



Freezing students fight for freedom from fees

Over 2,000 students, from nine universities across Nova Scotia, crippled traffic and brought downtown Halifax to a stand-still Feb. 6, waving yellow "Freeze Tuition Fees" signs as they made their way to the Nova Scotia Legislature

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Jungle Mennonite Music

Laura Kohoot is the hottest thing happening in Halifax this chilly season. A former model and actress, she gives it all with a great voice that will give your heart a case of palpitations.

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UnBurdened

In her fifth and final year of athletic eligibility, Burden is playing her first season as a Tiger. She played four years at York University before relocating to Dal to play alongside her younger sister, co-captain Julia Burden.

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INVEST
IN OUR
FUTURE

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Read the B.C. Defrost Tuition article. Page FIVE. President Don Avison is so right, unfreezing tuition will benefit B.C. students. That way, as he says, students can discuss them like us here in N.S. I just got off the phone with Student Accounts. We talked about my payment. But by WE I mean me and an automated machine. Just press nine and have a credit card ready.

Opinions >

Zionism, terror, and the Palestinian Intifada...please send emotional and/or thoughtful response to the Gazette...Debunking the debunked which wasn't debunking because Dee Truth IS, that we got the FUNK...Dee-ARR-ctr Ruh-AWWN...State of the Republic...

Arts >

Word Up. Reading show on T.V. makes literacy easy...Comedic Heist, tight allright, Collin Mocherie put up a fight...A litre of Dal Theatre is a Gallon of Genius...Best line in a Gazette article goes to Kohoot piece, page NINE "born in a one-room hut in the middle of a jungle rainforest in Paraguay to Mennonite parents."...

Sports >

Profiles are in, Leech and Burden, so good so good and now you know it...Rotate arms and kick legs, our Swim Team could win in the shower room...Hockey Talkee...

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McDonald, dsuvs@dal.ca, for details.

ELECTIONS ARE COMING! ELECTIONS ARE COMING! PAY ATTENTION, LOOK AROUND YOU. CANDIDATES FOR THE POSITIONS OF PRES., EXEC VP, VPCA, VPI, VPSA, SENATE AND BOG REPS WILL BE CAMPAIGNING THE WEEK AFTER BREAK AND ELECTIONS WILL FOLLOW AFTER THAT.

The DSU is looking for a handbook editor, if you are interested please contact Saralyn Covent at dsuvpi@dal.ca or 494-8814.

The DSU would like to remind all students that strike updates will be posted at www.thedsu.com

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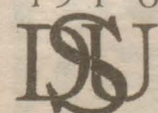
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Over 2,000 protest Feb. 6

Students shut down Royal Bank Branch

by christopher a. walsh
the gazette

"This is just the beginning," shouted a fervent university student, steam rising from his mouth as he marched down a frostbitten and disabled Spring Garden Road.

Over 2,000 students, from nine universities across Nova Scotia, crippled traffic and brought downtown Halifax to a stand-still Feb. 6, forcing taxi drivers to turn off their meters and bus drivers to pull over and eat their lunch. The students cut through the frigid air waving yellow "Freeze Tuition Fees" signs as they made their way to the Nova Scotia Legislature to protest the rising cost of post-secondary education.

Looking like a giant snake, an army of protesters carrying yellow placards slithered down Spring Garden Road, past a dirt covered bus full of passengers that lay hushed on the side of the street.

On the back window a small anarchy symbol was carved into the thick grime. A tall young man in the middle of the march raised his left arm and erased the sign with his sleeve, giving the passengers a clear view of the students as they passed.

"I think the students' fees are far too high," said Betty Landry, a passenger on the bus. "I support them for sure," she added as the street swelled with a squawking of car horns in a show of solidarity with the students.

Shawn Tracey, president of the Dalhousie Student Union, was hoping for this type of public attention.

"This will make the public more aware," he said at the start of the march. "And in turn, put more pressure on the government."

The students were protesting for a tuition freeze and the reinstatement of the loan remission program that was cut by the Tory government three years ago. The decrease in government funding

over the last ten years has left Nova Scotia students paying the highest tuition in the country, roughly \$1,280 more per year than the national average.

The largest student protest in Nova Scotia history made its way down Barrington Street to an empty legislature where it was greeted by Twisted Sister's classic rock anthem "We're not gonna take it" blaring from a small stage set up at the bottom of the steps.

The students huddled around the platform listening to guest speakers from the Canadian Federation of Students, the Nova Scotia Federation of Labour, and the Nova Scotia Student Advocacy Coalition.

Absent from the festivities was Dalhousie president, Tom Traves. Dalhousie spokeswoman Stacey Lewis said he was too busy to participate.

After 45 minutes of listening in the blistering chill, the crowd burst into a rousing chorus of "We want Hamm!" With the Premier's refusal to show, and the temperature dropping even further, the yellow picket signs were tossed on the stage next to a paper-mache pig sporting a top hat and a diploma tacitly squeezed into its ass.

