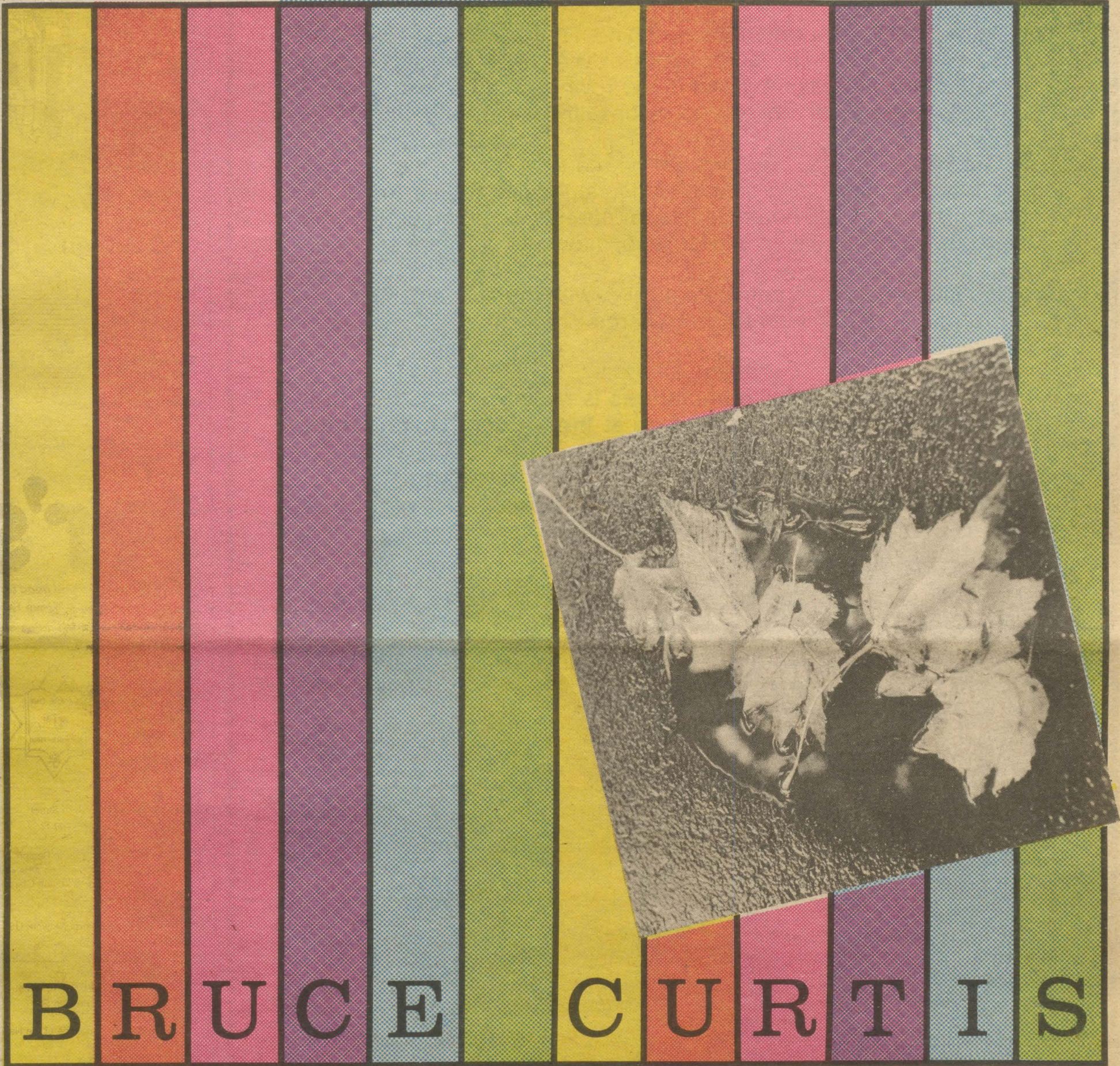


THE GAZETTE

Volume 117, Number 22

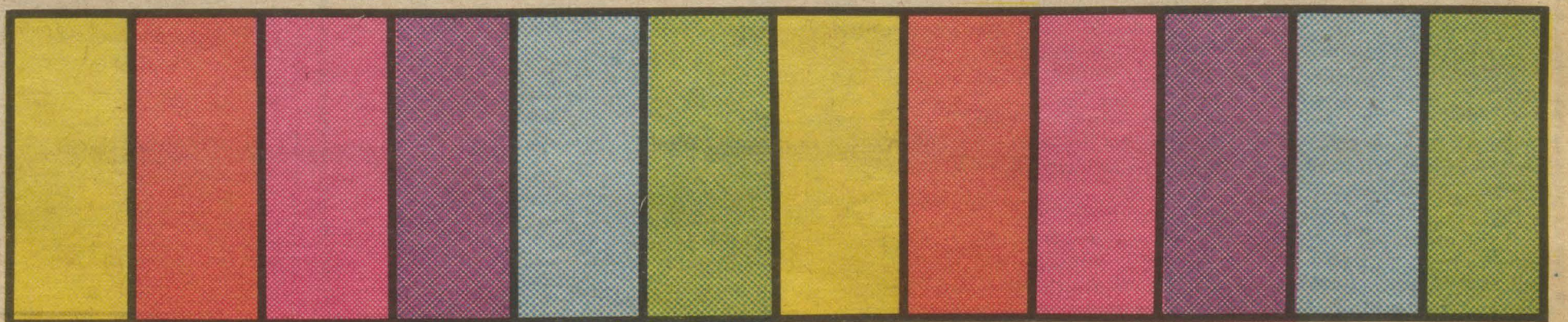
Dalhousie University, Halifax

February 21, 1985



BLIND INJUSTICE

See page 3...



An Invitation To Submit Nominations For The 1985 Malcolm Honor Awards

The Dalhousie Student Union is seeking nominations for the 1984 Honor Awards, given in tribute to James Malcolm, B.A. 1906, who sacrificed his life in an attempt to save a friend from drowning, and whose career at Dalhousie was characterized by unselfish service to others.

The Gold and Silver "D" Awards will be made to graduating students, on the basis of outstanding contribution to student activities. In addition, Honorary Awards will be bestowed on non-student members of the Dalhousie Community in similar recognition of significant service.

Any two individuals may nominate a third, with the final selection to be determined by the Awards Committee.

**The deadline for nominations is March 15, 1985
Nomination forms may be picked up at the Student Union Offices
Rm 222 SUB.**

**For further information, please contact Rusty James, VP,
Room 210, SUB.**

Who is the Malcolm Honor Award Named After?

Jimmy Malcolm was a Freshman at Dalhousie in 1899. Quiet and unassuming, he soon came to be known as a mighty decent fellow and a promising athlete. A careful and conscientious student, he gained the respect of his professors early in his course; while his winning personality, gifts as a speaker, and athletic prowess, made him a universal favorite with his fellow students. With his generous enthusiasms, his fun, and his high spirits, Jimmy always had much about him of the boy, and no social gathering or club meeting was complete without his presence.

Early in his college career Jimmy made his place on the football squad, and by his senior year he was the Captain of the team and its star forward. After finishing his Arts course he came back for Theology and in that year he was the idol of his fellow students, and a leader in the varied college activities.

That year at college had hardly closed when he himself passed to Higher Service. His death was in entire harmony with his life.

While swimming with a companion during the summer he heard a cry. A few strokes carried him to the spot, but his friend had disappeared. Twice Jimmy Malcolm dove, and twice he was forced to come to the surface. Once again he dove, and the waters closed over him.

The days went by to the opening of another term. Was it Jimmy in the class room; at the club meeting; on the football field? It was always the same Jimmy who was remembered. The boys are gathering in. There are old faces and new faces, but the face of him who was honored so much is not among them.

Every action of Jimmy Malcolm breathes the spirit with which he made his happy sacrifice. Loyalty to his college and his fellows, and a cheerful devotion of his energy—his very life—to the cause he had in hand.

That is the Dalhousie Spirit.

DALHOUSIE HONOUR AWARDS INFORMATION

1. The Student Union shall make annually Honour Awards to graduating students on the basis of outstanding contributions made to student activities during their career on campus. Only graduating students at Dalhousie shall be eligible for any award, except that the Committee may award Honorary Gold or Silver "D's" where it considers that exceptional service to the student community has been rendered by a non-student who otherwise could not be so recognized.

2. Candidates must have been, during their time on campus, active in one or

more facets of student activity, such as student council, orientation, theatre, sports, various committees, clubs and societies, and so on.

3. Anything that can be seen as an original contribution by the candidate in the areas of creative thinking, organizing, etcetera, shall be given due consideration by the Committee. The ultimate decision to make an award shall be based on the merit of the case as decided by the Committee.

4. Evidence of outstanding academic achievement shall be considered posi-

tively by the Committee but shall not be a necessary condition for the granting of an award.

5. The Committee shall consider candidates and make the following awards where the Committee deems such to be appropriate:

- Malcolm Honour Award
- The Gold "D"
- The Silver "D"
- The Certificates of Distinction

6. Students who have already received an award from the Union shall be eligible to receive further awards.

7. Any two students may nominate a third student for an award and shall submit the completed nomination form and questionnaire to the Chair of the Committee.

8. The Committee may if it desires request any student who has nominated another student to appear before it in support of his or her nomination.

9. Applications must be received at the Office of the Vice-President, Dalhousie Student Union, Room 222 of the S.U.B. before 5:00 p.m. on the 15th day of March, 1985.

THE GAZETTE

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

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Commentary should not exceed 700 words, letters should not exceed 300 words. No unsigned material will be accepted, but anonymity may be granted on request.

Advertising copy deadline is noon, Friday before publication.

The Gazette offices are located on the 3rd floor SUB. Come up and have a coffee and tell us what's going on.

The views expressed in *The Gazette* are not necessarily those of the Student Union, the editor or the collective staff.

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BLIND INJUSTICE

Bruce Curtis sits in a New Jersey jail counting down a twenty year sentence for a crime he says was an accident...

BY DAVID OLIE

IF YOU'RE TAKING SCIENCES AT Dalhousie, there's someone you should know. You should know him because everyone says he's a hell of a nice guy; a bit quiet, perhaps, but bright, well-spoken, friendly, and a damn fine writer to boot. He's tall, dark-haired and clean shaven and wears plastic-rimmed glasses. Just an ordinary person, much like anyone else.

You should know him, but you don't. His name is Bruce Curtis, and he is currently serving his third year of a 20 year prison sentence in a New Jersey jail.

Bruce was accepted for admission into the Dal science programme in 1982, after graduating from King's-Edgehill school in Windsor. He never got there. Instead, he was plunged into a tragedy in July of that year, a tragedy from which he has not yet emerged.

BRUCE CURTIS GREW UP ON HIS PARENT'S 300 HECTARE farm on Mt. Hanley, outside the town of Middleton in the Annapolis Valley. His father, Jim Curtis, is a captain in the armed forces. Though gifted academically, Bruce was socially awkward; he preferred to spend his time studying nature in the woods around his home and writing in his journal. His friend, Scott Franz, would later call him a "deadbeat".

Realizing his potential, Curtis' parents managed to put together the money to send him to King's-Edgehill. There Bruce met and became a friend of Scott Franz, a young man from Loch Arbour, New Jersey. Few could understand what brought them together, apart from interests in games and computers, because otherwise the two were very different.

