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The children we leave behind

Poverty hits kids the hardest

by andrew gillis

the gazette

Lisa MacPhee is a single mother living on Agricola St. in North End Halifax. She has two children — Sam, five, and Dougie, seven. MacPhee lives in subsidised government housing and works full-time making minimum wage, and needs government help.

MacPhee spends more than 55 percent of what she earns on basics such as food and shelter. That means that she lives under the 'low-income cut-off.' In Canada, that is considered poverty.

MacPhee says that life is hard, and that often she feels like she is a bad mother, especially when she can't provide for her children.

"Well, Christmas is coming up soon, and I am a little worried about getting gifts for the boys," MacPhee says. "The kids are growing out of their winter clothes; they need new boots and

jackets all the time and I am not sure if I will have enough money to buy new ones for them."

Eleven years ago, the House of Commons in Ottawa promised to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000.

Since then, the number of poor children in Canada has risen by 25 per-cent, to the point where today, more than one million children live in poverty, according to a child poverty report card.

In Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Child Report Card was released and showed that 36,000 children live in poverty, a dramatic increase from 1989. The study also found that the gap between the rich and the poor is wider than ever, and continues to widen.

MacPhee works more than 40 hours a week in Halifax, where the minimum wage is \$5.70 an hour. Despite working as much as she can, she still cannot get enough money to meet all of the

debts involved with a young family.

"Depending on how many hours I can get, I have to go to the food bank. They're really helpful and get us through the tough times, but it embarrasses me sometimes that I can't do it on my own," MacPhee says.

The author of the Nova Scotia Child Poverty Report Card, Joanna LaTulippe-Rochon blames the government for MacPhee's situation. LaTulippe-Rochon thinks a possible solution would be to increase the amount people could earn before they're taxed. She also thinks that the minimum wage should be raised throughout the country.

"Child poverty is not on the national agenda because kids don't vote," says LaTulippe-Rochon, who also works with the Cape Breton Family Resource Centre in Sydney, NS. "This is not a problem only for children and their families; it is a national one. We are raising a society that that

is not going to have a fair chance."

LaTulippe-Rochon is quick to point out the paradox within the government's handling of poverty.

"The government is responsible for the minimum wage. But the ironic thing is that even when you work full-time, it doesn't even get you close to the [low-income cut-off]," she says. "For families to get to the marker, it would be a milestone."

The gap between the rich and the poor is widening here in Nova Scotia, as in the rest of Canada. In 1989, the average poor family lived \$5,830 below the 'low-income cut-off.' Today, the gap stands at \$7,960, showing a 37 percent increase.

Graeme Fraser, who works with the Nova Scotia Association of Social Workers, believes the government is not addressing problems associated with poverty. He notes that the province is experiencing a 'boom time', but not everyone is seeing the

results. He thinks that there are a lot of problems with poverty, problems that cost the public in dollars and in sense.

"Statistically, it has been shown time and time again that there is a greater incidence of health problems, people tend to use the health system much more, those who are on low incomes," Fraser says. "There is a greater incidence of them being involved with difficulty with the law, and increased cost to the justice system."

Fraser says Nova Scotia is now in the process of changing its social assistance program. These changes that are now in legislature will probably mean that even fewer people that need help will receive government money.

"The bottom line is that it doesn't have to be this way," says LaTulippe-Rochon. "Canada is a country built on social structures. It is time that we started to look out for one another again."

Could alternative media lessen Middle East tensions on campus?

by sofia kalormakis

the gazette

Since the recent Middle Eastern conflict between Israel and Palestine broke out three months ago, the mainstream media has covered it extensively. Tensions have built up here at Dalhousie University as a result.

Now some students are suggesting that alternative forms of media, like documentaries, are the way to lessen tensions on campus between Jewish and Palestinian students.

Dalhousie University student Alaa Dabbour says more alternative media coverage on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict can be an effective tool to bring people together and solve tensions on campus.

Darcie Richler, also a Dalhousie student says that biased propaganda and hurtful debates are not the way to lessen these tensions.

Both agree that people can find solutions if they listen to both sides of the story and to each other, instead of turning to violence.

Richler, a Political Science student, says she has family in Israel and fears she might lose a family member in the war.

"My brother-in-law David wants to go back for miluim," Richler says, referring to David's return to Israel and his service in the army after his compulsory military duties are completed. "He feels he should be there for his country."

Dabbour, a Computer Science student, is a Palestinian-Canadian but she has never seen Palestine. She was born in Kuwait after her family left Palestine to escape the 1967 conflict between Israelis and Palestinians. She has relatives living in Gaza she has never met. Dabbour fears she will never see her homeland again if the fighting doesn't stop in the

Middle East.

"Each side is only telling their side of the story and is not really focussing on the other side's response," Dabbour says. "Just sit down, have seminars, show films or video tapes to get a discussion going and people would hear what the others have to say."

Dabbour believes that some forms of media can be used to start peaceful dialogues among students at Dalhousie. She says that what appears on television is not always the way things work in real life. Dabbour suggests that people need other ways to be exposed to the issues, to open discussions and to work together peacefully on campus.

"If we were able to take people back 50 years ago, explain what happened in the beginning and why Palestinian refugees want to go back, it would be easier to find a solution," Dabbour says.

Richler supports peaceful demonstrations and protests but doesn't agree with propaganda for either side, especially when it spreads resentment.

As the president for the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Students' Federation (APJSF), she says people are free to state their opinions, but no one understands what is happening well enough to make a fair judgment.

"What about people who don't know what's going on in the Middle East?" Richler says. "What are they going to think when they see all this material spread on campus?"

When filmmaker David Ridgen screened his newest film *On The Borders Of Gardens* three weeks ago, he wanted to show a film people in North America hadn't seen before.

"In the media that I grew

up with, I knew there were Palestinians in the area," Ridgen says, "but I had no idea who the refugees were. I didn't even know there were refugees. This is part of my ignorance as a Westerner, which growing up on Western media, it's understandable."

The film is a documentary about Palestinian refugees and Israelis living in Israel.

Ridgen says he was originally interested in making a film about Palestinian refugees in Lebanon and the peace making process in the Middle East, because he had never heard anything about it.

Dabbour says she wishes she could be in the Middle East now. She believes that if she were there to share the pain, she could

understand how Palestinians and Israelis feel and cope with it every day.

"By sitting there and watching the news, I can just go off to do my homework and not think about the problem," Dabbour says, "but if I'm there living it, I cannot ignore it, because thinking under pressure can bring about a solution, stop the fire and have peace."

In contrast, Richler says

continued on page 6

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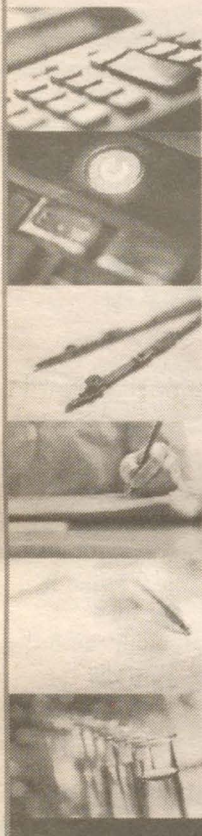
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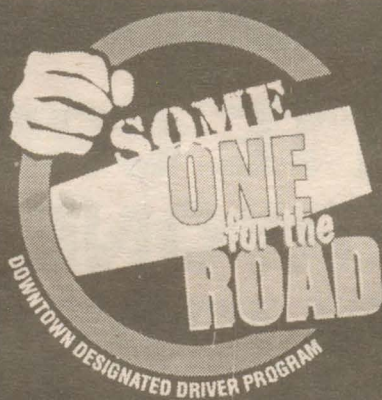
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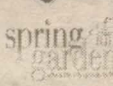
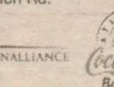
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National News

from the Canadian University Press newswire
by Wendy Sawatzky

Student loans handed over to private companies

OTTAWA (CUP) — The federal government handed over service contracts for Canada's student loans to two private companies December 1, ending months of confusion the fate of the program. Edulinx Canada and BDP will act as administrators for the Canada Student Loans Program.

Thomas Townsend, director of the student loans program at Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC), said he is confident that these two companies will provide the best available service to students at the lowest cost to Canadian taxpayers.

Townsend said the new agreement will allow his department to monitor the loan service and hold the companies accountable to their commitments. He said he's confident this will continually improve the way in which loans are administered and provides incentive to the providers to maintain a quality service.

Representatives from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), Canada's two largest student lobby groups, said that while they welcome the new deal, they remain wary, given private companies' poor performance records in administering student loans.

CFS Chair Michael Conlon said he's optimistic that the providers will provide a service package that will likely guarantee a better service for students, but his organization would continue to lobby the government to take greater steps to alleviate growing student debt.

The contract awards \$91.6 million to Edulinx to service loans to students at public institutions and \$45.7 million to BDP for loans to students at private institutions.

The new system begins in March 2001 and expires in 2004. Both companies will be responsible for the loan disbursements, managing student loan accounts during the borrower's education, the consolidation and repayment of loans and management of debt while borrowers are in repayment.

Loans taken out between 1995 and 2000 are still subject to the risk-sharing agreement between HRDC and various banks.

New company markets Quebec university discoveries to private sector

MONTREAL (CUP) — Quebec universities are banding together to set up a company that will market university research to the private sector. But student leaders and university administrators disagree on whether university research should even be up for sale.

Valorisation-Recherche Quebec is an umbrella group with a corporate structure that will help sell university research from the province's 16 universities.

The company will run on a five-year \$10 million government grant. It will legally be at arms-length from the universities, and should be up and running in a few months.

Professors who make discoveries that will be furthered by the company will act as the advisors for this continued research.

But Andrée Mayer-Periart, president of the Quebec federation of university students graduate studies council, remains skeptical. She is worried that these new companies might pull universities away from their mission statements by focusing on sellable products, instead of research and education that are in the public interest.

The new company will negotiate royalties for universities, but also may compel researchers to delay the publication of their discoveries in order to give the companies a head start in developing new products. In addition, critics say that researchers probably won't reap huge financial rewards from these new contracts.

Mayer-Periart quoted a recent study from University of Quebec in Montreal's inter-university centre of research in science and technology, which revealed that only one per cent of commercialized university research was actually profitable.

York strike enters fifth week

TORONTO (CUP) — With a strike at York University heading into its fifth week, negotiations have broken off and the university and the union are bickering over who to blame.

According to the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 3903, which represents teaching assistants, contract faculty and graduate assistants, the university has walked away from the bargaining table and is unwilling to go back to bargaining unless the union lowers its demands.

The university, however, disagrees. A university spokesperson says they are just taking a break because the parties are too far apart.

Meanwhile, the university's senate executive committee officially announced classes would not be held during the month of December; however, some exams will still take place. Students who have not been attending class or do not wish to write the exams in December can write them during the second period, currently scheduled between Feb. 2 and 12, assuming that the strike ends before the new year.

The 22 additional instruction days needed to complete the semester will begin on Jan. 3 or CUPE's return to work date, whichever is later. To make up for the lost time, students will lose their reading week, but no classes will be held on Good Friday.

Many students say they are considering switching schools next year as the strike heads into its fifth week. Other students say they are angered about their money being badly spent.

Hemp club leader arrested on campus

VICTORIA (CUP) — The token-in-command of a university club called Hempology 101 was in provincial court last week facing trafficking charges after a pro-medicinal pot demonstration at the University of Victoria. Ted Smith was arrested Nov. 8 by police after one of the Hempology 101 Society's weekly on-campus smoke sessions. An undercover police officer pocketed one of the seven joints Smith allegedly lit and passed around the crowd.

A week later, Smith was arrested again for possession of marijuana for the purpose of trafficking at another session, this time at the downtown Victoria Library. Smith allegedly showed up with 420 pot cookies to give out to supporters.

Smith, 31, says he was arrested in protest of several laws including the blanket prohibition against possession in the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. If a Canadian uses pot to treat disease, he or she must appeal for an exemption under section 24(1) of the Charter.

Smith is calling on supporters to take a stand at his early January trial. Smith said he is looking for support from at least 20 witnesses at the last smoke session, 20 at the Victoria Library session, as well as people who use the Vancouver Island Cannabis Buyers Club (VICBC), a not-for-profit club supplying more than 200 people in Victoria with medicinal marijuana.

Smith says the smoke-in sessions at UVic will continue, despite the fact that he can no longer attend the sessions because he is banned from campus. Despite his absence, at least 70 people showed up at the Nov. 22 campus session, he said.

Smith has passed on his lighter to a former UVic student who dropped out after suffering from a disorder similar to Lupus. She treats the pain with marijuana because she is allergic to many traditional pain killers.

Smith's arrest is not the only one to have drawn attention to medicinal marijuana smoking recently. Earlier in November, police shut down Vancouver Island's Compassion Society (VICS), a provincially recognized non-profit society that deals in alternative medicine and natural therapies with a focus on cannabis.

Sunday shopping legislation makes Christmas shoppers unhappy

by jen mccauley

the gazette

Christmas is coming. It is the busiest time of year for many businesses and people. It's also the time of year when laws disfavoured by the public end up in the media. This time, the Retail Business Uniform Closing Day Act is in question.

In October, the Hotel Association of Nova Scotia and the Tourism Industry Association

of Nova Scotia joined forces to send a message to Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm, asking him to revise the Act.

Nova Scotia is the only province in Canada that still has a year-round ban on Sunday shopping. Some people suggest this law does not please shoppers.

"It should absolutely be open," Terry MacIntyre, a manager at MTT, says.

She works on Sundays, and

thinks that the majority of people that work full-time want to be able to shop on Sundays.

Word on the street is mixed as well.

"I would like to have the opportunity to shop on Sunday, because I find that on Saturday there just isn't enough time," Marie Ring says. "On the flip side, I live downtown, and on Sunday, when it's quiet and there is nobody around, I love that. There's no traffic and it's

peaceful."

What is unclear about the law is which stores can stay open on Sundays.

Pip Bradford, a student from Maine, studying at the University of King's College, agrees.

"There is almost nothing open on Sundays," Bradford says. "It's a weird combination of stores that are opened. The two that I'm very aware of are drugstores and convenience stores, as well as the toy shop, which is an interesting contrast."

The Retail Business Uniform Closing Day Act states that some stores are allowed to open on Sundays. Businesses that are local or convenience stores, whose primary business is to sell groceries, can open. These stores cannot exceed the 4000 square foot store space limit. Confectionary and handcraft souvenir stores are part of the list.

A canteen or fruit stand can open and so can fish stores and laundromats, according to the Act. Flea markets and rummage sales can be held.

Videos and VCRs can be rented on Sundays, and people can visit billiard halls or poolrooms. Antique stores and art

galleries are also open to the public on the day of rest.

New-home sales offices and used clothing stores can function on Sundays. Stores that sell books, newspapers, magazines, nursery stock, gardening supplies are able to open on Sundays as well.

Bradford says that having stores open on Sundays would probably increase student employment.

"Many students, like me, don't do anything on Sundays," Bradford says. "They find it difficult to make time to do chores on weekdays when stores are open. I'm sure there would be lots of students that are willing to work Sundays."

Both Bradford and Ring propose a solution that would make everyone happy - allow stores to open on Sundays. Let the owners make the choice to open or not, rather than have a law against opening which everyone has to follow.

"I think [NS Premier] Hamm is getting a lot of pressure from both sides to make a decision," MacIntyre says. "I think that when he does make a decision, he's still going to get a lot of flak from the opposing side."

Dal research team aims to lower gas high

by jay nathwani

the gazette

A team of researchers at Dalhousie University have been working to make the prospect of getting high on gasoline a lot less attractive.

Chemical engineer Mort Fels, organic chemist Jim Pincock, pharmacologist Ken Renton and food scientist Bob Ackman have been experimenting with chemicals that could be added to gasoline to make it smell so bad that no one would want to sniff it.

The researchers received a grant of about \$12,000 dollars from the Department of Indian Affairs after several suicides in the native community of Davis Inlet two years ago made national headlines.

The researchers experimented with nitrogen

compounds that smelled like decaying flesh.

"We wanted to find a compound that would not only stink, but would make you feel bad," Fels says.

The compound produces symptoms such as a runny nose and watery eyes.

"Dr. Pincock used his knowledge of organic chemistry to pick out the worst smelling ones," Fels says. Dr. Renton made sure that they did not use highly toxic compounds to avoid making the cure worse than the disease. For instance, compounds of tear gas would make one's eyes water, but they could be very dangerous in concentrated quantities, and so they were rejected.

It was hard for him to judge which chemicals would be most effective, Dr. Fels says.

"I've smelled chemicals all my life, so I can't really tell the

bad ones. None of them smell bad to me."

The team settled on a compound of isobutyric acid, which smells like rancid butter.

Dr. Fels does not believe that his team has provided a solution to the problem plaguing Native communities in the North. He believes the isolation and boredom of the communities and the children in them is the root of the problem.

"It's like they're in jail. Especially in winter, there's nothing else to do but get high," Fels says. "You've got to get them out of there and into a stimulating environment."

Fels also points to the problem of alcoholism among parents in the communities as a reason for gas sniffing among their children.

He says that gasoline is not super-addictive and that there are other options scientists have at their disposal to fight gas sniffing. One of the problems is that the harmful chemicals in gasoline are also the useful ones.

Dr. Fels points out that the things that make people high are the aromatics. Unfortunately, that's what makes your car run.

"There are other chemicals that could be substituted in their place, but gas would cost more," Fels says pointing that it would cost double to eliminate it. "Money solves everything, as long as you want to pay more."

Even with gasoline that doesn't make one high, Dr. Fels indicates that people are not at the root of the problem with such solutions.

"It's not a bad solution, but the real solution is that you've got to do something with these kids," Fels says. "They're humans, not animals. You wouldn't treat animals like that."

Certainly he does not believe that bad-smelling gasoline will be an effective solution. Indeed, he seems sceptical about the entire exercise. He says that Indian Affairs had a knee-jerk reaction to the media reports and threw some money at it in the hopes that they would be seen to be taking action. The approach was their idea, not the scientists, says Fels.

"In terms of scientific research, \$12 000 is the square root of nothing," Fels says. However, it did suffice to fund the necessary research, which required only about 100 man-hours of work.