The crowd quickly disbanded with some students heading for the Royal Bank, which handles Nova Scotia student loans, for a sit-in.

Sarah Jones, a second-year Dalhousie student, hopes the protest sends a message to the government. "I think it will have some effect," she said, her jaw half frozen from the brutal cold. "But I don't know how much."

"If we don't keep doing it, then it's just another day," added her friend, Kristen Porter, another Dal student.

As the steam from the clustered students cleared outside the legislature, interim Liberal Leader Wayne Gaudet appeared. He called for the education

minister to be more accountable.

"It's her job to fight for more funding for education," he said while blowing snow from an empty street swirled around his head. "If she's not willing to do that, then it's time to tell minister Jane Purves to step down."

NDP MLA Howard Epstein, (Halifax-Chebucto) who watched the protest from the steps of the legislature, said the Tory government is not fully appreciating the importance of post-secondary education.

"They're the classic example of cynics...They understand the price of everything and the value of nothing."

Back at the Royal Bank, 200 students were disrupting business. The bank was forced to close and call police to evict them. The students banged on makeshift drums and demanded that the bank address their concerns about skyrocketing student debt load.

Next to a "Royal Bank Action Direct" advertisement, the Radical Cheerleaders performed stunts while other students kept a steady rhythm with whatever they could find.

After two hours, three student representatives were granted a meeting with Royal Bank vice-president, Wayne Bossert, providing all students would leave afterward.

Three female students took three demands to the table: they wanted to know how much the bank made on loan interest payments; the details of the risk sharing agreement with the province; and for Bossert to publicly endorse a tuition freeze.

When the three students emerged, they didn't have quite what they wanted. Bossert would not reveal details about the deal with the province, or how much the bank made in interest. He also would not publicly support a tuition freeze on behalf of the bank.

What he did promise, says Anna Hunter a third year Dal student who met with him, was to call Premier Hamm and express his "personal concern" about student debt.

She also said that if enough pressure was applied, Bossert would write a letter addressing high tuition and circulate it to all Nova Scotia university newspapers. The students accepted this and voted to leave.

"The fight doesn't stop here," Hunter said as the students were cleaning up the mess on the floor



photo by kip keen

Freezing cold! Freezing tuition?

of the bank. "If everyone makes an effort, we can definitely move somewhere. Look how much we are [moving] in one day."

The next day, Bossert said that in an undisclosed phone conversation with Premier Hamm, he relayed his concern and that he now considers the matter closed.

Anna Hunter says this is not over. "I feel encouraged by the energy," she said at the end of the day of action. "I'm somewhat disappointed in the response of the executive. But we're gonna keep at them. We're not gonna give up this fight until we have a fair tuition."

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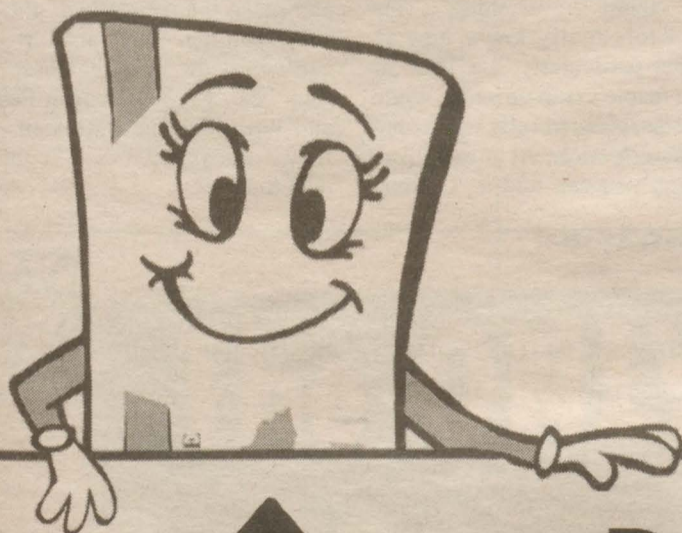
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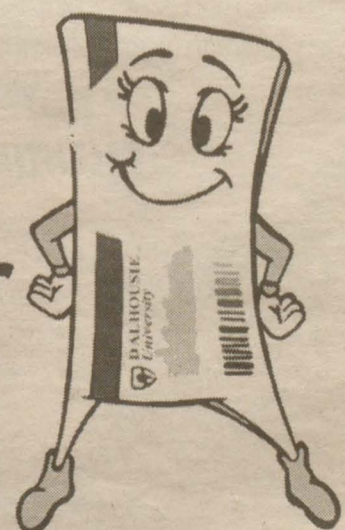
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The Sexual Harassment Resource Group is here to help ALL members of the University community on a confidential and impartial basis. For information about Dalhousie's Sexual Harassment Policy and procedures, assistance with informal resolution or mediation of sexual harassment concerns, and/or referrals to other resources, please contact one of the following members:

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French Society goes to Carnaval



photos by rachel dumas

by joseph chedrawe

the gazette

Quebec City, snow capital of the world and setting for the 47th annual Carnaval de Québec, proved to be the perfect destination for the French Society's Second Annual "Snow Trek".