The key to the difference lay in Franz's home. He had grown up there with his mother, Rosemary, ten older brothers and sisters, and his stepfather, Alfred Podgis. And Alfred Podgis, a letter carrier, was a man completely out of control.

He was an avid collector of baseball cards, over \$20,000 worth. He also collected guns, at least a dozen. Podgis was known to the police and the community as an extremely violent man. Over the years local police logged 147 visits to the Podgis home to act on complaints. The ramshackle house was pock-marked with bullet holes from Alf Podgis' shooting sprees. He had assaulted two of Scott's sisters with heavy objects, attacks which put each of them in hospital. But the worst was reserved for his wife, Rosemary. He broke her arms on two separate occasions, and once pushed her down a flight of stairs, breaking her back. All the children left this house of horrors as early as they could.

Rosemary Podgis didn't leave. But in an effort to spare her youngest son, Scott, from the constant abuse of his stepfather, Rosemary saved every cent she could from her clerical job to send him to King's-Edgehill. He gained a reprieve, but nothing changed at the Podgis home.

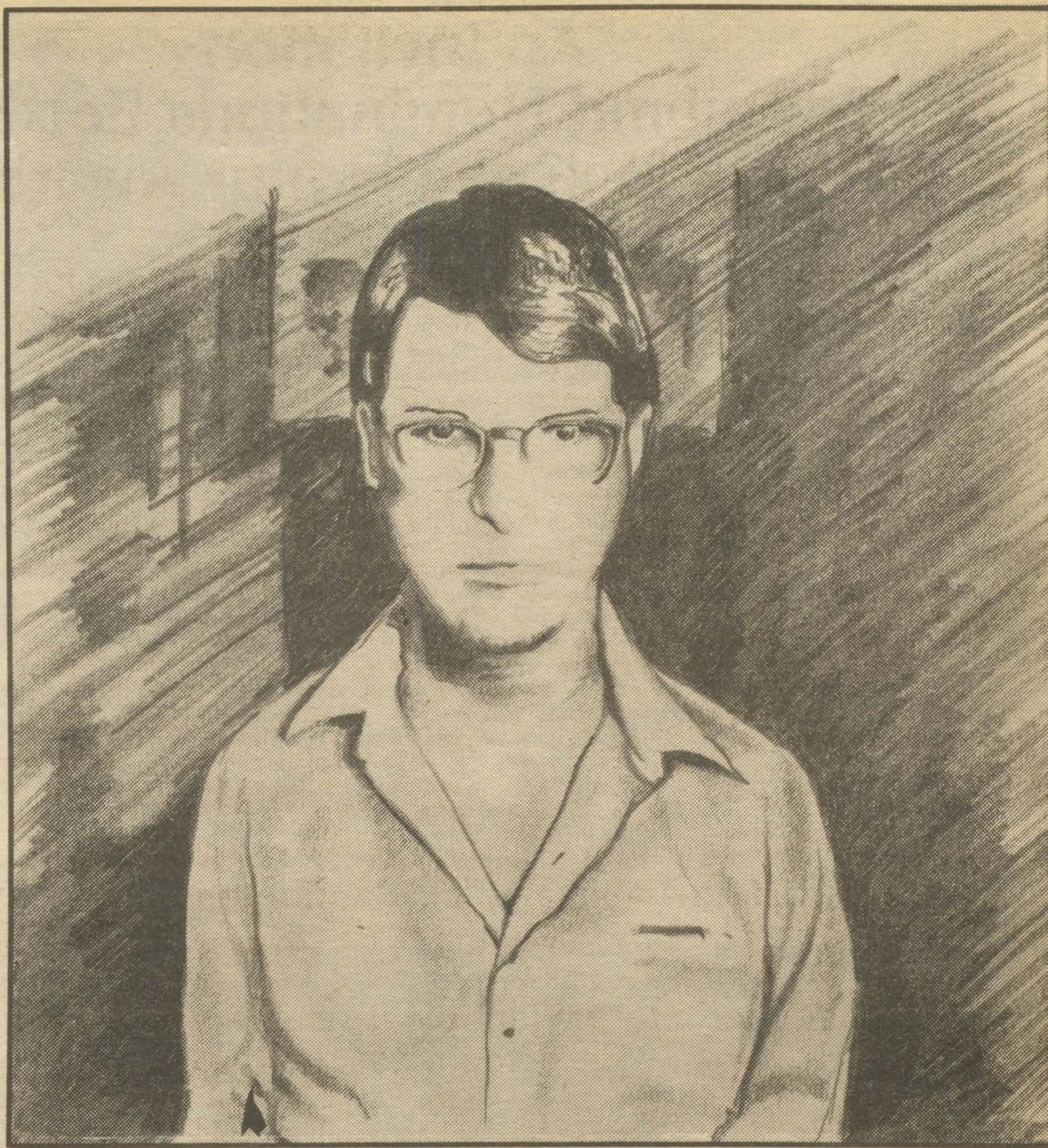


Illustration: Rick Janson

IT IS JUNE, 1982. BRUCE Curtis has just graduated near the top of his King's-Edgehill class. His parents, like most parents, want to give him some sort of present. But they don't know what it will be.

For months now, Scott Franz has been asking Bruce to visit him in New Jersey. Scott describes his home as an ocean-front mansion, with servants and Great Dane.. Bruce has never travelled alone before, and decides he wants to go. His parents have some misgivings, but finally buy him a one-way plane ticket; Scott says he has plans to drive back to the Maritimes in early July and will bring Bruce back with him.

Bruce's plane arrives in Newark, New Jersey on June 29, two hours late. Alf Podgis is waiting with his step-son, and is in a towering rage; the delay has caused him to miss a meeting with a fellow baseball card enthusiast. His rage will continue all week, and the two young men live in constant fear.

They seldom come home, except to sleep. They especially avoid the upstairs, which is Alf's domain. When they come back to the house on the rainy night of July 3, they find the doors locked, and shelter in the porch as they listen to Alf Podgis beat his wife. She lets them in after he goes to bed.

The next morning Scott ventures upstairs to get some money. His stepfather fires a gun at him.

GIVEN THIS INSANE ENVIRONMENT, why didn't Bruce Curtis simply leave? Apart from his

understandable confusion and his lack of a return ticket, Bruce seems to have been motivated by a sincere desire to help his friend.

Bruce is like that. While home from school in the summer of 1981, Bruce met up with a young woman he knew from junior high school. She was deeply depressed, and hinted at committing suicide. He talked her out of it at the time, but he couldn't stop her months later when he was back in Windsor. The tragedy affected all of Middleton, but few so much as Bruce. He went into a depressed state, and wrote long, sombre passages in his journal.

In New Jersey he found another friend in trouble. He admits now that in staying he made "the greatest mistake of my life."

ON THE EVENING OF JULY 4, Scott Franz is still shaken up by the events of the morning. He decides he needs protection, so he buys a box of cartridges and loads two lever action carbines he finds in his stepfather's van, one for himself and one for Bruce. Bruce has never before handled firearms.

That night they slip into the house and sleep side-by-side on the living room sofa, the loaded and cocked guns between them. They plan to leave for the Maritimes the next day.

Around eight o'clock in the morning, while his mother is cooking breakfast, Scott heads upstairs, gun in hand, to take a shower. Bruce is still dozing on the sofa. He awakes to the sound of gunfire from upstairs; Scott

Franz has just shot Alfred Podgis to death. Bruce panics, grabs the gun beside him, and runs for the back door. In a hallway he nearly collides with another running figure. It is Rosemary Podgis. The gun discharges and Mrs. Podgis falls to the floor with a wound running from the right side of her abdomen to her left hip. She dies minutes later. Bruce goes into hysterics.

BRUCE CURTIS HAS STUCK by this story of the shootings since the day he was arrested. Scott Franz is another case. His original sworn statement was identical to Bruce's. Before he went to trial, however, Scott made a deal with prosecutor Paul Chaiet: if he would plead guilty to murder, change his story and testify against Bruce, he would get a reduced sentence. At Bruce's trial, therefore, Scott testified that Bruce deliberately shot and killed Mrs. Podgis. Since then he has gone back to his original version. Of course, Scott did not actually witness the shooting of his mother.

FRANZ, WHO HEARS THE shot and the screams downstairs, goes down to the hallway, still carrying his gun, and finds his mother dead. He later says he considered killing Curtis on the spot, but thought better of it. Instead, he enlists Bruce's help in cleaning up the house and removing the bodies. "It's not right to leave my mother lying there like that," he says. Bruce, by now beyond reason, agrees.

The bodies are loaded into the Continued on next page...

Continued from previous page...

van, and the pair set off for Scott's sister's home in Texas, dumping the bodies and the guns in Pennsylvania on the way.

They are arrested in Texas on July 11, and are charged with murder.

UNDER NEW JERSEY LAW, flight from the scene of a crime is taken as evidence of a guilty mind. Psychiatrist Dr. Harry Brunt, who examined Curtis after his arrest, says the law is wrong. He says Curtis was displaying pure panic reaction, in which his only instinct was to get away from the scene and avoid the situation altogether, as if it had never happened. Anyone could react the same way, he says.

Even today, Bruce Curtis copes with his situation in this way. "It was happening to somebody else," he says. "It wasn't happening to me...My mind is set on a course now where, the day I get out, this will cease to be reality and it will become a dream."

THE TRIAL OF BRUCE Curtis is March 1983 is nearly as bizarre as the killings themselves. Defense lawyer Michael Schottland calls it "a legal

lynching." New Jersey Superior Court Judge John Arnone, also known as "never-come-home-again-Arone," is presiding; he has the reputation of being the toughest judge in the state. Because Scott Franz, the star prosecution witness, did not actually see his mother's death, much of Bruce's trial centres around the murder of Alf Podgis, a crime with which Bruce is not charged.

Prosecutor Chaiet knows his case is weak. He therefore begins to spin an elaborate web of intrigue, portraying Curtis as the evil mastermind behind a pair of "thrill killings." Curtis' quiet, withdrawn personality is seen as a cover for a violent psychotic mind.

To cap this argument, Scott Franz is called to the stand. Chaiet wants him to "interpret" Curtis' journal, especially the passages from around the time of the suicide of his Middleton friend.

The court goes into a *voire dire* session, in which the jury is removed and the judge determines if evidence is admissible. Franz' "interpretations" are so outlandish that Arnone rules against the jury



Curtis' mother marches in Halifax candlelight vigil. Photo: John Davie, Dal Photo.

hearing them.

But the local press is still in the courtroom; in the U.S. this is legal during a *voire dire*. Franz' sensational "testimony" is reported, the jury is not

sequestered and there can be no doubt that they read or heard about it. Schottland moves for a mistrial. He is refused.

There are other unusual occurrences. The prosecution calls an expert witness to explain that the gun carried by Curtis is perfectly safe and could not discharge accidentally. While explaining this, the gun goes off in his hands. In fact, it has a hair trigger.

Finally, in his summation to the jury, Arnone fails to fully explain two options the jury has: to acquit Curtis if the killing was an accident, or to find him guilty of simple manslaughter.