Dispatchers walk at midnight

Communication paramedics want better deal

by chris sullivan

the gazette

The situation is this. On one side, we have ambulance dispatchers or, as they like to be called, Communications Paramedics. On the other side, Emergency Medical Care Inc. (EMC).

The Communications Paramedics want wage parity with the paramedics (ambulance workers), who earn, at the most, \$19/h.

The dispatchers also want more working staff. EMC wants to work out a contract before they have to deal with another strike situation as they did last year when the paramedics walked out.

Will a strike be averted?

According to a circulating Canadian Union of Postal Workers protest letter (CUPW), of which the communications paramedics are unionized with, "the Dispatch Centre is constantly short staffed." The letter adds that in order to provide safe and quick service to emergency calls.

"We have been forced to

work overtime on a regular basis; we have been denied meal and rest breaks in an already long and stressful 12 hour shift; and we have been denied our vacations. Emergency lines have gone unanswered," the letter states.

Negotiations are currently going on between CUPW and EMC. Legally, the communications paramedics were allowed to strike as of 12:01 am on Nov. 30. However, there was some hope that there could be an agreement soon.

"We assured the employer we'll hold off until morning to respond to some proposals on staffing, and we'll likely get an offer on monetary issues as well," union negotiator Jeff Woods said before the deadline arrived.

This will be the first contract for the dispatchers and it will also mark the first time that the CUPW is negotiating with EMC, which operates the ambulance service for the Nova Scotia Health Department. The two sides have been negotiating an agreement for 12 months.

continued on page 6

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Paramedics want better deal

continued from page 5

According to the CEO of EMC, Arnold Rovers, the reason for the lengthy negotiating process is that, they had to create a whole package from scratch.

"It's not like we're amending an existing contract. We've had to start the whole thing from the beginning in order to make a framework for the future," said Mr. Rovers. "We (EMC) are very dedicated to achieving a successful negotiating conclusion to these negotiations."

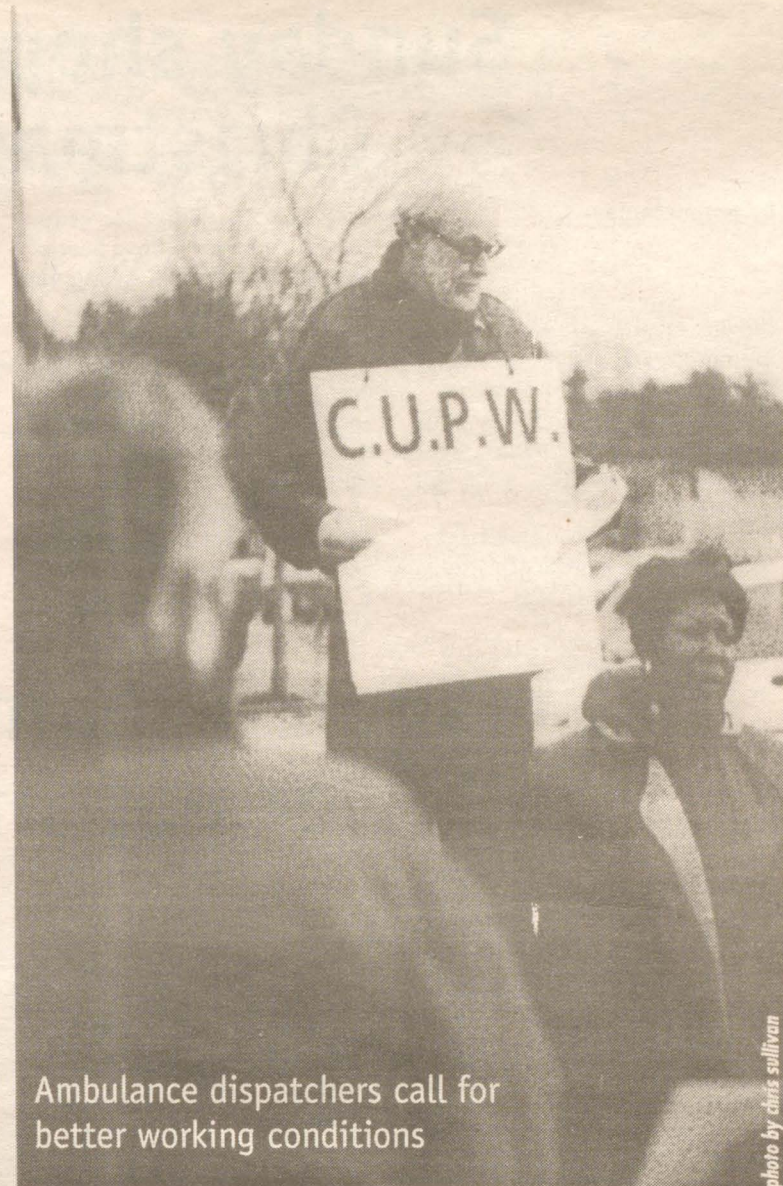
This is not the first time that EMC has stated its dedication to its workers.

"The skilled, professional paramedics that work for EMC, deliver a crucial service to Nova Scotians. It is in the best interest of Nova Scotians that we reach a collective agreement and we are absolutely committed to doing so," said Rovers in 1999.

They too were looking for a pay increase. After the paramedics had turned down a tentative agreement from the Department of Health (DOH) and EMC, it seemed as though a strike was imminent. However, the DOH, and in many peoples minds EMC, got together and came up with a plan to avert the strike, using back to work legislation, brought in by the government one week before the strike deadline.

Obviously, there was a huge uproar among the paramedics and the general public. The opposition party (NDP) stepped in and froze the legislation. The strike went ahead and lasted only 18 hours, when the government negotiated some of the amendments that the paramedics had been asking for.

"I would say that EMC is



Ambulance dispatchers call for better working conditions

photo by chris sullivan

very committed to coming to an agreement. I'm very optimistic. The two sides (EMC/CUPW) are still talking. However, a first contract is always the most difficult to establish," said Health Minister Jamie Muir

The strike deadline was 12:01 of Nov. 29. By Dec. 1st, the two sides had still failed to reach an agreement. There is, it seems, progress being made since discussion is still ongoing.

"The strike is on hold as long as progress is still being made. We're hoping that the talks

will keep moving forward and we've asked both the dispatchers and EMC Inc. to remain calm while the talks continue. We are cautiously optimistic," said Wayne Mundle, National Director of CUPW.

"The two sides are still meeting and we are very close to an agreement. There is a lot of language to be reviewed but we could possibly be sending out a press release today," Mr. Mundle said.

with sources from
Daily News
Chronicle Herald

Middle East tensions on campus?

continued from page 3

that as a Jewish-Canadian, she is a supporter of Israel but doesn't see a need for her to be physically involved in the conflict.

"As Canadians, we are lucky to live in a country where you can decide whether or not you want to serve in the army," Richler says.

The media's role in presenting accurate, unbiased information has been criticized by many since the violence erupted in the Middle East.

Ridgen says that as Westerners, people are at fault for accepting media versions of what is happening in the Middle East and that as Canadians, people have a role to play in the cause of human rights.

Dr. Ismail Zayid, a local speaker who addressed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, spoke at a "Palestine in Focus" presentation last month.

Richler believes that Zayid's Pro-Palestinian remarks hit the Jewish students hard.

"We feel that we've taken out a lot [of criticism] on campus but we haven't protested or put up propaganda signs," Richler says.

After the screening of *On The Borders Of Gardens*, Richler says some people, including Zayid, tried to discourage any chance of reaching peace on either side.

"I don't believe that the intention is to alienate Jews on campus because I don't believe that any educated person would do that," Richler says. "As students, we can try to put aside what is going on over there and just say we do not support violence. Period. We support peace."

Ridgen says that although some people thought the film was one-sided, most people indicated they learned from it and they appreciated its content.

"Judging by the question and answer period after the film, the emotions and points of view that came up, I can tell the film had an effect on people," Ridgen says.

For many like Dabbour, films like Ridgen's documentary

are a way to bridge the gap between Palestinians and Jews. Dabbour wants to return to Palestine and live in peace with the Israelis.

"The Israelis have lived there for 50 years," Dabbour says, "and kicking them out is not the solution." He wants to go back to Palestine as both a Canadian citizen and as a Palestinian, but she can only travel into the country with a Canadian passport.

Otherwise, she's stateless, she says.

"We must begin to listen to each other to stop the fighting," Dabbour insists.

Richler has visited Israel a few times. She remembers it in 1992 when she was there for Independence Day. She recalls a plane, loaded with Russians, arrived in Israel and how the people from the plane danced, sang and cried. They could finally be themselves in a country where they could be Jewish and not worry about it, Richler says.

"Israel is a cornucopia of religions, it has so much diversity to it, and if we could only get past this violence, it would be Utopia," Richler says. "Being there...it's an instinct. You get off the plane and you feel it."

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Gazette classified ads
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DALENDAR Nov 30 - Dec 6

The 47th Annual Student, Staff, Faculty, and Alumni Exhibition will be held from Dec. 1 — Dec. 17, with the opening ceremonies on Nov. 30 at 8 p.m. Entry forms are available at the Dal Art Gallery, Killam Library, Kings College Library, Student Union Office, or DalTech gallery. Call 494-2403 for more information.

Theatre Art's Guild presents "Robinson Crusoe" at the Pond Playhouse. The show runs from Dec. 1 to 17 with evening and matinee performances. Tickets are \$10 adult and \$8, seniors and children. Call 477-2663 to reserve your seat.

Dalhousie Study Abroad/Exchange Program is holding information sessions on Wednesdays from 12-1 p.m. at Lester Pearson International.

Dalhousie Gazette is holding a benefit on December 14 at the Marquee club. Bands include Edgy, Flush, and Tony Smith and the Mellowtones.

King's College dance Collective is holding a multi-cultural event which includes belly dancing, Caribbean dance, stomp, improvisation and a lot more on Dec. 8 & 9 at 8p.m. Tickets are \$5 waged, \$4 unwaged with \$1 off with a non-perishable food donation for the metro food bank.



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STUDENT EMPLOYMENT NEWS

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

TUTORS REQUIRED!

If you are interested in tutoring subjects in Physics 1300, Statistical Math (all levels), Economics (Intro), High School Math, please visit the Student Employment Centre today and fill out an application.

WAL-MART CANADA

Presentation: "Launch Your Career Successfully"
Monday, February 05, 2001 - Room 307, SUB
Time: 4:00 - 5:00 pm

(Seats are limited, apply early. Submit your cover letter and resume to the student employment centre and sign up to reserve your seat and an interview time)

All disciplines are encouraged to apply
Visit SEC website for job details
(Interviews: February 06/01)

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Free Speech: how much should *the Gazette* allow?

Warning: the following editorial contains strong language and controversial ideas. Consider yourself warned.

There's been some flim-flam about censorship around *the Gazette* office lately. It seems some words of questionable value have appeared in the paper, resulting in long debates over pizza, but unfortunately not beer.

The way I see it, censorship eventually comes down to what is considered "obscene." My dictionary defines obscene as "offensive to accepted standards of decency or modesty." But what are the accepted standards to which *the Gazette* must adhere? Are they the moral standards of the general Canadian public? Of the Nova Scotia public? Of Haligonians? Or of Dal students specifically?

It makes a big difference: is our audience made up of university students who saw *Reservoir Dogs* six times, or grandmothers and schoolchildren?

So, in the interests of limit-pushing, I've decided to use my editorial to help *the Gazette* define the "acceptable standards" of its readers. If dirty words offend you — or if they don't — please fill out the following form and let us know where to draw the line. Drop your survey off at *the Gazette* office — I'll stick an envelope on the door for them. You have a week to drop off your answers. I'll tabulate the results over Christmas, and let you know in January what's obscene and what's not. This is your big chance to let us know what you think. If you don't have your say now, I don't want to hear you complaining later.

In 1972, George Carlin was arrested for violating obscenity laws after performing his infamous "Seven Words You Can Never Say on Television" routine. We'll start our survey with those words, and add a few of our own for completeness.

Offensive or Not? Should these items appear in *The Gazette*? (please check your choices)

- piss
- fuck
- cunt
- cocksucker
- motherfucker
- tits
- shit

Those are Carlin's infamous seven. We'll add:

- goddamn
- non-English language profanity (merde, puta etc)
- written description of sexual acts

Derogatory comments based on:

- gender
- race
- religion
- sexual orientation

Did I miss anything?

Does it make a difference if the words are used in a:

- yes/no poem
- yes/no lyric
- yes/no fictional story or other "arty" context

How many "obscene" votes should qualify an item as obscene?

Comments?

Wendy Sawatzky

PARTY AT OUR PLACE!

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Cheers!

This week's front cover, pictured at right in case you missed it on the front cover, features photographs by Patrick Blackie and some digital imaging by Will Roberts. The model was Justin Armstrong who insists it was a staged photo not reflecting his personal drinking habits (which are interesting in their own right but don't include motor vehicles).

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Volume 133, no. 13

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The *Gazette* welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. All letters will be printed up to four per week. The printing of additional letters will be at the discretion of the 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

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Ramadan, the month of fasting

The Meandering of Ramadan: Ramadan is a special month of the year for over one billion Muslims throughout the world. It is a time for inner reflection, devotion to God, and self-control. Muslims think of it as a kind of tune-up for their spiritual lives. There are as many meanings of Ramadan as there are Muslims. Fasting, the third "pillar" or religious obligation of Islam has many special benefits. Among these, the most important is that it is a means of learning self-control. Due to the lack of preoccupation with the satisfaction of bodily appetites during the daylight hours of fasting, a measure of ascendancy is given to one's spiritual nature, which becomes a means of coming closer to God. Ramadan is also a time of intensive worship, reading of the Qur'an, giving charity, purifying one's behaviour, and doing good deeds. For Muslims, Ramadan is not merely a holiday, but an opportunity to gain by giving up, to prosper by going without and to grow stronger by enduring weakness. As a secondary goal, fasting is a way of experiencing hunger and developing sympathy for the less fortunate, and learning

thankfulness and appreciation for all of God's bounties. Fasting is also beneficial to the health and provides a break in the cycle of rigid habits or overindulgence.

The Sighting of the Moon
Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. The Islamic calendar is a lunar calendar. While many Muslim sects insist on the physical sighting of the moon, there is no such requirement in the Quran, (the Muslim's holy book). The much-anticipated start of the month can now be based on the very accurate astronomical calculations. The end of the month is marked by the celebration of 'Eid-ul-Fitr', a traditional practice not a religious one.

From Dawn to Sunset
The daily period of fasting starts at the breaking of dawn and ends at the setting of the sun. In between — that is, during the daylight hours — Muslims totally abstain from food, drink, smoking, and sex. The usual practice is to have a pre-fast meal (suhoor) before dawn and a post-fast meal (iftar) after sunset.

The Islamic lunar calendar, being 11 to 12 days shorter than

the Gregorian calendar, migrates throughout the seasons. Thus, if Ramadan begins on January 20 one year, next year it will begin on January 9. In this way, the length of the day, and thus the fasting period, varies in length from place to place over the years. Every Muslim, no matter where he or she lives, will see an average Ramadan day of the approximately 13.5 hours.

Devotion to God
The last ten days of

Ramadan are a time of special spiritual power as everyone tries to come closer to God through devotions and good deeds. The night on which the Qur'an was revealed to the Prophet, known as the Night of Power (Lailat ul-Qadr), is generally taken to be the 27th night of the month. The Qur'an states that this night is better than a thousand months. Therefore, many Muslims spend the entire night in prayer. During the month, Muslims try to read as

much of the Qur'an as they can. Some spend part of their day listening to the recitation of the Qur'an in a mosque, meet for Qur'anic studies or for congregation prayers. Some spend the last ten days of Ramadan in a mosque devoting the whole ten days for worshipping God.

This year Ramadan starts on the 27th of October and ends on the 26th of December.

M.Vadiee

Stop, in the name of my cousin!

Dear Colleagues:

I write to share the story of a cousin of mine called Elias Shanti. Elias was born in Qalqilia — our home town in the West Bank, which still has streets bearing our family name.

In 1987, during the First Palestinian Uprising, Elias was a very active stone thrower. Like most other Palestinians kids, he was frustrated by living most of his life under a state of curfew and constant harassment.

Elias became a legendary stone thrower. Eventually, they caught him, and shoved him in jail. He was like many Palestinian youth at the time, held in jail for a while, without a charge or trial. The only thing is that the legendary Elias was only 13 at the time he was first nabbed. So, they released him. Only to get him back, shortly thereafter.

By the time he was released the last time, he was all but been fully paralyzed. Apparently they used to make him sleep on a stone bloc, put diagonally across his back. Years went by, and he managed to get intensive rehabilitation and be able to walk. I had heard about him so much that I was really looking forward to see him, which I was

fortunate to do in 1996, when I went for a visit to the West Bank. What struck me most, is there was this handsome young lad, with the most bright yet shy smile, an average kid in every way, who made Israel's all-mighty military go nuts trying to get him. Given my cowardice — I'm always very scared when I go to the Holy Land.

We chatted, and I asked him about his time in the Israeli prison cells. I got the impression, that now that there was so much hope in the air after the so called "peace process," he did not want to remember these days. After all, Mr. Palestine (Yasser Arafat) had returned to rule over his liberated slums. Fine! The past is past, we moved on to try to fix a satellite dish so we can get some nice foreign channels to watch. Life was exceedingly boring in this "liberated" little town, which was at the time sealed off by Israel from the rest of the world.

I never in my life lost sight of how fortunate I was compared to many of my cousins. He is around 25; I'm 28. He never had the chance to go to university; I have become a professional student. And so on.

Six months ago, my father attended Elias' engagement to his

cousin — in-breeding is quite common in the Middle East. The whole Shanti "tribe" was very happy for the young man, who managed to build a life out of the rubble of imprisonment. Sadly, this happiness would not last. Three days ago, in the Palestinian Second Uprising, in which all the villages are surrounded by tanks and snipers, Elias was shot, by an anti personnel rocket.

Miraculously, he is still alive, yet only for lack of death. He lost one of his arms, and his body is quite deformed. He is struggling on the hospital bed in Amman Jordan, where he was moved, I ask that you kindly think of him, and remember him in your thoughts and prayers. I shall never forgive or forget what was done to my cousin.