The winter festival began in 1894 as a way for the citizens of Quebec to beat the cold weather with song, dance, food and drink. It's the biggest winter carnival in the world and is an annual industry in itself, creating a boom in Québec's tourism industry during the month of February. For 17 consecutive days this month, nearly 1 million attendees, including 1200 volunteers, annually brave the cold for a multitude of sporting events, cultural displays and artistic exhibits.

The Dal French Society decided to return to Quebec City for its second annual cultural excursion. Gabrielle Gesner, French Society vice-president and trip organizer, says "it's not only a chance for students to get away for five days and have a great time in Quebec City, but an opportunity for them to learn about and appreciate Quebecois culture."

14 Dalhousie students from various faculties, from first year to fourth, took the challenge and from Jan. 31 to Feb. 4 reveled in the magic that is Carnaval.

Carnaval is best known for that giant seven foot snowman with a red stocking cap and a knitted multicolored sash, Bonhomme Carnaval. He is the official mascot of the festivities, and a genuine celebrity in Quebec. Sightings are rare and his presence is met

with cheers of absolute delight. At the beginning of the festival, Bonhomme Carnaval "returns" to Quebec and is given the keys to the city by the mayor. There are pictures of him in almost every store, restaurant and hotel of the city.

Quebec City was named a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1985. With European-style architecture and narrow winding streets, Quebec City is a national treasure.

"Quebec is like a really big village," says Rachelle Dumas, a Dal French Assistant, who makes yearly trips to Quebec. "An absolutely beautiful city in the summer and especially in the winter."

Quebec City, pop. 170,000, is just a spectacular place to explore. It's more French-speaking than Montreal, but most can communicate in English because of the high tourist count and the friendly residents put out the proverbial welcome mat during the festivities.

"You know a city is great when you can arrive there at five in the morning, in the middle of a snowstorm, with negligible sleep after an 18 hour train ride in -20 weather and still be awed by the scenery...and get a friendly breakfast at 7 a.m.," says Dal student Rachel Climenhaga.

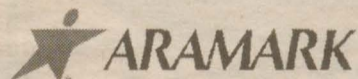
Gastronomic delights include just about everything (the Quebecois really know how to eat) but particularly "La Tire" or warm maple syrup on snow, while it freezes, you carefully roll it onto a popsicle stick. At most street corners, you can find a "Caribou

Booth." Caribou, which tastes a bit like sweet red wine, is the unofficial liquor of Carnaval and carries a kick with it. People fill their hollow red plastic canes topped by miniature heads of Bonhomme to the brim with this spicy concoction, likely to keep anybody warm during those cold nights.

There are several sporting events, for the harder to please: the International Canoe Race across the half-frozen St. Lawrence River, the Soap Box Derby where children roll down Côte de la Fabrique in homemade mini-cars, and dog sled racing through the streets of Vieux Québec. You can also watch competitive snow-sculpting and ice-sculpting events, go ice skating just outside the city walls, go down a giant snow hill in an inner tube, or jump into a rubber raft and sail down a slippery slope with a group of friends.

The Dalhousie group left just before the infamous "bain de neige" (snow bath) where nearly 100 courageous, and perhaps crazy, participants take a cold dip.

"My mom laughed at me, saying that I was leaving Halifax, which is cold enough, for Quebec, which is even colder! Well, it might've been -18 but I couldn't have felt warmer...mostly because I wore seven layers of clothing," said Dal student David Kabalen on why he decided to brave the cold and make the trip. Which goes to show you mes chers amis, if you can't beat the cold, celebrate it! This year, Carnaval began Feb. 1 and will continue until Feb. 17. It just doesn't get any "cooler" than that.



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B.C. opens door to tuition defrost

By Sarah MacNeill Morrison
ubyssey, cup

The B.C. government announced Monday it will no longer regulate college and university tuition fees, putting an end to a six-year legislated fee freeze and giving universities authority to increase fees to any level they wish.

The province's Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond acknowledged that most students

wanted the government to keep fees frozen but said doing so was "not realistic."

"We need to be concerned about the long-term future and the issues around access for students in this province, and that's what motivated our decision," Bond said.

Although student groups had predicted the government would allow institutions to raise fees, most said they were stunned by

yesterday's announcement.

"We firmly believe the government should play a regulatory role in education," said Erfan Kazemi, president of the student association at the University of British Columbia. "I'm disappointed and alarmed that there's no regulation."