Chaiet wants a conviction for murder. The jury finds Bruce Curtis guilty of aggravated manslaughter. An unplanned killing caused by recklessness and irresponsibility.

The maximum sentence for this crime is 20 years, with 10 years before parole. On April 22, 1983, Arnone gives this sentence to Curtis. It is the first time anyone has received this sentence for this crime. A week earlier, Arnone gave Scott Franz the same sentence for murder. It is 10 years less than the maximum term, and five years less than the minimum for parole.

To cap the case, Curtis is sent to Bordentown Youth Correction Centre, an old, run-down, overcrowded racial tinderbox, while Franz goes to Yardville, a modern reform institution.

ON JUNE 6, 1984, MICHAEL Schottland presented an eight-point appeal to the New Jersey Supreme Court, to get his client's conviction overturned. His arguments were rejected in half an hour. He is now working to win a writ of *habeas corpus*, to at least get Curtis transferred to a

better prison. An appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court is also a possibility.

Meanwhile the family, friends and supporters of Bruce Curtis continue to work on his behalf. Candlelight vigils were held for him across Canada on the eve of his 21st birthday. Books, letters and most importantly, money, continue to pour in to him and his defense fund. His parents have already spent more than \$60,000 on his defense.

Local English professor and writer Jennifer Wade, a Curtis supporter, is not optimistic about the chances of doing something meaningful for Bruce. Speaking about the possibility of his being transferred to a Canadian prison, she says, "it's a foggy Friday if that would be successful."

Wade is especially bitter about the attitude of the federal and provincial governments to the case. She says their inaction is part of "the mood of cosyng-up to the United States. We really had a better chance under Trudeau...(Premier) Buchanan could so easily talk to the governor of New Jersey."

External affairs minister Joe Clark recently said there is nothing more the Canadian government can do for Bruce Curtis.

Cast adrift by his government, if not by his friends, Curtis serves his time in Bordentown. Ironically, he is a valued member of the prison population. He teaches basic English skills to other inmates, 80 per cent of whom are illiterate. In his off hours he takes correspondence courses, at present art history and Latin. He also answers the volumes of mail he gets from relatives and well-wishers, and writes of his loneliness and despair in short stories.

Franz also a victim of system

BEYOND THE TRAGEDY OF BRUCE CURTIS THERE IS another tragedy — that of Scott Franz. It is easy to paint him as the villain of the piece, when in fact he is no less a victim than Bruce.

Rosemary Podgis married Alf Podgis when her youngest son was three years old. From that point onward, mother and son led insane, terrifying lives. Scott Franz is a liar, a fantasizer and an egomaniac, but he came by these traits naturally. They were the basic tools of survival. Bruce seems to have recognized this, and he wanted to help, no less than he wanted to help his friend in Middleton. We know the consequences of that compassion.

The courts of Canada and the U.S. have begun to deal leniently with women who try to escape unbearable brutality in the home through acts of violence. As yet, however, there is little or no recourse for children in the same circumstances.

The life of Scott Franz was probably ruined long before July 5, 1982. If it wasn't then, it is now. Our violent society has written off yet another young life.



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National student federation challenged by Alberta pullout

OTTAWA (CUP)— Canada's national student lobby group has lost its largest member but representatives say the move will not spell the demise of the deficit ridden organization.

University of Alberta students voted in a strong majority Feb. 7 and 8 to reject membership in the Canadian Federation of Students, which is carrying a \$65,000 debt-load this year. The U of A pays more than \$80,000 in membership fees.

"We're not near bankruptcy yet. We have financial difficulties but we have a stable budget," says CFS Chair-elect Barb Donaldson, a U of A student working on the CFS "yes" committee.

"We tried to be too much for too many for too long. It's time to face up to a lot of criticism," she said.

Of the more than 7,000 students who filled out a ballot, 64 per cent cast a "no" vote and 36 per cent cast a "yes" vote for the federation. About 27 per cent of the university's 24,000 students voted.

Along with Donaldson, CFS chair Beth Olley insists the stinging loss will not force the organization to cut services next year.

Olley says savings made through the combining of CFS's political and services executive boards — a move decided upon at its November general-meeting — will take care of at least \$20,000 of the lost revenue.

The chair, who is sorely disappointed with the referendum's results, says the organization can also scale down next year's budget from about \$480,000 this year to \$420,000. She says the reduction can be made because CFS does not have to budget for a \$40,000 surplus to pay off part of the deficit next year. Both Olley and Donaldson deny the loss will delay debt repayment.

The remaining \$20,000, which goes to CFS-Services, will be taken care of in its own budget. Olley says CFS-Services is expecting to save money on the combining of the two boards and can budget accordingly.

"With a little bit of innovation, it can be solved easily and with no conceivable reduction in services," Olley says.

"It's a problem we have to deal with but it's not insurmountable. We are not anywhere near going bankrupt and never have been. It's simply not the case."

Donaldson and Olley say the decisive vote hurts the

federation's morale, coming shortly after the University of B.C. students voted overwhelmingly to reject CFS. But they say the results have not dampened their optimism for upcoming referenda at the University of Victoria and University of King's College in Halifax in mid-March.

Olley says the University of Western Ontario is interested in becoming a prospective member and could bring in substantial revenue to offset the U of A loss. Western has more than 18,000 full-time students.

The U of A referendum was run simultaneously with student council executive elections. Ballot box irregularities plagued the elections but Donaldson says the suspicious results will not affect the decision on CFS. She and other scrutineers were recounting executive election ballots at press time.

Paul Alpern, U of A student vice-president external, says he thinks the majority rejected the organization because of its policies calling for Canada to pull out of NATO and NORAD and supporting Chilean and El Salvadorian peoples' fight against their countries' repressive regimes.

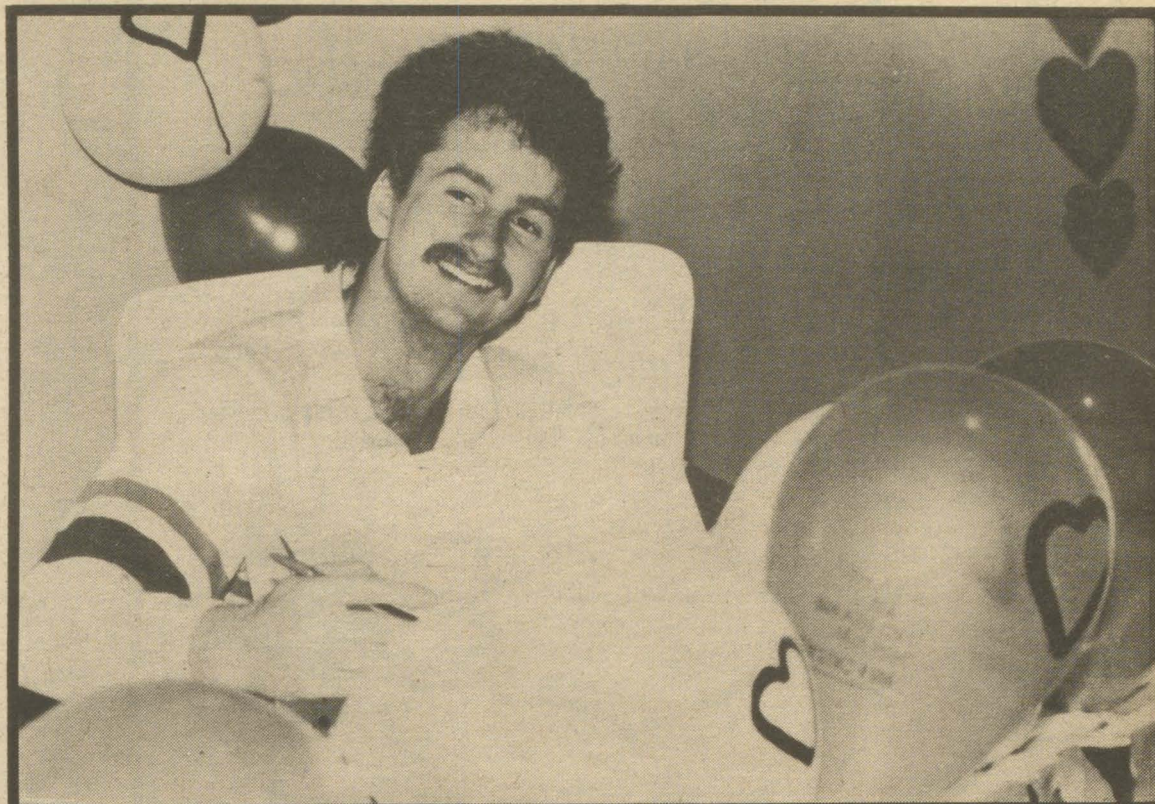
Concerns about the organization's finances, its ineffectiveness as a lobby group and failure to respond to members, he says, were also factors.

Four out of five executive slates in the council elections did not support CFS. Alpern says a "no" committee, which plastered anti-CFS posters over the campus, was active in influencing students' vote.

"I felt there was a lot of questions and frustration with the organization," he says. "Why weren't we getting any feedback from the national organization? Why did a national rep not visit its largest member before the referendum?"

Donaldson says, however, Alpern and council president Floyd Hodgins and vice-president internal Gord Stamp refused to co-operate with CFS representatives on campus. She says they were involved in the "no" CFS campaign.

Alpern says the big schools such as the U of A and UBC may begin to organize an alternative federation of students that would replace CFS and foster more communication between students at the country's largest institutions.



"Kiss me, you fool," begs DSU vice-president Rusty James. The Dal Arts Society sponsored a kissing booth in the SUB Green Room to raise money for OXFAM. James' desperate efforts brought in \$2.00. The starving masses of the world will be truly grateful. Happy Valentine's Day, Rusty. Photo: Mary C. Sykes, Dal Photo.

Dalplex defends "deadly" fibres

By ERIN STEUTER

ASBESTOS. IT'S A WORD that evokes images of choking miners, wheezing workers, and contaminated school children.

In recent months its spectre has loomed locally as complaints by patrons have forced health authorities to defend the use of asbestos in the Dalplex.

"There is no risk to the users of our facilities," says Dalplex manager Tony Martin.

He maintains that the pressed asbestos board found in the saunas and the asbestos tiles that line the foyer ceiling pose no health hazard as long as the surfaces are sealed.

"The surfaces are constantly monitored," he says. "There is no danger."

However, two Dalplex members remain unconvinced. A professional couple in their 30s say that they first noticed what they believed to be asbestos peeling from the ceiling in the Dalplex foyer a few months ago.

"We made a few inquiries and not only did they (University health officials and Dalplex management) refuse to answer our questions, but they lied to us about what it was."

The couple, who are reluctant to use their names for fear of recriminations, are disgusted at the reaction they encountered.

"First they told us it wasn't asbestos, then it was, then it wasn't; it was Mica, and finally that it was asbestos but it was safe."

"This kind of attitude could be expected from some multinational but we expected Dalhousie to take some kind of responsibility in providing us with answers and information."

"Instead we were basically told, 'if you don't like it, don't use it.'"

University health and safety inspector, Dr. Joe Johnston, is annoyed by their accusations.

"I have given them (the couple) all the information we have but

they only seem to be satisfied if the tiles are removed. Not only did the department of health and safety examine the material, but I checked it out personally. It is perfectly fine. There is no need to remove it," he says.

