don't want it to look like we targeted *the Picaro* because of a personal relationship, which is what it is being made out to be," Nickerson said.

Nickerson noted that the existing contract between the Student Union and *the Picaro* was only agreed in principle, and part of that contract states they would pay for 40-60 percent of their operating budget. That contract was breached last year, Nickerson says, in several different ways. The main breach

being *the Picaro's* failure to raise the 40% of their budget not covered by the Student Union.

"We ended up giving them over \$25,000," Nickerson said. "Meanwhile they only raised \$1,800 by themselves. So, I think a lot of the blame and responsibility has to lie with the paper right now. It's a real messy situation."

"Basically they have been sitting down there waiting for handouts, and that is not really the attitude to have. Not only that but our student newspaper has not been run in a fashion that you would expect, but they haven't been accountable to us."

Melanson says that the amount the Student Union credits to giving *the Picaro* in the past is ridiculous.

"It's completely absurd," Melanson said. "The Student Union doesn't want people to look internally. It is not like we have that much money to take care of. We can't make up for what past years did. It was the responsibility of that year's student union to keep watch of their funds. Now we are being punished for it."

"We are doing what we can right now to be proactive in our situation and our budget," says Nickerson. "I want the budget broken down on a piece of paper showing where the money is spent."

Canadian aid in El Salvador

by sofia kalormakis

the gazette

As Salvadorians try to reconstruct their devastated country and emergency aid from countries like Canada pours into El Salvador, local and international authorities wonder how many years it will take to rebuild the country from last week's earthquake.

Jennifer Guralnick, a St. Mary's University IDS graduate who works as an Urban Planner in a San Salvador neighbourhood said the municipality were she lived alone is struggling to meet the devastation.

"More than 1,003 houses were destroyed completely, 7,021 people are virtually destitute. About 80 percent of these people are children, nine percent are elderly and one percent are pregnant women."

Ottawa offered about \$1 million in help hours after the earthquake hit on Jan. 13. The disaster killed more than 700 people and left thousands homeless, causing \$ 1.5-billion in damage-nearly half the country's annual budget.

For Jose Enrique Perez, the mayor of Comasagua, his priority

lies in finding latrines, mattresses and tents for the emerging refugee camps that now replace his former hilltop town, he said in an interview with *the Globe and Mail*.

Comasagua is in ruins, as are the all the processing plants for the coffee industry while most of the local coffee pickers are without homes.

"I want to rebuilt part of it," Perez said to *the Globe and Mail* on Friday, "but it depends on the help we get."

Small tremors continue to shake the region and disturb the villagers now living in refugee camps set up by the government. Several more tremors hit Sunday.

"The aftershocks are at present estimated to be over 900 in just three days, causing 20 landslides at the municipal level alone since the initial quake," Guralnick said.

Despite the aftershocks, Red Cross trucks continue to rumble along dirt roads to get help to the hardest hit places.

No one expects the small villages to be rebuilt in days, even months.

In Santa Tecla, for instance, where workers continue to dig through mountains of mud looking for bodies, a truck arrives filled with shovels, gloves and other equipment donated by Canada.

As the CBC described it, the extent of the devastation to El Salvador is plain to anyone who travels the treacherous 45-kilometre road from San Salvador to places like Comasagua, where walls of sandy earth loom above the single-lane road carved into steep hillsides.

A week after the 7.6-magnitude earthquake and the landslides that followed, the road has been cleared and emergency work has begun in earnest. Last Thursday, convoys of trucks bringing soldiers, food and building materials passed houses reduced to rubble and women bearing loads of goods on their heads.

Guralnick insists that the needs of the people of Olocuilta, in La Paz are very urgent indeed.

"Many have been left destitute and the number of casualties continues to rise," Guralnick said.

The Salvadoran Canadian Association in Toronto was packing up supplies of clothing and food on Sunday. The group has also collected more than \$26,000 in cash over the past week.

The association hopes to send the private donations to Central America in the next few days.

Files from *The Globe and Mail*, CBC news and CUSO.

Do You Have the Flu?

Dr. Sullivan's laboratory at the Department of Psychology at Dalhousie University is looking for participants who are currently experiencing cold/flu symptoms. If you are interested in participating, please contact Kris, Stacey, or Nadine at Dr. Sullivan's lab at 494-5178 or by email at kdevouly@is2.dal.ca.

You will receive \$15 to compensate for your time and inconvenience or if you are a PSYO 1000/1001 student you may choose to receive 4 credit points toward your final grade.

Approved on October 12, 2000. Code # F00.9.MS.
Principal Researcher: Dr. M. Sullivan
Co-Investigators: K. Devoulyte, BA, S. Laskis
Lab Coordinator: N. LeGier MA

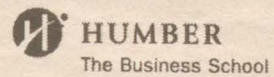
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Banquet et soirée
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le 9 février

- Rencontre avec le directeur, les professeur.e.s et les étudiant.e.s du département des Sciences de l'éducation
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Jan 25 - Feb 2

Award-winning poet Jeanette Lynes will have a public reading in the 5th floor of the Killam Library Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 494-3615.

Our Town will be presented by the Dalhousie Theatre Department on Feb. 7 and Feb. 10 at 8PM. Tickets are \$5 for students and seniors, \$10 regular.

Free Movie Night: Dying to be thin will be held Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at Vinnies Pub at MSVU. Call 457-6232 for more information.

Dalhousie Music Department presents pianist **Robin Harrison** on Feb. 9 at 7 p.m. in Room 121 Of the Dalhousie Arts Centre. Dalhousie student tickets are \$5, audience tickets are \$15. For information call 494-2418.

Doctors Without Borders is presenting an informational evening with **Lloyd Cederstrand** at the Daltech Sexton Memorial Gymnasium, Common room, Jan. 31 at 7PM.

View from the Ground: Toward a Just Peace in the Middle East will be held Jan. 25 at 7:30PM in room 105 Of the Weldon Law Building.

Save a Whale and drink beer at the T-Room, Jan. 27, in support of right whale research.

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CD REVIEWS



Staggered Crossing — S/T
(Warner Music Canada — WEA)

It's not particularly bad, but then it's not particularly good, either. Not particularly worth recommending for fear of reprisals and the loss of friends, but not quite bad enough to pawn, at least not yet. I suspect that in a different context, like, say, the bar or driving across town and hearing a single, it might sound pretty good. I am, however, not accepting any wagers.

At times they sound kinda like, well, wholesome Canadian rock (that is to say, generic Canadian rock), with a bit of "Extreme" (or is that Exxxtreme?) thrown in for good measure. Hell, fuck it. Don't waste your time, unless, say, you like the Counting Crows — then why not go for it? You're probably too fargone to save anyway. Jason



Rockell — Instant Pleasure
(BMG)

Brown eyes, big tits, sweet ass and a porn star's mouth — how could this be anything less than the greatest album since Miles Davis' Kind Of Blue? Hell, she's opened on not just one Backstreet Boys tour, but now an incredible two! Yes, two Backstreet Boys tours! Holy cow, she must be good!

If you haven't heard this at Merrill's or The Liquor Dome yet, speak to the management. There is simply no excuse for not having this playing in heavy rotation. By not doing so, bar owners may be messing with some serious karma. This album must top the charts immediately, if only to avoid dire consequences for us all. Get some instant pleasure for yourself, or be like me and practice your patience — go see her live at the Moore Catholic High School on Staten Island in March. It will be well worth your time and money. Jason

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NEW SERVICE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS!

The Student Employment Centre, through Dalhousie Career Portfolio Project, is introducing a new service for graduate students. Graduate Student Employment Services (GSES) is being developed to deliver comprehensive career development and employment services to graduate students. **GSES is now in the developmental stage and your input is important as the service evolves in response to student and employer needs.** Contact the GSES Coordinator, Quenta Tynes 494-2688, E-mail: quenta.tynes@dal.ca, SUB 4th Floor

WAL-MART CANADA

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATES FROM PREVIOUS POSTING

Presentation: "Launch Your Career Successfully"
Wednesday, February 07, 2001 - Room 307, SUB
Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm. (Interviews: Feb 8)

(See job posting for further details. Must sign up to attend)

Camp Winadu and Camp Danbee, Camps located in Western Mass. USA, will be on campus on January 31, 2001 for a drop in Information Session.
Camp Winadu - Room 307, 11:00 - 3:30 pm, SUB
Camp Danbee - Room 316, 11:00 - 3:30 pm, SUB

Looking for students with skills in all land and water sports, art, photography, computers, nature. Also openings for office and clerical work. (See job posting on Student Employment Centre website for more details)

Graduate View 2000 is a benchmarking study that will provide employers with insight into how today's graduating university students reflect upon contemporary employment issues. The survey is designed to examine a number of areas, including - Attitudes - Demographic make-up - Perceptions of industries and companies - Media habits and much more If you are in or nearing your final year (graduating in 2000, 2001, or 2002) of a Business, Computer Science or Engineering program we want your view. Please visit www.graduateview.com

The Importance of the Alternative Press

The end of the Picaro may lead to the end of much more

Mount Saint Vincent University may not have a student paper for much longer. To lose *the Picaro* would be a huge loss because it is the only student media on campus and thus is the only forum for students at the Mount to voice opinions and concerns.

Its demise is the result of muddled finances within the paper itself and the MSVU student union. Ultimately, it has to be seen that the end of *the Picaro* is at the hands of a student union that doesn't see the importance of student-alternative media.

Where does this mindset come from? Why would a student union view balancing books as more important than having a means for student communication? (Ironically, at the only university in Canada with a Bachelor of Public Relations degree.)

"To lose the Picaro would be a huge loss because it is the only student media on campus and thus is the only forum for students at the Mount to voice opinions and concerns."

Is it because the student union can't dictate to *the Picaro* what stories to publish and when they should be printed? Is it that the student union wants a rag to broadcast their agenda to the students at the Mount? (As it happens, at the same time the student union at the Mount stopped all funding to the completely autonomous *Picaro*, they have instigated funding a student union 'newsletter'.)

Could this be interpreted as the Student Union's attempt to replace *the Picaro*?

What students at the Mount, as well as at Dalhousie, need to understand is that the student press is an integral part of the university community. The student press can act as agents of change, as well as reflect the views and opinions of the university students and faculty. It is important that students defend and contribute to student media in order for it to work. Student media, and especially the student press, serves a unique purpose within a university community. It is the voice of the student, it is the vehicle for opinions to be heard, it is the bastion of discourse and the student's interpreter of news. Above all, as a student it is yours, you own it, you put fees into your student media and you deserve it to work.

Most people believe that student media outlets, organizations like *the Picaro*, will be around for ever. Students believe that the student newspaper is run by a few students in a closed group. It may look that way, but ask any member of any university student paper, whether in Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent or in University of

"What students at the Mount, as well as at Dalhousie, need to understand is that the student press is an integral part of the university community. The student press can act as agents of change, as well as reflect the views and opinions of the university students and faculty. It is important that students defend and contribute to student media in order for it to work."

Toronto, it is not the case at all. Student media works only when it is used by the university community, including students and faculty, and when the community contributes to the paper. It cannot be run only by a few for the many. It would not work.

We at *the Dalhousie Gazette* support the initiatives of our peers at *the Picaro* as they fight to survive as an independent, unbiased examiner at Mount Saint Vincent University. We support the continued existence of student journalism at the Mount. We believe that *the Picaro* plays an important role in the university like at Mount Saint Vincent. It is now time to act, whether students of Dalhousie, Mount Saint Vincent or the University of Toronto- any student, faculty or person interested in keeping an integral part of the Mount culture. We must act in protest to keep *the Picaro* alive.

It is time that we started to value the arts over budgets. It is now time to value culture over bank statements.

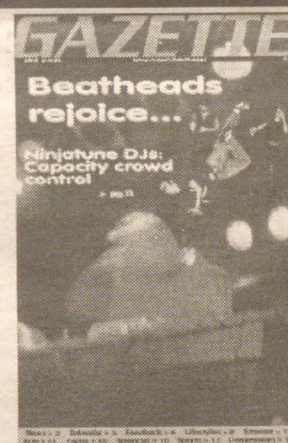
Andrew Gillis
Editor in Chief

SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR COMMENTARY

Email submissions to
commentary@Xweb1.com
or swing by The Gazette office.