As for those Zionists who show their clear support for Israel, I cannot say it anymore succinctly than the leading Israeli Journalist, Amira Hass wrote in her appeals to Israeli's, in *Haaretz*, a leading Israeli newspaper, three days ago: "The Mirror Does Not Lie: look and see how racist you have become."

Sincerely,
Ehab Shanti.

El fin del ano 2000

As 2000 grows to a close, it is time to wonder what it meant and what it stood for. The number seems only arbitrary, an excuse to throw out last centuries check books. No one seems to notice what a special year has almost passed. No one seems to care either. On the morning after the last new year's celebration, many woke up hung over and somewhat relieved. While few took the computer bug scare seriously, it was hanging over all our heads that fateful night. There is no denying what an impact technology has made in less than 200 years.

Can we imagine a life without electricity to light our way, to entertain us and comfort our homes? The primitives of earth may understand little of our ways, and some of our abilities must seem like magic to them. The internet has made other

forms of communication seem futile — only telepathy could be faster.

Are we indeed set for an age of smart cars, artificial worlds, and possible immortality? There is no logic to doubt it. We have only scratched the surface of what technology can accomplish. Give the human race a mere hundred years, and every man, woman and child living today will seem as primitive cave dwellers once again. If anything could hold us back, it would be our own stubbornness to accept the possibilities of the future.

Computers in ordinary homes, cell phones and space travel were all fiction not long ago. Today's fiction seems no less possible as Y2K grinds it's last numbers. We are born into an age that only religion could have dreamed.

Mark H. Oldford

My clothes are better than yours

I have to say I was very insulted when I read the article "Desk Monkey? Not Me!" by Amir Walberg in this month's Gazette. Having been an avid fashion fan for many years now I have been purchasing clothes from many different retailers. Five months ago, I was hired at the Gap, and not having worn the clothes before, because of the high price, I was very sceptical. However, within the past five months I have also noticed something. Paying more for my clothes requires me to repair them less,

less defects in the fabric and the quality is much, much better than clothes I used to pay half the price for. This has taught me a very good lesson. You get what you pay for, especially when it comes to clothes. Not to mention the fact that most stores have a return limit of about 30 days, where Gap has no date limit, as long as it's not washed or worn and you have the receipt. Next time you decide to rip something, because you assume most people wear it for the label, then look again. Not all of us are fuelled by brand names.

Jennifer Crouse

RANT OR RAVE

When the mind wanders

All nighters are good. I have pulled three of them in this past month. Every night much time is wasted lying motionless in bed. That's a solid eight hours out of the day's 24 during which you do nothing but breathe and dream. So much can be accomplished between the hours of 12:00am and 8:00am. I'm sure that the body requires a certain amount of sleep, however it seems to be o.k. to go for a night or two without it. There seems to be a zone that is entered sometime after sunrise during which conscious thought is somewhat slowed down. It seems that in this state the body begins to act on its

own, if you think "clean bedroom" the body seems to get up and do it, if you think "type article" the body also begins this process with out much conscious effort. Despite the apparent lack of mental effort involved in action, with lack of sleep comes what seems to be an enhanced capacity for listening to music. Every instrument contributing to a piece of music and the emotional pitch to which the instrument is being played is recognized and appreciated. Try some punk or some dead, or if you really want to push the limits of your attention listen to someone playing the tablas.

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.

Skirting issues

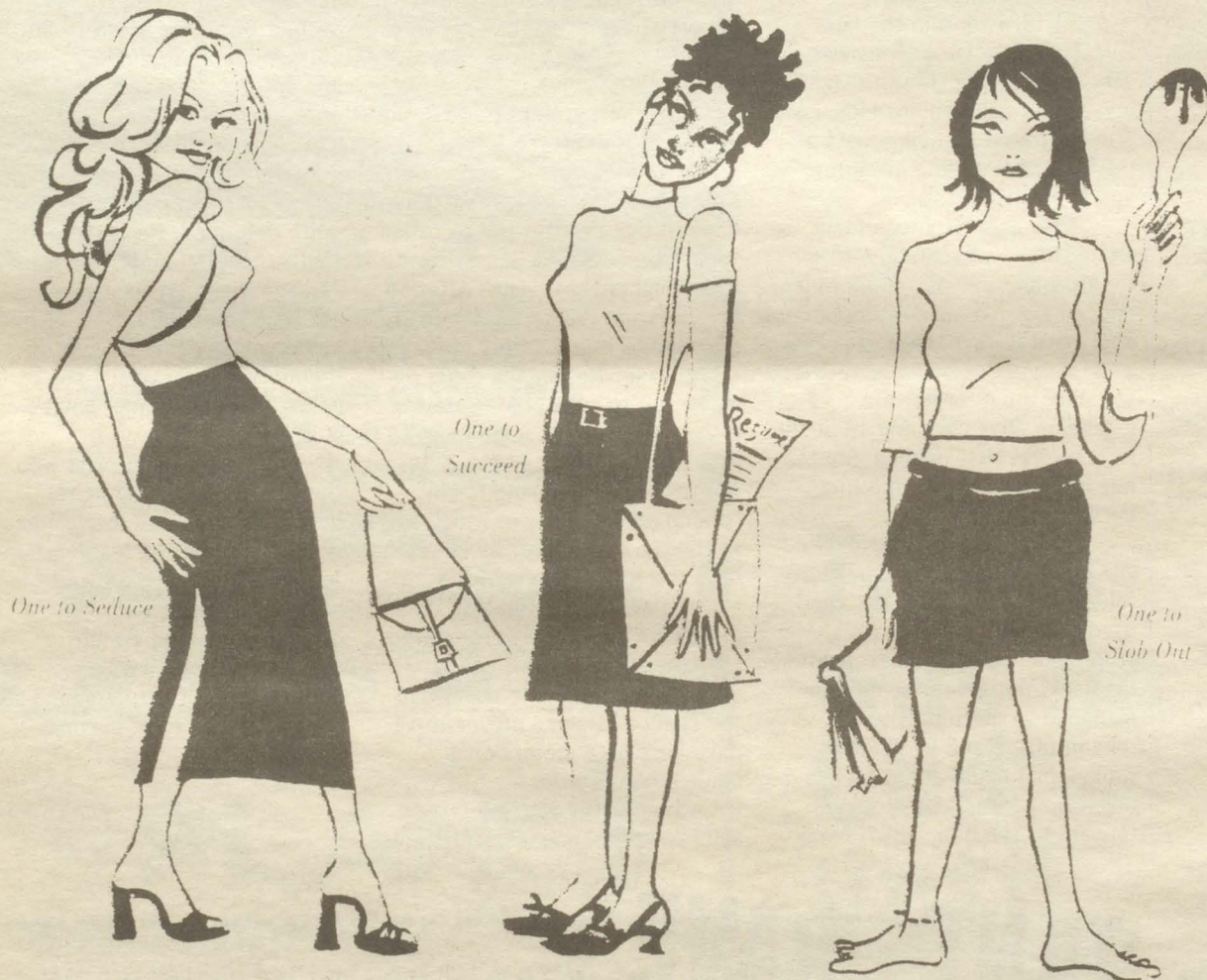
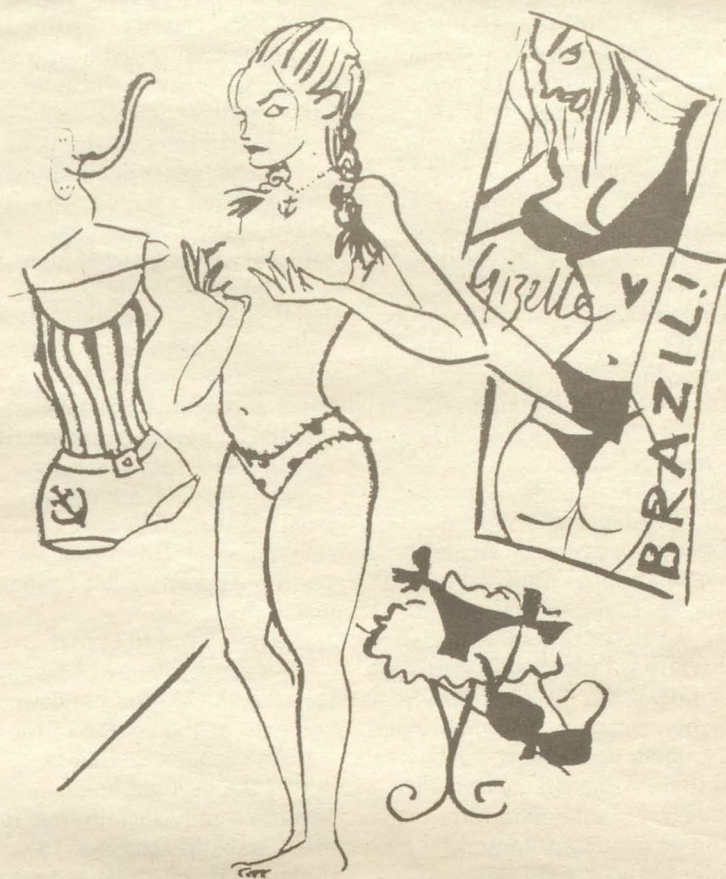
Three Black Skirts
A light-hearted,
refreshing
survival guide

accomplish these unattainable goals all by herself, with maybe a little help from glossy lifestyle magazines that sell a level of perfection that would make even an angel flinch," said Diane Hargrave, Johnson's publicist.

"Practical advice on how to live an organized, fulfilled and useful life of reachable aspirations and balanced contentment is in short supply — that's why *Three Black Skirts: All You Need to Survive*, is sure to become the post-millennial girl's indispensable guide to life, love, spiritual happiness — with clean closets and a balanced checkbook thrown in for good measure."

In this extremely popular magenta-colored book, Anna Johnson humorously provides witty, insightful advice on dealing with the curve-balls life throws all of us, while building and maintaining healthy self-esteem.

For those of you who have



not deny — we teach what we need to learn. Or at least she does, anyway. Johnson insists that she wrote *Three Black Skirts* in hopes of becoming a more relaxed, organized, and socially useful person, and thought the tools she uses to attain satisfaction might be useful to others as well. She also provides a framework for people to construct their own 'do-it-yourself' guides to life.

"When your life is messy, it's easy to feel that the hand of destiny is shuffling you to the back of the class," she writes in her Introduction. "Just when it looks as if one area of life becomes manageable, the wheels fall off the rest."

"Making your life work for you is more a matter of discipline than magic," Johnson reassures. "Which means that even those of us who identify more with Bridget Jones than with Betty Crocker can attain a semblance of control over the messier aspects of existence like plugged drains and maxed-out credit cards."

"With order restored in the mundane details, we are free to move forward into self-discovery and social commitment with a confidence that eludes our

disorganized and self-blaming sisters," says Johnson.

The trials of life are sometimes hard to swallow and not get bloated, but Johnson masterfully infuses both wisdom and levity into her bite into the self-help pie. She covers topics ranging from well-being, life skills, giving back to the community, and spirit, to style, career, emotional rescue, and mood-management.

A sample of *Three Black Skirt's* indispensable advice includes: Fashion items: Banish or Cherish, Maxims of Chic: Unspeakable or Chic-able, The Four Makeup Ages of Woman and The Fourteen Rules of Renovation. It also includes more other areas than makeup and clothes, including: Solutions for Shopaholics; Tips for the Job Huntress; Thirteen Ways to Test a Friendship; First-Date Sex: Pros and Cons; The Fifteen Myths of Love Exploded; Fourteen Ways to Live Green.

Like any advice, Johnson's should be taken with an open-minded point of view. You may or may not agree with everything she says, but she doesn't seem to care — Johnson wrote this book as much for her own sanity as for yours. Read it — use what you like, ditch what you don't.

Three Black Skirts is a great gift — if nothing else, she'll heave a sigh of relief in knowing that we've all got problems.

by **johnneen manning**
the gazette

Three black skirts, a miracle bra, a killer set of shoes, and a little pink book. While these tools may not be the undisputed key to a perfect life, Australian writer and illustrator Anna Johnson's *Three Black Skirts: All You Need to Survive* will at least provide an open-minded woman with a chuckle, and the feeling that she's not the only one who occasionally suffers from career crises, emotional upsets, running pantyhose and bad hair days.

Johnson is a widely-published journalist who has written for *Vanity Fair*, *Marie Claire Lifestyle*, *Vogue UK*, and *Condé Nast Traveler*, and draws on her personal and professional life

experience in her practical guide to a full, healthy life. *Three Black Skirts* is also beautifully illustrated by Johnson — the wispy, free-hand ink images punctuate the reality-based humor of the book.

While Johnson occasionally succumbs to the popular sexist outlook on women's lives, lightly suggesting variable hemlines as a starting point to a better life, she also makes a point of emphasizing the importance of women establishing a sense of individuality — whether it be in emotional freedom or changing your own flat tire.

"Today's young woman confronts a litany of unspoken expectations — Be sexy! Be successful! Be the world's best mother, daughter, friend, lover...! And she is supposed to

read countless self-help books written by seemingly perfect people who think they have figured out the meaning and mysteries of life, you'll be relieved to find that Johnson doesn't preach. She realizes that she, herself, isn't perfect, and even uses some of her own flaws to illustrate the problems we all have. Early on, Johnson admits that she didn't intend to write a typical self-help book, telling people how to live. In fact, she doesn't even own three black skirts — she's only got two. She also reveals that like many of us, she desperately needs to bisect her credit card and regularly forgets to floss.

When I read this I thought, 'What a hypocrite', and considered tossing the rosy book into the growing pile of useless self-help books. Luckily, I kept reading and realized that Johnson proceeded to explain a truth which I could



Vanessa's by vanessa owen *advice from someone completely unqualified* & Closet

Dear Vanessa,

My squeeze, mon, she up and tell me she won't give me the love until I takes a bath! My soul cries at tha rejection of me righteous bodily odors dat nature has bestowed upon me. But I can't live without the love! What should I do?

Dude

Dear Stinky,

My answer to you is very simple — you are lucky you have a woman who would even CONSIDER loving your malodorous hide! You better take a bath, bub, or resign yourself to "the love" from only your five best friends, the ones wiggling at the terminus of your arm! Stop spending your money on ganja and invest in some deodorant and soap!

Dear Vanessa,

I have this boyfriend and things have been going pretty well. Recently, we started sleeping together and even after that, things were peachy. Yesterday he says that he's been thinking bout everything, and says things are moving way too fast. We are still together, but he's asked me for some time for him to think things through. Do you think he is saying this because we slept together and he is brushing me off?

Used and Abused

Dear U & A,

Did you actually expect him to say "I used you for sex, now I'm gone?" Of course it's because you slept with him! Just think back ... everything was perfect before you laid down with him. Now, since you've given him the goodies, he thinks things are moving way too fast, and needs time away from the relationship. If you believe he loves you, I bet you believe in the tooth fairy as well, eh?

Dear Vanessa,

Our neighbor is restoring an old orange mustang in his garage. Recently he got the thing running. He takes it out into our cul-de-sac and does nothing with it except spin around doing doughnuts. Should I say something to him or call the police?

Frustrated in Sackville

Dear F.I.S.,

Go ahead and call the cops; they despise rebel citizens who recklessly tarnish the good name of their preferred dietary staple. They consider this a heinous crime of the utmost importance. Officers feel strongly that doughnuts should be revered, not wantonly grafiti-ized on city streets by vulcanized rubber. Yes, call the Police. Let them know the evil your neighbor is doing, and have him arrested. Your neighbor is a doughnut Commie, and must be dealt with swiftly and harshly, as an example for others. It's your duty as a citizen. Canada and the RCMP will salute you!

Dear Vanessa,

I accidentally shaved off one of my eyebrows, and now I look dumb. What should I do?

Unbalanced

Dear Unbalanced,

You could always shave half your head, and then tell everyone who asks that your doctor detected a small tumor somewhere in your body, and since it's so little, he's only administering half the normal dose of Chemotherapy.

Dear Vanessa,

Where do YOU get advice when you need it?

Curious

Dear Curious,

When I need advice of my own, I turn to my Magic 8 Ball. It has helped me in ways that you could not begin to understand. I honestly feel that the response, Reply Fuzzy Try Again, was written by a genius. That's exactly how I react when anyone asks me a question before my morning constitutional and pot of coffee.

Dear Vanessa,

I love to run. Short of joining the Canadian Olympic team, is there a way I can turn my passion for running into a profitable career?

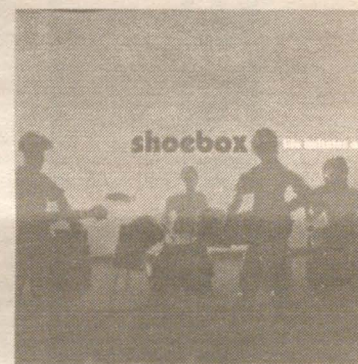
Dasher

Dear Dasher,

I've heard that 'smash and grab' looting is very profitable during city-wide blackouts, and civil disturbances. Being able to run fast is necessary to staying out of jail. A word of advice though, start weight training before going into business. It's tough to run fast with a 60 inch TV in your arms unless you're really strong.

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The Gazette



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A FUNDRAISER FOR THE DAL GAZETTE

This week
The Gazette asks:

Was there anything not in the Sex Issue that you think should have been?



More pictures.