Kazemi said the deregulation of fees in Ontario has proven unsuccessful and shouldn't be repeated in B.C. Fees have

soared in a number of post-secondary programs in Ontario since the province's Conservative government deregulated tuition fees in professional and graduate programs in 1998.

Summer McFadyen, B.C. chairperson of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), said the government's announcement sends a clear message to students that colleges and universities are a place for the wealthy.

"I think students are outraged, and it's shocking what the government has done," she said. "There's no other way to view the increase but as a direct attack on people from regular families."

But Bond said the province will continue to provide assistance through projects such as the student loans program.

"It's a challenge for students, but we believe that students should invest in their post-secondary education," said Bond. "Our government already helps just about 70,000 students a year and we're going to continue to help those students in need."

The province's faculty associations are calling on the government to guarantee that no student will be prevented from attending a B.C. university because they are unable to afford tuition.

Robert Clift, executive director of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of B.C. said he felt it was unfair for the province to shift the burden of a funding short-fall onto the shoulders of students.

But according to Don Avison, president of B.C.'s University Presidents' Council, an end to the tuition-fee freeze will benefit students.

Avison said he felt tuition levels were best decided at the

university level, where the issue could be discussed by boards, students, senates and faculties.

"It's certainly a positive announcement from the perspective of the University Presidents' Council," said Avison. "This is an issue that the university presidents have been talking about to government for a number of years now, and what I am encouraged by is the recognition of the autonomy of the boards of governors at each of the universities to address the issue of tuition."

"It's a matter now to be decided and ... developed locally, and I think that's the right place to do it," said Brian Sullivan, a UBC vice-president.

"The announcement was, from the university's point of view, a welcome vote of confidence in the ability of institutions to work with their communities to come up with an approach to setting tuition that's fair and will help assure the quality we all need," Sullivan added.

Rumours had circulated that Bond would make a decision on the tuition freeze last week, but the official announcement was not expected until Feb. 19, when the provincial government releases its budget.

Universities are already planning dramatic fee increases.

Sullivan said UBC is planning to increase fees for undergraduate programs to the national average of \$3,580 over the next three years. Undergraduate students currently pay an average of \$2,181.

A University of Victoria pre-budget report that was leaked to the media last week showed officials there are planning to double fees over the next several years.



photo by dave brushardski

Strike Date: March 4?

by tyler kustra
the gazette

Professors are preparing to strike on March 4.

Sources, who wished to remain anonymous, have said that if the university doesn't budge on its contract offer, the DFA executive will call for a strike to start as soon as possible after the Feb. 27 DFA meeting, and the professors will support them.

The DFA is holding the meeting to keep professors informed of the eleventh-hour negotiations between them and the university administration, scheduled for Feb. 21 and 22. If the negotiations prove productive, both sides said they would continue talking into the weekend, on Feb. 23 and 24.

The DFA must give 48-hours notice to the Minister of Labour before going on strike.

The sources said they would file their notice after the meeting, meaning they could strike as early as March 2. Since striking on the weekend is pointless, the sources

said, the earliest possible date would be March 4.

But DFA president Andy Wainwright said the DFA might file at least two days before the meeting, allowing them to walkout immediately.

However, he noted this is just one of many possibilities, and that the DFA hopes to reach an agreement at the table.

Dalhousie spokeswoman Stacey Lewis said the university is doing everything possible to negotiate an agreement.

Wainwright questioned the value of talking to the university, since in last Saturday's Halifax Chronicle-Herald the university said they were willing to negotiate but added that their final offer is on the table.

"It seems contradictory to say the least," he said.

Sources in the university administration said they also think that March 4 is a likely strike date. They added that university is discounting the idea of looking the professors out during reading week.

Conciliation between the DFA and the administration broke down on Jan. 23, over the issue of complement. Wainwright emphasized that the DFA didn't walk away from the process. Instead the union asked, along with the administration, asked the conciliator to file his report once it was clear that the administration wouldn't budge from an offer the professors rejected in their strike vote.

Lewis said conciliation lasted only two days, not long enough for Dalhousie to change its offer.