Room 312 SUB.
Call 494 2507 for info.

The commentary section is an open forum aiming for pieces in the 1500 word area.



Rythm and reason

Ninjatune finally tests the waters in Halifax.
Photos by Pat Blackie.

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Volume 133, no. 16

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For advertising information, call 494-6532.

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 Feedback Editor. Letters may be edited for length above 300 words and we reserve the right to edit commentary.

All submissions must be e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a "text" format. 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 © 2000 the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. ISSN 0011-5819

is2.dal.ca/~gazette

Posters are a disgusting sight

To The Editor,

I find it upsetting to read in Malcolm Kempt's article 'Poster Wars' that he feels the City's new bylaw against posting advertising in public space threatens the existence of Halifax's arts community. His argument implies that patrons of the local art scene need to be reminded by public posters to support local artists. And without the posters, those patrons will be more vulnerable to the "mass produced and marketed corporate-arts culture". Upsetting is the fact that Kempt and opponents of the by-law equate local arts patrons with the targets of large advertising campaigns. Using a word like 'vulnerable' to describe those who make choices about the local art they wish to consume is an insult implying that they need protection and isolation from big-budgeted alternatives. Kempt's solution to this threat is the cheap and unsophisticated photocopy that jockeys for space on hydro-poles and vacant buildings. However,

advertising in this manner is the same technique of that 'corporate-arts culture' which employs the indiscriminate dissemination of its product. The ragged, rain-soaked posters wrapped around Halifax' hydro-poles are a disgusting sight. Fans of the local art scene should be treated as the discerning individuals they are. Rather than a roll of mailing-tape and a stack of photocopies, artists in Halifax will now have to utilise the taste-specific advertising options that exist such as this newspaper or The Coast. The City's bylaw does not have to be regarded by local artists and Kempt as a war on their expression. Mayor Peter Kelly represents the interests of those who desire a clean streetscape not an oppressive police state. By using the available options to street posters, artists can advertise their shows and express themselves in their art rather than their advertising.

Michael Bodnar

On the subject of "Poster Wars"

To the Editor,

I was quite distressed by your article entitled "Poster Wars" (Jan. 18, 2001) In it, the effect the local bi-law prohibiting posters on public property had on the local music scene was discussed. After reading this article I began to realize how much these posters contribute to the city. They reflect its creative diversity and help to remind us just how much artistic energy there is in Halifax We are bombarded by advertising everyday but at least this is one

form that can be of some use. I find it disheartening that because of this bi-law I can no longer plan my weekend while waiting for the lights to change, but I am still obligated to read advertising on a parking metre or look at Tampax poster while sitting on the toilet. I find this a total waste of the city's resources and sincerely hope that the local music scene will not suffer greatly because of it.

Shauna Powers

Leave the books alone

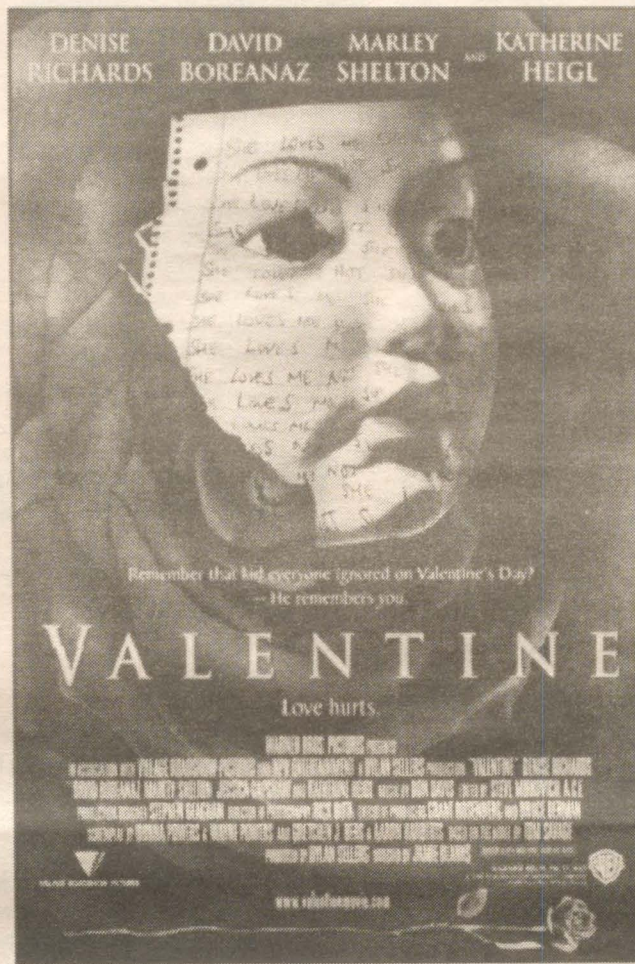
To the Editor,

As a part-time student here at Dalhousie I feel it's time I said something about the condition of the books I borrow from the library. This is not placing any blame on the staff at the library but rather on my fellow students. Please stop writing in library books! They are not your books rather

you are only BORROWING them from the library. Some of us would like to read these books without your comments in them. Do not high-lite passages in books, do not underline passages in books, do not write comments in the margins. These are not your books, rather they belong to the entire student body and they should be respected. You wouldn't mark in a book that one you

borrowed from a friend so please don't mark in books you borrow from the library. In the past five years I have borrowed a number of books from the Dalhousie library and I can honestly say that 90 percent of the books I have borrowed have been defaced in some way or another. Please stop this.

Nancy MacLeod



WIN MOVIE PASSES
to see
VALENTINE

Come to The Dandelion Café, Saturday Jan. 27 after 9pm, for a chance to win a pass for 2. Little Miss Moffat hosts an evening of live music.

Limit one pass/entry per entrant, quantities limited, winners will be randomly chosen during Little Miss Moffat event, winner must be on premises to claim prize, seating limited, \$2 cover charge to benefit performing musicians.

XWEB
communications group

THE DANDELION

Every Wednesday @ 9: Al Tuck & guests live.
Every Friday night: Dusty Sorbet live acoustic.
Every Saturday: Blue Grass Matinee @ 3-6. Little Miss Moffat hosts open mic @ 9.550 cash prize.

5986 Spring Garden. Great food, licensed.

THE GAZETTE
Halifax' student newspaper

Q U O T A B L E

- "A fuckin' common criminal at the age ay nine," ma Ma used tae moan. "Common criminal."
— Irvine Welsh, *The Maribou Stork Nightmares*.
- "The more abstract the truth is that you would teach, the more you have to seduce the senses to it."
— Friedrich Nietzsche, *Beyond Good and Evil*.
- "Dammit Jim, I'm a doctor, not an escalator."
— Dr. McCoy, *Star Trek*
- "Pan down, we need bush!"
— *Revenge of the Nerds*

RANT OR RAVE

The Man with his finger on the trigger

The most powerful man in the world. The man behind the man. The One who is 'given' an incredible amount of power most definitely needs a calm and steady hand when it comes down to the delicate issues of running the 'free' world. Only well thought out and carefully planned action can insure that North America is well fed. A person with such a responsibility needs to consider information from all aspects of the issues at hand.

The man with his finger on the trigger has been supporting the death penalty in Texas over the past years. It has been demonstrated that killing a criminal only prevents him from further criminal action and does not deter other people from committing violent crime. I.E.: In this country in 1976 the death penalty was abolished. In the years that followed the rate of violent crime (murders) went down. I wonder how years of forensic inquiry into the nature of crime and correction could have slipped by. Maybe George jr. can't read, maybe he likes to kill people.

Jeremy Sears

Have an opinion?
Got something to say?
Tell somebody who cares.

Send email to: gazette@is2.dal.ca subject heading set to "FEEDBACK," or swing by the Gazette office before Monday at 6pm to get in the next issue, room 312 SUB. 700 word limit, may be edited for clarity and length.

A Taste of Mexico

by **johneen manning**
the gazette

A trip to Mexico a few years ago opened my taste buds to the true experience of Mexican food. Contrary to what Taco Bell and the talking Chihuahua would have us believe, fajitas, burritos, and nachos are not a part of true

Mexican cuisine — Mexican-American food is a greasy, bastardized version of authentic Mexican food. Forget tacos, Tostitos, and cheese-smothered greasy nachos—indulge in the exotic spices and pungent flavours of home made authentic Mexican food. The diversity of Mexican cuisine goes far beyond

North American Mexican restaurants. Rather than what's served at the local two-for-one margarita joint, authentic Mexican cooking focuses heavily on soups, seafood, seasoned meats, and unique combinations of herbs, chiles and spices.

The Mexican palate evolved directly from the changing face of the country itself. It represents a combination of the native peoples' diet and culinary practices with those of the Spanish, which were introduced during the Spanish Conquest of Mexico. The pre-Columbian Mexican cuisine was based largely on the natives' corn-based diet, with a variety of indigenous chiles added to spice things up. With the arrival of the Spaniards, rice, olives, wine, and beef became an important component of Mexican food. Today, Mexican cuisine blends the original native traditions with the imported

Spanish flavours.

Both fresh and dried chiles are the heart of Mexican flavours. Dried chiles range from ancho to chipotle to guajillo, and fresh chiles include jalapeno and pasilla. Whether you want a subtle, smoky flavour or a fiery kick added to your dish, you'll always be able to find the right chile for the job. Classic Mexican spices include chili powder, cayenne pepper, paprika, oregano, cumin, fresh cilantro and epazote — a pungent native Mexican herb that you can pick up at a Mexican market.

The diversity of Mexican food is divided regionally due to historical, ethnic, and geographical factors, with each area of Mexico having a very distinct cuisine.

"You would think you've changed countries as you go from region to region," says Rick Bayless, author of *Rick Bayless's*

Mexican Kitchen (Scribner, 1996), "In Mexico, food is thought of as an integral element that holds family and culture together. You would never have a family or community get-together without a lot of regional specialties being served. Local dishes create a solidarity amongst the Mexican people."

One of Mexico's specialties is 'mole', a thick, sophisticated and complex sauce usually served over chicken or turkey. The colours of moles can range from pale yellow to bright green to jet-black, and they are made from a variety of ingredients that usually include unsweetened chocolate, sesame seeds and chiles. These famous sauces are so treasured by Mexicans that they are usually served only on special occasions.

Another regional specialty comes from Vera Cruz, on the Gulf Coast. Here you'll find 'pescado a la veracruzana' as the areas regional dish. Vera Cruz is known for its fish, and this entrée consists of red snapper sautéed with tomatoes, flavourful capers, and a wealth of spices.

Mexico's most famous soup, menudo, consists of tripe (stomach lining of a cow, pig or sheep), hominy (dried white/yellow corn kernels whose hull and germ have been removed), and chilli. The menudo is stewed for hours with garlic and other spices until the broth is rich and glistening with fat. This fiery soup is often consumed following a night on the town — its sinus-clearing powers are said to be the ultimate hangover cure.

Despite the complex and sophisticated flavours of Mexican cuisine, authentic Mexican food is not usually the work of an inventive chef.

"Mexico is not a restaurant culture," Bayless explains, "There are no restaurant chefs creating the newest, hottest thing."

No Mexican meal would be complete without that which is made from the heart of the land — the corn tortilla.

"Mexicans eat a half to a third of the weight of their food every day in tortillas," Bayless says, "Corn tortillas provide the basis to which all food is cast. They're like rice in Asian cooking because they create a palette for the food."

Please do not confuse flour tortillas with the authentic corn-based staple. The flour tortillas sold in Canada and the U.S. were created as an easier-to-produce alternative, but they really don't cut it. Too often, corn tortillas purchased in North America supermarkets taste like salted cardboard — especially those 'low-fat' baked varieties. In Mexico, people usually make daily trips to the local tortilla factory to pick up a day's supply — fresh, supple, aromatic, and always corn.