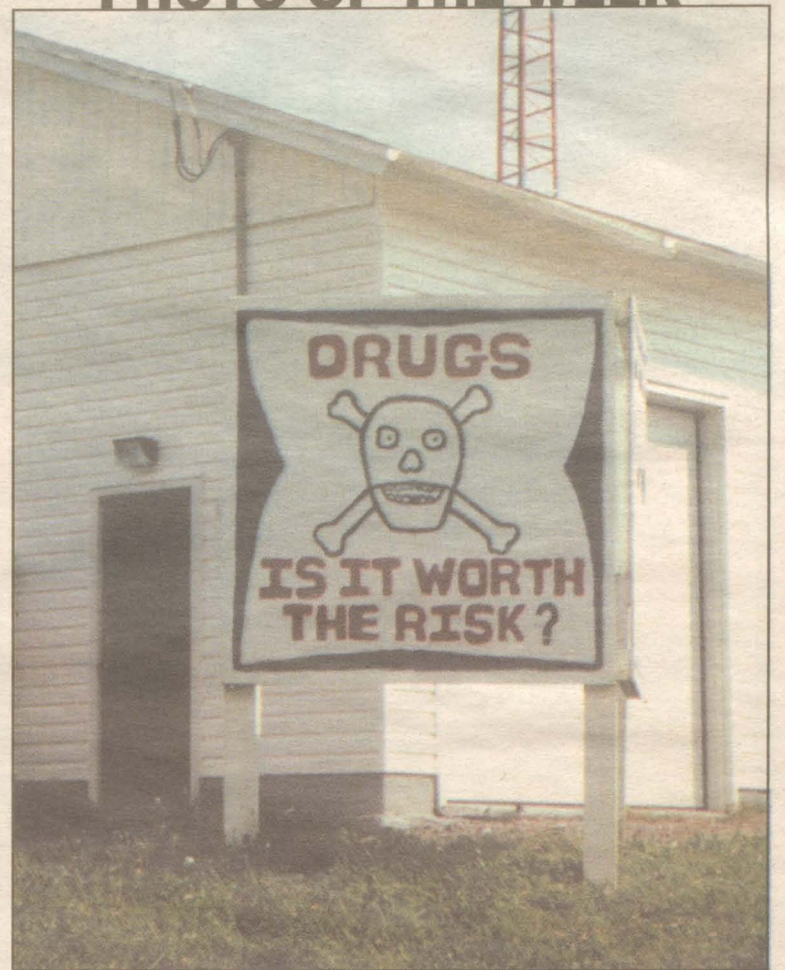
Joe



How guys can watch pornos together!

Wendy

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Guy in the poster doesn't actually look unhappy.



A guide on where NOT to pick up in Halifax!

Angela

I was looking for, personally, a bit more of a comedic issue- something to do with Tom Traves!

Andrew



I don't remember. Was their a recommendation for safe sex? I don't know maybe there was.

Lorne



Was their anything about tantric sex?

Philip

JOEY the K-K-KIT
 BY: christopher hemsworth (e-mail: joeytherobot@yahoo.ca)
 COPYRIGHT ©2000 CHRISTOPHER HEMSWORTH

WELL TREE, IT'S NOW THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

YEAH

WADDAYA SAY WE DO SOME DECORATING?!

OKAY!

Hmm...

TOSS!

Hmm, IF ONLY YOU WERE AN "EVERGREEN."

ALL I CAN BE, IS ME.

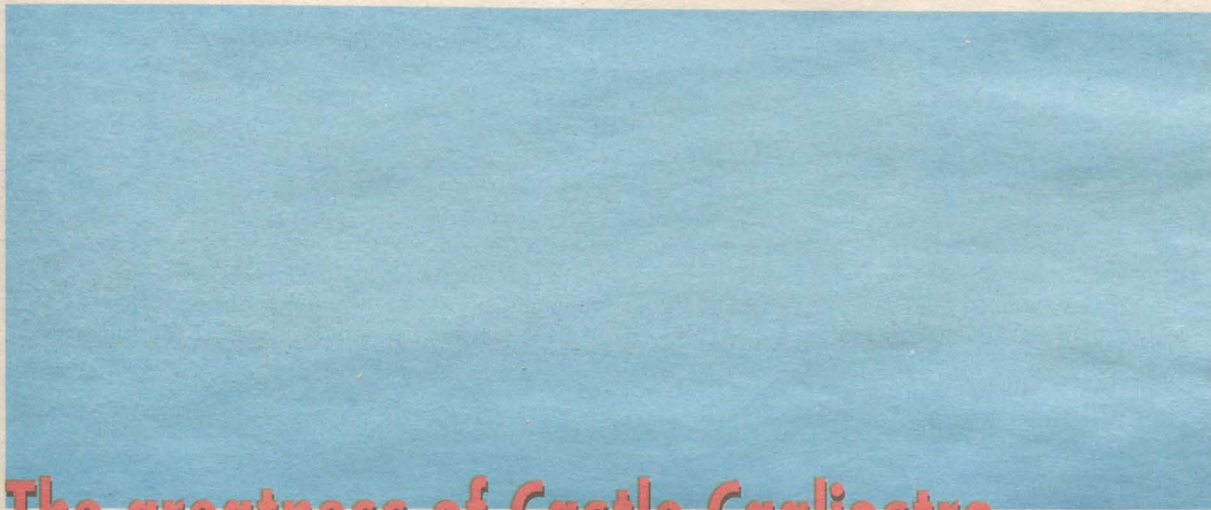
I KNOW, AND I LOVE YOU JUST THE WAY YOU ARE. HAPPY HOLIDAYS, OLD FRIEND.

THANKS!



From Stinkin' Rich to a Buck 65: back on the scene

> 16



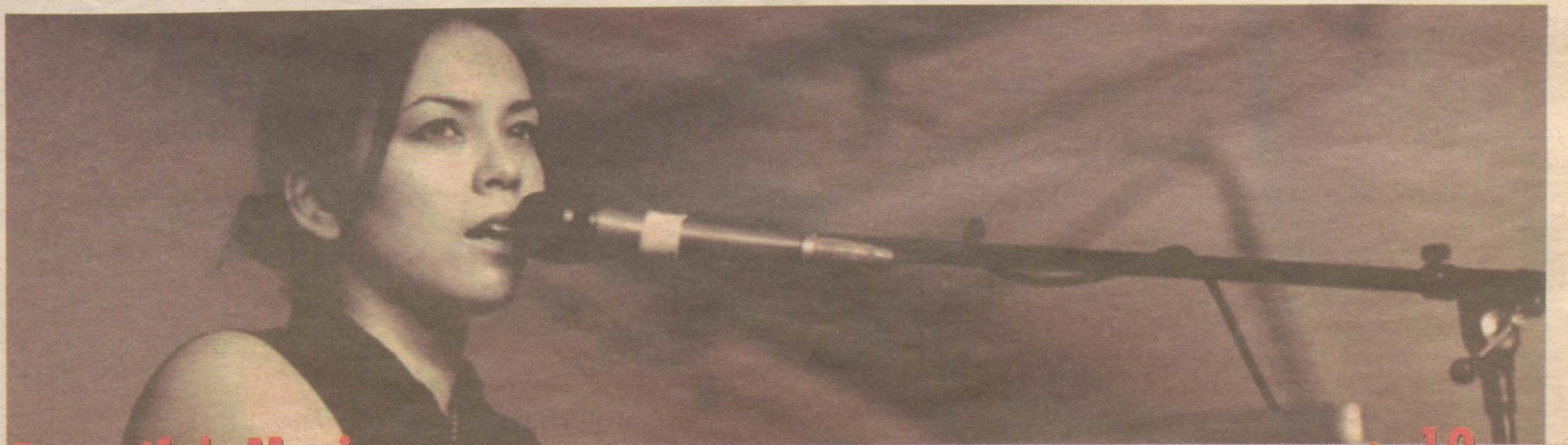
The greatness of Castle Cagliostro

> 17



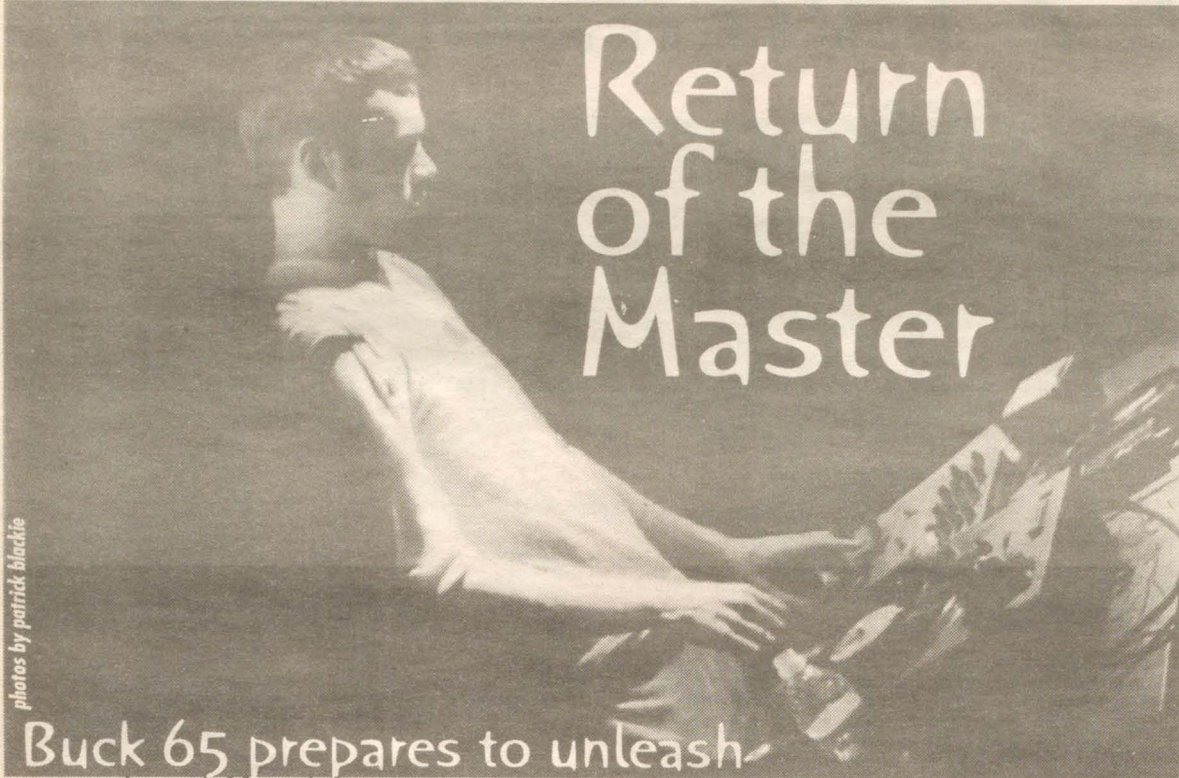
Talent, art and diversity

> 18



Beautiful. Music.

> 19



photos by patrick blackie

Buck 65 prepares to unleash on the Hip Hop community

by patrick blackie

the gazette

"I don't know what I'm doing, but it's something else," a humble and serious Rich Terfry (AKA Buck 65) told *the Gazette* last Friday, hours before his first show in Halifax in several months.

"It is really hard to tell myself that what I do is Hip Hop, even though I love Hip Hop more than anyone I know," said Rich. "But when I look at what Hip Hop is, what the TV and magazines and what people are buying tells me it is, it is so far removed from what I do."

The Mount Uniacke native has been pumping music into the world music scene for a decade or so, and has been a Hip Hop enthusiast since '82, as he tells it. He has produced a barrage of

albums under various monikers, including his team-up with fellow Halifax Hip Hop institution Sixtoo known as the Sebutones. *Vertex*, his last release, has been travelling the globe with the help of the Internet, and the overall response has been good so far.

"Even though I hate [the Internet] it has to be somewhat responsible for my support," said Rich. "I have a small fan base, but it is from all over the world."

Buck65.com confirms this, with a barrage of synopsised love letters and pleas for live performances from all over the globe.

"Some of the praise is pretty humbling, but it is also a good motivator," said Rich.

Buck 65 is currently eagerly awaiting the release of his newest work, following the continuous mix-tape format of his last two

albums. The album, entitled *Man Overboard*, is a personal and innovative work, an album that has been finished for a while, but will only hit the shelves in early 2001.

Man Overboard, which is dedicated to his mother who passed away prior to the recording of the album, has a lot of emotional material, says Rich.

"I really am proud of the stuff I'm writing now, the direction I'm going," he said. "But I want to get the new album out there. It's almost like when I finish a song, I put in a little box, and wait. But when I do finish, I want to get it out there the next day."

"I've been working on a new album, but that's way a head of myself," said Rich. "But when you got an idea, you can't sit on it."

Buck 65 has a unique style of Hip Hop, virtually un-comparable to anything else in music today. His beats are an interesting blend of various sources and influences that mix well with his stimulating and surreal lyrical ability. It has a depth of character and style that surpasses not only most DJs or emcees, but most musicians currently producing music of any style.

"I was looking at the different charts to see what's selling, and when I see Eminem, Blink 182, Limp Bizkit, blah blah blah, I think 'what am I ever going to do?'" said Rich. "But then I see guys like Johnny Cash, I think 'those are the people I have to go after, the people that buy the Johnny Cash records.'"

He went on to say that he can't expect to sell his albums to people that are buying into a lot of the top 40 market. Why? Quite simply, because they probably wouldn't get it.

That's not pretension, it is fact. Buck 65 has produced music that has such lyrical depth and peculiar perspectives that a lot of what he says is lost in the idea of the empty lyrics of some of today's music. Hip Hop has been dragged down by the disturbing trend of materialism, guns and 'makin' Gs,' but Buck 65 is a reminder that not all is lost; that quality and intelligent Hip Hop is a real thing.

Rapping about real things — himself, his conflicts and observations, the Buck 65 live experience is like reading a good book, the albums taking the role of a book-on-tape, with the same solid-gold content, but lacking the convincing and genuine experience of seeing the master at work.

"I'm obsessed with words. I've been looking for the

possibility of a magical combination of words," he explained, adding that magic may not be the universal word to use, but it's how he would describe it. "I've also been always very conscious of the marriage of music and words."

Despite numerous opportunities, Buck 65 has stayed in Halifax, through thick and thin, holding down the fort until Halifax gets its due respect, or gives him his due respect.

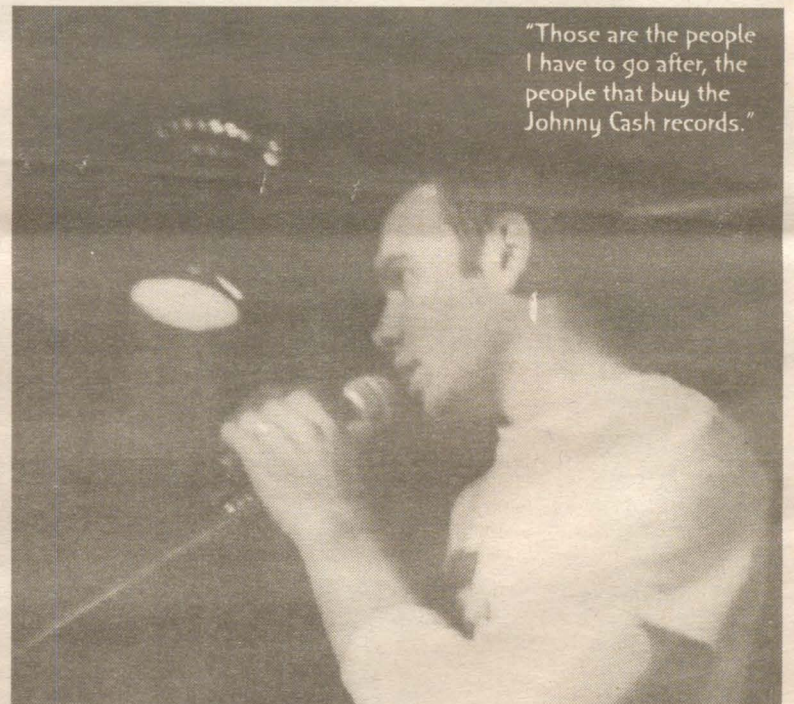
"I've had a million and one opportunities to leave, to go south of the border, but I'm not going to do it," said Buck 65 with a seriousness that backs up the statement. "I'm not going to be the millionth person to do that. I don't think you have to do it. I'm so faithful to Halifax...I want to be the one person that can make it without having to leave."

"But it is hard," he added

The many facets of Buck 65 can, nay, should be examined, not only in Halifax, but everywhere, through his music. The many albums, many collaborations and many sides of Buck 65 are not all easy to find, but they are worth a listen.

But you can't just hear it; you have to listen.

A good place to start is Monday nights at the Marquee, where Buck 65 will be dishing out the kind of show that we should all be thankful to have.



"Those are the people I have to go after, the people that buy the Johnny Cash records."

A CAREER IN ORTHOPTICS/OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

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Breaching *The Castle of Cagliostro*

by mark evans

the gazette

Given the lack of any new releases last week and the impending Dec. 19 release of the excellent *Princess Mononoke* on VHS & DVD, I decided to look at *Princess Mononoke* director Hayao Miyazaki's first film, *The Castle of Cagliostro*.

Like *Princess Mononoke* before it, *The Castle of Cagliostro* is anime, animation of Japanese origin. Some people like anime, others can't stand it. Well, if you've made up your mind, this movie isn't going to change you one way or the other. But for those who don't have a problem

watching animation, this movie is a real treat.

Based on the tales of Lupin III, a master thief based on a popular French character, *The Castle of Cagliostro* seems at first glance to be a stereotypical damsel in distress movie. But while that's sometimes the case, few movies do that story line as well as this one.

The opening scene with Lupin and his sidekick Jigen robbing a casino sets the tone for the whole movie. When they leap over about half a dozen bike racks, all at the same time no less, the movie first displays the sense of fun and whimsy it has for its entire running time. Laws of physics get thrown to the wind with reckless abandon at least two other times, but all in the name of entertainment.

The multi-million dollar payoff from the casino heist turns out to actually be counterfeit bills, but ones of amazing quality. Deciding that they should get a piece of the action, Lupin tracks the bills to the tiny country of

Cagliostro. Sneaking inside, Lupin and Jigen soon find themselves coming to the rescue of runaway bride, in my personal pick for the best car chase ever put on film.

The bride's pursuers capture her and steal her back inside the titular castle, an impregnable fortress owned by the Count of Cagliostro, the country's ruler and the one supposed to marry the bride. Coincidentally he just happens to hold the secret of the counterfeit bills in the castle as well.

Throw in an old-fashioned autogyro, bullet-proof assassins, fireworks, secret passages, death-defying escapes, Lupin's female counterpart Fujiko, the stoic samurai Goemon, and Inspector Zenigata, the clever Interpol detective determined to stop Lupin at all costs — and you have one of those rare movies that's a treat to watch from

beginning to end.