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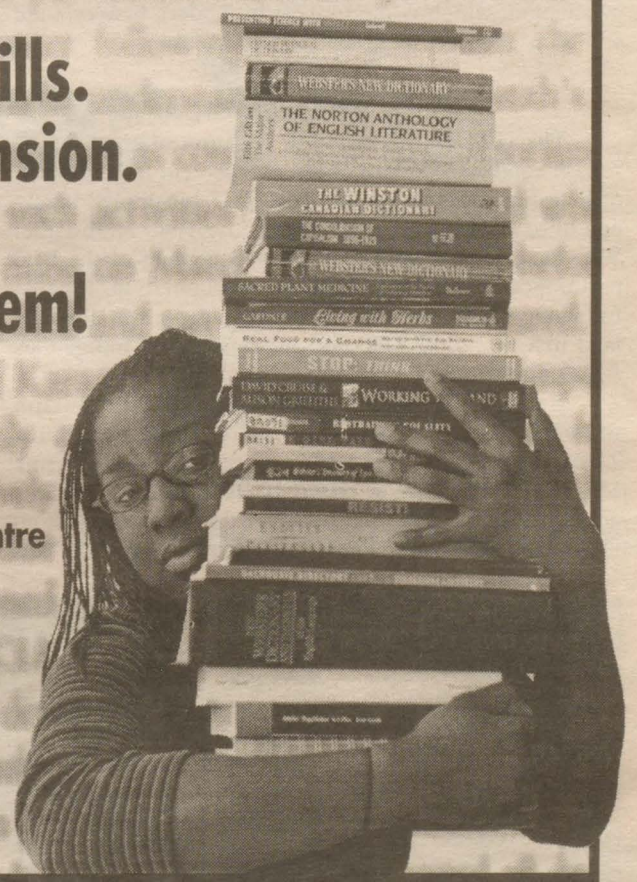
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Systemic cruelty in the occupied territories.

Zionism, terror and the Palestinian Intifada

by rebecca grant

the gazette

"Force is as pitiless to the man who possesses it, or thinks he does, as it is to its victims; the second it crushes, the first it intoxicates. The truth is, nobody really possesses it." Although Simone Weil was commenting on her experience in the Spanish Civil War and the French Resistance, nowhere is humanity's inability to control the blind escalation of violence more evident than in Israel/Palestine.

Ever since former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu popularized the rhetoric that "security" is the issue that must take precedence over peace, the issue of the occupation of Palestine by Israel has become secondary to Israel's own 'war on terrorism'. This, in turn, is a logical extension of a war on the Palestinian people, one which has been waged at the economic, political and militaristic levels since the creation of the state of Israel.

Has the culmination of 3,000 years of persecution and the attempted annihilation of European Jewry really only taught us that Israeli existence can legitimately be sought through the forced exile of another people? When did justice cease to be the central focus of the Jewish Covenant between God and humanity?

If anything can be learnt from the horrible monstrosities of the Third Reich, it must be that the central commandment of Judaism is to always defend the dignity of those whose voices are not being heard, everywhere; and it is the only Commandment that I was ever raised to understand from Judaism. I disagree with the common refrain that to compare Jewish suffering to that of others today is to trivialize it. If anything, I think that not comparing Jewish suffering and allowing for more division, xenophobia and misdirected vengeance to be propagated in the name of our six million exterminated people, is the ultimate denigration of the dead.

Zionism has fostered a belief that love necessarily stems from a blind faith and a pseudo-religious adherence to the policies of the State of Israel. I believe that to love Israel and to love Judaism, one must speak out to uphold its ethical integrity. Dissent within the Jewish community should not be stigmatized as disloyalty, but rather be recognized as essential if we are to overcome the perpetuation of past wrongs.

Memory must be expanded to also include the devastation that has befallen the three to four million Palestinians that we have made refugees within their own land. Those who accept moral responsibility for Jewish abuses of the Palestinians - namely, the 35-year occupation, which is the longest in modern history - are still accused of betraying our Jewish ancestry.

Occupation through Atrocity

The United Nations 1948 partition plan increased Jewish control of the land from six percent to 60 percent of Palestine, despite the fact that Jews constituted barely one-third of the population. After the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Israel would seize a further 23 percent of the land partitioned to the Arab, Palestinian population. Finally, following the war of 1967, Israel would control all of the land that the initial UN plan had left to the indigenous Arab populations.

Baruch Goldstein, murderer of 29 Muslim worshippers in a mosque in Hebron in 1994, argued that Zionism is eliminationist in nature. Then-Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin promptly dismissed Goldstein's acts as those of "an errant weed", excommunicated from the mainstream of Israeli society as an aberration who was

not a partner "in the Zionist enterprise". Perhaps it is an aberration for Israelis to kill without the full sanction of the state, but far from representing "a marginal political context," Goldstein was employing a technique that was the logical extension of precedents that Rabin himself had set during his days in the burgeoning Israeli army - where he was directly responsible for the ethnic cleansing and deportations which resulted in the permanent expulsion of 758,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1948.

One Jewish soldier recalled that in Lydda, one of the Palestinian villages that Rabin ordered vacated, Israeli soldiers promised villagers sanctuary in a mosque and then proceeded to machine gun over 80 of them to death. The corpses were left to decompose for ten days as a warning to other civilians who were reluctant to abandon their homes. Decades later, Rabin asserted that soldiers should break the bones of Palestinian youngsters during the first Palestinian Intifada (uprising) in 1988.