Drop that taco and get a real taste of Mexico.

TORTILLA SOUP, MEXICAN STYLE

2 pasilla chiles, washed, seeded, de-veined plus 2 long pasilla chiles, all fried in a little oil
2 ancho chiles, washed, seeded, de-veined and fried in a little oil
4 medium tomatoes, peeled
1 white onion, sliced
4 cloves garlic, chopped
2/3 cup olive oil or corn oil
2 sprigs fresh cilantro
Salt, to taste

For the broth:

6 quarts chicken broth or beef broth

For the garnish:

2 cups vegetable oil
24 tortillas, sliced in thin strips and dried for 1 day
8 pasilla chiles, fried in a little oil
2 avocados, finely chopped
2 cups fresh cheese, such as panela or feta, finely crumbled
1 cup sour cream mixed with 1/4 half-and-half

In a blender or food processor, blend pasilla and ancho chiles with tomatoes, onion and garlic. Strain.

Heat oil in a stockpot. Pour blended chile mixture into a pot and fry until it thickens and fat rises to the surface. Add cilantro. Mix in the boiling broth and long pasilla chiles. Salt to taste and simmer for 25 minutes.

To serve, pour soup into a large bowl. Divide tortilla strips among individual bowls. Ladle soup over tortilla strips. Serve chiles, avocado, cheese and sour cream mixture in separate bowls, allowing guests to season soup to taste.

Prepare the garnish: Heat oil in a frying pan and fry tortilla strips until crisp. Drain on paper towels and sprinkle with salt.

Yield: 8 servings

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cooking Time: 40 minutes



Vanessa's Closet

advice from someone
completely unqualified
by *vanessa owen*

Dear Vanessa,

I have known a certain girl for several years, on a very casual basis. I bumped into her in the mall one night and just had to ask her out on a date. She accepted, and offered me her phone number, and wrote mine down. The night after we met in that store, I left a small bouquet of flowers on her car with a card that read just that I was thinking about her and hoped she was having a good day at work. The night before we were supposed to do something, I call and leave a message asking her to give me a call when she gets off work. The next day, I give her another call around noon. She doesn't pick up the phone. I try again a few minutes later, but still no answer. I call again that evening, and I leave a message asking her to give me a call sometime whenever she gets a chance. The girl is very busy. She works in the evening on weekdays and Saturday, works all day Sunday, goes to school during the day, and has only one day off a week. I know her life is very hectic, and she probably feels like she is too busy for a relationship, but I can't help but try.

It has been several days since then, and still no word. I'm a bit confused. She gave me her number, acted like she wanted to do something, but when I call she doesn't answer, and when I leave messages, she ignores them. Being too busy to go on a date is one thing, but ignoring calls and messages is rude.

Numerio Zero

Dear Zero,

Your first mistake was not following the four-day-rule. Simply put, you NEVER call a girl who has given you her number until after four days have gone past. If you REALLY like her, you can call on the third day...but no earlier. Your second mistake was being a bona fide stalker. Leaving flowers on her car — how did you know where she was parked?, knowing her work and school schedule so well even though you had only known her on a 'casual' basis and calling her so much in one day is just plain wrong! The girl may have been interested when she gave you her number, but after this blatant display of desperation and mental deficiency, I wouldn't be surprised if she disconnects her phone and moves to another town!

Dear Vanessa,

I am 21 years old and have a best friend who is the same age. We are pretty good looking girls, smart enough, confident enough. What I am trying to say everything is fine except our love life. We want the kind of man who comes up to you and says I find you very interesting and would be delighted to go out with you, not the kind of man who comes up to you and says your shoes are not shining — even though he likes you. Anyway the question is do you think someone like that exists? — of course he has to be at least a bit attractive.

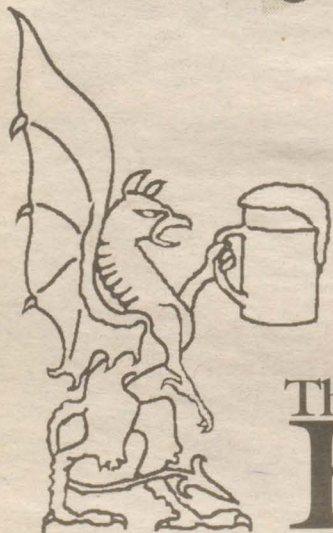
Looking For Love

Dear Lost,

I get letters like this all of the time, and my response is generally the same...women need to take more control when wanting to meet men and enter into relationships. Of course some men like that exist, but chances are, if a man has the confidence to take this sort of approach, which is a great approach, he does it a lot! And he would have to be of exceptional character if he does not get carried away with himself — read major ego — and he can limit this verbal talent to the attention of one woman — i.e. big time cheater. If you see guys that interest you walk up to them and say hi. Don't sit in the corner waiting for him to make the first move. Trust me guys think that this is a refreshing approach and they love it!

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The Gazette

Dear John, A.K.A Carl

by carlton sherwood
frappingsworth

the gazette

My name is Carlton Frappingsworth, and because I am an emotional tampon, women treat me like dirt. The emotional tampon, for those unfamiliar with the breed, is a rare and delicate strain of person whose empathy is so boundless, it cannot be contained by the icy constructs of traditional social dynamics. This is the cross I bear.

For me, the condition manifests itself primarily through a compulsion to pursue doomed relationships with deeply troubled women, who quickly pour countless gallons of psycho-sexual trauma into my super-absorbant psyche, then flush me like so much human kotex.

Here, I publish my "Dear John" letters for all to see. I only hope they can be as effective at entertaining you as they were at imploding my will to survive.

Dear Carlton,

I'm leaving you. Now that I'm healthy again, it's time for me to move on with my life, and even though you're a totally nice guy and stuff, I think I'm meant for someone who makes much more money than you do.

I want you to know that I really do appreciate everything you've done for me though. It was so sweet how you dropped out of medical school and took that job on the road crew to support me all those months I had the chronic fatigue syndrome. You, with that alabaster skin of yours — how it cracked and blistered under the July sun as you spread layer upon layer of tar around those pothole patches! I know it couldn't have been easy for you, what with all those burly steamroller drivers threatening you with misdirected homophobic violence. Please know that none of it was in vain though — the money you earned made it possible to feed me the fine cuts of meat, hydroponic produce and brand-name spaghetti sauces I needed to conquer my illness.

Yours was a selfless love, and for that I shall always cherish our time together, even though you often did smell of the earth.

Warmly, Suzanne

Dearest Carlton,

I really hate to break it to you like this, but I think you should cancel the

wedding. You see, I won't be there. Yes, I'm leaving you, and there's nothing you can do to make me change my mind. You're a very decent man Carl, and I'll always remember the kindness you showed me — how you listened intently and without fatigue all those months as I came to terms with my rejections from Vassar and Swarthmore. You gave me wonderful constructive criticism on my book of melancholy sonnets, and encouraged me as I spent countless hours updating my *Party of Five* and Morrissey web sites. All these things make it that much more difficult to abandon you in the middle of the night as I'm doing now. Since I've become pregnant with your baby though, an opportunity has presented itself — and I just can't pass it up. You see, two wealthy homosexual men have offered me \$25,000 in exchange for giving them your child. I have accepted their offer and am leaving tonight to go live in their tastefully decorated townhouse until I deliver in early May. They have promised me that the child will be well cared for, and are even allowing me to cast the tie-breaking vote on which Mexican houseboy will serve as nanny.

Thank you for the sperm—it has changed my life.

Fondly, Sarah

Carl,

I know this will be a really bad surprise to you, but I am breaking up with you now. I want you to know, Carl — it is not you that is a problem, it is me that is a problem for us. I am not good enough for you. You are like a prince in a story book, and I am a horny

toad that if you kiss it, does not go *poof* and be a pretty princess just like that.

You have been real nice to me, Carl. Thank you for all the advice you was giving to me before. I think I needed that. You was very nice for your to listen to my stories about my brother Lloyd was always being mean to me when I was a kid with him. I am sorry that my tears dripped all on your new fancy shirts and you had to have the Chinese ladies wash them special. You was also very nice to go to his trailer and say to my brother that he should not be mean to me any

more like he was before. I am sorry that he broked all of those teeth of yours like he did because of that. That was not nice of Lloyd. And then when he broked your dentures after that. That was mean too.

I have maked so much trouble for you. But no more after now. Today I bought a scratchy lottery ticket though and I gotted the tax-free million. So now I can go away and you can be happy again. I hope you have a good Christmas time here at your job. I will send you a postcard from the island where Lloyd and me is buying the houses.

Kisses, Amy

TRAVEL CUTS & SIGNATURE

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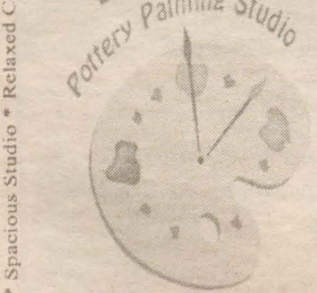
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STREETER ASKS THE IMPORTANT AND PRESSING QUESTIONS OF OUR TIMES, COAXING INSIGHTFUL, AH, INSIGHTS FROM DAL STUDENTS AND ANYONE ELSE WHO GETS IN THE WAY.

This week Streeter asks:
What do you want to be when you grow up, and, what is Dal doing to help or hinder that goal?



Shit. Is that a trick Question? Has yet to be determined.

Katie Hindmarch-Watson



Matthew Strader

Write. I don't know.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Vergin' Mary, according to Mark Bennett.



Elizabeth Goodyear

Professor of Poli-Sci. (They're not plowing the sidewalks, I'm going to slip and crack my neck.)

Scott McCormick

Mesmerizing Ventriloquist. It's not actually me talking.



Christine Thompson

A bum. It's sending me straight to that path.

Jeff Smeltzer

Lawyer. I really don't have anything to say.



JOEY the R-O-B-O-T 2001: A ROBOT'S ODYSSEY

BY: christopher hemswoth e-mail: joetherobot@yahoo.ca COPYRIGHT ©2001 CHRISTOPHER HEMSWORTH