Once praised as the 'magical mineral' because of its indestructible nature, asbestos is now considered one of the most dangerous substances known, allegedly causing 17 per cent of all cancer deaths.

Inhalation of its fibres is thought to result in cancer of the larynx or lungs. Prolonged exposure leads to progressive and debilitating lung diseases such as asbestosis and mesothelioma.

"Asbestos is the only cause of mesothelioma (cancer of the lung cavity)," says environmental engineer Duncan MacKay.

"As little as one exposure can kill you," he says, "but it may take twenty years to show up."

T.A. Mejzner of the N.S. department of occupational health and safety, says that the kind of asbestos used in the

Dalplex is only carcinogenic if the surface is inadequately sealed and the asbestos fibres are free and airborne.

He says that there are extensive tests and indexes to check the safety level of asbestos, but adds, "even the best material can break down and then there is a risk of contamination that may not be justified."

Martin however maintains that the asbestos is an appropriate and necessary fire retardant.

"We were instructed to install it by the Fire Marshall and do not consider it a hazard," he says.

Nevertheless, the concerned couple say that they are unsatisfied with the answers they have received.

"We live in a country that gave government assistance to people to put Urea Formaldehyde in their homes when it was known to be dangerous and banned in the United States," they note.

"After that, you're supposed to believe what the 'authorities' tell you?"

DSU elections coming soon

By BILL MITCHELL

VOTING IN DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION ELECTIONS will be held from March 13-15.

Many positions are up for grabs, including president, vice-president internal and members of the council.

The closing date for nominations is Feb. 25. No candidates have put forward their names so far in the annual contest.

"But this is not unusual at this stage," says Kevin Drolet, DSU chief elections returning officer. He says two years ago Tim Hill and Susan MacIntyre submitted their nominations one minute before nominations closed. They were elected president and vice-president.

"The unusual thing is that all the other positions will not be contested by present student politicians. All the old guard are leaving," says Drolet.

The DSU elections will be covered in a special March 5 *Gazette* election supplement which will examine the candidates and the issues.

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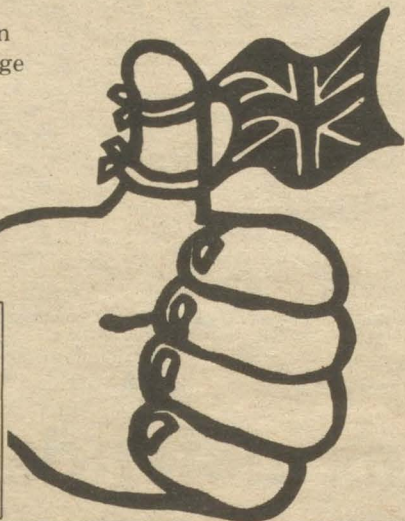
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Nautical school sets sail for Port Hawkesbury

By CHARLENE SADLER

THE NOVA SCOTIA NAUTICAL Institute is adrift in a sea of political controversy.

Students and staff of the school say the federal government is playing politics with their future by deciding to move the institute to Port Hawkesbury from Halifax.

The government granted \$17 million to the nautical institute to construct a new building on the condition that the new school be built in Port Hawkesbury.

Capt. John Sampson, the nautical institute's principal, says a new school has been needed for a long time. The institute is presently located in an old warehouse in Halifax.

Students at the institute have organized a campaign to make the public aware of the disadvantages of the move.

Moving the institute to Port Hawkesbury would be a major inconvenience for students and instructors whose home is in Halifax, says Barry McDonnell, the student spearheading the campaign.

"The teachers here are master mariners," says McDonnell.

"They are older instructors with families who could make more money at sea than teaching."

He says many of the instructors may not make the move to Port Hawkesbury.

Sampson says he thinks the school is in greater danger of losing students than instructors. Students may shy away from the new institute until it establishes a reputation, he says.

"Getting good instructors has always been a problem, even here in Halifax," says Sampson.

Captain Paul Brick says that if the federal government decides that the school definitely has to move, the committee of master mariners of Canada will support their decision.

"Our greatest concern is the education of seamen," he says.

Brick says he supports a proposal that would divide the school with new students and cadets studying in Port Hawkesbury and the graduate students staying in Halifax.

The student committee opposed to the move says this is a poor option.

"There would be duplication of administrative costs," he says. "More importantly, though, students would lose the benefits of interaction with more experienced students and the chance to make contacts for future employment," says McDonnell.

Feds announce new job creation programme

OTTAWA (CUP)—The federal government says it will gainfully employ 95,000 Canadian students this summer, with a little help from big business and a new \$205 million student summer job program.

Flora MacDonald, employment and immigration minister, announced Feb. 6 the government is putting an emphasis on career-related jobs for students this summer in a newly created program called Challenge '85. She said 95,000 jobs will appear.

Of the \$205 million, the government will allocate \$163 million for wage subsidies, \$30 million for loans allowing students to create their own summer businesses and \$10 million for jobs in federal departments and agencies.

The \$205 million, though touted as an increase by MacDonald, is actually a decrease in the amount of money spent last year when inflation is taken into consideration. The Liberal government spent \$201 million on Summer Canada Works last year, the country's largest student job creation program. It was eliminated in the Tories' Nov. 8, 1984 economic statement.

MacDonald said she will personally challenge the private sector to create additional jobs for students and has approached chief executives of eight corporations who promise to bring as many as 10,000 young

people into their ranks. The corporations include IBM, Noranda Mines Inc., Imperial Oil, Northern Telecom, Bell Canada and the Royal Bank.

"This summer, instead of offering pre-packaged federally funded projects that only provide next year's tuition and little else, we are challenging our economic partners to join us in coming forward with meaningful jobs that improve students' ability to contribute to society now and in the future," she said at a press conference.

The program also includes four components of the Liberals' Summer Canada Works which roughly receive the same amount of money as they did last year. They are: the \$13.6 million Canada Employment Centres for Students, the \$2.3 million internships for native students, the \$13 million national defence department's cadet and reserve training and the \$1.2 million RCMP law enforcement and keeping the peace program.

Two new components—work orientation workshops and business drive for jobs—will be created. The government will give \$0.5 million to the former in the hope of helping disadvantaged high schoolers and potential dropouts, and \$1.3 million to the latter to urge leading corporations and businesses to hire students.

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Campus crime increases

By LAURA PRATT

CAMPUS CRIME IS ON THE RISE.

The number of thefts on campus in 1984 increased 78 per cent from the previous year. Campus security director Max Keeping says about 90 percent of all items stolen are wallets, purses and duffle bags, and the rate of recovery on those items is low.

Keeping says that in the spring and summer, theft of bicycles also increases, due to the lack of the use of proper locks. In an attempt to prevent this security is selling theft proof bicycle locks to students and faculty at cost.

Recently there was an

attempted theft at the Killam library. In early January a person was caught attempting to steal a cash box, and is due to go on trial in May.

Keeping says that thefts in Shirreff Hall, a Dalhousie women's residence, have increased as well. There were more thefts this year than in the previous four. Howe Hall though has been very quiet, says Keeping.

Vandalism in the Student Union Building is also on the increase, says Pat Hartling, SUB assistant general manager.

In the long run, says Hartling,

the vandals are only hurting themselves.

Recently \$4000 worth of upholstery work had to be done to repair furniture damaged first term.

This past weekend there was an attempted break-in at the SUB. The intruders, who attempted to enter through a utility entrance, were scared off by a CKDU worker. There was no structural damage, but minor repairs were necessary after the break-in attempt.

Paying for damage to student facilities, and putting on extra staff costs the university money.

Students won't pay

By BILL MITCHELL

STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE THEIR BURSARY CHEQUES LATE will not be charged interest on their tuition fees if the government is at fault.

Joyce Kelly, of the student accounts office, says if students apply for bursaries on time, but delays occur as a result of government inefficiency, students will not be penalised. Tuition fees for the second term were due Feb. 8.

"We cannot penalise students when it is out of their hands," she says. Kelly says those students who applied for their bursaries late will still have to pay interest.

"We can find out whether the bursaries are late because of late applications," she says. The deadline for bursary applications for N.S. was Feb. 15.

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Illustration: Kimberley Whitchurch

For straight folks who don't mind gays but wish they weren't blatant

By Pat Parker
reprinted from the McGill Daily
Canadian University Press

You know, some people have a lot of nerve, sometimes I don't believe some of the things I see and hear.

Have you met the woman who's shocked by two women kissing, and in the same breath tells you that she's pregnant?

But gays shouldn't be blatant.

Or the straight couple sits next to you in a movie, and you can't hear the dialogue because of the sound effects.

But gays shouldn't be blatant.

And the woman in your office spends your whole lunch hour talking about her new bikini drawers and how much her husband likes them.

But gays shouldn't be blatant.

Or the hip chick in your class rattling a mile a minute about the camping trip she took with her musician boyfriend.

But gays shouldn't be blatant.

You go in a public bathroom, and all over the walls there's John loves Mary, Janice digs Richard, Mark loves Delores, etc.

But gays shouldn't be blatant.

Or you go to an amusement park, and there's a tunnel of love, and pictures of straights painted on the front, and grinning couples going in and out.

But gays shouldn't be blatant.

Fact is, blatant heterosexuals are all over the place: supermarkets, movies, at work, in church, in books, on television every day and night, even in gay bars.

And they want gay men and women to go hide in the closet.

So to you straight folks I say:

Sure I'll go, if you go too,

but I'm polite, so after you.

Penguin lust blooms at Gazette

DO YOU SUPPORT PENGUIN

lust? At *The Gazette* we disagree with those who argue that penguin lust is immoral, indecent and tacky. We feel penguins have just as much right to lust as every

other species. Penguin lust will become an important issue in the upcoming Dalhousie Student Union elections. Work out your position on this burning issue now. At *The Gazette*, we're voting for Opus.



THE DEADLINE FOR LET-
to the editor is noon, Monday
before publication. Letters must
be signed and include a telephone
number where the author can be
reached (although telephone
numbers will not be printed with
the letters). Letters are subject
to editing for style, brevity, gram-
mar and spelling and libel. Let-
ters can be dropped off at the SUB
enquiry desk, mailed to our
address (see page 2), or brought
up to the *Gazette* offices, third
floor, SUB.

Why CFS?

RECENTLY CFS CHAIR
Beth Olley said that the organiza-
tion's services would not be
affected by the pull-out of the
University of Alberta (and
\$80,000) from the organization.

Prior to the founding of CFS
the services used to be more or less
offered for nothing by the Associ-
ation of Student Councils. They
can afford to do that since the ser-
vices are essentially commercial
enterprises in themselves.

If all members pulled them-
selves and their money out, the
services of CFS would continue,
albeit probably under another
name. CUTS is not going to fold
if CFS dies.

So the question remains — why
CFS at all?

Referendum gives council time to address other issues

AS THIS EDITORIAL IS
being written, students are voting
across campus on the proposed
tuition deal between Dalhousie
students and the university's
administration.

Last week we outlined some of
the advantages to students if the
referendum is passed—here's
another. If the referendum passes
the student union will be freed
from its annual battle with
administration over tuition fee
increases.