The Nobel Peace Laureate, "moderate" Rabin was responsible for the illegal deportation of civilians, such as the 418 Palestinians expelled from Lebanon by Israel in 1992, the indiscriminate destruction of villages, and the extra-judicial punishment and ill treatment of protected persons in violation of the Nuremberg Charter and the Geneva Conventions.

It is a tragedy that the very laws that were enacted in response to the Nazis could be used against virtually all of Israel's Prime Ministers, war veterans of the numerous Israeli invasions in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria and Palestine. Continually, the laws that prohibit the targeting of non-combatants in war at best erratically observed by Israel.

If Goldstein is to be condemned - which, of course, he should be - we must recognize that he is not alone in his desire to "eliminate the Palestinian problem" by eliminating the Palestinian people; it has been a commonly reverted to state policy in Israel for 50 years now.

Israeli Prime Minister Begin, responsible for the 1982 invasion of Lebanon, referred to Palestinians as two-legged beasts, who should be treated as terrorists and neither as human beings nor as potential citizens. Following from this assertion, 2,000 (mostly women and children) in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila were massacred with the full knowledge and some maintain support of then Defence Minister Ariel Sharon - an issue that is currently being examined in a Belgian courthouse. Israel's own Kahane commission, set up to investigate the massacre, found Ariel Sharon "personally" but "indirectly" responsible, forcing him to resign from his post as Minister of Defence - though he remained in the cabinet. Widely known as the "Bulldozer", Ariel Sharon deplorable history of atrocities was apparently insufficient leverage to prevent his election as Prime Minister in 2000. During the invasion, Israeli bombings of Lebanese cities would result in the deaths of 19,000 civilians. Israeli poet, Efraim Sidon offers a powerful rebuke to the still common invocation of victim status to justify every Israeli act of aggression during the Lebanon War:

*I accuse the children in Sidon and Tyre
whose numbers are still uncounted*

*Three-year-olds, seven-year olds, and
others of all ages, of the crime of living
next door to terrorists.*

*If you hadn't lived near them, children,
You could have been students today.*

Now you will be punished . . .

*I accuse the resident of Lebanon-all of them
For the Nazis' mistreatment of us in the World War.*

*Because from generation to generation,
everyone must see himself*

As if he were destroying Hitler

Always, always

And that's what Begin is doing.

I accuse you all!

Naturally.

Because I am always, always the victim.

The present Intifada

In order to consider the current violence that dominates our news coverage of Israel, it is important to evaluate the rarely considered causes and effects of dispossession in history.

Israel is officially defined as an industrialized country, representing less than one-thousandth of the world's population while absorbing over 20 percent of U.S. foreign aid. Whereas Palestine is designated a 'Third World' country, with a majority of its two million Arab occupants

surviving on less than \$2 a day. In Gaza, 50 percent of Palestinians are unemployed and 70 percent live in abject poverty.

Each day on the Occupied Territories brings with it unopposable land grabs and house demolitions, which clear the way for Israeli "settlements" in an effective system of apartheid. Over the past year, access between the West Bank and Israel has been closed two out of three days, escalating unemployment, as Palestinians are unable to travel to their jobs in Israel.

The current intifada is largely a reaction to Israel's accelerated policy of "creeping annexation" (via settlements) that was diverting the possibility of self-rule in Palestine. It was triggered by despair, not only at living under Israeli occupation or in exile; increasingly, it has been the leadership of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority and the Arab world's inaptitude to find a political resolution that is a trigger point. One Palestinian described it as "a people not fighting to destroy its neighbor, but a people fight for the right to be a neighbor". The Israelis tend to regard the uprising as "terrorism".

Grassroots disillusionment with the discrepancy between the supposed freeze of Jewish settlements in the Occupied Territories - promised in the Oslo peace accords - and the reality of a 60 percent increase in the settler population in the past decade precipitated this second intifada. The appearance (and escalation) of Israel as a permanent occupying power, coupled with the increasing irrelevance of the Arafat government, has provided fertile breeding grounds for radical groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

As political control over the Occupied Territories and the expansion of settlements was consolidated at the expense of Palestinian civilian casualties, extremist groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad began a tit-for-tat campaign against Israeli civilians. The decision to use violence against civilians to achieve political ends is futile in the case of Palestinian activists, as it justifies increasingly brutal "retaliation" by The Bulldozer.

Righting Wrongs

The litmus test in determining true healing for the pain of the past will be the responsibility accepted by the Jewish community in providing restitution for the wrongs inflicted against the Palestinian people. This does not require that Jews accept sole responsibility for past wrongs, but rather they accept that as victors who have seized power, they yield greater responsibility for rectifying current power imbalances - that responsibility can not fall upon a defenseless and occupied people.