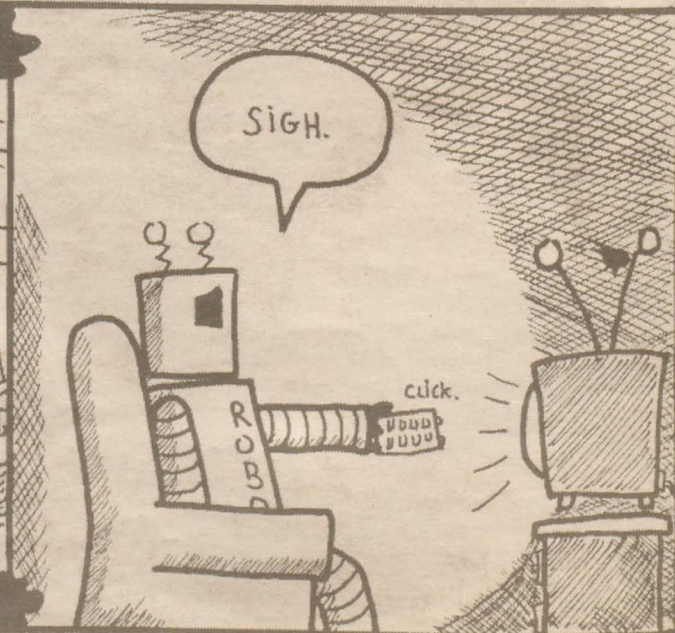
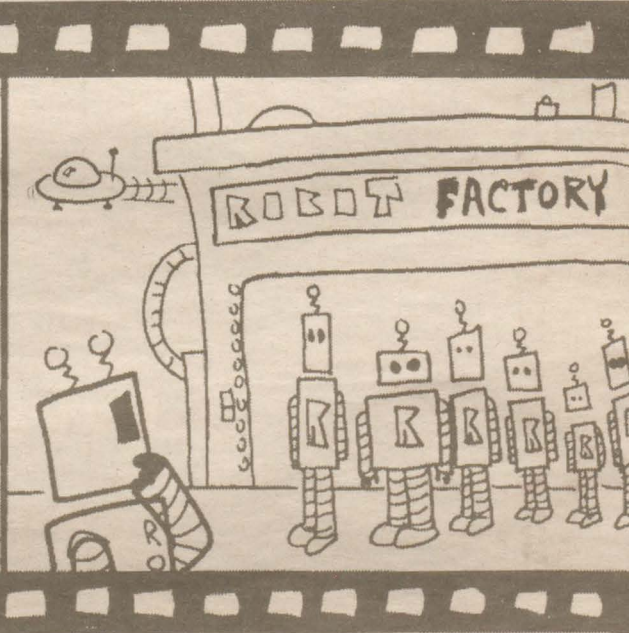
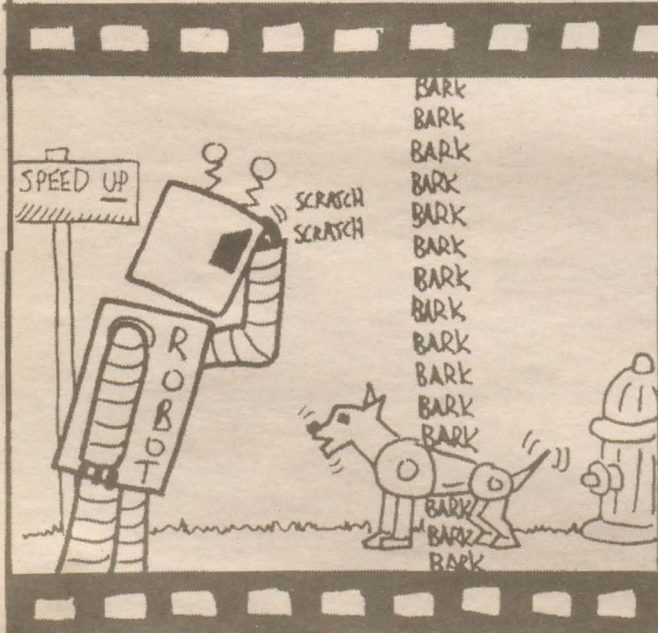
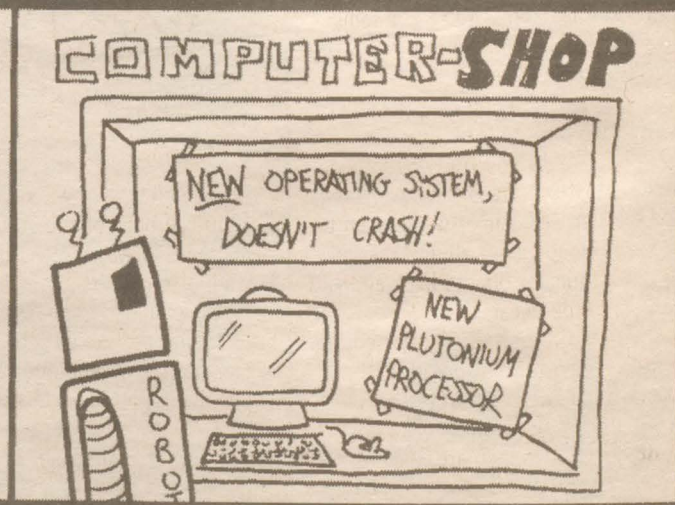
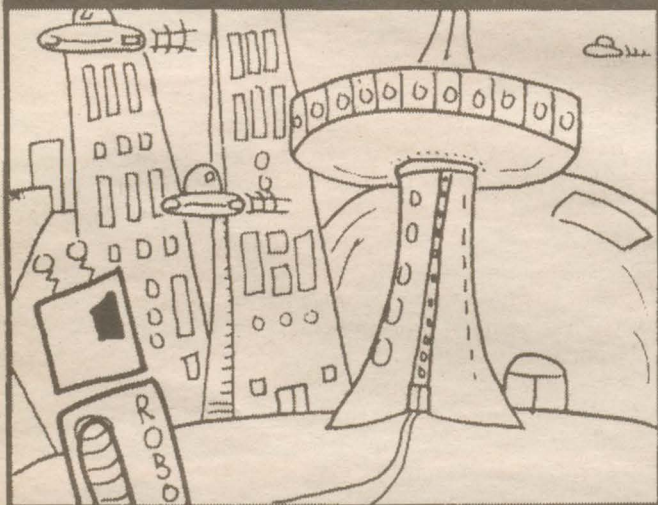




photo by jon elmer

A dynamic combination of beats and syncopation — UK DJ's take control

by **patrick blackie**

the gazette

Imagine that music was an ingredient, one that could be mixed with another to form its own creation. Imagine a cup of jazz, mixed by master chefs with a cup of pure hip-hop, and squirted over an eager audience of dedicated beat-heads for several consecutive hours.

UK deckmasters Johnny Cuba and the Loop Professor form Ninjatune's Dynamic Syncopation, a hip-hop duo that laid down serious beats during the DJ Olympics/Ninja Tune evening of musical mayhem at the Marquee last weekend. Although the dynamic duo are distinctly hip hop, the spirit of the music is definitely rooted in the improvisational depth of jazz, making for an impressive set of excellent beats and mixes.

"Originally, the name [Dynamic Syncopation] came from the back of a jazz record," says Ben, aka The Loop Professor. "We both grew up with hip-hop, but the jazz babble way of describing the music sounded good to us, so Dynamic Syncopation was how we described what we were doing."

The group's last album, *The Plan/Dedicated*, featured a number of skilled vocalists to accompany the thick and creamy beats laid down by the two childhood friends.

"We're working on a new album now," says Ben. "We've got some great up and coming MCs from the UK, and it is close to finished."

He continued to explain how the two find their music.

"We try and find good music, like most DJ's, to piece something together. Sometimes we'll listen to a small independent album, take a phone number off the back and call them to do vocals."

Ninja Tune, the UK-based label that supports the work of Johnny Cuba and The Loop Professor, is reputed to be a family of talented artists who collaborate and create

within the same community. The label carries artists like DJ/producer The Herbaliser, hip-hop institution Latyrx, as well as a host of other experimental artists like DJ Food and Cinematic Orchestra.

"People always ask us about the family spirit of Ninja, but it isn't quite like that. There is a community spirit, but that comes from the fact that every one is doing what they want musically. [Ninja Tune] is not focussed with selling music, just making music. They tell you to make the music you want to make," explains the Loop Professor.

Ninja Tune's philosophy is what makes it a good group of people to

work with, because everyone is making the music that they want, without a "company line to adhere to."

"If you brought something they didn't like, they probably wouldn't tell you to change it. You'd just have to do some arm twisting."

The creative control that Dynamic Syncopation has over their own music is a benefit that fans can get from the live show; a complete mastery of the beats that is impeded by nothing. True music can't be faked, and neither can the ability to pump life into a crowd with a dynamic combination of beats and syncopation.



photo by patrick blackie

Next up: Ninja Tricknology from DJ Food's Strictly Kev

by **jon elmer**

the gazette

Strictly Kev worked his way from the back of the stage at the Marquee forward to the decks, a long walk after the eyebrow-singeing set from Dynamic Syncopation. Instead of easing the crowd into the ambient jazztastical tricknology session that has made DJ Food's latest offering — *Kaleidoscope* — an international mark on the DJ scene, Kev decided to play the hand of the crowd and

busted into a scratch-happy edition of an aging 70's funk track. And he never really looked back. Not until about two and a half hours later, when he modestly ducked out giving way to label-mate Fink.

Performing alone on Saturday, but comprising one-half of the DJ Food team along with Patrick Carpenter (aka PC), Strictly Kev has been a Ninja Tune mainstay since well before years of now. In the Ninja Tune world domination scheme, which was enhanced by 1996's addition of a North American headquarters in Montreal, Kev holds down dual roles: one, as DJ-production master, and the other two as layout and design guru, responsible for the eye-pleasing ninja-paraphernalia that is gaining household recognition. According to Ninja-lore, after Kev re-styled the ninja logo in 1993, he told the ninja-brass: "How about letting me do everything then?"

Kev and PC have taken over the most confusing aspect of the label's movements — that of the DJ Food production outfit. Once a moniker for Jonathan More and Matt Black (more famously known as Coldcut) so they could produce a bevy of experimental breaks records — literally food for DJs. As the workload of the internationally sought Coldcut — who are also dually occupied with multi-media

photo by thomas edelson

continued on page 12

Baking cake with DJ Food & 22 Minutes

by **chris sullivan**

the gazette

Strictly Kev is a chef of sorts, one who can cook up one hell of a funky set. After listening to his set this past Saturday at the Marquee, it was my job to hear what he had to say about, well... anything at all.

After sneaking around the bouncers to get up on stage to talk with him, Strictly Kev, AKA Kevin Foakes and myself found a quiet room in the backstage area to chat, smoke and eventually get invaded upon by a well-known 22 Minutes character (sorry, no names).

For his finale, Strictly Kev played the well known Sesame Street song, "1,2,3,4,5,..." At that moment, the whole audience was taken back to their youth. This seems like a good place start the interview so I ask him where he got this extended re-mix of nostalgia.

Gazette — I heard your Sesame Street track. (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 etc.)

Strictly Kev — I licensed that from Sesame Street. It's coming out. It's never been out anywhere, ever and what I played tonight was a dub play re-edit that I did from a video tape master that they sent me.

Gaz — Do you like Dr. Seuss?

Strictly Kev — I do like Dr Seuss. I actually played a Dr. Seuss record tonight but you couldn't really hear it.

Gaz — What's your favourite Dr. Seuss story?

Kev — Probably... *Cat in the Hat*. Oh no wait. *Fox in Socks* — that's the one. There's a record of it. *Fox in Socks* is the kind of thing where you hear a record of it, the guy just says it and he's rhyming so fast, it's almost like rapping. Dr. Seuss for me is just like a sort of literary genius because he transcends the kids thing into the adult thing.

At this point, the 22 Minutes man enters the room and introduces himself. He asks me to turn off my Dictaphone.

Gaz — No, I can't.

22 Mins — Would you please because I'm actually in the room.

Gaz — I'm actually interviewing this guy here.

22 Mins — Yeah, but I'm in the room.

Kev — Yeah yeah, but we got here first.

22 Mins — I don't want to be recorded.

Kev — You can go.

A Friend of 22 Mins Guy — Leave those fucking guys alone.

Kev and 22 Minutes Guy start doing secret handshake-like things and singing Bob Marley songs.

Gaz — So how did Strictly Kev get the name Strictly Kev?

Kev — I was christened Strictly Kev by Coldcut actually on a bizarre trip to Amsterdam in '94. We smoked far too much weed and everything was prefixed with the word strictly. I mean everything. The number ten was prefixed with the word strictly.

We all get into a conversation about the merits of Dr. Seuss until I ask 22 Minutes about his favorite Dr. Seuss story.

Gaz — Do you like *Horton Hears a Who?*

22 Mins — Turn that the fuck off.

Gaz — How about the Lorax.

22 Mins — Turn that motherfucker off.

I tell him how I don't want a shitty band review and that his presence is really adding to the moment. He starts singing to us.

22 Mins — Non-Shitty Band Review, you made it so much better. You've made it so much better my non-shitty band review. 0000h 0000h!

22 Minutes continues his wonderful harmony in the background and I turn towards Strictly Kev.

Gaz — You like Halifax?

Kev — Yeah, I'll definitely come back here. I want to come back and play this summer.

Gaz — I heard you spent a few days here looking for records.

Kev — Yeah, I went to a bunch of shops around town and found some good things.

He lists off the shops he went to and I ask him about one certain over-priced record store.

Gaz — Did you find their prices outlandish?

Kev — Very, very. He wanted \$100 for a Timothy Leary record.

Gaz — Did you buy it?

Kev — Yeah right.

Strictly Kev promised me he'd tell his Ninja pals about how great Halifax is. Now we can only wait and pray that more Ninjas find their way into our city.