This will give council time to
pursue other issues on campus,
like:

- working with other student unions, government, and admin-
istration to come up with a crea-
tive solution to the housing crisis
in Halifax—co-op housing, joint
residences, are but two answers.
- lobbying government to create
more summer jobs for students.
- Projects on campus, like hous-
ing, could employ students dur-
ing the summer.
- creating space and funding on
campus for a women's centre, a
place for women to relax, read
and meet each other. The centre

could bring in speakers, develop a
library and be a place for
women's groups to meet.

● helping other student unions in
Nova Scotia and across Canada
achieve similar deals with their
administrations.

● meet with students to decide
how our \$75 million contribu-
tion to the university will be
spent.

There's lots of work to be done
and ending the months long
negotiations over tuition
increases will give the student
union time to pursue these and
other goals. These ideas aren't
new—they've been on council's
list of priorities for years. Argu-
ments and strategies over fees
have taken up most of their time
though.

Students should give council
direction about where this extra
time and energy should be spent.

One question we'd ask candi-
dates in the upcoming DSU elec-
tions is, "What will you be doing
to help students next spring?"

The all-nighter blues

IT WAS 5PM ON THE 15TH
of February. The paper was due at
9AM the following morning. It
was time for a drastic measure...It
was a time for ...



KIM MACLEOD

AN ALL NIGHTER!!!

- 5:10 - I begin.
- 5:15 - I give up. It's too early for
the panic to settle in and just
early enough for reruns of "I
Love Lucy"
- 6:00 - resume work
- 6:30 - stop work and start calling
friends in search of massive
amounts of sympathy.
- 8:30 - (it was a major sympathy
break). Organize thoughts as
only I can (i.e. plagiarize like
crazy)
- 9:30 - it's order out time. Stop
work and spend awhile letting
my fingers do the walking
through the fast food takeouts
in search of a quick grease fix.
- 11:00 - Put on something comfy.
Give myself a facial. Do nails.
Read a 6 month old edition of
People. (This is all part of
UNWINDING - an imperative
mood setting procedure)
- 12:00 - Panic like hell. It's the
16th of February and there is no

paper. Time for some intense
caffeine consumption — Break
out the Nescafe.

1:00 - Forget the outline. Forget
the books. Type straight from
the head to the page often
skipping the former.

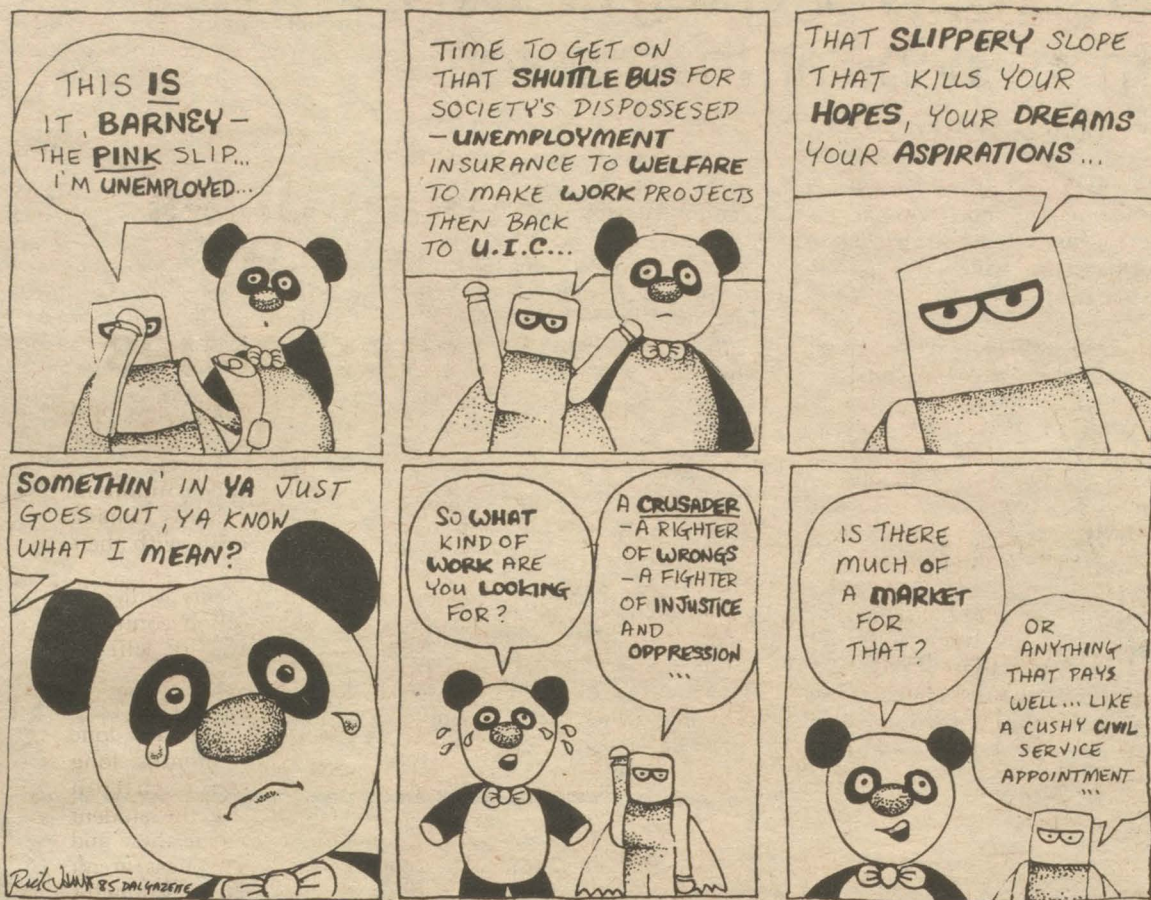
2:00 - the coffee has its usual effect
—I begin to doze off. Set the
alarm for 5 and take a nap.

7:30 - awoken to the sight of sun-
light peeping through the
curtains. Allot five to ten
minutes to jumping around
the house in a T-shirt and
underpants screaming obscenities
at the plants.

7:40 - type like a madman
8:55 - race out of the house like a
dog in pursuit of the milkman.

8:57 - congratulations are in
order. The paper is on time.
Life can continue as you know
it. I breathe a hearty sigh.

10:00 - on the way home from
class buy some paper. After all,
it is February 16th. The next
paper is due on February 17th.



Flogging that poor dead horse

To the editors,

At the risk of flogging a dead horse, I would like to pursue Mike Driscoll's question which concluded his letter "Decline in relative wages regrettable" appearing in *The Gazette's* Feb. 7 edition. The question was: 'How can he (Mr. Snowden) say that the "labour-management rhetoric does not suit any university setting"? Mr. Driscoll's question is the culmination of a somewhat eloquent attempt to defend and in some way clarify Rick Janson's statement that faculty's wages' are declining in comparison with 'the private sector'. I thank Mr. Driscoll for challenging my account and hope this reply is more satisfactory.

The labour-management rhetoric does not suit any university setting because such rhetoric implies an adversarial relationship which universities were not meant to foster, born of what Mr. Bruce Gordon ("DFA held Dal campus hostage" *Gazette*, Feb. 7, p. 14) has aptly called "the cult of self-interest." He declares the most lamentable aspect of the recent dispute between Dal administration and the DFA to be "the endless claims from all sides that their only real interest was the betterment of Dalhousie." The immediate reply would seem to be that as Mr. Driscoll puts it, "professors have... (a) moral right to protect their real wages", in the interests of the university (i.e. — we would otherwise lose good professors to other institutions).

For the sake of argument I will grant Mr. Driscoll this much: that the DFA has a moral right to protect the faculty's real salaries. So they have a right. Now, where is the responsibility commensurate with said right? The responsibility is surely to us, the students, in that we pay, albeit nominally, to learn from the

faculty in the various disciplines offered. Where does the administration fit in? Originally, there were no administrators — the professors took care of such matters. Now, the administrators do the tedious work to leave the teaching and learning to professors and students. If administrators are not doing their work properly or responsibly then it is they who should be affected by faculty actions not the students.

To suggest, as Messrs. Janson and Driscoll do, that labour-management rhetoric is appropriate to the university setting is to imply the following: professors are merely responsible to themselves as wage-earners and the administrators are responsible to themselves as 'owners of the means of production'. We, the students, are left out of the picture unless we are prepared to choose sides or make ourselves indefinitely 'neutral' as Mr. Gordon's letter suggests. I will try to anticipate a reply by suggesting what the DFA might have done as an alternative: a) if the DFA really does have the abovementioned moral right and accepts the responsibilities which such a right entails, then it should have made some effort to guarantee that its actions would in no way affect those responsibilities; b) such a feat could be accomplished either by offering classes off campus or by seeking employment elsewhere at the end of the current academic year. Tough, perhaps even impossible you say?

The fact that the DFA did not choose either of these options is an indication that the university has been reduced to less than the sum of its parts: students + faculty + administration = labour + management. What happened to the professors who wanted to teach for the sake of teaching? It would appear that they are outnumbered by those who seek higher salaries. The fallacy in applying the labour-management rhetoric to the university setting is that ideals such as the pursuit

of knowledge and the passing on of knowledge are compromised out of existence in favour of self-interest. The ideal has been lost and there seems to be no attempt to retrieve it. Our university is now merely the reflection of the industrial battlefield, something which Plato's Academy stood above.

Sincerely yours,
Marcus Snowden

DFA strike defended

To the editors,
Re: Bruce Gordon's remarks concerning the DFA in last week's *Gazette*.

The students of Dalhousie should respect the DFA's act of responsibility. They realized that a strike would affect all those attending Dalhousie. The 1985 Dal graduates would have entered the job market much later than those of other Canadian Universities; other students with budgeted funds would have suffered through the year, unable to attend the next academic session.

I am thankful that the student population has not suffered through strike action. I am grateful to the faculty of Dalhousie for the quality of education that I am receiving here. However, I do not envy the students who will follow after me. If faculty wages remain lower than the average, Dalhousie will lose the prestige it has worked so hard to gain.

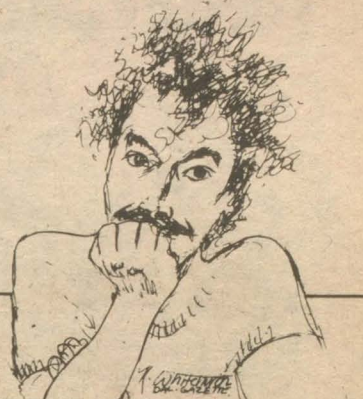
Sincerely,
M.C.J. Hillier

P.S. It seems strange that the administration charges the highest tuition fees in Atlantic Canada and denies the faculty a salary competitive with other Canadian Universities.

Unemployment no fun

BEING UNEMPLOYED IS not a lot of fun. The loss of income, social standing and the constant pressure of finding non-existent work is not a pleasant experience.

It is no secret that Canadians are more concerned about unemployment than any other



RICK JANSON

issue before them. With an estimated two million people officially unemployed or having given up the search for work altogether — in addition to the underemployed — this national crisis has touched more Canadians in a directly personal way than any other.

To say that we need a fresh approach to the unemployment problem is indeed an understatement. Yet the Tories have offered little in the way of job creation, nothing in the way of innovation in our present social structures meant to deal with those caught in this nightmare, and in fact have made life exceedingly harder for those of us without work.