There is a temptation to accept the unjust inheritance of Jewish power and to accept Arab suffering as the only, albeit tragic, alternative to eternal Jewish persecution. As many Israelis are coming to recognize, this will only prolong the moral anguish that conquest brings to conquerors and the vanquished alike. In having falsely dichotomized the world into categories of winners and losers, both Israelis and Palestinians become the subject of protracted fear and violence.

It is not "anti-Israeli" or anti-Semitic to oppose policies that make the term 'Israel' synonymous with the pain and political dispossession of another people. The price of a Jewish State will be too high if our victories must signify the end of Jewish ethics as they have shaped us. Jews have experienced unprecedented tragedies in the past century, but we have yet to come to terms with our unprecedented power. Until we do this, we will continue to punish others for our losses, and will never really move beyond the darkness of Auschwitz.

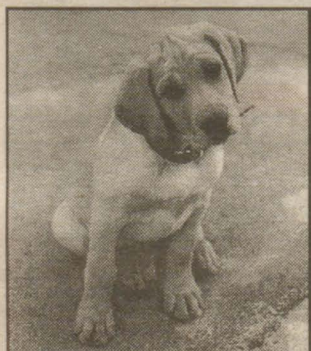
GAZETTE

issue 134:20 15.02.2k2

Dictator: Kip Jonathan Atkinson Keen, Copy Editor: Rachele Dumas, Arts Editor: Caitlin Kealey, Arts Editor: Jeff Wright, Sports Editor: Gerry Faber, Onions: Jon Elmer, News Editor: Tyler Kustra, Also News: Caitlin Kealey, Photo Manager: Pat Blackie, Associate Photo: Matt Greer, Streeter Chicklette: Jodi Magliaro

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Quit whining and get writing.

Letters and opinions should be no longer than 800 words.
Commentary pieces can be up to 1800 words.
Submissions & questions: gazette@is2.dal.ca

THE VARIED PRESCRIPTIONS OF DR. RON

"It seems to me, that the real political task in a society such as ours is to criticize the working of institutions which appear to be both neutral and independent; to criticize them in such a manner that the political violence which has always exercised itself obscurely through them will be unmasked, so that one can fight against them."

- Michel Foucault, Reflexive Water, 1974

"The young militants know or sense that what is at stake is simply their life, the life of human beings which has become a plaything in the hands of politicians and managers and generals. The rebels want to take it out of these hands and make it worth living; they realize that this is still possible today, and that the attainment of this goal necessitates a struggle which can no longer be contained by the rules and regulations of a pseudo-democracy in a Free Orwellian World."

- Herbert Marcuse, An Essay on Liberation, 1969

"If ultimate wisdom has not always been preserved by Socialists and Anarchists, they have not differed in this from their opponents. And in the source of their inspiration they have shown themselves superior to those who acquiesce ignorantly or supinely in the injustices and oppressions by which the existing system is preserved."

- Bertrand Russell, Roads to Freedom, 1918

Media Convergence: Doctor Ron reinforces his anti-establishmentarian historical bombast on Guerrilla Radio - Thursdays 5:15pm CKDU 97.5

Editorial

The State of the Empire Address

Last week, on the very same day that Rahim Dad sold his 12-year-old daughter into contractual marriage in a far-off village of Afghanistan for \$68, President Bush II announced a \$48 billion increase in the American military budget, a sum greater than the existing budget of any other country on this planet.

"I sold my daughter to save the other people in my family, to save them from dying," the Afghan father of eight told the Guardian (UK) from the decimated village of Sia Sangh in Afghanistan's 'hunger belt'.

"Our enemies believed America was weak and materialistic, that we would splinter in fear and selfishness. They were as wrong as they are evil," explained Bush II in his State of the Union address of military expenditures that are targeted to reach an incomprehensible \$451 billion by 2007. To add a swell of gusto to his presentation, Bush had the bill delivered for signing wrapped in an American flag, rather than the boring beige dossier that is common. But hey, this is war remember, wrap it ALL in the flag.

In the 'hunger belt' of Afghanistan - which is either a superfluous title or an enormous belt - "the graveyards outnumber the village populations" and now that winter has set-in, the villagers can no longer eat the grass porridge that had sustained them for the past few months. "I would prefer death than to go on like this," said an Afghan mother of six, although her eyes brightened at the thought of the approaching spring when the bitter porridge that in better times is camel feed will provide for her family.

The connection between the Americans' war and their starvation is not lost on the people of Afghanistan, however cultured in tragedy they are after three decades of eddying warfare. Particularly now that the Americans have returned the warlords and bandits to power that wrought terror and destruction of a proportion that dwarfs this edition of war.

To wit, interim leader, Hamid Karzai, who was airdropped by the US into Afghanistan following the three months of 5,000lbs. Daisy-Cutter bombs and pop-tarts. Said a New York Times headline, "Hailed abroad, Karzai is ignored at home". He's hailed abroad because as a former consultant for American energy giant Unical, he knows very well the importance of the pipeline that will connect the natural gas bounty of Central Asia with American tankers in the Arabian Sea.