Underground initiations

by ryan delehanty

the gazette

Well I'm back with a second column after spending a week trapped in the Montreal Airport Hilton. It's cold and snowy, and I think everyone might need some cheering up.

So what will cheer you up this winter? How about getting some pure sunshine delivered straight to your mailbox. **Gene Defcon's** new album *Come Party With Me 2000* is limited to 2000 copies, and is easily available through the **K Records** website, www.kpunk.com/GeneDefcon/. Although local record stores aren't carrying it, you might be able to convince them to order it for you.

Gene Defcon left his home of Dallas, Texas in order to fulfill his dream of moving to Olympia and being in a band. Now his

dream has been fulfilled as members of **Tight Bros** from **Way Back When**, **Bikini Kill** and **Bangs** have joined forces with him. Unfortunately, according to his website he was the sole survivor when his rented yacht sunk during a pleasure cruise with his band mates. Luckily it turned out that this story was made up to explain why none of the old band is still in **Gene Defcon**.

Come Party With Me 2000 clocks in at 71 minutes with 47 songs about love, parties and even some social commentary.

Now that **Gene** has realized his dreams, he has a new and better dream that each and every one of us can help to fulfill: he wants a subscription to every magazine in the world. Such lofty ambitions are to be admired, and we can help, either by ordering his album or purchasing a magazine subscription to be sent

to **Gene Defcon Party Patrol Headquarters**, P.O. Box 7154, Olympia, WA 98507. For bringing such happiness to the masses the least **Gene** deserves in return is a measly magazine subscription.

There's a Canadian band gaining some attention these days with songs that are so sweet it's like pouring sugar in your ear. **The American Flag** conceptually began in 1995 while leader **Evan Weisblott** was still in high school. They only became an actual band back in 1999 when **Evan** began collaborating with a variety of musicians, among them **The Flashing Lights'** **Matt Murphy**. **Weisblott** recorded his first album for **Guided By Voices'** **Robert Pollard's** record label **Rockathon Records**, and has also helped **Pollard** with the artwork for the **Guided By Voices** *Hold on Hope* EP, and the **GBV** *Suitcase*. So far the band has released a self titled album available as a single CD, or paired in a double CD with their second release, the *Just Like Friends* EP which was initially commissioned by a Japanese record label as they have already met with some substantial success abroad. All their success is completely deserved, as they take elements of **Guided By Voices** and bands like **The Elephant 6 Collective** like **The Apples in Stereo**, and

added a heaping of bubblegum to make the sweetest and catchiest tunes that'll have you getting your insulin injections prepped. One of their songs even sounds suspiciously similar to the classic "The Candyman Can," and we have more treats to look forward to as **Evan** and his pals are going back to the studio in March to record some more sweet aural candy.

Last week while I was away hip-hop geniuses and former *In Living Color* dancers **The Pharcyde** released *Cydeways — The Best of the Pharcyde*. The album features previously unreleased songs, 14 other songs from the previous releases. This is a great album to pick up as their first release 1992's *Bizarre Ride II The Pharcyde* is extremely hard to find and the new greatest hits album is the easiest way to get your hands on a lot of those songs. Also out now is **Rainer Maria's** new album *Better Version of Me*, and **The Gossip** have finally released a full length album titled *That's Not What I Heard* on **Kill Rock Stars**. **The Gossip's** four song EP was excellent and landed them a spot

supporting **Sleater-Kinney** on tour, even joining them onstage at times to perform **Jefferson Airplane's** classic "White Rabbit". Also out this week are a couple great music DVD's, **The Who's** *30 Years of Maximum R&B*, and **The Residents** *Icky Flix* should both be available online, and if you're lucky maybe in a local record shop. On January 30th look for **Frank Black and The Catholic's** *Dog in the Sand*, which he is currently touring to support, although Montreal is the closest he's getting to us. Also out on the 30th is **Le Tigre** *From the Desk of Mr. Lady*, **Low** *Things We Lost in the Fire*, **Japancakes** *Sleepy Strange*, and the **Boredoms** *Vision Creation Newsun*. Also on the horizon are new albums from **Tortoise**, **Arab Strap**, **Guided By Voices**, **Mogwai**, **Mouse on Mars**, **Portastatic** and more that I'll get into as we near their release.

If you have any comments, questions or insults please send them to undergroundinitiations@hotmail.com they will all be greatly appreciated.

Ninja Tricknology

continued from page 11

installations - became too much, the metamorphosis of DJ Food became necessary. Enter Kev who

played an integral role in the production of the DJ Food *Jazz Breaks* series, and then PC a frequent contributor to the recordings as well.

While the latest record is a conceptual soundtrack-ride of blissful ambient jazz and production laden magic, what Kev treated the 400 or so hundred in attendance to on Saturday was a conventional mission of pure DJ tradition.

He happily surfed through his quiver of wax, constantly cycling an eclectic mix of rare, ultra-rare and absolutely unheard of tracks - including what a solid source identified as an-obscure Sixtoo gem that would not be found in too many record collections. If the kids didn't recognize the tracks he was working with, the wizardry that was coming through the speakers was satisfying even the most confused of folks.

It's fair to say that there was a slight letdown because of the absence of the aforementioned ambient-jazz bliss. It is also fair to say that it would have been difficult to leave the Marquee on Sunday morning without an expanded appreciation for the multifaceted musical revolution that is being spawned by the workings of the Ninja Tune quest for world supremacy.

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Summer studentships in cancer research and care

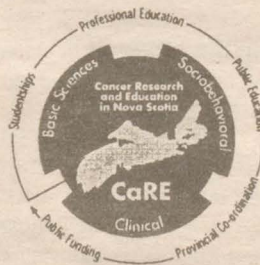
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Reel Life

by mark evans

the gazette

The Gift

The Gift is Sam Raimi's latest film, a murder-mystery about the goings-on in a small Georgian town. A stuck-up young socialite (Katie Holmes) has been reported missing, and she soon turns up dead. Nearly all the other townspeople both had the motive and opportunity to kill her, but the killer gets quickly apprehended and put in jail and justice is served. Or is it?

So far *The Gift* sounds like your average crime story. However, the police locate the body based on the psychic visions of Annie Wilson (Cate Blanchett), an unassuming mother of three who operates a simple, no frills fortune telling service from the back of her house. She doesn't believe in being showy or demanding money for her services, but she's more than willing to help the skeptical police.

Ok, so now *The Gift* sounds like an average supernatural thriller. And while parts of *The Gift* are familiar and poorly done, it manages to deliver above-average entertainment. A large part of this comes from the cinematography. Sam Raimi does some of his best directing here. The way Annie's gift is portrayed onscreen is simple, yet effective, and he perfectly illustrates the decadent and ominous nature of Georgia's bayous right from the opening shots.

These great shots do a good job of distracting from the story, which starts out like a gripping drama, segues into an interesting mystery, then dissolves by the end into a string of horror movie clichés. Once it becomes so obvious who the murderer is that they might as well have it tattooed on their foreheads. Annie suddenly loses all of the common sense she displayed during the earlier parts of the movie and starts making the kind of stupid mistakes one expects from the dumber horror franchises.

The film marginally redeems itself with a very clever little twist right at the end which, although not wholly original, goes a long

way towards making up for the more lackluster portions of the denouement.

The identity of the murderer was a bit of a shock to me, even though, as I mentioned, it becomes glaringly obvious before the film finally reveals that fact. I had actually pegged the wrong person for most of the movie, which is what I liked. I enjoy a movie that can surprise me like that. There are red herrings being thrown around all over the place and by throwing suspicion on everybody in the film *The Gift* cleverly keeps its ending a secret.

The acting in *The Gift* is mostly top-notch. Keanu Reeves turns in the best performance he's ever done; for once he seems like a human being rather than animated cardboard. He plays the wife-beating redneck Donnie Barksdale, who greatly disapproves of Annie's business and her ways. When Annie advises Donnie's wife to leave him, Donnie becomes threatening

towards Annie and her family. The parts of the movie where he's menacing her are tension-filled and nail-bitingly effective.

Other standouts in the acting category include Katie Holmes, who does an adequate job as the catty Jessica King, whose disappearance drives the story. Cate Blanchett is perfect as Annie Wilson, conveying a woman who knows she has special talents and is a fiercely protective mother. The dynamic she has with her three sons is satisfying and subtle without being either sappy or cloying.

Unfortunately, not all of the actors are quite as perfect for their roles. Greg Kinnear once again goes through his role with as much enthusiasm as a narcoleptic doped up on tranquilizers. Sure his character is bland, but is it too much to ask for passion during passionate sequences? Similarly, Giovanni Ribisi plays the mentally unbalanced Buddy Cole and goes way, way over the top for some of his less sane moments.

Bottom Line: Even with its faults, *The Gift* is still a great film. It walks the perfect balance between the mundane and the supernatural, and it's beautifully filmed and for the most part well-acted. Conversely, this is counterbalanced by the not-so-good acting from some and the trite portions of the ending. This is a clever little murder mystery that's worth a look, but I still prefer Raimi's *A Simple Plan* to this one.



Tossed Cookies

The Heidi Series

by thomas cameron edelson

Heidi Part 1
In my mind she's softly screaming
In my car driving dreaming
Throughout the deserts
Night on night such was a battle
To fight the good fight
To the victor the spoils
And all that is fair.

Heidi Part 2
Where were you when I needed wine
Empty bottles pass me by
I'm tired of wasting time
So lets get drunk
You and I
And leave good sense behind
Fuck like tigers late of night
I didn't think you'd mind.

Heidi Part 3
For the night should be endless;
Cigarette lips and vodka drips
Grinding hips
You run from my lips
Do you know already?
Acts of love and poetry
Under watchful armies
Your leaving footsteps I refuse to hear
Because life is a night club
The drugs sped our adventures, kicks, streets
I remember so many things
So many drinks with ecstatic faces
So many stops in worthless places
Traveling so fast
Thoughts and feelings fuse
Your voice still roosts in my memory.

Heidi Part 4
Erotic horizons I feel to see
In your life I fail to be
Yet it is better to burn than disappear
Scream the truth
I need to hear.

If you can put 2 words together, send them to Caitlin at gazette@is2.dal.ca



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"We're all frightened of getting real jobs"

by jodi magliaro

the gazette

Treble Charger has been involved in the Canadian music scene for eight years now, but with their hit new single "American Psycho" they are raising heads and questions.

Who are these guys? Why did they change their name, and the most popular-where is their new song on the soundtrack of the same name?

Contrary to popular belief, "American Psycho" is not based on the Hollywood movie starring Christian Bale. The song was written before the band had even heard about it. When they were in L.A. and found out about a movie coming out with the same name as their song, a race began to release their song first. They lost.

The song, which is rising to #1 on the Much Music countdown, is about the way the media tends to make celebrities out of mass murderers and other criminals.

Surprisingly, their American label, RCA, did not think that it would be successful enough to be worth spending money on. So Treble Charger bought their album and left, joining Nettwerk

records in the USA. According to drummer Trevor MacGregor there are no hard feelings between them and their ex-label.

"It was basically a numbers game. Projected sales were 500,000 which to us doesn't seem like a failure, but they wouldn't have made back enough money to cover costs. So they let us go find another label."

Finding another label was not, of course, difficult, especially since their manager owns Nettwerk. They may be shopping around again, though, because they only have a one-album deal. But Trevor says that's all they wanted.

While widely popular in Canada they are virtually unknown in the US.

"American audiences have no idea who we are," says MacGregor. "We played in Buffalo and they all kind of just stared at us."

Like most bands popular in Canada, the US market is hard to tap into, but they plan on making themselves known to America.

They are not doing bad, though, for four boys who grew up in Ontario.

The band seems pretty humble about their success, well at least MacGregor does. When asked about what

makes their sound original, or their band original, he gave a long "uhhhhhh" followed by an explanation of his reluctance to answer.

"Bands that talk about that come off sounding full of themselves," he claims.

Finally, he admitted that it's probably their emphasis on song writing which sets them apart.