A lot of the greatness from *Castle of Cagliostro* stems from the fact that it's not dumbed down to appeal to the youngest children. Lupin has tons of gadgets at his disposal, and he has a number of ingenious tricks up his sleeve besides. The mystery of the secret treasure of Cagliostro alone guarantees a clever and satisfying resolution to the story. Anybody can sit and watch this film secure in the knowledge that it will neither go over their heads nor talk down to them.

The animation in *Cagliostro* is not bad, even better considering it came out in 1979. With a little restoration work it could easily hold its own against some of today's smaller non-Disney features. The acting in the dubbed version is serviceable, better than most dubbed anime today. The original Japanese

version with subtitles, however, is still my personal favorite, as the actors match their parts perfectly.

The only minor problem with this movie is that when it's all said and done, it's still just an action movie. There's a pseudo-moral about greed, but this movie is solely concerned about entertaining, and it does that in spades. It has no deep environmental message like in *Princess Mononoke*, but then again it doesn't pretend to be something it's not.

Bottom Line: *The Castle of Cagliostro* was just re-released on video and DVD, and there are copies available around town. Blockbuster on Quinpool has the tape for rent, and MusicWorld has the DVDs for sale. Steven Spielberg didn't call this one of the greatest action adventure films of all time for no reason — it's smart, thrilling, zany, and pure escapism.



Tossed Cookies

by randolph macdonald

Dirty,
after putting it all together,
complete and still broken.

Do best with what we've got,
have something,
have not.

Dirty,
why won't the residue go away,
there's nothing to say,
it's just going to be this way.

The work is only going be dirty.
fixing what is broken is dirty.
We make this work for ourselves,
now somebody has to do it,
who's not afraid to get dirty?

Dirty,
after putting it all together,
complete and still broken.

Do best with what we've got,
have something,
have not.

Dirty,
there's nothing to say,
it's just going to be this way.

The work is only going be dirty.
fixing what is broken is dirty.
We make this work for ourselves,
now somebody has to do it,
who's not afraid to get dirty?

Roses are red
corpses are blue
send me poems
or i will kill you.

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Performance, art and diversity at Rebecca Cohn

by Jason Kun

the gazette

It was the last night of November and the snow was slowly shifting to sleet outside the Rebecca Cohn as a small crowd congregated inside for the opening night of the 47th Annual Student, Staff, Faculty and Alumni Exhibition. The ceremony began with a kimono-clad woman and suited young man delivering a cordial and gratuitous opening speech.

This opening ceremony would consist of diverse performance acts presented to the attentive audience as a prologue to the actual viewing, mingling and discussion portion of the evening.

The variety of mediums, cultural backgrounds and fields of study testified to the exhibits' theme of "Global Village Cultural Diversity." There were artistic expressions represented from many different cultural and social settings. No curatorial control was applied to the submissions and all pieces of work were accepted for exhibition.

The first act featured two senior music department students combining to present a saxophone and guitar soundscape. The effortless dialogue of the saxophone and guitar seemed to knead and ease the audience into a calm state of art appreciation as the seated crowd hushed in silent respect.

The next piece was titled *The Unmasking* and was presented by

four feather-masked lasses from the theatre department. The act was an audio-visual composition that synced vocals with slow-ballet forms and progressed on into a play. The viewers appeared to be lulled into a silent state of awe by the surrealistic drama.

The theatre students were followed by an amazing vocal/digeridoo and cello duo by some more fine recruits from the music department. The digeridoo player reached some amazing tones while maintaining a tight low-end pulse and the cello player combined interesting elements of rhythm and bass.

The final performance featured four percussionists that seemed to energize the crowd. Well-dressed folks began to leave their seated positions to enjoy the rest of the works at the gallery to a percussion-circle soundtrack.

The appropriately small (all seats were filled) audience began to disperse evenly throughout the gallery and a contented hum of art-appreciative conversations soaked the atmosphere of the gallery.

Half hearing the splatter of sleet outside, I roamed about the gallery enjoying, analyzing, and celebrating the various oil, pencil and watercolour paintings. There were many different styles, forms and backgrounds represented at this exhibit: smooth oil paints from the faculty of neurosurgery to meticulously sketched pencil work from the engineering department.

I was especially drawn to the mixed media, pictography and



A painting by a painter which was in the exhibit.

photo by Chris Sullivan

model exhibits, but it was the combined model/digital print and textile pieces held the greatest personal appeal. I was also very grateful and rejoiced to see that some students had taken to documenting international social issues: there rests an excellent photo-documentary of the increasingly menacing problem of AIDS infection in Malawi on one of the gallery walls. I was inspired and comforted that such art

exhibits could be the platform for promoting awareness and discussion of international social issues.

Another exhibit I enjoyed was the Birchtown project model and digital print, which featured a 3-dimensional model and elucidation of a community residential complex based on African culture.

I suggest that anyone remotely interested in pleasing

forms and colours and, even those who aren't, to saunter down to the Rebecca Cohn and take in some of the diverse pieces of work. If you think you haven't enough time to enjoy this exhibit because of your exam preparations, I suggest you find your way down there anyhow. The inspiration, diversity and relaxation lining the walls of the gallery will ease your mind towards a peaceful constitution at this hectic time of year.

CD REVIEWS

Tony Iommi — Iommi

(Divine Recordings and Priority Records)

IOMMI

Would someone please kill heavy metal? Put the fucker out of its misery. Let's start with Ozzy Osborne and move onto Henry Rollins; we'll finish up with Tony Iommi.

Resurrecting dead rock stars seems to be the trend for the new millennium — teaming them up with young, "hip culture" musicians at the top of the charts is apparently cool. It's about as cool as assembling dead rock stars into your very own dream team, which, as everyone knows, ought to be left in the basement with last night's seeds and twigs.

If you can relate to Richard Iommi, you're going to love this. If you, like the metal queen, think that poor Richard should get a life and then take it, you'll want to avoid this shoddy vehicle for auto-erotic guitar solos. — Jason

Wu-Tang Clan — The W

(Loud)



The Wu-Tang Clan has returned with their new full-length album entitled *The W*. After the classic debut of *Enter the 36 Chambers* and the sophomore double album *Wu Tang Forever*, *The W* marks the group's first combined effort in over three years. With the Rza back in control of production, the new album is a triumphant return to the original, grimy, Kung-Fu esque sound of the Wu that made them so original and appealing to Hip-Hop fans back in '93.

The W contains a solid thirteen-track line up, with the absence of the any mediocre material. Clan leader, Rza, steps back to the forefront for production credit for all but one track ("Thang, Thang"), which is also brilliantly produced by Wu affiliate Allah Mathematics. Lyrically, the clan shines. Ghost, Meth, Deck, Rae, etc. all bring their best to the mic on fast pace tracks such as "The Jump Off" or the slowed down flow present in "I Can't go to Sleep."

One downside is the lack of ODB on the album. Ol' Dirty's only performance is a mellow track with Snoop Dogg that fits surprisingly well on the album. *The W* also contains guest appearances by Busta Rhymes, Redman, Nas, and Isaac Hayes.

After a shitload of mediocre sophomore solo work by clan members (minus GFK's *Supreme Clientele*), the Wu are back in control of the game. With Rza leading the way and each clan member bringing their best, it has once again been proven that "Wu Tang Clan Ain't Nuthing Ta Fuck With." — Simon

Nativity in Black 2, A Tribute to Black Sabbath — Various Artists

(Divine Records)



While it may not be true that all compilation albums suck, it is true that all tribute albums do. Unlike the Kiss tribute, this one has the good sense to not have Garth Brooks or Lenny Kravitz featured on the album. Unfortunately it does have Busta Rhymes covering "Iron Man."

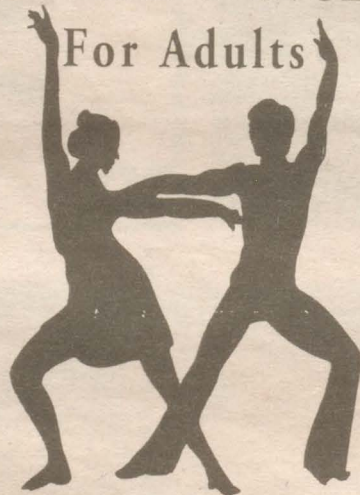
Fortunately, it has Slayer and Monster Magnet covering "Hand of Doom," and "Into the Void" respectively.

That, however, is where the good news ends.

These types of albums are nothing less than a shameless attempt to separate the hardcore fans of the bands being "honoured" and the bands doing the "honours" from their money.

The truly serious Black Sabbath fans might get this for Christmas from their parents, but they'd have to have absolutely no self-respect to buy it themselves. — Jason

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Classics, I says...

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

by kip keen

the gazette

Book — *Weekend in the Jurassic*

Number one in the world is my mum's book *Weekend in the Jurassic*, written well before Spielberg's frolick in the dinosaur era. I read it back to back in a single day, missing all my favorite shows, such as *the Racoons*. I hated that damn tree-cutting Cyril Sneer bastard.

It's about a good Nova Scotian boy, Danny, who finds a dinosaur tooth in Parrsboro. He ends up getting transported back into the Jurassic period with his sister, and almost manages to get himself killed while trying to get back home. Watch out for their wacky Aunt. True action and imagination to enjoy here; or would you rather fall asleep reading Salinger's whiny kid in *Catcher in the Rye*?

Movie — *Night On Earth*

A masterpiece of a film, *Night on Earth*, takes the cake in my books. Featuring lots of names and no-names, including Winona Ryder and crazy Italiano dude Benigni, this movie tells several stories all taking place in taxis driving around various big cities throughout the world.

Listen to taxi-driver, Benigni, who drives at night while wearing dark sunglasses, explains his sexual lust for a baby sheep to a priest. Classic stomach killer — or maybe a German clown-taxi driver in Manhattan who can't manage a stick and clutch worth kaka but is a good-hearted man. He ends up solving problems of the dudes he picks up by getting them to take life less seriously, I mean with a name like Helmut you can't go wrong, right?

And Ryder? Winona plays a mechanic-taxi driver who is offered a high profile acting job while driving a movie producer. Watch out for a group of insane Finlanders in Helsinki who fight over who has the saddest story to tell. Why is this movie so good? Sound track, awesome consistent, dialogue and it's full on funny. Boring movies should burn. Oh! And there's a good heart attack scene.

CD — *It's a Hard Nose Highway*

Van Morrison's *It's a Hard Nose Highway* is by all regards a wicked album. It's laid back, mellow, positive, groovy and lady/man seducing (depending on what's tickles your thang,) all neatly packaged for your designs. You may not believe me, and I wouldn't blame you because I used to laugh at the idea of Van, or any other mellow singer like Stevie Wonder, until I listened to their albums and was hypnotized into a happy go lucky mindset. Test it out for your own benefit, you can thank me in the morning.

Emm Gryner delights the Marquee

by graham simms

the gazette



The lovely and enigmatic Emm Gryner returned to the Marquee last Friday — finally as the 'headline girl.'

She's been called "the undisputed empress of the pixie chanteuse set", "the contender to Sarah's (McLaughlin) throne" and she was once again nominated in the "Sexiest Female" and "Best Haircut" categories by Chart Magazine.

This tour is in support of her fourth album *Dead Relatives* — really a collection of B-sides and older unreleased material.

The spry indie-queen's last two shows in Halifax were at the Marquee — one in September opening for Wide Mouth Mason, the other around this time last year opening for guitar-and-lyric-smith Ron Sexsmith, who's style correlates more closely to hers than the Wide Mouth rockers. Gryner flew back to Canada for the mini-tour from Europe, where she was in the middle of touring (singing and playing some keys) for one of the wealthiest and most influential rock star in the world — the thin duke himself — David Bowie.

Touring with Bowie was "magical and glamorous". Gryner recalled the tour during a telephone interview earlier this week from Saskatoon. "Glastonbury was probably the highlight because I've always wanted to go to the festival."

It's a testament to her dedication — to her art and to her fans — that amid world class glamour Gryner chose to spend the break from Bowie's Euro tour back on the East Coast playing to fans. She not only played the Marquee, but she also played for free in the living rooms of her younger fan's houses in her patented living room shows. This concept was designed by Gryner to keep in touch with her fans in remote areas.

"Basically I've been doing it as a way to play outside of clubs in new areas and also to play to kids who are underage. I just show up at their house and play for them. It's usually a party," said Gryner.

Most Haligonians got their first look at the exotic Canadian-Philippino in 1998 when she opened for Chantal Kreviazuk in the MacInnes room following her successful summer openers at Lilith Fair. That was the summer for Gryner, when she was introduced to mainstream North America, thanks not only to Lilith Fair, but also due to her sparkling

and melodic summertime anthem "Summerlong." Soon after, her third album *Science Fair* reached the top three on the College radio charts.

At 25, Gryner's trip from the small farming community of Forest, Ontario to playing to close to 100,000 people at Wembley Arena for NetAid was prodigious. She is young — even compared to Sarah McLaughlin, Tory Amos and Alanis Morissette — whom she is regularly compared to. She certainly has the sombre singing, songwriting and piano-ballad abilities of McLaughlin; with definite toe-tapping hints of party girl Sheryl Crow along with the prerequisite cool fluttering female vocal abilities and lyrical strength (but with more subtle poetic ability) of Alanis with whom she has also played.

Emm Gryner is in fact a musical prodigy. With the encouragement of her parents she took up classical piano by age five and was songwriting by the time she was ten. Raised on "bad eighties pop," her later influences include London Underground and Joni Mitchell. The 80's influence is evident in her covers of songs like Def Leppard's "Pour Some Sugar On Me" and Ozzy Osbourne's "Crazy Train."

The radiant Dark Star plays guitar and piano in her live shows — the melodic and emotional piano colliding with catchy acoustic chords under trippy somber lyrics full of surreal imagery and metaphor. The charisma and confidence she projects is progressive, catchy, intricate and interesting, while maintaining a personal and emotional voice — without being in the least bit sappy. So many of her songs are slow making the faster ones jewels. She strikes a passionate, creative and usually somewhat melancholy mood that is her own sound, although specific female vocal influences are occasionally apparent. Her strength and independent nature seem to temper her passion but a wild streak is definitely evident.

One reason Emm Gryner is such an inspiration to so many young aspiring artists is her independence — her accomplishments have been her own. She tends to play all her own instruments in the studio, writes her own songs, she has even recorded and produced three of her four albums under her own label — Dead Daisy Records.

Gryner's experience with

being signed to a major label, Mercury, was not favorable. Although she had already started Dead Daisy she agreed to have Mercury produce her second album *Public*. While the corporate label launched what is considered her breakthrough debut, when they merged with Universal she was unceremoniously dropped.

At this point however, Gryner's talents had already been let loose and there was no putting her back in the bottle, corporate sponsorship or not. She continued acoustic gigs at small clubs across more of North America. It was then that her career took off with enough momentum to take her to a higher level of success, where she not only made the grade within

Canada, but on a world class stage.

Throughout her career Gryner has kept close to her fan base through an up close and interactive internet site as well as her living room shows. It was while showcasing her talent at the Fez in NYC that she met friend Berkley School of Music grad, Holly Palmer, who was singing back up for David Bowie. Palmer recommended Gryner for the other vacancy behind Bowie whom, impressed with her voice, musical talent, and albums, agreed. What was initially just a gig for *Saturday Night Live*, *Conan* and *Rosie* evolved into a job for the entire upcoming Bowie tour — and more collaboration may be on the way.

And the Cool Kids will be...

Friday Dec 8 there's a *Gazette* party so I'm not going out. Mmm beer — then I'm jogging to the **Swollen Members**, hip hop extraordinaires are at **Speakeasy's**.

Saturday Dec 9 ska kids, **The Kingpins** are bouncing their ways to the Marquee or if you'd rather check out some funky, danceable grooves, go to the Attic and see **Chris Colepaugh and the Cosmic Crew**.

Every Monday for the next month, go see one of the smartest guys around, **Buck 65**. He's featured as the Month of Mondays artist at the Marquee.

DON'T FORGET THE GAZETTE FUNDRAISER. All the cool cats will be there — **Edgy, Flush, and Tony Smith & The Mellowtones** are all partying it up at the Marquee on **DECEMBER 14th**.

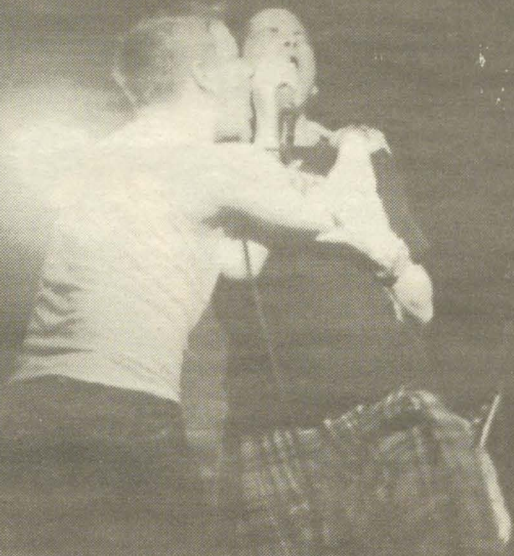
Caitlin Kealey

If you're putting something on let us know — it might be cool enough for the cool kids...

gazette@is2.dal.ca

Falling Short

photo by carilyn kealey



Falling Short played perhaps the greatest shows of their two-year reign of one of the best hardcore bands in Halifax. Headed by Scotty Lynd the band released numerous demos and played uncountable shows. The turnout demonstrated the band's strong and loyal following. Highlights of the show were probably the drum kit being put in the middle of the moshpit so that the kids could circle pit around it while Wayne kept on beating away on the drums and a planned mishap involving week old cookie dough being spread all over the band members and thrown at the band members.

Closet rappers en route to Oklahoma

Catch 22 boys on the road again

by beth dalton

the gazette

It's 5:00 pm here in Nova Scotia, and the Catch 22 boys are on the road again, leaving Texas en route to Oklahoma to play yet another show to support their new album 'Alone in a Crowd' on Chicago's Victory Records. Currently, I am on the phone with Kevin Gunther, trumpet player extraordinaire, as they roll through the Texas scenery which features billboards proclaiming congratulations to new President elect George Bush and Co. from the Reagan Family. In the middle of answering a standard question regarding musical influences, there is a pause and a subsequent sigh of relief. Catch 22 just had a brush with death as bass player Pat Krays stomps the breaks and veers off the road. Crazy Texan drivers....