Mulroney promised jobs. He promised his programmes would be financed by economic growth, not cutbacks. Instead thousands are being tossed out of work as the cuts sweep through federal institutions and programmes, and hardship faces many others as the effects ripple through our economy.

What we need is a new strategy in this country to deal with unemployment and the social structures of a system that was never intended to deal with so many people out of work, and so many people out of work for so long. We don't need a crackdown on the unemployed. We need some creative thinking about a long term problem that is going to be with us at least for the next decade.

"Once we admit that unemployment is a long-term, structural situation, we must bluntly face the reality that our welfare, unemployment insurance and job retraining schemes were designed to serve the last economy," states Dian Cohen and Kristin Shannon in their book *The Next Canadian Economy*. "We cannot afford, year after year, to hand out a billion dollars a month from a programme that was designed as a 'temporary' response to a 'temporary' problem."

The authors go on to state that the politicians should get up their courage and deal with the larger question of income distribution in Canada.

If we are going to have long term unemployment, then we must have a humane social structure that will provide support to Canadians that is both adequate and dignified.

The ill-thought-out cuts passed on by government have only made the problem worse,

attacking sectors of the economy that have been productive in creating both jobs and revenues for the federal treasury via taxation.

Take the arts, for example. While they take in 1.45 per cent of federal expenditures, they make up more than four per cent of the gross national product. In addition they employ about the same number of people in Canada as the agricultural sector, yet they have taken among the heaviest blows of the recent cuts.

In cutting back on arts and culture, the government is in effect shutting the door on many of its options for a successful social transition to the coming information based economy. Artists have been on the cutting edge of economic growth around the world. The creativity they supply is one source of input in the search for solutions. But instead the arts community is up in arms over outright attacks on their very livelihoods by the government.

The development of arts and culture are particularly important in dealing with the psychology of an "unemployment culture." Clearly our value system based on the old protestant work ethic has to change in light of such huge unemployment figures.

But unemployment is not only a problem for governments and artists to deal with.

On a local level all of our institutions have a role to play.

While many of our student politicians make a lot of noise about accessibility to our educational institutions, they themselves do little to lower the barriers to their own institutions and functions and do little to encourage unemployed youth. Why, for example, is it that the student union does not offer reduced rates of admission to its functions for the unemployed?

Many of these same people may be the many that slip through the floorboards in their pursuit for post-secondary education financing. I know — I'm one.

The student union could use some fresh thinking in this department. A creative policy for the unemployed around the university community could be a positive step.

If unemployment is Canada's number one problem — let's deal with it constructively rather than play lip service to the crisis.

This is the last of my columns for this year. Bye Bye...

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Summer work programmes more popular than before

By BILL MITCHELL

SUMMER WORKS PROGRAMMES are more popular than ever this year in the face of worsening employment prospects for students in Canada.

Schemes such as Katimavik and the Student Work Abroad Programme (SWAP) emphasize work experience in Canada and abroad at the expense of lower wages.

David Jennings, regional communications officer for Katimavik, says they are receiving more applications than usual this year.

"The demand is particularly greater among students," he says.

Heather Crosby, Travel Cuts manager, says there has also been an increase in interest in SWAP.

"The turnout for the information sessions last November were up between 30 and 50 percent from previous years," she says.

She says although actual applications for SWAP are presently the same as last year, there is no final deadline for applications.

"So it is difficult to tell exact numbers," she says.

Crosby says poor employment prospects are a probable cause of the increase in interest in SWAP.

"Feedback from previous participants, and the new exemptions from British taxation laws are also factors too," she added.

Laurie Edwards, of Canada employment, says the unemployment rate for students last summer was almost 16 percent. That figure refers to the percentage of students unable to find a single day's work.

Cathy MacPherson, a Dal stu-

dent who has successfully applied for SWAP, says she had not gotten a summer job in Halifax, and did not feel her prospects for summer employment were high.

"SWAP does give me a chance to go to Britain and have a summer job. The money won't pay for much more than living expenses, but I hope it will be enough to travel across Europe when the job finishes," she says. SWAP gives students a chance to work and live abroad.

Jennings says the Katimavik scheme is different from SWAP.

The programme lasts for nine months, with three months each at different locations. The participants are placed in a carefully selected group of 12 young people. The work concentrates on community projects.

"It's a year off that costs nothing," says Jennings.

Despite the increase in student demand for the Katimavik scheme, places have been restricted this year. Jennings says the government has cut back to 4,000 from the targeted 5,200 because it believes that Katimavik is not solid job creation.

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EASTERN PROVINCIAL



Escort service

By SAMANTHA BRENNAN

SO FEW WOMEN ARE USING Dalhousie's escort service that one of its three nightly shifts has been dropped.

Escort service co-ordinator Peter Jarvis says only two women have used the 9pm. shift in the past month.

Although successful in its first year of operation, Jarvis says only a handful of women have used the service this term. The service began in 1982 to protect women students walking home from the library to the women's residence at night.

In February, the 45 male volunteers who staff the service have accompanied 13 women to Shirreff Hall.

"If fewer and fewer people use the service it will be recommended that it be dropped," he says.

For now though, the escort service will continue to offer nightly runs to the women's residence from both the Killam and MacDonald libraries.

At the University of Toronto students are beginning to question the value of their escort service, in the wake of an increase of reported sexual assaults on campus.

"(Escort services) are a perpetuation of the problem," says Ingrid MacDonald, a student who writes for the campus feminist newspaper, *OtherWise*.

"Women should start thinking in terms of protecting themselves. We must empower ourselves to be protectors," she said.

The university's Victoria College escort service, started in 1983 by the student council and revived last fall after an attack on a female student near the campus, employs both men and women as escorts. MacDonald says this practice places women who use the service in danger.

"Villain and the protector are the same," she says.

Lois Fine of Toronto's rape crisis centre says the Victoria College escort service is likely not used much by women because they are reticent to be accompanied home by men. The service in 1983 was virtually a failure.

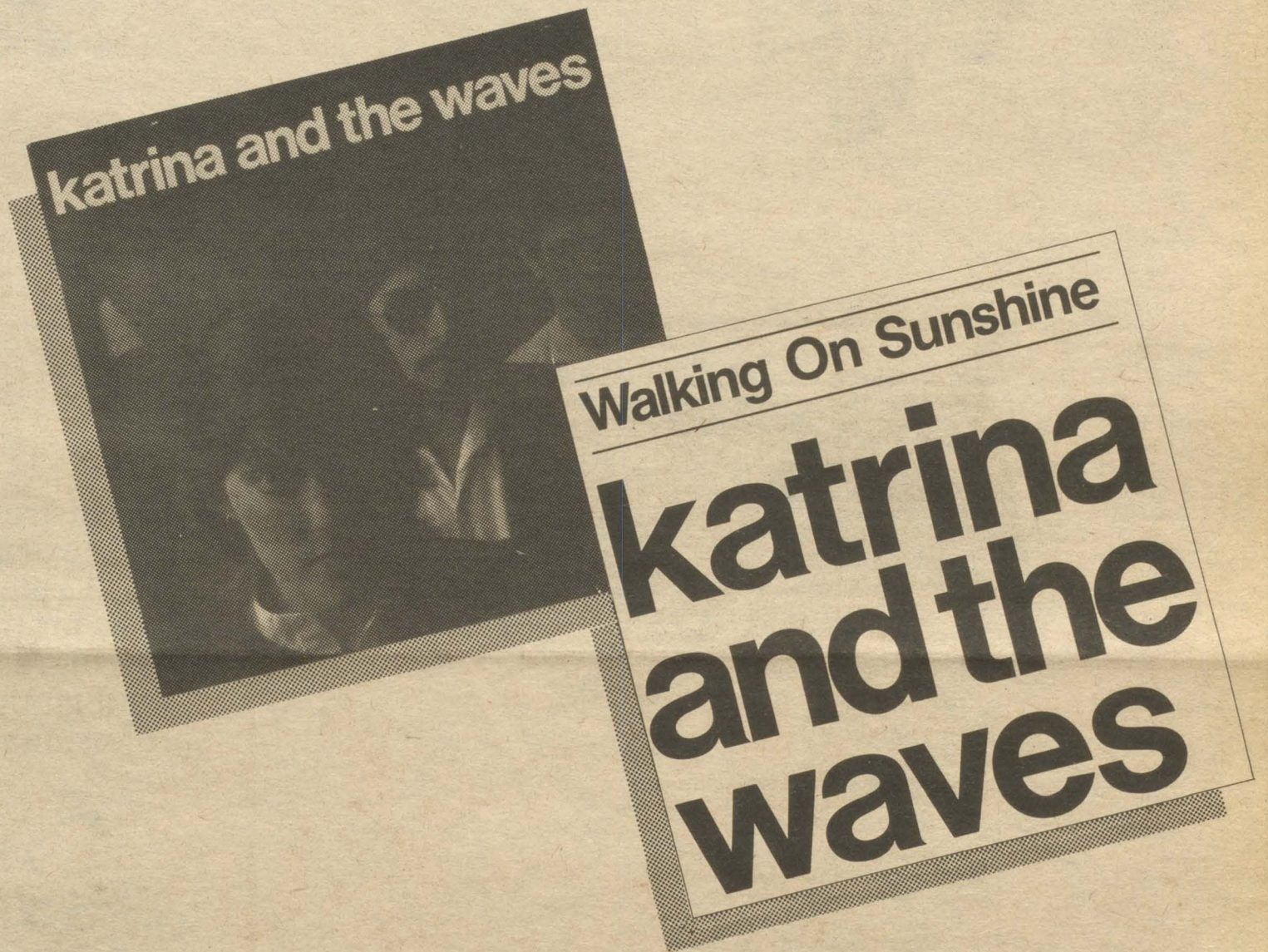
"A lot of women would feel safer if the escort was a woman. Women are often more frightened if it's a man they don't know. An escort service should be run by women."

Jarvis says this is not the case at Dalhousie. He says the women from Shirreff were asked if they'd prefer to have both male and female escorts and they said no.

Escort services have recently been set up at the University of Waterloo, Carleton University in Ottawa and Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. McMaster University in Hamilton and the University of Western Ontario in London both offer drive home services for students at night.

with files from Canadian University Press.

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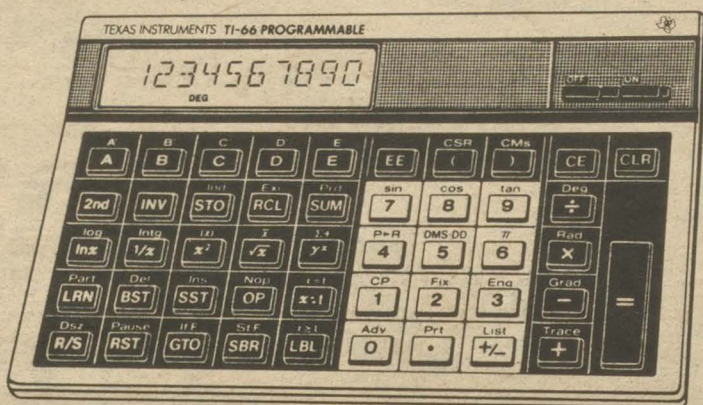
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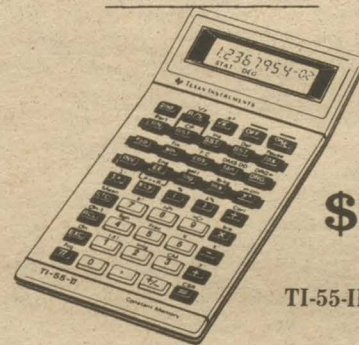
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NICE DAY FOR A WHITE WEDDING

God's gay flock searches for a home in organized religion...