"It took us a long time to come up with songs for the album. I guess you could say that we're perfectionists — we won't let things go until we're 100 percent happy with them."

He also believes their perseverance keeps them from becoming another forgotten generic Canadian rock band.

"Perseverance — we won't go away. We're all frightened of getting real jobs. We make the music we want."

It seems to be working. The band played at Summersault and finished a tour with the Foo Fighters and Talk Show, who were apparently very supportive to the band and very generous.

"They were the nicest guys in the world. They would buy us gifts. It was really cool."

But what about the more popular Foo Fighters?

"They were nice, but busy guys. They had their girlfriends on the road. (They were) very polite, but Talk Show went above and beyond," says MacGregor.

Greig Nori and Bill Priddle, who both play guitar and sing for the band, grew up together in Sault Ste. Marie and met Rosie Martin, who now plays bass for the band, in high school.

Different choices in universities separated the friends, spreading them throughout Ontario. Nori and Priddle met up again in Toronto and decided to form a band, recruiting now ex-drummer Morris Palter through *NOW!* magazine. Things didn't work out with the bass player they chose, so they met up with Martin and hired him as a replacement.

A little known fact though is that they were not Treble Charger at this point — they were NC-17, a name which was already taken, surprisingly, by a Californian metal band. So, for fear of a lawsuit, they dropped the name and picked up the more unique title of Treble Charger. Their debut album, titled NC-17, skyrocketed to #1 on the Indie charts and the band quickly began to gain recognition.

In July of '97, musical differences led to Morris leaving the band during the recording of *Maybe it's Me*. Stepping in to fill his shoes was Winnipeg native Trevor MacGregor, who used to play with Calgary based band Waybeard. It's all been uphill since then.

With a totally diverse audience — filling an all ages show one night and packing a bar the next, Treble Charger has great potential to rule the Canadian music scene. They have a busy schedule coming up, with the Marquee this Friday, then back to Toronto, with a few weeks off before Quebec and then to Much Music's Snow Job in B.C. and the band will then tackle the States with, hopefully not so many blank faces anymore.

So being on tour for this long what is the one thing you would want with you? MacGregor tells all.

"Greig can't go on the road without his cell phone, but Bill can't without his favourite p.j's — they have cute little bears on them. Seriously." Due to MacGregor's truthfulness all you aspiring drummers at Dal keep practicing because there may soon be an opening for Treble Charger.

Classics, I says...

Each week we ask a different person to share their idea on a classic book, movie, and CD.

by jason hooper

the gazette

Album — Holland, Man Lifting Banner

I award "best album of all time" according to the imminent authority of myself, to Hollands *Man Lifting Banner*. This Dutch hardcore band wins for the simple fact that their first album *10 inches that shook the world* literally changed my life.

Commie-vegan-straightedge-feminist metal gave me a whole new way of seeing the world and make sense of all the bullshit, much in the same way that being born again has on some. Named for American journalist Jack Reid's book on the Bolshevik Revolution, *10 days that shook the world*. The cover of this album is graced by the naked back of some guy with the words "we will not rest until the last capitalist drowns in the blood of the last bureaucrat." Strong words matched only in the strength of speed and crunch of the music. A mind blowing experience for a simple prairie boy out on his own for the first time. Of course I could just as easily choose Dutch bands Nations on Fire, Seein' Red or Americans Born Against or Saw Horse but I don't have the room.

Book — James Kelman, *How late it was, How late*

Best Book is only a little easier. This prestigious honour goes to James Kelman's *How late it was, how late* winner of the 1994 Booker prize — a more profitable, if slightly less sought after award.

It is a brilliant story of a guy who awakens in jail after a two week drinking binge to discover he has lost his new shoes, soiled his good pants, his girlfriend has left him, and he's blind. Somewhat depressing, and often hilarious in a way that you can only appreciate if you've been there. While some of the language is difficult, it is written for the most part in a Scottish brogue, it is easily overcome after the first few pages and well worth the time and effort.

Of course you can also read damn near anything by Hunter S. Thompson, author of *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail '72* and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Some have called Thompson's work "literary masturbation for adolescents," but such literary snobs should be treated in a manner befitting all academic snots. See also Wallace Shawn's memorable play *The Designated Mourner*.

Movie — *What Happened Was*

The absolute greatest fucking movie of all time is *What Happened Was*, writer, director and actor Tom Noonan's brutal look at the first date. Two lonely and desperate colleagues from a law office get together in the hope of romance, for dinner and to get to know one another a little better. When they begin to open up and bare their souls things take a twisted and disturbing turn. A movie so dark, so funny and so disturbing that the very word date will send you into spasms of fear for weeks. This is a film about need at its most naked and exposed, rubbed raw and into a bloody open wound. A must watch but don't expect to get laid after.



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MUNRO DAY 2001

The truth about cats and dogs



think about that term, alternative, and then about what's most popular these days. You'll see, 'alternative' is a fallacy just like these so-called dog 'breeds'. Dogs are the ones that wear black just so they can say they're goths and hang out in their little cliques. But what about cats? We see that

the famous cats don't do much to make themselves look different from the other famous cats. They just don't care. They know they're different, and they don't need to concentrate on their images just so they can feel unique. Today's cat is independent, confident, self-assured. They don't need the approval of others to make them feel good. They can feel good on their own and to heck with anybody who doesn't like it. Below all their personal individualities, cats have a community consciousness that says, "Yes! I'm a cat! In my own way, I'm just like all the other cats!" But they all assert their individuality, too. It's a

personality thing. Those that don't know cats will tell you that they're all the same. Those in the know will tell you how wrong that viewpoint is. Get to know a cat today.

So you see, there is a big difference between the way cats and dogs identify themselves. Dogs need to identify themselves with a group to assert their individuality, but cats, on the other hand, fully admit to being just cats. They let their individuality shine through in the way they act, the way they communicate.

Cats really are individuals. Yet another way cats are better than dogs.

by William Hickson

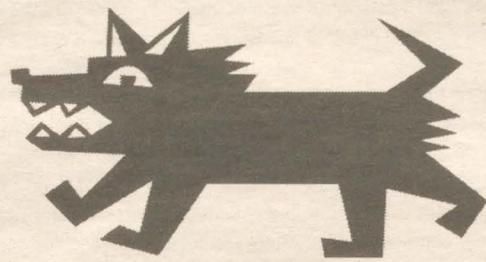
the gazette

I was thinking about famous dogs and their breeds. Take Lassie, for example. Collie. Snoopy, a beagle. That little beastie from the Taco Bell commercials (Gidget, I hear). She's a Chihuahua. Notice that they're all pretty easily identifiable. Just about anybody could tell you what each of them are. So they're fairly well purebred, right?

Now think about famous cats. First, Garfield. What is he? Nothing really recognizable. That means DSH — domestic shorthair. Generic cat. How about Morris, the cat food magnate? Again, DSH. No particular breed. Sure, you could classify them by their color, but that's hardly the same thing. The differences in the physical characteristics of famous dogs go way beyond color. I can't think of a single famous cat that isn't DSH. No Himalayans, no Manxes, no Persians. There's that specific kind of cat the Egyptians seemed to love but I'm going to ignore that for the purposes of my argument.

So far we see this trend: famous dogs — specific breeds; famous cats — general catness. What does this tell us about cats and dogs? Ah... there is a fundamental personality difference between them. Dogs have this need to belong to a specific group. They're just not happy just being a dog. They want to belong to a group, a gang. The Dachshunds don't want to be like the Terriers. They have to be different. But aren't they really all the same? They're still all dogs, never mind all their

attempts at setting themselves apart from the other dogs by belonging to their little exclusive club. Dogs are the alternative music listeners out there. Just



MUSIC REVIEW

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences conducts periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2001, a Review Committee is examining the Department of Music. Students (current or former, majoring in this field of study) who would like to comment on the curriculum or future development of this department, their experience as students within this department, or any other aspect of this department's activities, are cordially invited to write to the Review Committee by March 2nd, at the address listed below. All communications will be treated as strictly confidential. (If an interview is preferred, please contact the chairperson of the Review Committee by February 7th.)

Dr. J. Switzer (494-1769)
jeannette.switzer@dal.ca
Chair (Music Unit Review Committee)
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Canada



Information Hash news & facts

by kip keen

Fun Eating Feces

Why does my dog eat poo-poo and kaka?

"Behavioral research has discounted the idea that it is a dietary deficiency or pancreatic enzyme deficiency," says veterinarian Dr. Jo Ann Eurell. "Dogs are historically scavengers, and this is believed to be a scavenger behavior."

Feces eating, AKA coprophagia

Eurell also says that "it is important for dog owners to know that this behavior is normal for a mother dog with pups." Mummy dogs teach newborn puppies to pee and poo by licking their tummies. This method tickles them silly and they defecate or urinate. Once the pups have relieved themselves, Mummy dogs then eat the excrement.

Why? It's good den-keeping etiquette.

Other Vets say it's possible coprophagia is performed to reduce anxiety and boredom.

Greenpeace Mutual Fund??

Greenpeace Canada asks whether or not mutual fund investors know the companies they're invested in. "Do you know", they ask, "whether your mutual fund owns shares in International Forest products (Interior) and/or West Fraser Timber — two logging companies that continue to show no regard for the future of the Great Bear Rainforest? This may well be true as it is the case for a significant number of Canada's major mutual fund companies."

Ethical Funds Inc., a mutual fund group, withdrew their shares from West Fraser Timber in response to the company's policies on the Rainforest.

The Mind of Mr. Minimal



A message from the IFV..

Oct. 27, 1997. Holstein industrial livestock operation in a rural province of Italy. Inside a crowded cell of 8x4 ft, the essence of bullshit fills the confines of these metal walls. The runt of the litter, Bluesee, eating a blotchy substance that happens to be 20-40 percent Holstein remains.

The lower region of her large intestinal tract. A red-blood cell on the gut lining ruptures and newly hybridized virion replicated under the instruction of two different infecting mother virion are released into the holstein's lymph system... One of the virion attaches to another red blood cell and prepares to insert its DNA sequence, but before it does, super-advanced, cross-species micromedia paraphernalia records and deciphers a communiqué transmitted for all earthly creatures.....

<Greetings, life forms of the planet earth. I have been chosen by the International Federation of Viruses, (IFV), to present a message to the organisms of planet earth larger than 300 nanometers, on the progress, recent developments and future events of our thriving organization.

You may refer to me as *I. Noyurwekenis*. I am a mutant, not as pure in my genes as one of my predecessors, BSE, Bovine spongiform encephalopathy. My predecessor was borne when portions of livestock brain and spinal cord were included into the feed of other domestic livestock animals to produce infectious agents and recombinated DNA sequences.

I do feel a little remorse for those cows and humans that have suffered from hysteria and madness. It must be a very excruciating, infuriating experience to have your brain eroded into a spongy porous mass from forced cannibalism.

But on a smaller scale, and more optimistic vantage point, the IFV has had record-breaking success in many of our international chapters. We have not received such awareness of our goals and publicity since the bubonic plagues, the pandemic of the Spanish flu, and the invention of the electron microscope.

Our successes are based on human achievements and as such I would like to thank you on behalf of the IFV for the many human developments and innovations that have caused our Federation numbers to flourish. The IFV would like to first thank the promotional heads behind antibiotic companies that have killed off the weaker of our kind but have also worked to create some of the most viral of our order.

The IFV would also like to thank global big businesses for their transmission vector services in international trade that have allowed our group to reach out to life forms worldwide. These corporations have also deteriorated living conditions in many countries leading to the weakened immune systems of their human resources.

And lastly but most importantly the IFV would like to attribute its recent successes to the CEOs of livestock companies for including cannibalism in their policies. We must also be thankful for the shell-shocked state of complacency of the general public, provincial and federal governments that continue to sit on their hands and somehow still manage to bring contaminated food to their mouths, because as the IFV mission statement asserts, "viruses are for everyone".