Luckily, they make it through in one piece and Kevin continues, telling me that Less Than Jake, Green Day and NOFX are some of their bigger influences. A reference to Operation Ivy is mentioned and Kevin says that at one point Operation Ivy was something that he listened to a lot about four or five years ago, but the Energy album isn't something that he listens to a great deal anymore. Operation Ivy was one of the first bands to popularize the Ska/Punk genre, and in the past, Catch 22 has been compared to them.

Coincidentally, new vocalist

Jeff Davidson is greatly influenced, lyrically at least, by Rancid, a band that features two old Operation Ivy members. It's easy to see, with having such good and popular influences, why Catch 22 has become such a talented and well-liked band.

Featuring a new and improved line-up, Catch 22 delivers an outstanding new record, and one would be hard-pressed to notice the band is without some of its old apparently key players. This was not just left to chance, the band tried hard to remain consistent with their old sound for various reasons. Most importantly was to show that that Tomas Kalnoky had "tried to make himself out to be bigger than he really was" and that the band, in itself, was truly talented without him.

Catch 22 is a Ska-Punk band signed to a label that is known for its predominately hardcore sound. In addition to hosting just regular hardcore bands, Victory Records is host to bands with some intense straight edge ideals. When asked whether or not Catch 22 got along well with the other bands on the label, Kevin said that things were "all cool with them," despite the fact that the band sits on the drunken side of the tracks.

The attention brought upon them by being on a hardcore label and touring with hardcore bands has helped Catch 22 widen its fan base. The Victory Styles compilations have helped to earn

the band new fans that might not otherwise be interested in ska and the like.

This is sometimes evident at the shows. Also, the fact that there are other bands bearing the name Catch 22, occasionally bring people out to the shows, which in turn provides them with a mild shock when they hear the sweet sounds of the only good Catch 22 and not some pop-loving, radio friendly boy band.

Perhaps though, after discovering that the Catch 22 boys are all avid hip-hop fans, there might be an even stranger mix at their shows. A band with many diverse interests, backgrounds and styles can only help pull together a sense of unity in a world that seems so divided. The band tries to remain active in their local scene back in NJ, but it's difficult when they travel so much.

The band enjoys touring and plans on being on the road for quite some time promoting their new album *Alone in a Crowd*. It hasn't been decided whether or not they'll make it to Canada, or our neck of the woods anytime soon but at least we have the opportunity to pick up the new record, take it home, crank it and dance maniacally in our bedrooms while imaging they are on stage before us. Happy dancing music. While you are skanking around your room, try checking out the band's web site at www.njcatch22.com and tell them how much you love them.

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"COME FOR THE BEER,
STAY FOR THE FOOD."

Both locations at Spring Garden & Queen

There was no God — until Shoebox

by kathy reid

the gazette

An interesting night unfolded Friday night at the Pavilion. Nothing could have foreshadowed the swarm of teenage mix of rave/alternative kids lighting up their cigarettes in this dimly lit cave. The Pavilion was playing host to Shoebox's CD release show, but had to endure about an hour's worth of a band that will remain nameless — mainly because I didn't bother to ask for their name.

Hope remains that the band was a bunch of high school students who haven't yet developed their sound. The lead singer was a raver boy who ranted out lyrics that sounded like yet another post Nirvana/grunge band, boys please get over this overplayed sound! The singer tortured the audience with a distorted cover of foxy lady which was nauseating. The sickness intensified as the scruffy looking bass player in a wife beater, the name for those white undershirts that men wear, yelled out the very original, "Take your clothes off!" After

about the first song the drummer ripped his shirt off despite the fact that the room wasn't hot.

THERE REALLY IS NO GOD!

At this point, I was in desperate need for some liquor, but the place doesn't sell alcohol!

Why didn't anyone tell me this is a high school joint?!

As the main band of the evening, Shoebox was setting up their video presentation, I was thoroughly entertained by boys break dancing — I think that's what it was. The first film clip was Shoebox in their beginning stages, they've been around for about five years! Next they showed a video that had recently been completed that will hopefully be on Much Music in the near future. The video was pretty rad, good ol' black and white with a bunch of slow motion and the highlight of the video — firecrackers!

Soon after the video, Shoebox was centre stage. Their level of energy amazed me. They got the crowd from a medicated state to a pumping one. I'm quite an avid punk fan, but I did enjoy their happy east-coast sound — reminiscent of Sloan/Thrush Hermit with an added twist.

Their wicked stage presence paired with their pop/rock lyrics and the hot blonde singer got feet pounding. The band is made up of Derek Hoffman, Jonathan Burke, Brian Foster and Mikle Nunes. The multi-talented boys (they switched instruments throughout the evening) have just released a CD., *Life Imitates Art*.

If you want a good drunken night of local east-coast tunes, you can check out the Dartmouth boys at The Attic, Dec.16.

Get closer to God.
Don't miss out CD contest on page 11
to win a copy of Shoebox' latest CD

Fly Jimmy bounces back from robbery

by malcolm kempt

the gazette

Fly Jimmy Swift took to the stage at the Marquee last Saturday night to an enthusiastic crowd who probably had no idea what the band had been through in the month of November.

During the last few weeks, anyone wandering the streets of our fair city may have noticed a multitude of posters adorning telephone poles regarding the theft of musical equipment. A variety of instruments and PA equipment valued at several thousand dollars had recently been stolen from a vehicle belonging to this prominent Halifax band. The flyer went on to describe the missing gear and offer anonymity and possible reward for any information regarding the whereabouts of the missing items.

Craig Mercer, guitarist and vocalist of Fly Jimmy Swift, whose number was featured on the poster has had a stressful two weeks. Playing in the most active band in the Maritimes is tough enough — with over one hundred shows a year — without having the tools of your livelihood go suddenly missing in the middle of the night.

"Although we are still missing a Gibson ES 135 guitar, we're just thankful to have our gear back," says Mercer.

Bassist and backing vocalist, Mike MacDougall had mentioned the missing equipment to a city cab driver. The cabbie — whose name will be withheld — suggested that he would "look into it" for them. Not long after this encounter, the local driver contacted Mercer with information regarding the whereabouts of their gear. In exchange for the suggested \$200 reward and an additional \$200, the cabbie claimed that he could retrieve their stolen items. True to his word, within hours of receiving the money, the informant made sure that Fly Jimmy Swift was back in possession of their equipment.

"It all sounds a bit shady...but we were lucky to get our stuff back at all," says Mercer thankfully. "The police were really unsupportive. We had to really harass them to even get them to look at the van and take fingerprints."

When Mercer questioned the authorities on what was going to be done next, the police told the band members that they "would get someone on it".

Rumours of the missing guitar appearing in the Bargain Hunter and other classified papers have proved to be red herrings, but the band is hoping that someone will eventually come forward with the guitar — unless, of course, they find them first.

Having survived this ordeal, the boys drove to Prince Edward Island for a gig only hours after getting their equipment back. True to their fans, Fly Jimmy Swift never missed a gig during their search for the stolen goods; even heading to Fredericton on the last weekend of November with borrowed gear.

Although Mercer was more than willing to talk about the recent hiatus of Jimmy Swift's gear, he seemed eager to talk about the promising future of the band.

"We've got a new album coming out in January. The album, as well as the first single, are entitled *Now They Will Know We Were Here*."

This summer, I had the unreleased track, "Worshipping the Sky" stuck in my head for almost a month. If the forthcoming album is half as catchy as that tune, the eyes of the Canadian music industry may shine brightly on Halifax once again.

PARTY

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The Art Expo at Park Lane Mall

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Rudolph to the rescue



by ellen swan

the gazette

As we approach this Holiday Season, there are so many temptations to drink — so many parties and free alcohol flowing. Although many students don't drive or even own a car, we must still be cautious and avoid the almighty blunder of drinking and driving.

Yes, this is an argument we've all heard before, and many would say that our generation, at least, has grown up realizing the dangers of drinking and driving, and are less likely to do it. However, there are still cases of young people drinking and driving, and so here are some alternatives to boozing yourself into oblivion and then getting behind the wheel.

First of all, many of you may not be aware of your own limitations when it comes to alcohol. It's usually okay to have one drink of wine or one beer, but then again, it depends on the restrictions of your driver's licence. Some (e.g. Ontario G2 Class) licences require the driver to have a 0.00 blood alcohol level while driving, while the legal limit for those with general licences is 0.08. So before you say it's OK to have that one glass of egg nog, check your own licence and make sure that you are complying with the regulations.

Especially during this time of year, police make it their business to check licences and stop any driver they want to stop, regardless of whether or not your driving reflects alcohol consumption or not. Favourite check points are highway on and off ramps, underpasses, and anything leaving downtown.

So what to do if you've driven your car downtown, and then had a few too many? One of the many available options is to call the Varsity Swim Team. Again, for another year, the Dalhousie Varsity Swim Team is giving us Operation Red Nose, a drive-home service offered throughout the month of December, during all Friday and Saturday nights, and some Thursday nights. Since this is peak Christmas party season, a company can book these fine student examples of restraint to drive the guests home from a party or function, or you can just call them to give your ass a ride home from the bars. All the proceeds go to the Dalhousie Swim Team, so even drinking yourself too stupid to drive home is good for the community.

According to Meghan Garnier, former Varsity Swimmer, "it's safe, fun, and for a good cause!" Call 428-2000 for more information or to book these helpful elves.

There are also, as always,

the old stand-bys of public transportation and taxis. Quite a few routes have holiday service, so you should check before you go out to make sure that your route will get you home. Also, for functions and parties, you can book taxis to come at a certain time to take you home, or buy pre-paid cabs for your guests to use instead of getting behind the wheel. Bob's Taxi in Dartmouth is one such company that will make special arrangements for the holidays.

There is also the all-year-round service offered by your favourite bars downtown, called "Someone for the Road." This service, offered by such bars and lounge establishments such as J.J.'s, Pacifico, and the Dome, gives two free non-alcoholic beverages to the designated driver, upon presentation of your driver's licence. This service is all across Metro, and is also something that is available in other Canadian cities. If you hail from such Metropolises as Montreal or Toronto, in some establishments, all you have to do is give your server your driver's licence, and you will receive free soft drinks all evening. If, at the end of the night, you haven't ordered anything alcoholic (they probably won't serve it to you anyway), they give you back your licence to drive your belligerent friends home.

Some members of the Halifax community are really making an effort to ensure that their guests and friends drink responsibly, or have someone else available to take them home. One citizen is throwing a celebration in the next few weeks, and instead of having taxis, he is charging a \$5 admission charge to his guests, which then goes to

the Boys and Girls' Clubs of Chester, who will drive the guests home after the festivities. This is a great way to give back to the community, while ensuring the safety of your guests and others.

Also, don't forget about Tiger Patrol, happy to drive drunk tigers home from the Grawood or any SUB function free of charge. Or, if you live in residence and are too drunk to find that building, our faithful Tigers are there to help. Always have been, always will be.

But remember, Tiger Patrol does not have to take you home if you are too intoxicated. Hey, they don't like barf on the car seats any more than you do.

To get more information about what different organizations might be doing in your community to ensure responsible drinking this season, you could contact the main office of the community constable of the Halifax Regional Police at 490-5686, or 490-5044. Or, you could see if there is something you could do, because there certainly is a market for this kind of service over the holidays.

Whatever your plan, remember that as much as you've heard it before, it still isn't a good idea to drink and drive, and that you really don't have an excuse with all these people willing to do it for you.

A FAKE CHRISTMAS TREE

by rita henderson

the gazette



Like most Canadians of Christian-European descent, Christmas has been my most treasured holiday since time without memory. Growing up, my family always had the popcorn strewn Charlie Brown Christmas tree, the cat to knock it over, the dog to drink its water, and the kids to count its presents. Every Christmas Eve Santa Claus would be paraded down the streets in our town on a fire engine, with elves — all the Dads in town — walking along handing out candy canes.

The season was patented. Santa was expected to eat cookies in a very messy fashion, and if you did not have a fireplace, he could enter your house through the furnace. Sightings of the Old Scruff seemed to be strictly reserved to adults. This was presumably because the parents would want to make sure that the dog would not bark when the reindeer landed on the roof in the wee hours of the morning.

Rules peppering my Christmas had never been broken, until two years ago when I started spending it away from home. While abroad as an exchange student, I was devastated to hear that the stockings had not been filled in our home, not even with a lump of coal for my only brother, by then 19. Until yesterday, re-instating the stocking stuffing tradition this year was a key priority. That is, until I learned that my family has been using a fake Christmas tree for the past two years.

This turn of events has taken me a bit off guard. Where I have been preparing myself to march home and whip those monkeys back into the old ways, I may have to settle on losing a battle to keep my Christmas from changing.

I have been away from home in a land with staunch traditions of its own (where the locals claim St. Nick, Joulupukki, as one of their own). Last year I spent in Finland, shooting vodka to Swedish carols, and running between a sauna and a frozen lake. I was not homesick for even a second. Adapting to something new was easy, I suppose in hindsight because in the back of my mind, I knew I would come back to what I was used to someday. Coming back was what I wanted this year to be.

This year I asked myself if I should put myself up to my folks, who seem to have taken every

opportunity to break from our old ways and alienate our narrow-minded rites of yore—they have color coordinated our outside lights!

Sorely offended by the news of the fake tree, I tried to reason with the "smell of Christmas" argument. My mother, a staunchly blasé environmentalist-of-convenience tried to warm me to the prospect of saving a tree with the promise of spraying the house with artificial scent.

For the sake of the Green Party, I hope she never runs for their representation.

She further fed the wound with the comment that she will put the tree on a coffee table in the front room. I gawked, *where will the presents go?!*

Nothing I said mattered, she had well rehearsed answers to everything, and rejected any possibility of a real tree compromise. Apparently my brother has been pleading with her for years, but she will have none of our messy jule-tide habits.

I cannot imagine what mischief my cat can wreak without the old ornaments and blinking lights on a clumsy tree. I cannot imagine what Christmas will be when the Christmas I have known as my own seems to be irreversibly changing. I am promised that it still exists so long as family is there to embrace it.

No less, I face this season with courage for what childhood traditions I have yet to discover have been dispelled. To those who face the horrors of spending Christmas with an all-grown-up family, best of wishes, and my heartfelt compassion.

Pull quote: I have been away from home in a land with staunch traditions of its own. Last year I spent in Finland, shooting vodka to Swedish carols, and running between a sauna and a frozen lake. I was not homesick for even a second. Adapting to something new was easy, I suppose in hindsight because in the back of my mind, I knew I would come back to what I was used to someday.

Dreaming of a blue Christmas

by rita henderson

the gazette

Christmas is a great season for the functional. Those with the package family and abundant friends have much to cheer about over the holidays. The reality clinch about the jolly season is that most people experience higher degrees of frustration and stress during this time of theoretical happiness and rest than throughout the whole year.

For the average one of us, our stress all boils down to over-anticipation, and an anti-climax. While dreaming, fussing, worrying, and pouting over having a white Christmas, we too often end up in a state of blues. Taking a few moments to focus on what causes your wintertime stresses and how to avert them can make the loneliest, most wretched Jul-time endurable.

December is a month of high sensitivity, where most people enjoy remembering their childhood and past Christmases. Anyone away from home or comfort during the holidays can be sent wallowing for the good part of two months every year by the teasing and taunting of the energetic spirit all about.

If you are new to the game of spending Christmas alone, buck

up and start trying to make it pleasant before it swallows you whole. Rather than bothering over what is in lack, use replacement tricks to remind yourself of the familiar without devastating yourself with the unfamiliar.

For instance, if you love your mother's apple pie, don't eat pie at all; eat chocolate mousse or date tarts. Further, the more time you spend on doing Christmas things, like decorating and sending cards, the less time you will have to spend moping about how unnatural it feels.

Only the lonely are not alone as casualties of routine lack of spirit. Unfortunately the association with the past is traumatic for many people who have experienced any number of tragedies during previous holidays, and it can send them into a yearly bout of concentrated depression. The threat of the uprooting of unsettling memories by connections with seasonal music, merry displays, and special smells can amplify the frustration felt as the commercialization of cheer.

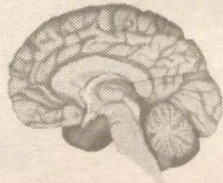
To not be seen as a Scrooge, and to avoid depression, most experts suggest creating new traditions to help alleviate the pressure put on scars by old ones. Keep in mind that Christmas is not static. Christmas lights are

not the only tool to decorate one's home, most neighborhoods sport yard displays or snow castles as well. It may be new to you, but it can help express the pleasanter moods without necessarily suppressing the more difficult ones. The key is to identify the irritations, and work around them, be it keeping the television shut off for two months to avoid stifling adverts or keeping the house free of all holiday clutter.

Above all, try not to plan beyond what you can control. Unrealistic expectations of how things will turn out are framework for letdowns and blues. If the family were prone to fighting, it would be silly to expect a single-table dinner to be calm. If worrying about how relatives are going to behave takes up any of your time, approach possible culprits well in advance in a discreet enough, guilt-free manner requesting their peace as a gift to you. If you doubt that they would warm to the thought of a "gift to you", not spending Christmas with such subjects is highly recommended.

Christmas is a tricky issue. Try not to spend all your time leading into it preparing for one volatile day. Keep your stress low, take it easy and work your way through one step at a time.

The Mind of Mr. Minimal



BC to AD — the inception of recorded calligraphy
 1000 years later we were in Viking vessels sailing seas
 two thousand years now, just a second in mother's journal deeply buried
 computer chips with corporate dip ingested and divested by minimal query

Santa who?

What do you associate with the persona of 'Santa Claus'?

I surveyed a few youth as I was monkeying around on some playground scaffolds and found their description of Santa to be as follows: an overweight Caucasian male, over 50 years of age, giving gifts to those who had 'behaved' and showing disdain for the 'misbehaved'. He also has a production facility in the north pole, elves are his main recruits and airborne reindeer help him deliver Xmas presents across the globe on the eve of Jesus Christ's birthday.