By GILBERT BOUCHARD & DANIELLE COMEAU

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY PRESS

IT WAS A NICE DAY FOR A WHITE WEDDING.

The minister, resplendent in his red and purple frock, stood solemnly in the chapel's sanctuary as the organist played the traditional wedding march. Fidgeting guests peered anxiously down the aisle as the white-clad bride gracefully slid by them, joining her nervous sweating mate before the minister.

Everything was just right: the fifty carefully chosen guests, the tasteful flower arrangements, and the joyous organ music. In fact, one hardly noticed the only thing missing was the groom. The two women, dressed in identical white suits, exchanged rings, kissed and were pronounced married before their weeping friends and relatives.

Events such as this lesbian wedding in Winnipeg are becoming more common as lesbians and gay men assert their right to participate in mainstream religious institutions.

Lesbians and gays are not only gathering together and forming their own fellowships and patronizing more liberal churches, they are even trying to educate and gain a foothold in established Christian churches.

The church has been a source of hatred and pain for lesbians and gays for centuries. Church commanders have often outright rejected their gay parishoners, and followed this rejection with persecution.

Small wonder so many lesbians and gays desert organized religion.

Reverend Charles Bidwell says turning away from religion is no solution. "Everybody is religious," says Bidwell, an Edmonton-area minister for the Metropolitan Community Church, a non-denominational church which serves lesbians and gays exclusively.

Bidwell says the need for spirituality is still there, but many lesbians and gays have knuckled under heterosexual bullying and opted for dropping out of religion. That is changing, though, as increasing numbers of them set out to reclaim the spirituality homophobics have tried to deny them.

"Gays and lesbians have gifts to offer the Christian church," says Bidwell. "One gift is our growing understanding of the importance of embodying the spirit, reuniting the body and soul, and exploring the role of sexuality and sexual expression within a spiritual context."

"How many churches really get down to talking about sexual intimacy as a loving commitment to two people," says Bidwell. "They've lost the sense of celebration of sexual joining. Sexuality is a gift from God and we should celebrate it. Too many people are willing to do it in the dark and under the sheets and hope God doesn't see."

The MCC has chapters in most major North American cities and offers a home to God's wandering gay flock.

"We say that we offer a home for Christian worship, study and fellowship for anyone who feels alienated or rejected from their home church for whatever reasons."

"We have been drawn together by a special need to find affirmation and support," he says. "This makes us a close, caring community."

A typical MCC service includes hymns, Bible readings, prayers and holy communion. "We try to incorporate things from all Christian traditions."

One stumbling block for Christian lesbians and gays is the Bible, whose interpretation, by straight men, has been used to condemn and persecute them. Bidwell says lesbians and gays are trying to reclaim the Bible by tracing the roots of its traditionally sexist and homophobic tradition.

"Because the Bible has been used by some people to condemn us for what we are," says Bidwell, "we have been forced to do in-depth study of the scripture, their context and their meaning at the time they were written before we try and apply them."

Bidwell says the book *Homosexuality, Social Tolerance and Christianity* by Yale scholar John Boswell is a good text on the evolution of biblical homophobia.

"Boswell went through how homosexuality was viewed since before Christ to the 13th century," Bidwell says. "You can see the bias of the period, how words were assigned meanings and how translation evolved."

"For example, the word 'homosexual' in the Bible was translated from the Greek word meaning spineless, gutless or soft. Later, that word was interpreted to mean effeminate and eventually homosexual," says Bidwell.

"In other cases, there is an outright condemnation of some behavior that even homosexuals will condemn — homosexual gang rape, for example. Homosexuality was not Sodom's only sin," says Bidwell.

Bidwell also points out that lesbianism is virtually ignored in the Bible "because



Illustration: Rick Janson

society was so male dominated at the time it was written."

"People will go to the Bible to re-affirm their beliefs and will read what they want to read," says Bidwell. "It seems that some people can only feel positive by attacking something else."

"I don't see how this is an acceptance of Christ's acceptance of all oppressed people," says Bidwell. "Christ was a political rebel. If Christ came and saw what was being done to lesbians and gays, he would be the first to jump right in. If Christ were sitting in this room he wouldn't go, 'Do you do this or do you do that.' He would ask, 'What is your relationship to that person like? Are you helping that person's spirit? Are you helping them be loving and caring? Do you value and love that person? Do you have power over that person?'"

Bidwell says Christians are missing Christ's message when they oppress lesbians and gays, and have a moral responsibility to speak out against their persecution.

"We tend to get so hung up with who's putting what where, when we should be much more at arms about abusive people," he says.

The MCC is not the only church lesbians and gays are flocking to in their search for a non-oppressive worship environment. Many are seeking out religious organizations which are more humanist than Christian such as the Unitarian Universalists.

It is said of the Unitarians that anything goes in their loosely structured church because they have no dogma. The church is open to anyone including atheists,

agnostics, and gays and lesbians. Unitarians have long supported gay rights, have ordained gay ministers and perform gay marriages.

Lorraine Butchart is a Unitarian church member in Edmonton, and an organizer for a local gay and lesbian Unitarian chapter. She says such a group is important to increase lesbian and gay visibility within the church.

"In spite of the fact that Unitarian Universalists are very liberal, there are still individuals who are homophobic," she says. "Also, a lot of gays and lesbians are attracted to the church because they've heard we are open to gays, so we needed a visible presence in the church — both to overcome the homophobia and to welcome first time visitors."

Butchart says a motion passed at a national Unitarian conference in Banff last year affirmed "homosexuals as worthy individuals, discouraged prejudice against gay ministers, and encouraged the ordinance of gay union services."

"We also decided at this conference to form a national organization for lesbian and gay concerns," Butchart says. The Canadian Universalists for Lesbian and Gay Concerns is much like one in the U.S., which has existed since 1971.

Butchart says the group will be organizing workshops and study services to increase general awareness within the church.

But the struggle for gay spirituality does not end with special gay ministries and liberal churches. Many lesbian and gay Christians do not want to give up their

Continued on page 14...

Gays should have a place within

mainline churches, says Knight. If all the gays leave the mainline churches, the churches would say that homosexuality is not their business.

Continued from page 13...

religions and are taking the battle for acceptance into the pews and cathedrals of mainstream churches. Gay Anglicans, Catholics and United Church members have organized support groups which challenge their churches' prevailing homophobic theology.

Philip Knight says lesbians and gays should not all join liberal churches or gay ministries because that "leaves the mainline denominations unchallenged."

Knight, a spokesperson for a national gay Catholic group called Dignity, wants to reform his church from within. He says lesbians and gays must have a presence in their churches.

"Gays should have a place within mainline churches," says Knight. "If all the gays leave the mainline churches, the churches would say that homosexuality is not their business," he says. "But it is their business. It's their business because Christians are supposed to believe that Christianity is not a matter of cliques."

"Christianity shouldn't only be a religion for the respectable."

Like its counterparts in other denominations, Dignity chapters are active in most Canadian and U.S. cities. The group organizes masses, retreats, prayer groups, peer counselling and educational duties.

Knight says one of Dignity's goals is to "educate the church at all levels on homosexual issues."

"The psychological cruelty of the church is lessening, perhaps because groups like Dignity are educating the clergy," he says.

"Churches should deal with gays and lesbians," Knight says. "many of us think that the question of accepting homosexuals into the church is rather like the question of whether Greeks should have been allowed into the early church."

"Christ came to do away with the law," he says. "Jesus broke down the partition in the temple between Greeks and Jews. Salvation is for everyone — without exception."

Knight is upset by the Catholic church's hypocritical acceptance of lesbians and gays while rejecting their lifestyle.

"They say you can be a homosexual in our church, have a homosexual orientation, but that you can't practice. That's like saying it's okay to be a bird but you can't fly."

"God made you as you are and accepts you as you are," Knight says, "but to have marked you for involuntary chastity by your birth is an extraordinary thing for a merciful God to do. No one can tell a homosexual that it is his vocation to be chaste since a vocation has to be chosen."

Knight sees lesbians and gays propelling the Catholic church into the 20th century by forcing it to re-vamp its theology of sexuality.

The issue of sexual activity is a pressing one for lesbian and gay Christians. There is much pressure put on them by their churches, if they must be gay, to at least remain chaste. This somehow makes their gayness easier to accept.

Last August, the United Church general council debated a report which called for the ordination of openly gay or lesbian candidates. The report was eventually tabled, but not before much acrimonious

debate. The message to the Church's lesbians and gays was clear, though — stay celibate.

Reverend Eilbert Frerichs is the openly gay United Church chaplain at the University of Toronto. He is also a spokesperson for AFFIRM, the United Church group for lesbians and gays.

Frerichs says it is a lot to ask gays and lesbians, especially if they want to be ministers, to remain celibate when it is not expected of their heterosexual counterparts.

"In the Christian tradition, celibacy is seen as a special vocation, as a gift from God, given to some, not all," he says. "It's not something that can be imposed."

AFFIRM operates as a support and lobby group. Prior to last August's general council meeting in Morden, Manitoba, AFFIRM members gathered in Winnipeg to plan strategies for the meeting.

One problem lesbian and gay religious groups have is the less than full participation of lesbians.

Dignity's Knight says his group is predominantly male because "it's very hard to convince women that the Catholic Church is a place for them. Many lesbians felt that the church is totally irrelevant."

Lorraine Butchart agrees, adding "most women who have come out have already grown out of the church."

"Lesbianism tends to be more spiritual in nature," Butchart says. "Gay men have the bars and clubs as their social outlets and it's a fact of life that there is more casual sex among the men."

"I think the men search for their spiritual needs in the church because their spiritual needs aren't being met in their social outlets," she says.

◆◆◆◆

So, like the blushing brides at the lesbian wedding in Winnipeg, lesbian and gay Christians are shaping heterosexual religious traditions into something relevant to their lives and experiences.

**"I think the men search for their spiritual needs in the church because their spiritual needs aren't being met in their social outlets."
—Lorraine Butchart**



CALENDAR

THURSDAY

● **WOOD BUFFALO SLIDE SHOW** — A slide presentation about Wood Buffalo and Nahanni National Parks will be held at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, Lower Water Street at 8 pm. The presentation, given by Ian Church of Parks Canada, will give people an opportunity to become acquainted with two of Canada's northern parks. The program is sponsored by the Canadian Hostelling Association - Nova Scotia in co-operation with Parks Canada 1985 Centennial celebrations.

● **FILM** — The feature documentary *DON MESSER: HIS LAND AND HIS MUSIC*. The film was directed by Martin Defalco and is a document of Don Messer's cross country tour in 1970, marking his 35th year as a radio and television performer. The screening will take place at the National Film Board Theatre, 1671 Argyle St., at 7 and 8:30 pm. Admission is free.