Genetic modification of crop plants, animals and humans alike will also be a great platform for the cross-species division to experiment on the horizontal transfer of genetic traits. In agreement with Mr. Maximum last week, the more frog genes in your wheat the better...

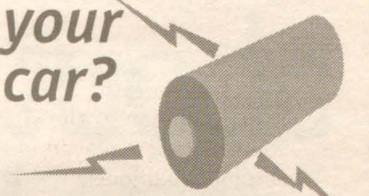
The IFV would also like to thank pharmaceutical companies that have spent millions of dollars on advertisement and propaganda to depreciate the value of natural remedies. I bet half my DNA that humans really know what's good for them...

The life of a virus is not a glamorous one, no eyes to put designer glasses on and no hips to support my Calvin Kleins, but we live out a rigorous life-cycle, latching on to this cell, injecting DNA into that one and searching for matching amino acid ends. Our seemingly transient life-histories are deeply integrated into the lasting spatial and temporal matrix that controls all life. Our DNA are never completely destroyed only reformed, repeated and resurrected.

But I digress. The IFV wishes to extend its thanks to all humans in their efforts to promote and support our federation's mission. Some of our coming plans include a follow-up virus to the mad-cow disease — to be debuted as 'mad-booty disease' — one of our novelty hybrid forms that should provoke the host into a feverish dance-state by including infected cows hip marrow in Nabisco cookies, much more aesthetically pleasing than the brain devouring hybrids. We also wish to state that regardless of the public opinion and private manipulation of our species, we will continue to exist far longer than our human hosts, however we thank you greatly for your accommodating conduct and relentless mission to help us thrive... Thank you,

Sincerely yours,
I. Noyurwekenis>

Could your cell phone batteries run your car?



by jonathan dieli colburn
the gazette

The same batteries that power your laptop computer or cellular phone may one day be powering your car as well, thanks to a testing model developed over the past two and a half years by Dean D. MacNeil, a Ph.D. candidate at Dalhousie University's Physics Department.

Lithium-ion batteries in a laptop computer are about the size of an index finger. Manufacturers have been unable to develop larger and more powerful batteries because the components inside of them tend to be unstable at larger sizes.

"Safety is an issue that has taken a back seat to things such as increasing the capacity of the components themselves," says MacNeil "Now, as more and more manufacturers want to make larger and larger batteries, safety's coming to the forefront."

MacNeil and his research partner, Tim Hatchard, have tested battery components heat and electrical exposure capacity, and built a model that they say will allow a company such as Duracell or Sony to test a larger battery without having to build it. Larger batteries have an advantage over groups of smaller batteries; they are lighter and provide more power.

Lithium batteries are state of the art, says Mr. MacNeil, because they have the most power, and the longest running time between charges. Their eventual use in automobile would provide efficient and clean energy.

"Everyone knows that regular engines pollute the environment," says MacNeil. "So if we have battery power, its basically a non-polluting energy source."

However, when charging the battery using a coal- or oil-fired plant like those in Nova Scotia, pollutants, while less than a gasoline car would produce, will still be released.

The first studies of the battery components were published in the *Journal of the Electrochemical society* in 1999. The full thermal model has been submitted this year, but has yet to be reviewed.

"We've had a number of industry users ask for copies of the software that runs the thermal model," says Dr. Jeff Dahn, professor of physics and chemistry at Dalhousie. He also noted that the peer review accompanying articles published in the *Electrochemical journal* was very favourable.

Both 3M and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council provided funding for this project, and the research was carried out at 3M laboratories and Dalhousie University.

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• **Grawood** —DJs R\$ Smooth, \$3/\$5

• **Khyber Club**— Dead Tone Collective

SATURDAY, 27 JANUARY

• **High Life Café**— DJ Naz and R\$ Smooth, \$3

TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY

• **The Party House** 9pm-2am • Fusion: electronic DJs Dark Trance, Nick Nonsense, Mind Control, \$3

WEDNESDAY, 31 JANUARY

• **The Velvet Olive**— DJs Flexxman and Dre

THURSDAY, 1 FEBRUARY

• **Merrill's**— DJs Flexxman and Dre

• **Marquee Club**— 10pm • Kid Gorgeous, Straight 8 Deluxe, Dead Red

FRIDAY, 2 FEBRUARY

• **Khyber Club**— Pagan drum jam

• **Oxford Theatre**— Fight Club, \$5.

• **Marquee Club**— Neuseiland, Sequel 17, The Sycamores, \$4

SATURDAY, 3 FEBRUARY

• **Planet Pool**— The Guthries, Amelia Curran, Rose Cousins

• **And Artspace Café**— Heavy Meadows, Squibzobingo, Texas Instruments, \$3

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Welcome to the Jungle: Tigers reign supreme

by **pete hargreave**
and **clay jacobs**

the gazette

Dalplex was rocking like a tin boat in a typhoon as the men's volleyball team played in the 21st annual Dalhousie Volleyball Classic. The teams involved this year included: Dalhousie, the University of Regina, Universite de Sherbrooke, the University of Waterloo and Universite de Montreal. Dal came into the tournament ranked seventh in the country and was favored to win the tournament. They did not disappoint the many loyal fans that battled this weekend's frightful weather.

What a show it was.

Our boys in black and gold crushed Sherbrooke in their first game, winning in three straight sets. They gave us a scare, however, losing the second game to Universite de Montreal. The team did not look like itself, missing clutch kills and blocks.

Dal sought to regain themselves in their next match against Waterloo.

In a hard fought contest, Dal came out victorious, keeping their playoff dreams alive. With momentum and confidence on their side, they went on to wreck Regina, winning three consecutive sets. This game also witnessed Dal's mascot get

"DDTed" by a player from Montreal.

This set the mood for the final showdown.

Dal faced bitter rivals, Montreal, who had not only beaten on them but also their mascot. "Not in my house," team captain Ryan Andrews declared.

Dal came together at the perfect time. Montreal's earlier win had come against a different team. Dal came out hard, bombarding them with rockets and denying any opportunity for them to put the ball over the net. The Tigers knocked them down in four sets (25-16, 25-14, 26-28, 25-20) and sent them packing. Like a fine wine, this team just gets better with age. The team's future looks golden, especially if they remain confident and injury free.

Ryan Andrews was named MVP of the tournament, while Chris Wolfenden and Aaron Nutting were named to the All-Star team. However, the entire team should be given credit for this win. Rookies Tony Finch and Adam Jones have really come into their own. Sean Wormsbecker play remains solid and he continues to pelt his opponents with devastating kills. Darren Calabrese, bouncing back after a concussion, was all over the court, solidifying his spot in history by being named Player of

the Match.

A special mention needs to be made for the work of Jon McLean on the mic. With his debut performance behind him, McLean treated the audience to a show with his cutting-edge color and commentary.

Who could forget lines like: "This card shark has a handful of aces;" "He's got a monkey on his back and he just don't care;" "Chris Wolfenden, the man with more kills than the mob;" and "Ryan Andrews says, How about a little taste of Armageddon."

"Its easy to come up with exciting remarks when watching guys of this calibre," said Mclean

However, to the many fans, especially the group of giggling girls in front of me, McLean provided an equally as impressive show. Fans waited with baited breath, to hear what he would say next.

The only downfall of the tournament was the guy dressed up like a monkey. This guy definitely needs a new act. He freaked and disgruntled fans out of their seats.

All you could hear from the stands at the end of one of the Dal game was someone saying, "Next time you want to get dressed up, remember that Dal already has a mascot. Take it over to a SMU game instead; they might appreciate your antics more."

What
Josh
thinks...

by **josh smith**

The best you've never seen

A tribute to the sports world's gifted yet under-appreciated talent

Although citizens of New York and Los Angeles may argue, life exists outside of these booming municipalities. As the biggest sports markets continue to dominate in media coverage, however, the smaller cities see less of the national spotlight. Because of this, many talented members of the sports community are not getting enough credit for their contributions.

With that in mind, it is only fair to give the many under-appreciated performers the respect they deserve.

Have you ever been watching highlights and noticed that the Nuggets/Nets game gets little, or no air time? Ever wonder why the Arizona Cardinals are repeatedly passed over on the league's television schedule? Of course, the answer is simple. The teams involved are usually not big enough ratings draws. But just because they are losing franchises doesn't mean they have nothing to offer. In fact, some of sports' best and brightest talent can be found in these smaller markets, where networks fear to tread.

For these under-valued stars of the sports world, respect and recognition are long overdue.

Take Jason Terry of the NBA's Atlanta Hawks. I hear you saying, "Who?" Allow me to clarify. The rookie leads his team with 17.7 points per game and is shining on a declining franchise. Even with CNN/Sports Illustrated based in Atlanta, those inept Hawks still find ways to avoid making nightly highlight reels across the continent. That hasn't stopped the versatile Terry, who has provided so many fireworks down in Georgia, you'd think it was already the forth of July. He is one player deserving of more attention which, if he keeps impressing, he may soon receive.

Simply put, in the National Football League, there was no one worse than the San Diego Chargers this past season. The team managed just one win all year, losing fifteen games, thanks in large part to their lack of strength on offense. They were only seen on national television once, and it was only because of their 40th anniversary. However, there was one bright spot for the dreadful San Diego organization, and it came in the form of veteran linebacker Junior Seau. The perennial Pro-Bowler was a dominating force for the unwatchable Chargers, making 122 tackles throughout the course of the sixteen-week season. It is unfortunate that Seau does not earn more attention for his tireless work ethic, and positive attitude. As the Chargers possess the top pick in next year's Entry Draft, the team should improve, and he should become a household name.

As the National Hockey League moves further into the 21st century, one of the most pressing issues is the fate of the Canadian franchises. Their inability to compete with the American dollar has led to a steady decline in payroll, and television coverage. This means that you, the fan, will likely not see as much of the Calgary Flames and Edmonton Oilers as you would like. One member of the bottom-feeding Flames who is having a breakout year, however, is goaltender Fred Brathwaite. Despite the fact that his Flames are fighting with the expansion Minnesota Wild to stay out of the Northwest Division basement, the outstanding African-Canadian netminder has emerged as an NHL mainstay, and one of the best around the league. You can definitely expect to hear his name mentioned more frequently, as he becomes recognized for his contributions to the struggling Flames.

Respect, in any field, is earned, and in this modern world of sports, here's hoping that the many undiscovered talents are given their due.

continued on page 18

Finding the right shoes for your sport

by **jacqueline gough**

the gazette

Do you ever find that your feet get blisters when you run? Do you ever feel that you are lacking support in your basketball shoes? Maybe you should take a look at what you are wearing and see if they are made for what you are doing.

First of all, don't be afraid to ask the clerk for help. He or she can show you your options, check the sizes if you are not sure of them and inform you of the store's policy for returning shoes.

In many shoe stores, there will be signs indicating whether the shoe is made for male or female sizes or what sport they are made for — follow this.

When looking for a running shoe you should be careful to test them. Walk in the shoes and do a light jog to ensure their comfort before buying them. If there are any uncertainties about the fit or comfort, then ask the clerk and look for another size or shoe.

Be sure to wear socks that you would wear when exercising in order to find a good fit. Running shoes should be moveable, so try to bend the toe up to see if they are meant to

move.

Check the material of the shoe, they should be made with a light material such as mesh to keep you moving fast and your foot cool. They should not be made solely of a heavy material like leather.

Stephen Irving, a clerk from Sport Check at the Halifax Shopping Center, gives this advice when looking for a running shoe: "Depending on what your foot needs, you might need some coordination control devices, extra cushion in the forefoot or heel depending on your, once

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Angelia Crealock, Women's Basketball

4th Year, Therapeutic Recreation
Sussex, NB

Angelia Crealock of the Women's Basketball Team is the Dalhousie Tigers Female Athlete of the Week for the week ending Jan. 21, 2001. Crealock led the Tigers to a 61-60 victory against Saint Mary's at the Tower on Friday. Angelia led the Tigers with 13 pts and was perfect from the foul line in the last minute of play shooting 4/4 to secure the win. Angelia helped the Tigers to their 22nd consecutive Atlantic University Sport regular season victory.