Research....

Last year I monitored the activities of Santa Claus (SC) with systematic observations, SC seems to give the most (and most meaningless) gifts to the children of the well-heeled social class, (most likely the least deserving) while the youth of the proletariat receive proportionately less. It seems SC is not abiding by his public mission statement that is so popularized by his patrons. I believe that he has long been the recipient of corporate subordination. SC subscribers receive wares on the basis of their economic standing and not their moral footings. If you have more money, SC will happily visit you, if not expect less material comforts.

Discussion....

Santa Claus' discrimination between the classes confines the lower economic classes to a seemingly smaller share of Santa's generosity. Being poor in North America is equivalent to being a societal deviant, one of the 'misbehaved'. We now live in a society where it is a sin to be poor. St. Nick is merely an animated expression of our nation's inequitable and repressive societal patterns.

In closing...

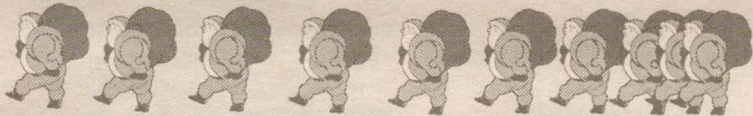
But who, oh who are these nameless faces and faceless names that organize and support this spiraling cycle of treachery? It is you and I comrade, and also those people living beside and behind you. I believe the real vote is at Christmas time, place your ballots in the form of responsible consumerism cousins. Decide if you wish to support exploitative big business, or local economy. If you don't know the difference, ask some questions, go on an internet search or maybe you want to read *The Post Corporate World, Life After Capitalism* by David C. Korten.



WHY ARE YOU BUYING YOUR FOOD FROM A TOBACCO COMPANY?



Santa-borg



Any remnant of the original St. Nicholas has been stoned and brought back to life by frankensteinian economists. My recreation of Santa Claus would be a cyber-human with a hydraulic claw for his right hand, asset reconfigurator in his sternum, the mind of 6 billion humans forced to live in consensus and a very human left hand. My Antas-being would divide into 3 billion independent entities on the eve of Christmas, and go about with his auto-action appendage collecting riches and retribution from the overpaid, while reconfiguring these goods to be distributed to the less fortunate.

Ah, of course very ideal and fantastical. But I have a more real, down-sized version of my new St. Nick, it's call the average human, you and me. Merry Xmas from Santa Claus.

Mommy is Santa really a Sell-out?

~Until Coca Cola led the way to transform him, Saint Nicholas or Santa Claus was a dark haired and slim Christian Saint of the Eighth Century who, like the Czech King Wenceslaus, cared for hungry children.

~According to Coca-Cola, Santa Claus took on different forms in various popular cultures until 1931, when the company hired a Swedish artist named *Haddon Sundblom* to create a new image for him for a series of adverts. It was Sundblom, apparently, who dreamed up the red coat with white trim to advocate the soft drink company.

Merry Nextmas....

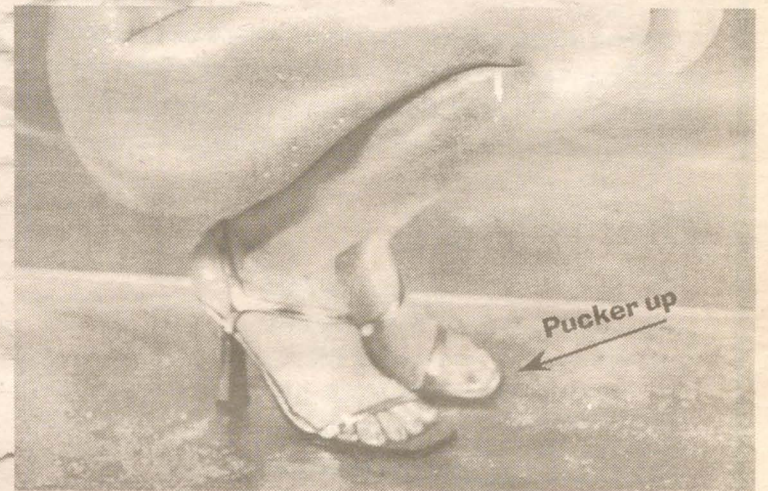
This Christmas go support a local tradesman, chef or artist and make his/her Christmas, spread the word of conscious, responsible purchasing, and question who you're giving your hard earned money to. This Christmas bring back the art of self-expression and make, draw, write, or hammer together your own present, show someone you love your Xmas spirit through creative expression.

This Xmas, relax at home making presents instead of waiting in some traffic or cash line to pay for some over-packaged and over-priced gift that you've 'settled' for. This Christmas remember to help those less fortunate than you, but keep in mind that situations are not always what they seem. Treason can be as disguised reason while decency is quickly swept under the rug where the fat cats of big-businesses nap. This Christmas, snap out of your egg-nogged indolence for a few songs and analyze your role in the global economy. This Christmas, let us rekindle Jesus Christ's spirit of outspoken activism and defiant revolutionary thought. Let us act and speak our beliefs. (I do not know Jesus very intimately, but I'm sure he'd be quite offended by the duplicity, gluttony and environmental destruction his birthday has come to propagate.)

Heavy eyed and feeling sluggish this holiday? Whip that lazy-boy forward, slide over to the keyboard and send your questions, insults, scandalous photos, and confessed faults to mr_minimal@hotmail.com. Do you have any ideas for weekly column features? If so, send your schemes my way and receive the presents that may outlast diamonds and plastic doll heads — words, criticism and creativity.

Information Hash news & facts

by kip keen



Have a habit of kissing strangers feet??

Want to kiss people's feet all the time? Get in the way of your social life?

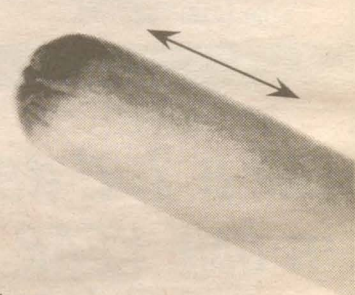
"One type of paraphilia is called 'partialism'," according to Peggy Elam, Ph.D., "in which the exclusive focus is on one part of the human body. To be considered a paraphilia, however, the sexual urges and behavior must cause significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other areas of functions."

Paraphilia: "Any group of psychosexual disorders characterized by sexual fantasies, feelings, or activities involving a nonhuman object, a nonconsenting partner...or pain or humiliation of oneself or one's partner. Also called sexual deviation." Says the American Heritage of the English Language.

Addicted to masturbation??

Jerk the Terk a lot?

"While masturbation is a normal activity," Ehan says, "it is possible to engage in it compulsively. People who are addicted to chemical substances or engage in compulsive masturbation or other behaviors to numb disturbing feelings or reduce tension. Unfortunately the chemicals and compulsive behaviors just address the symptoms rather than the cause...whatever the cause might be." Peggy suggests consulting a therapist or attending sexaholics anonymous' 12 step program to find more positive cures for your dysfunctions.



WAIT!? A MEETING FULL OF PEOPLE ADDICTED TO SEX?

For more information about the sexaholic meetings and events, log on to sexaholics anonymous online at www.sa.org.

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GE foods: Do you know what you're eating??!

by erin johnson

the gazette

On Nov. 13, 2000, a group of 14 people from the Citizens Voluntary Labeling Collective (CVLC) went about labeling genetically modified foods in the Atlantic Superstore on Quinpool. This demonstration was a solidarity action with the "Pacific Rim Biotechnology Conference and Bioexpo 2000" being conducted from Nov. 12 to 16 in Vancouver.

The controversy surrounding genetically engineered foods is that consumers don't know what they are buying.

One of the labelers, active

are safe.

Dalhousie genetics professor, Robert Lee, says "you can't paint it all with one brush saying it's all good or it's all bad.... I don't see a problem with labeling genetically engineered foods; on the other hand why shouldn't we be labeling those foods exposed to pesticides as well?"

Genetically engineered foods are found in stores across Canada, but consumers don't know which products have been altered and which haven't since

Jim Maryanski, representative of the US Food and Drug Administration defined the agency's position on genetically engineered foods in an internet interview. The FDA law says that "labeling for foods must disclose information that's material, as well as avoid false or misleading statements". Maryanski says that the FDA "believes that the method by which a plant is developed by

WARNING: THIS PRODUCT MAY CONTAIN GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MATERIAL WHICH HAS NOT BEEN ADEQUATELY TESTED AND MAY BE DANGEROUS TO YOUR HEALTH.

a plant breeder is not material information in the sense of the law" and therefore does not require a label.

labeling

is not required. An

independent media website quotes scientist, Dr. David Suzuki, as saying "Government agencies that should be concerned with health and ecological impacts of biotechnology are too tightly linked to the industry to assure the public. It is up to informed citizens to demand that greater caution be applied to the widespread use of transgenic organisms." Labeling groups are becoming active around the world in their efforts to require mandatory labeling of genetically engineered foods.

member, Cass Elliott, says that "75 percent of the foods available in stores has something genetically modified in it, and has not been adequately tested."

Genetic engineering allows the insertion of genes from any plant or animal into any other organism in a process where the actual location of where the gene is going to land is uncertain. This means that without proper testing, there is no guarantee that genetically engineered foods

But the efforts of groups such as CVLC are bringing the attention of the government back to the issue of genetically engineered foods. Audry McNeil, from the head office for Atlantic Superstore, says that there are "ongoing discussions between the grocery industry and the government regarding labeling of products." Despite the six citizens that were banned from all Atlantic Superstores for six months during last month's demonstration, the Citizens Voluntary Labeling Collective is going to remain active in the Halifax area.

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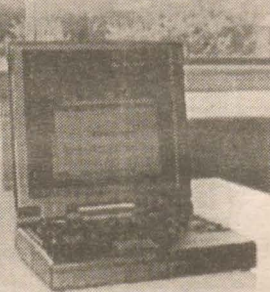
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A FUNDRAISER FOR THE DAL GAZETTE

Few surprises in Metro Centre triple-header

by josh smith

the gazette

Just when it seemed as if all was not right in the Atlantic University Basketball Conference, the St. Francis Xavier X-Men and St. Mary's Huskies reminded us that they deserve to be ranked second and ninth in the country. After the Memorial University of Newfoundland Sea-Hawks jumped into first place in the division, and the Dalhousie Tigers managed two wins in their first six games, it was business as usual on Saturday at the Metro Centre, where three games were played, two within the AUBC and one NCAA contest.

When the dust finally settled, there were very few surprises. As expected, the defending national champions from Antigonish, Nova Scotia, the St. Francis Xavier X-Men, manhandled the Dalhousie Tigers, by a final score of 105-73. While the Tigers did cut the lead to as little as nine at one point, the game was never close. The X-Men were able to capitalize on Dalhousie mistakes on both ends

of the court, as head coach Steve Konchalski's team dismantled Tim McGarrigle's Tigers in front of thousands of enthusiastic fans at the Metro Centre. The X-Men, now posting a league-best 6-0 record, were led by guard Jordan Croucher's 22 points. The one bright spot for Dalhousie came in the form of sophomore standout Nicholas Donald, who registered 24 points in a losing effort.

In the second game, the Saint Mary's Huskies looked to get revenge for their 30-point defeat just one week ago at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton. The Huskies did just that, up-ending the Varsity Reds by a final score of 77-72. Point guard Jonah Taussig poured in 17 points to give his team a 4-2 record at the holiday break, putting them in a tie for first in the Baldwin Division with Memorial University Sea-Hawks.

The final match-up was the annual NCAA game, which featured the Ohio University Bobcats and Niagara Purple Eagles. Ohio began the game with 15 consecutive points and never looked back, taking the game by

a score of 77-64. The game gave the 4,752 fans a great opportunity to witness American college basketball, as the Purple Eagles of Niagara collapsed early and often, giving Ohio their second win in as many years in Halifax.

The three-game showcase went for the most part as expected, with St. F.X., St. Mary's, and Ohio winning their respective games. It displayed the talented teams of the Atlantic University Basketball Conference, along with an equally entertaining NCAA feature. As the AUBC heads into the holidays, the Dalhousie Tigers will try to rebound from a 2-4 start to the season, and hope to catch Saint Mary's in the fight for the final playoff spot in the conference. This weekend's games reminded us of the true powers of the Atlantic region, and Dalhousie will now look to their match-ups with the two teams as stepping stones to the playoff round. It will be important for the Tigers to contend in these head-to-head contests if they hope to reach the Atlantic playoffs, and beyond.

Vanier Cup goes to Ottawa

by krishna parmar

the gazette

The 36th CIAU Vanier Cup, placed head-to-head Canada's third ranked Ottawa Gee Gees against the seventh place Regina Rams.

Both sides were stacked with all-star quarterbacks waiting to show their stuff to the packed Skydome crowd in Toronto. The Gee Gees had the 1999 Hec Crighton winner for best quarterback, Phill Cote, returning from an ankle injury to go up against Darryl Leason, the former Calgary Dinos QB who returned to his Junior team, the Regina Rams. The Rams, a former Junior Football powerhouse, struggled

mightily in their first CIAU campaign posting an 0-8 record. Leason, who had been playing Senior Football in Calgary, returned to the Rams for one reason, hoping for one last chance at the Vanier Cup. Though some scoffed, Leason almost single handedly willed his team to the big show, orchestrating fourth quarter comebacks in each of their playoff games in order to advance to the big show.

Neither QB would disappoint in this, the biggest game of their careers, and potentially, their last. Combining for 81 points scored, it would be the largest combined points scored in Vanier Cup history for a regulation time contest. Leason wound up passing for 356 yards on 28 of 44 attempts with two TDs and two INTs. He also ran for 2 TDs and

led his team with 116 yards rushing.

But it was not quite enough. The Ted Morris Trophy as the Vanier Cup MVP would go to his counterpart Phill Cote whose numbers were less impressive, but his performance just as spectacular. On the ground, Cote would run for 91 yards and 2 TDs and through the air, 16 of 18 passing for 275 yards. He led his Ottawa Gee Gees straight to the top with a 42-39 decision.

The Bruce Coulter Award, presented this year to the outstanding defensive player of the game, went to the defensive back of the Gee Gees, Scott Gordon. On top of a sensational game, returning 4 kickoffs for 83 yards and four punt returns for 74 yards, Gordon also lead all players with eight unassisted tackles.

UBC football star tests positive

by tom peacock
& nicholas bradley

the ubyssey

VANCOUVER (CUP) — After the UBC football team defeated the Saskatchewan Huskies in Saskatoon on Sept. 30, three Thunderbirds took an unannounced, random drug test. Last Friday, the CIAU announced that quarterback Shawn Olson tested positive for ephedrine that day.

Olson's urine sample contained elevated levels of the banned stimulant ephedrine, but was not considered to be performance-enhancing. As a result, Olson was given only a three-month suspension, effective the day of the test, in accordance with existing CIAU policy. Olson did not miss a game as a result of

his suspension.

Olson is the only athlete in the CIAU to have tested positive this season, and is the first UBC player ever to return a positive control.

Last Friday, Olson said that he was still shocked about his suspension, but accepted full responsibility for his actions. He had already requested that his nomination for the Hec Crighton Trophy, awarded to the league's most outstanding player, be withdrawn, and that his name be removed from the list of Canada West all-stars.

Olson explained that the positive test was a result of a herbal weight-loss supplement that he had been taking since August. The quarterback had thought that the supplement, Energen, was legal.

"I took a herbal supplement that I thought was not on the banned list...I was careless," he said.

The Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (CCES), the agency that administers the CIAU's drug-testing program, confirmed that Olson's test results revealed ma huang, a herbal form of the amphetamine-like compound ephedrine.

Olson was notified, along with UBC, of the positive result, and was given a chance to explain.

"The athlete has the opportunity to provide an explanation for the presence of ephedrine, and then that explanation is then reviewed by a

continued on page 27

Basketball injuries plague Tigers

by cj foote

the gazette

Despite playing good basketball this year, Dalhousie has had its year of woes. Players Craig Slaunwhite, Dion Walcott, Randolph Edison and David Mullally have been sidelined for most of this season which has put this year into the hands of the younger players.

Craig Slaunwhite, a 6'2 well-conditioned guard from Halifax, plays tenacious defense. Randolph Edison is the Tigers main point guard and since his injury has been replaced by the rookie "Bird." Bird is, in fact, an excellent player from Scarborough who has filled Dion's shoes nicely since the injury. However, the absence of players such as Randolph Edison and David Mullally have been really detrimental to the team. Walcott, a stocky 6'1 shooting guard from Toronto, and Mullally, a 6'7 center from Charlottetown, will be out for the entire season which must have Tim McGarrigle's teeth clamped. Both of these players have significant presence down in the paint and give the team size and height.



Dion Walcott: Out for the rest of year.



Craig Slaunwhite: Leg injury last month, expected to return next semester.



Randolph Edison: Injured since the beginning of the year, out for the rest of the year.

Dalhousie has struggled against Saint Mary's and other teams with any kind of height. However, the scene is not entirely bleak. Dalhousie has been able to come up with wins and play well against teams without such tall players.

To date, Dalhousie has a 2-4 record that puts them third in the Baldwin division of AUAA. Their last loss coming to last year's CIAU champs, the St. F.X. X-Men, at the metro center in front of 4000 this past weekend.

The prediction for the 2001 doesn't look that horrible. Dalhousie's new lineup has four in the top 20 for scoring. Rubens Aubourg is averaging 16 points per game with Nick Donald, 15. Oriene Davis and Will Fagan are both averaging nine points a game. Fagan is also in the top ten in the CIAU for rebounding with 7.5 rebounds per game. Furthermore, Dal's current point guard, "Bird," is also playing extremely well with a very good assist to turnover ratio.

All this adds up to a pretty good team that just needs time to adapt to each other style of play so that they can gel and find a way to deliver wins.

"It is difficult to win games in the AUBC with such a young team, but if the team keeps improving at its current rate the playoffs are a definite possibility," says athletic coordinator Jim Charters.


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SHOOT YOUR FRIENDS AND GET AWAY WITH IT

by will roberts

the gazette

It is dark here and my face mask limits my vision a little. I keep popping up and down, gun held at the ready, to take quick reconnaissance views of the adjacent area. Not far away now, gunfire sounds with strangely innocuous and small cracks, nothing like the big hammering sounds from movies.