FRIDAY

● **DERSU UZALA** — D: Akira Kurosawa. Japan/USSR. 1975; colour, 140 min. Russian with English subtitles, with Maksim Munzuk and Yuria Solomin. Award: Oscar, Best Foreign Language Film, 1976 — Based on the journals of Russian explorer, Vladimir Arseniev, the story is of a gold hunter and guide called Dersu Uzala who is hired by Arseniev, the leader of an expedition to survey the wastes of Siberia. Feb. 22-24, 7 and 9:30 pm, National Film Board, 1671 Argyle St., 422-3700.

SATURDAY

● **POTLUCK SUPPER** — Macrobiotic East Group will sponsor a Macrobiotic Potluck Supper at 4:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. For more information phone Macrobiotic Centre, 445-4695.

● **LETTING GO OF STRESS** is a new two-day seminar, unique to Eastern Canada, offered by the Centre for Continuing Education at Mount St. Vincent University on Feb. 23 and March 23. Instructors Dr. Nina Woulff and Dr. Leah Nomm will provide a rigorous and comprehensive approach to identifying and easing sources of energy drain. For further information call 443-4450 ext. 339. Pat Copeland.

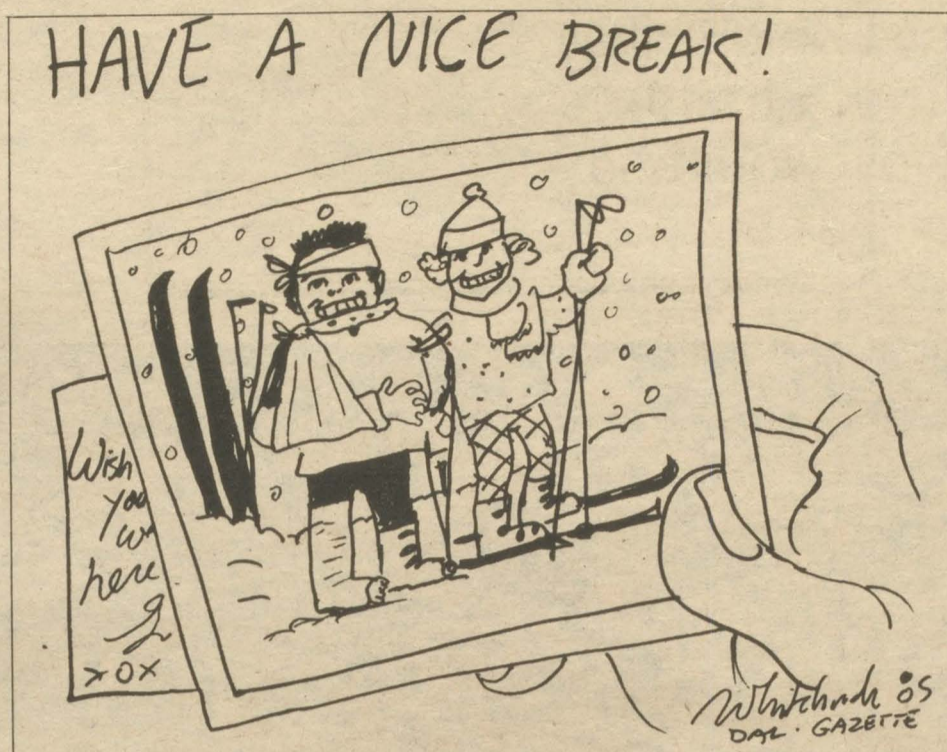
● **THEATRE BALLET OF CANADA'S** Eastern Canadian Tour brings the company to Halifax at for an 8 pm performance at the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium.

● **STOCKS, BONDS, SECURITIES, BLUE CHIP COMPANIES** — an all-day seminar on investing for people who do not have time to spend weeks studying the subject. For more information drop in to the Office of Part-Time Studies at 6100 University Ave., or phone 424-2375.

● **CHINESE NEW YEAR BANQUET** — The Chinese Students' Association of St. Mary's University will be holding the Chinese New Year Banquet in the Multipurpose room SMU at 7:30 pm. Tickets are sold at the Loyola Colonnade Information Lobby from Monday to Friday 11:30 am — 3 pm. Tickets are \$12. For enquiry: call 423-9660 or 429-1740.

SUNDAY

● **FILM** — The United Church Community at Dalhousie invite you to join them for a showing of the award-winning animation film, *Martin, The Cobbler*, at 7 pm in room 314, SUB. Everyone is welcome. A special series is planned for the Sundays in March,



featuring performing artists — singers, dancers, actors, etc. Join us any Sunday evening — room 314, SUB.

● **FILM** — *Lonely Hearts*. This charming comedy-drama won Best Picture of the 1982 Australian Film Awards. After the death of his invalid mother, a 50 year old man suddenly is freed of the time-consuming responsibilities of his adult life. He invests \$50 in a Lonely Hearts Club and begins courting a 30 year old woman. Their growing affection form the basis of this touching film. Rebecca Cohn. For more information, call 424-2267.

● **JOHN ALPHONSE VARIETY HOUR** — the second in a series of "Just For Kids" performances will take place at 2 pm in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium. Magicians, birds, and several surprise guests will appear in an afternoon that is sure to delight.

MONDAY

● **KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL** takes place at Dalhousie Arts Centre from Monday, Feb. 25 to Saturday, March 2. For a complete program listing please contact Shirley Baker, 443-2471.

TUESDAY

● **LECTURE** — A discussion on the topic "Experiencing the Void", will take place at 8 pm at the Kripalu Yoga Centre, No. 208 1585 Barrington St. For more information, please call 429-1750.

● **SAY WHAT YOU MEAN** — a two-day seminar concerned with the effective translation of thoughts into words, is being held at the Best Western-Glengarry in Truro on Feb. 26 and 27 by Dalhousie University's Institute of Public Affairs. For more information call 424-2526.

WEDNESDAY

● **FILM** — at 8 pm. Dalhousie Film Theatre will screen Federico Fellini's *Satyricon*. The director's adaptation of Petronius' *Satyricon* is so full of the varieties of decadence that a stunning unity emerges from their juxtaposition; it is a universe inhabited by "albino hermaphrodites, hairy dwarfs, beautiful nymphomaniacs and homosexual youths." The director recreates a myth according to his own specifications, one which represents his vision of man's unending attempt to rationalize his existence in the face of the mystery of life. For more information call the Rebecca Cohn, 424-2267.

● **DEMOCRACY ON TRIAL: THE MORGENTHAU AFFAIR** — D: Paul Cowan. Canada, 1984, colour, 60 min. Producers: Adam Symansky, Paul Cowan, & Jeff Lewis. This docudrama uses the example of Dr. Henry Morgenthau's challenge to Quebec's abortion laws, focusing on his own court trials that began in 1973, to pose some fundamental questions about our democratic process; about moral versus written laws, about challenging and changing the legal system and about the different power of government, the judiciary and the police. The film combines dramatic re-enactments, stock and recent documentary footage. Admission free at the National Film Board, 8 pm.

ALSO

● **FOR SALE** — Ladies downhill ski boots, size 7, very good condition. Call Cheryl at 424-46 between 9 am and noon, Monday - Friday.

● **FILM SCREENING** — The award-winning film *El Norte* will be shown at an Oxfam-Canada benefit, Friday, March 1, at Wormwood's Cinema, 1588 Barrington St. Screenings are 7 and 9:30 pm. Tickets \$3 at the door.

● **ARE YOU RATIONAL?** — A discussion on the topic "Rational and Irrational" will take place on Tuesday, March 5 at 8 pm at the Kripalu Yoga Centre, No. 208, 1585 Barrington St. For more information please call 429-1750.

● **A MARRIAGE PREPARATION** program for couples is to begin on Thursday, March 7. For more information call Avery Kempton, Chaplain for the United Church at Dalhousie, Room 310 - SUB. 424-2287.

● **LUNCHEON FOR SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS** — On behalf of the Faculty of Arts & Science and myself I offer you warm congratulations on winning an in-course scholarship for 1984-85. I would like to invite you to a chowder luncheon. Dr. Robert Fournier, Assistant Vice-President (Research) will speak on the topic, 'Science in the Modern Age'.
Date: Tuesday, March 5, 1985
Time: 11:30 a.m.
Place: Great Hall, Faculty Club
I do hope you will be able to attend.
Donald D. Betts, Dean
Faculty of Arts & Science

R.S.V.P. (by March 1): 424-3540

● **TOM MILLER AND MERMAID THEATRE** — Mount St. Vincent University Art Gallery is paying tribute to the art of puppetry with a major exhibit, "Tom Miller and the Mermaid Theatre" from Feb. 15 to March 10. The exhibit will feature masks, puppets, costumes, posters, banners, and films while highlighting the important role that Mermaid's co-founder and resident designer, Tom Miller, played in shaping the theatre's reputation.

● **CARIBANZA '85** — presented by Dalhousie, Mount St. Vincent, and St. Mary's Universities Caribbean Students' Societies. The Event offers cultural talent, exotic Caribbean dishes, and music for your dancing pleasure. This annual event will be held in the Multipurpose Room at Mount St. Vincent, Saturday, March 9. Doors open at 7 pm, tickets are \$6 for members, \$8 for non-members. For further information, call 443-5667 or 443-0975.

● **LEARN A LANGUAGE** at your own pace, at times convenient to you, with Dalhousie University's Self-Instructional Language Programmes. Contact Part-Time Studies, 6100 University Ave., across from the Cohn, or phone 424-2375 for more information.

● **THE ST. F. X. MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM IS HERE** — Thursday, February 21, 1985, Dalplex. St. F. X. X-Men vs. Dalhousie Tigers. Game time 8:30 p.m. Alumni reception to follow at "The Pub", Dalhousie Faculty Club (Just across the street from Dalplex), 9:30 p.m. Special feature: New X-Alumni Pins available. For more information, contact Ed. McHugh '79 (455-3717), Kie MacIsaac '58 (443-7846), Greg Roach '78 (454-5553).

● **INSECTS AND VEGETATION** will give information on the original "cheap labour" of bee keeping, silkworm farming, pollinators and pest polishment, on Tuesdays beginning Feb. 26. For further information call Dalhousie's Part-Time Studies and extension at 424-2375.

● **FREDA N. WALES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** — Value \$300 for one student for one academic year.

The award is designed for an individual who has successfully completed two years of college or university and is pursuing a program specializing in outdoor leadership at Dalhousie University. Consideration will also be given to certain others who wish to take an appropriate related course at Dalhousie University as follows:
b) A practicing professional in education, recreation programming or other professional who has demonstrated leadership and interest in the development of outdoor activities in his or her occupation in Nova Scotia.

c) An active volunteer who has demonstrated leadership in the development of outdoor activities in Nova Scotia and who wishes to further develop his or her competency.

This scholarship is designed for a resident of Nova Scotia and for the benefit of Nova Scotians. Preference will be given to an applicant who can demonstrate that his or her new skills will be used to benefit the province and its citizens.

Application forms are available at the Awards Office, A & A Building, Dalhousie University. Closing date for completed applications at the Awards Office, Dalhousie, March 31, 1985.

● **THE 1980's REPRESENT FAR-REACHING CHANGES** — To help cope with change Dalhousie's Part-Time Studies offers a workshop in Career Options on the weekend of April 12-14. For further information call 424-2375 or drop in at Dalhousie's office of Part-Time Studies, 6100 University Avenue.

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