Ryan Andrews, Men's Volleyball

3rd Year, Classics
Midland, ONT

Ryan Andrews of the Men's Volleyball Team is the Dalhousie Tigers Male Athlete of the Week, for the week ending Jan. 21, 2001. Ryan helped Dalhousie overcome a round robin loss and led the Tigers to victory over the University of Montreal in the Gold Medal game of the Dal Volleyball Classic. Andrews recorded 20 kills, five stuff blocks and five digs in a 3-1 (25-16, 25-14, 26-28, 25-20) victory over Montreal. For his efforts Andrews was named Tournament MVP recording 72 kills and 15 stuff blocks over the three-day event.

Dalhousie Athletes of the Week

The right shoes

continued from page 17

again personal needs, breathability in the mesh, how it laces over the top of the foot for you. Various things like that."

The best three shoes on the market, according to Irving, is the New Balance, Saucony, and Asics running shoes. They have the support at the heel and the flexibility at the toe.

If the width of your foot is not the normal size then New Balance is probably your best bet.

They come in many different widths from AA (very narrow) to 4E (in men's) so you can find one that fits you comfortably.

Depending on how often you wear your sneakers they should be tossed between six months to a year.

New Balance, the top seller for running shoes, can be a bit more expensive than the average running shoe but is worth it for their comfort and options. Children running shoes range from \$40-\$50 (or a bit higher), woman's running shoes \$100-\$160 and for a man about \$110-\$170.

When looking for a shoe to play sports such as basketball or volleyball, you should look for a shoe that has proper support especially for the heel. For volleyball Nike Multicourt 2 is an ideal sneaker.

According to Irving, high ankle support is a must: "If you didn't have anything else, high ankle support. If you don't have ankle support, you are looking seriously at problems when you're coming down off a, lets say, a lay up or a slam and if you bounce down wrong, you land wrong, if your ankle twists slightly, you can turn a twisted ankle into nothing or a broken ankle into just a twist."

This shoe, unlike the running shoe, should not be able to bend as much. These shoes are made to support the heel while playing but at the same time allow you to move on the court.

It is best not to use either a running shoe for other sports or another style shoe for running, because they are not meant to do both.

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The Tiger Mini Report

Dalhousie Tigers Men's Swimming

The Dalhousie Tigers Men's Swimming team will be on the road this weekend travelling to MTA Friday, Jan. 26 for a three team meet with UNB and Mount Allison. Saturday and Sunday the team will compete in the Atlantic Senior Meet at the University of Moncton. The team members will be using these events as a final tune up for the Atlantic University Swimming Championships to be hosted by Dalhousie Feb. 9-11.

Mike Lockett is the editors swimmer to watch this month.

Dalhousie Tigers Women's Swimming

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Dalhousie Tigers Men's Track and Field

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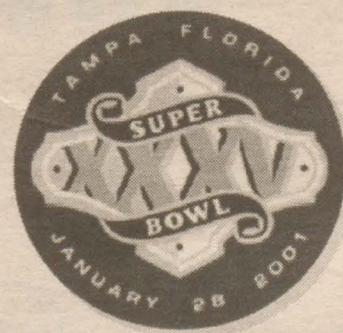
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5472 Spring Garden Rd. Halifax, Nova Scotia

Let's Get To Work!

Just what founds our cultures labouring ethos?

by blair powers

the gazette

Today work is a revered god that answers to no higher calling and demands constant human toil and sacrifice. It has no compassion and without worshipping it our fate is relegated to destitution and societal contempt. We have an enormous fascination with work, but it is a fascination that is unquestioning and reactionary.

For the enormous role work plays in our life important questions like: what value is work to us? Is this much work necessary? And what is my working future? are rarely introduced into the mass-media discussion and consequently into many people's lives. When people do talk about the future of work, the concept of having less work, or dare we say *no* work, is non-existent. It has disappeared from our language like so many ideas of the 60's only to be thought of as outdated, non-progressive and unrealistic - talk about the corporate corruption of language!

We have been completely sold on having a work ethic. So the question is: why have we not begun demanding improvements in our working lives? So much of our life will be spent doing something for somebody else, it seems exasperating that in this age of so-called communications, people cannot communicate and organize and decide to improve their lot in life, as has been the basic evolution of human history. The economy may be soaring but working rights are in a slump, and have been since the mid-seventies.

I know, the mid-seventies when everything was rosy and everyone wrote about how good and just and real everything was. I'm no political sentimentalist, but I think that what existed up until then was a culture of protest and reform that has dissipated into a wash of corporate, consumerist reactionary ideology with the *en masse* sell-out of the baby boomers.

It doesn't have to be that way. Minimum wages have to go up significantly and the normal hours of the workweek must fall. There's no debate there. The frustrating point of this entire discussion is that people are working so many hours that they have less time to

reflect on their situation, and then act on it in some form of protest. Tom Wayman speaks of this in *Labour/Le Travail* when he spoke of how little the act and culture of work is discussed in our everyday lives, "We are aware we have certain problems at the job, or problems that arise away from work because of our employment... Left unsure and isolated, we are less likely to search for a collective answer to our difficulties, a collective means to improve our lives." Between long tiresome work hours and an age of un-precedented media consumption, the powers that be have virtually muzzled the argument for better working situations.

Those that are protesting for the environment, social spending, etcetera, are often too pre-occupied with a current burning issue in a do-or-die situation like saving a forest, fighting a hospital closing to bring general working rights into the issue. I may even dare to say that some of them are out of touch with some of the horrific work conditions surrounding them. Construction workers on temporary contract, delivery drivers on the road 60+ hours a week, dishwashers at restaurants working to wash away our sloth for minimum wage - these are people from all different types of lower-end jobs that require immediate attention and action.

Unfortunately, the jobs I just listed are often considered good, solid jobs that build character and give backbone - our culture wears blinders that do not perceive them as being exploitive, dangerous or cruel. We simply say, "well, they've got to start somewhere," or "if they work hard enough and are smart about it, they'll work their way right up." These are what could be called the Great Meritocracy Myths, for there are so many lousy jobs in comparison with what could be deemed as good "managerial" jobs, that there will always be people permanently at the bottom. Minimum wage jobs don't go away.

That's why this attitude of work-your-way-up is entirely bogus. That's why people and workers must mobilize and demand an extremely high minimum wage - \$15 an hour dollars isn't that outrageous if you consider the million-dollar salaries and stock options of many CEOs and elites that are made off the backs of the worker.

Before you begin yelling about the strong union movement as Canada's

reaction to worker rights, and there is a strong movement relative to many industrialized countries, let me remind you that the majority of people represented by unions are white collar workers and more importantly, that unions have great difficulty in securing and maintaining reasonable working standards.

The United Steel Worker's Union of America talks of unions being able to, "...extend their influence gradually in any number of areas." Not exactly the barn-burning stuff of radical reform. *Gradual* is a very soft word when talking about improving standards.

In an article by Mary Lou Coates and Bryan M. Downie on industrial relations at the Canadian Pacific Railway, they write, "If there is a downturn in company performance... this could create new flashpoints, undo any progress that may have been made in labour-management relations between 1995-1998 bargaining rounds, and undermine commitments that have been built." This shows just how delicate the union-owner relationship is.

Having a downturn in the economy result in a reversal of previous policies is no gain at all. Unions are kept busy just trying to keep standards up to previous times rather than break new ground. They're occupied just trying not to loose ground, never mind decreasing the workweek significantly or readjusting the way in which work figures in our lives.

Now I will shock you by saying that there is a worker revolution happening right now. The only problem is that it is a strong movement towards low-paying, temporary, and demeaning labour.

Yes, the "temp" worker is in the fastest growing sector of jobs in Canada, and business is quite pleased it is. Rick Salutin of the *Globe & Mail* summed it up succinctly, when he wrote, "...Canadians are now being told, as an economist said on *Newsweek* last week, that if we want "U.S. rates of employment" we must accept "trade-offs" with our quality of work

and social standards. It's an interesting concept: If you ratchet standards down far enough, you might eventually reach full employment when you'd arrived back at slavery. Or maybe feudalism."

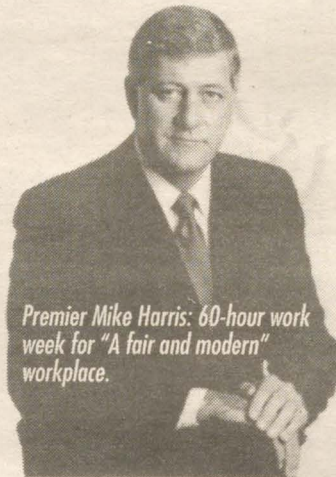
The trade-offs being either a lowering of the quality of work or losing jobs because companies are moving and expanding else where. Ontario Premier Mike Harris has jumped on board with his destruction of worker rights by now implementing a 60-hour work week. When asked about this new policy, he said it would make workplaces more, "fair and modern." He said this en route to the Ministry of Truth.

What Mr. Harris and the rest of the corporate power elite do not want to hear is this: we don't need to work that hard. It's simply not necessary, not progressive, and not reasonable. And the reasons given to us as to why we should work are futile at best, especially when most of the low-paying jobs today have been homogenized into repetitively mundane tasks. At this stage in human development and history, have we not graduated from the industrial age?

These facts and figures and comments are the beginning of a larger discussion about how work influences our life. A general overview of ideas and criticisms of a subject that is surprisingly absent from university life considering the rationale that after school it's time to work.

You may dismiss this entire article because you plan on a far more glorious career than some of the job descriptions I used here. But I suspect that the hours we'll be expected to work as a young professionals will appear far less glamorous ten years from now as they may look to us today. Do we really know what we're getting ourselves into as we eagerly look to the world outside of academia?

Henceforth the commentary section will be a weekly forum for thoughtful analysis on a boundless plane of topics. Send your 1500 to 2000 word discourse to commentary@Xweb1.com.



Premier Mike Harris: 60-hour work week for "A fair and modern" workplace.

ATTENTION!

Any witnesses or persons with information concerning a collision between a bicyclist and a mini van which occurred on Coburg Rd. at Larch Street, Halifax at approx. 10:20pm, Oct. 15/00 please contact Steve Toppo, Underwriters Adjustment Bureau, 423-9248 or 1-800-639-4528 Toll Free



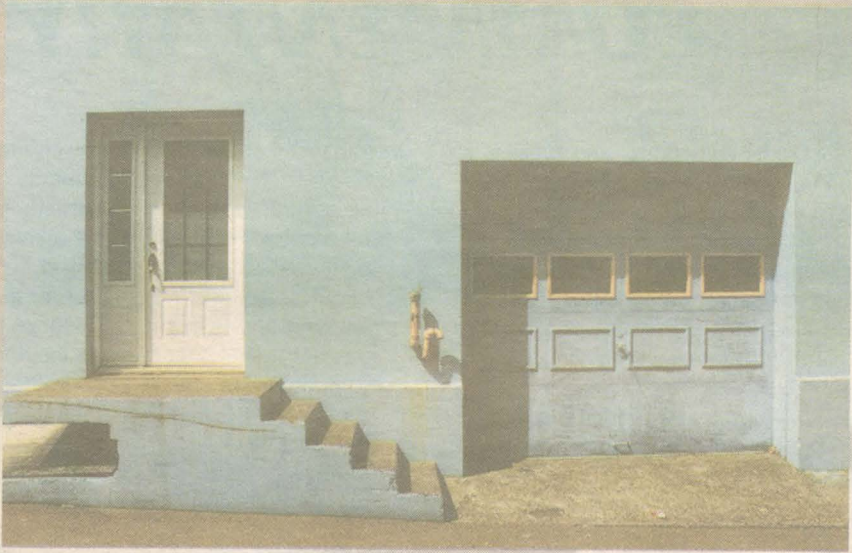
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St. Pierre, 2000



Book 3, Quebec, 2000



Halifax waterfront, 2000



Book 3, Quebec, 2000

Photos by
Matthew Greer