I am getting ready to make a short run forward, to a pile of crates or wooden flats. I am fairly sure there is nobody to my left, which is mostly out of sight around a corner. If I'm wrong, it will be a very short run. One last time I stick my head up over the crate that I am hiding behind, gun braced against my shoulder, only this time, in coincidentally perfect unison, there's a guy just like me, with his gun up and ready, who rises from the far side of the crate. It is possible we have both been there for some time, just not happening to look over at the same moment, or maybe he just arrived. He is no more than four feet away. Without hesitating we both pull back on our triggers, my weapon snapping loudly so close to my ear.

I feel a heavy impact on the side of my head and then dampness spreading quickly across my ear and jaw. In front of me, the other guy's head snaps back, a dark area appearing suddenly on his mask in the centre of his forehead. In spite of the panic shot, a sense of calm comes over me, then even concern. I hear myself say, without thinking it through, "Are you OK?"

He nods. "You?"

I nod back at him. We hesitate for another moment uncertain what to do now. Then I remember. I yell to him "Head shots don't count!" and drop to safety behind the crate again. I take a moment to check the side of my head, expecting a bruise but it seems I am lucky this time, the paintball only grazed me, just missing the protective face mask.

The other guy decides not to waste any time, maybe thinking I might make a move against him right away. As I am half crouched behind the crate, my left hand checking for wounds, he dives across the ground, shooting as he slides. His aim is low, he expects me to be fully down. Surprised by his move, I fire one round at him in response, catching him squarely in the chest. I check my legs and find that, incredibly, his shots have all missed, whipping past my knees on either side.

"Holy shit!" I look at him, trying to ascertain his condition. "Did I get you?"

"Yeah," he mumbles, then raises himself from the ground and sprints away to the Neutral Zone, a room on the far side of the range where the fallen go and presumably bitch with other corpses about the assholes who plugged them. Despite my luck, I know I'll be there myself soon enough.

I check to make sure my safety is off, take one last look around and run to that next pile of crates. Gunfire continues in the dimness as I hit the ground and roll into cover, hoping none of those paintballs has my name on it.

Two weeks ago I was invited to try a paintball game at Splatshot on Quinpool Rd. This was something I have been meaning to try for a long time, just never seemed to get around to it. The thought of waving guns around, screaming obscenities and insults at temporary enemies, the intense adrenaline rush, and the opportunity to ruthlessly cap off a few soft targets who might actually have surrendered (oops), did work its magic on me. I agreed immediately.

Well, it turns out that they have rules. You aren't allowed to cap surrendering enemies, no matter how contemptuous you feel towards them. Despite the regrettable intrusion of civilized behaviour into the mix, it did turn out to be one



Another one bites the dust

of the most intense sports I have tried.

We arrived in a group of about twelve people, some of whom I knew, others not at all. This didn't affect my willingness to pull the trigger by the way. So don't worry, even if your lifelong sweetheart is in your sights, odds are pretty good that in that moment of pure unreason, it will seem perfectly OK to just pop a paintball at them. Maybe even a couple or ten, just to be sure. The future status of your interpersonal relations will just not equate.

Anyway, we were herded down a ramp into what has the appearance of a hard-target shelter, all concrete walls and utilitarian furnishings. It is actually a converted underground parking garage. Just outside the main doors to the range we were given a quick training session, seated at a 20 degree angle sideways for reasons I cannot explain, but added character to the place. A paintball veteran explained the basics (like pointing the bangy-end of the gun away from you), and answered detailed tactical questions about the combat area (like if you're hit, you're dead, well, figuratively dead). There are rules of conduct designed to prevent injury, which at the time seemed a reasonable goal. I was becoming concerned that this was going to be safer to play than soccer, or even volcano-boarding. I didn't have to worry. Once you're in there, blasting away, you become so involved in the moment that pain just doesn't rate serious attention any more. You get lots of bruises and if you're really lucky, scars are possible, although there are rules designed to limit that option. Insurance companies have no appreciation of the finer moments.

Wearing baggy clothing as advised beforehand, we trooped into the range, got our guns and ammo, joked around, and divided up into teams. We didn't think to start a dead pool. The Splatshot crewman, who guided us through the afternoon, explained the rules of various game scenarios which were played out in about 30 minute sessions. Bottom line, look for enemy targets, but failing that, shoot someone, whoever. I really have no idea which teams won any of the games, we just blasted away until we got hit, and then did it again.

It was a really intense experience. As far as getting your blood moving goes, this is a top-rate thing to do. The physical reality of it beats any video game into the ground easily.

Hot tips; do some stretching exercises beforehand — especially for the legs, dress baggy but not too warm — you'll warm up fast, bring water or an energy drink — also available on site, be very aware of your breathing — you can fog your mask up, and then you're mine, sucker.

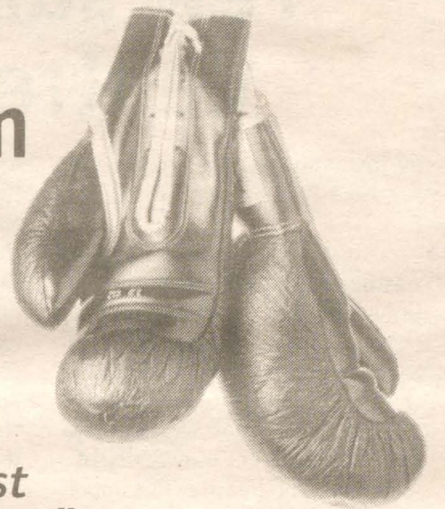
I thought we might all head out for a beer afterwards, but unless you really get a thrill from the smell of post-event bods, just plan on getting home for a shower. And unless you're an ex-SEAL and didn't take a hit, you may need to wash that paint out of your hair.

If you want to hunt humans, or just feel you might make a good target, drop into Splatshot on Quinpool Rd., across from the Holiday Inn.



Fun toys and cautionary signs — read and heed.

Trinidad KO's Vargas in twelfth round



"One of the best fights of the year"

by peter north and cj foote

the gazette

Current middleweight champion Felix Trinidad knocked out Fernando Vargas in the twelfth round of one of the best fights of the year to retain the WBA 154-pound title and win the IBF championship.

The fight began with Trinidad knocking down Vargas in the first two minutes of the fight, and was then stopped when Vargas was then knocked down three times in the final round.

"I always knew the fight would end with a knockout," Trinidad said after his sensational victory Saturday night in the Mandalay Bay Event Center. "Even though it went into the twelfth round, I still thought I would knock him out."

In the middle rounds, Trinidad was knocked down and penalized two points for low blows, while Vargas also was penalized a point for hitting low.

Trinidad went down for the eighth time in his unbeaten career in the fourth round.

He also said that while he thought he could knock Vargas out in the final round, he knew he was winning and didn't need a knockout. After 11 rounds, he had margins of three, four and five points on the three officials' cards.

After being knocked down in the fourth round, Trinidad dominated the rest of the fight, although the younger Vargas fought back with heart. He just couldn't handle Trinidad's punishing left jabs and sharp left hooks and rights to the head.

Trinidad knocked Vargas down with a right hand and left hook to the head 29 seconds into the final round. Vargas got up quickly and then went down from another left hook. Again he got up quickly, but with 1:28 left in the round, Trinidad knocked Vargas down with a right to the head and referee Jay Nady stopped the fight. The time was 1:33.

Vargas left the ring without being interviewed and was taken to a hospital as a precaution.

It was the 32nd knockout for the 27-year-old Trinidad of Puerto Rico, a former welterweight champion who is 39-0. For Vargas, it was the first loss after 20 wins, 18 by knockout.

The knockout was vicious. In the twelfth round, Vargas

came storming out to meet Trinidad and was dropped with a left hook with the round only 23 seconds old. Twenty-two seconds later, another hook put Vargas down.

Trinidad did not, however, press the attack and Vargas lasted the round. They were the first knockdowns of Vargas' career.

Vargas, California., who will be 23 on Thursday, had said that if he knocked Trinidad down, it would be a . . . over. The only thing the knockdown seemed to do to Trinidad was make him more determined.

Trinidad landed a low blow in the third round and Nady gave Vargas 75 seconds to recover, but he did not penalize Trinidad.

Nady, however, took a point from Trinidad in the fourth round for a low blow and gave Vargas about a minute to recover. He also penalized Trinidad a point for a controversial low blow in the seventh round.

"The first couple of times I hit him low, they were low," Trinidad said. "The third time it was not low."

"I was worried and I was afraid it would come to a disqualification," Trinidad said of the low-blow penalties.

The ninth round was a tremendous round with both fighters being credited with landing 32 punches, although Trinidad seemed to land the harder blows.

In the final three rounds, Trinidad outlanded the tiring Vargas 63-36. At the end of the fight, Trinidad's right eye was swollen from being thumbed in the fourth round, while Vargas was badly marked about both eyes.

"It was my toughest fight," said Trinidad, who has said he would like to move up to middleweight and challenge WBA champion William Joppy, who stopped Jonathan Reid in the fourth round on the undercard.

It was another Olympian effort for Trinidad, as Vargas became the fourth U.S. Olympic boxer to lose to the Puerto Rican. He also has beaten gold medal winners Pernell Whitaker, Oscar De La Hoya and David Reid. Vargas got to the second round in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Trinidad earned \$4 million, while Vargas got \$2 million. Each fighter weighed in officially Thursday at 154 pounds, but each weighed 164 at fight time.

TIGER REPORT



Dalhousie Tigers Men's Volleyball

Regular Season Games:
Dec. 1 Dalhousie 3 @ Moncton 0

This Week's Schedule:
Christmas Break

The Dalhousie Tigers Men's Volleyball Team traveled to Moncton to wrap up their first term of Atlantic University Sport action. The Tigers improved their first place record to 7-0 with a 3-0 victory over Moncton (25-10, 25-8, 25-14). A number of Tigers are at or near the top in Atlantic University Sport Statistics. Ryan Andrews and Sean Wormsbecker are first and second in Scoring and Kills. Chris Wolfenden and Josh Muise are second and third in Digs and Sean Wormsbecker and Aaron Nutting are first and second in Aces. The Tigers return to action in the new year Jan. 5-7, 2001 at the Manitoba Challenge.

Dalhousie Tigers Hockey

Regular Season Games:
Dec. 1 Dalhousie 5 @ Saint Mary's 4
Dec. 2 SFX 4 @ Dalhousie 1

This Week's Schedule:
Christmas Break

Atlantic University Sport Top 5 Scoring Leaders:

Player	Team	GP	G	A	Pts
Jason Sands	STU	16	7	21	28
Marty Johnston	DAL	18	10	17	27
Yanick Evola	SFX	13	9	18	27
Chad Spurr	UPEI	16	8	17	25
Christian Drolet	UDM	12	8	12	20
Chris Pittman	DAL	12	8	12	20
Dan Tudin	DAL	14	5	15	20

The Dalhousie Tigers Men's Hockey Team sit in third place in the Atlantic University Sport Hockey Conference after splitting two games last weekend. Following a 5-4 victory over Saint Marys on Friday at SMU, the Tigers returned home and dropped a 4-1 decision to St.FX.

With the split the Tigers sit in third place with 22 points only two points behind first place St. Thomas, at the Christmas break. Dan Tudin recorded two goals and an assist against Saint Marys including making a length of the ice pass to set-up Jason Troini's game winner with six minutes left. Tudin now sits tied for sixth place in the league scoring race with 20 points and was awarded the Dalhousie Male Athlete of the week for his performance. Marty Johnston ended the term with 27 points, one point out of top spot in league scoring. Fellow Tiger Chris Pittman is tied for sixth place with Dan Tudin. The Tigers resume play in the second term on Friday, Jan. 5 and Saturday, Jan. 6 as they host Moncton and St. Thomas respectively at 7:00 p.m. at Dalhousie Memorial Arena.

Dalhousie Tigers Men's Basketball
Regular Season Results
Dec. 2 St. F.X. 105 @ Dalhousie 73

This Week's Schedule:
Christmas Break

The Dalhousie Tigers Men's Basketball Team lost their final game of the term to the CIAU's #2 ranked team from St.FX. 105-73. Nick Donald led the Tigers with 24 points and Scott Devnick added 18. Rubens Aubourg finished the term 10th in league scoring and 8th in field goal percentage.

Will Fagan ended up seventh in rebounding. Oreine Davis is tenth in free throw percentage. The Tigers record in Atlantic University Sport Play now sits at 2-4. The Tigers next action will be when they host the 10th Annual Rod Shoveller Memorial Tournament Jan. 5-7, 2001.

Dalhousie Tigers Women's Basketball
Regular Season Games:
Dec. 2 St. F.X. 53 @ Dalhousie 59

This Week's Schedule:
Christmas Break

The Dalhousie Tigers Women's Basketball Team won their final game of the first term as they beat Saint Francis Xavier by a score of 59-53. The Tigers are in first place in the Baldwin Division at 6-0 and are the only undefeated team in Atlantic University Sport Women's Basketball. Jill MacDonald had a big game for the Tigers scoring 18 points and grabbing 6 rebounds, she is third in AUS scoring, sixth in rebounding and eighth in free throw percentage. For her effort Jill was awarded Dalhousie Female Athlete of the week. Janice King added 11 points and 13 rebounds and sits tenth in scoring and 2nd in rebounding in the AUS.

Angelia Crealock added ten points six rebounds and six assists against St.FX. The Tigers have won their last 19 Atlantic University Sport regular season games. The Tigers start the second half of their season Thursday, December 28th at 7 p.m. in a game at Dalplex versus University of British Columbia.

Score board

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB 55 @ Saint Mary's 68
StFX 53 @ Dalhousie 59
StFX 70 @ UCCB 51

MEN'S BASKETBALL
UNB 72 @ Saint Mary's 77
St. F.X. 105 @ Dalhousie 73 (Exhibition)
UCCB 74 @ Western 84 (Exhibition)
UCCB 73 @ Wilfrid Laurier 85
StFX 102 @ UCCB 67

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Dalhousie 1 @ StFX 9
Moncton 1 @ Saint Mary's 8
Moncton 3 @ Acadia 3
St. F.X. 3 @ Saint Mary's 0

MEN'S HOCKEY
UPEI 4 @ UNB 6
St. Thomas 4 @ Moncton 3
St.FX. 4 @ Dalhousie 1
UPEI 2 @ Moncton 7
SMU 3 @ Acadia 5
St. Thomas 4 @ UNB 5 (OT)

DALHOUSIE TIGERS ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

For the Week ending Dec 2, 2000

Dan Tudin Men's Hockey

2nd Year
Computer Science
Ottawa, Ont.

Dan Tudin of the Men's Hockey Team is the Dalhousie Tigers male athlete of the week for the week ending Dec. 3, 2000. Tudin had a great all-around performance leading the Tigers to a 5-4 victory in a visit to Saint Marys on Friday night. On top of scoring two goals, his length of the ice pass to Jason Troini set-up the game winning goal with six minutes left in the game. Dan has had a stellar first term scoring 20 points and sitting in a tie for sixth in league scoring. The Tigers have surprised many and sit in third place in the Atlantic University Sport standings only two points out of first place.

Jillian MacDonald Women's Basketball

4th Year
Biology
Moncton, N.B.

Jill MacDonald of the Women's Basketball Team is the Dalhousie Tigers Female Athlete of the Week for the week ending Dec. 3, 2000. Jill completed a fantastic first half of the season leading the Tigers to 59-53 win over Saint Francis Xavier on Saturday. Her 18 point and six rebound effort helped move the Tigers to a perfect 6-0 record at the Christmas break. MacDonald is in the Top 10 in three Atlantic University Sports Statistical Categories. She is third in scoring, sixth in rebounding and eighth in free throw percentage. Her play has helped Dalhousie win the last 19 regular season Atlantic University Sport games they have played.

Men's hockey

Rank		Last week
1	Alberta	1
2	UQTR	2
3	Western	4
4	Manitoba	3
5	StFX	7
6	St. Thomas	5
7	Saskatchewan	9
8	Lethbridge	6
9	Dalhousie	8
10	Calgary	10

As of 11/26/00

Football star

continued from page 25

Canadian doping control review board, and they determine the appropriate course of action," explained Marg McGregor, the chief executive officer of the CIAU.

"The process is a lengthy one, but all those steps are necessary to ensure that an athlete gets natural justice," she said.

Even though Olson's suspension began immediately after his test, he was, in effect, allowed to play the remainder of UBC's season, a problem McGregor said the CIAU hopes to address in the future.

"What the CIAU would like to do is see the whole process fast-tracked because our competitive season is compressed... in Shawn's case... the three-month suspension is almost a moot point."

Although Olson was visibly shaken by this event, he and UBC head coach Jay Prepчук were both convinced that something good might come from the experience.

"We can take a negative like this and certainly try to turn it into a positive," said Prepчук.

"We can show our guys that they have to be careful about what they take into their bodies, that they have to be very careful in what they do and what they take," he said.

Olson said that taking supplements is common on the

football team.

"Nutritional supplements are a huge part of our lives," he said.

Olson said he started taking the supplement in August to try to lose some weight. He said that when he bought the supplement at a health store "somewhere in the lower mainland," he checked the ingredients on the container against the CIAU Drug Education and Doping Control Handbook.

The CIAU booklet, given to all CIAU athletes at the start of the season as part of their drug-education program, reprints much of the information from the CCES list of banned substances. Both sources advise athletes that "some 'vita' mins, 'natural', 'herbal', or 'homeopathic' preparations may contain banned or restricted substances such as ephedrine and pseudoephedrine."

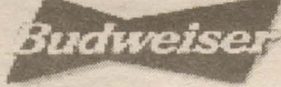
The alphabetical list of banned substances in the CIAU book does not list ma huang, only ephedrine. Olson admits that he sort of "half-assedly checked" the ingredients against the information in the book.

A closer read would have shown that ma huang contained the banned substance ephedrine. In addition, a separate section on supplements that appears in both the CIAU and the CCES sources cautions athletes to avoid all products listing ma huang as an ingredient.

Olson admitted that some of his complacency in checking the supplement stemmed from his experience as a fifth-year player.

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