The US must be provided "unhindered financial and economic access to (Central Asia)" asserted former National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski, self-professed architect of the Mujahedeen resistance that bred the Taliban and al Qaeda. The "enormous economic prize of natural gas and oil located in the region," which has Brzezinski and his ilk licking their collective chops sounds very much like the drive of Dwight Eisenhower or Henry Kissinger to militarize the Middle East in pursuit of liquid gold. Said Kissinger, "if you want to control nations, control oil; if you want to control people, control food."

This is the type of continuity of policy that is supposed to be forgotten, because if "the great beast" (aka the people) took a minute to reflect on the disaster that American oil interests have inflicted on the populations of the Middle East - supporting dictators, funding and training the terrorists, controlling profits from their only resource - they might gaze upon the current Afghan situation in a dangerous new light. Namely, the people might radically oppose militarization in the name of economics - the economics of 1 percent of the population. As New York Times chief thinker Thomas Friedman famously commented, "For globalization to work, America can't be afraid to act like the almighty superpower that it is. The hidden hand of the market will never work without a hidden fist."

To be sure, there is an appalling connection between Rahim Dad selling his daughter for \$68 to feed his starving family and President Bush increasing the military budget by \$48 billion in a pen-stroke. It is our responsibility (particularly among us supposedly learned souls - the students and professors) to discontinue to, in the words of Bertrand Russell, "acquiesce ignorantly or supinely in the injustices and oppressions by which the existing system is preserved."

jon elmer

Weighing in on the Day of Action

"If they can do it in Newfoundland, they sure as heck can do it here," was one of a collection of asinine assertions regarding tuition controls discharged by Jessica Squires in her Jan. 31 opinion piece "the writing is on the wall for Feb. 6."

As both a university student and a proud Newfoundlander, I thought that comment was outrageous. The deficit of the government of Newfoundland and Labrador certainly grew under the irresponsible Liberal governments led by Brian Tobin and Roger Grimes, but it pales in comparison to the \$600M deficit that Russell MacLellan's Liberals hid and then left for John Hamm to clean up.

In any case, what "impressions" was she "debunking?" She certainly didn't "debunk" the facts presented in the previous Gazette article "NS carrying cost of come-from-aways."

Further, reporting on the high salaries of university presidents is a poor, diversionary tactic. That problem is not unique to Nova Scotia. And as for the war in Afghanistan, it has little to do with John Hamm.

There's a better way to protest for lower tuition. It's too bad so many student organizations won't listen. Instead, they scheduled a protest in front of an empty legislature. They aim it at a cash-strapped provincial government already taking funds from other budget lines to meet the needs of universities.

Attacking the Hamm government may suit the Upper Canadian CFS agenda, but it doesn't reflect Nova Scotia realities. This province receives the lowest per capita funding for post secondary education from the federal government. Nova Scotia gets punished by the federal government for having a large number of successful universities, a relatively small population, and a large number of out-of-province students.

Now then, in his Jan. 31 opinion piece "If tuition were a vegetable, I like them frozen," David Hare seems to play down how serious an issue this prejudicial CHST formula is for Nova Scotia university students. At Dalhousie university alone, according to the Registrar, about 50 percent of its

student population is not from Nova Scotia. The provincial government receives no funding for those students. It doesn't take a math professor to figure out what such disparities in federal funding do to tuition. The federal funding for those students is pocketed by their respective provinces. In other words, there are provinces receiving funding for more than 100 percent of the students in their universities.

The provinces that have enacted tuition freezes have between 50 and 140 percent more federal funding than Nova Scotia (per university student). As long as this anti-Nova Scotia formula exists, it seems obtuse to focus attacks on the first Nova Scotia provincial government in decades to actually make it a campaign promise and a government priority to fight to end this robbery. Why isn't the student federation joining with the provincial government's fight to ensure fair funding? Why not fight to have funding follow the student instead of the province or institution?

Two years ago, CFS and other alliances actually took the time and funds to support lobster fishermen in Burnt Church, NB. Yet CFS hasn't openly supported the provincial government in its campaign for fairness on offshore petroleum royalties. That campaign, if successful, would see the millions in oil and gas revenue presently stolen by the Chretien government remain in Nova Scotia where it belongs. That money would help lower university costs and tuition. Since when do lobster rights rank higher than lobbying for education funding in the list of priorities for student alliances?


Some advice for students: next time your student union, alliance, association, or federation decides to spend thousands and thousands of the dollars you pay in student union fees for TV ads and protest materials, tell them to get the target right. You have the power, through protest and informed debate, to bring some measure of focus to your student union. You also have the power to bring Jean Chretien and Paul Martin to task for their disgraceful treatment of university students in this province. Use it.

- liam o'brien

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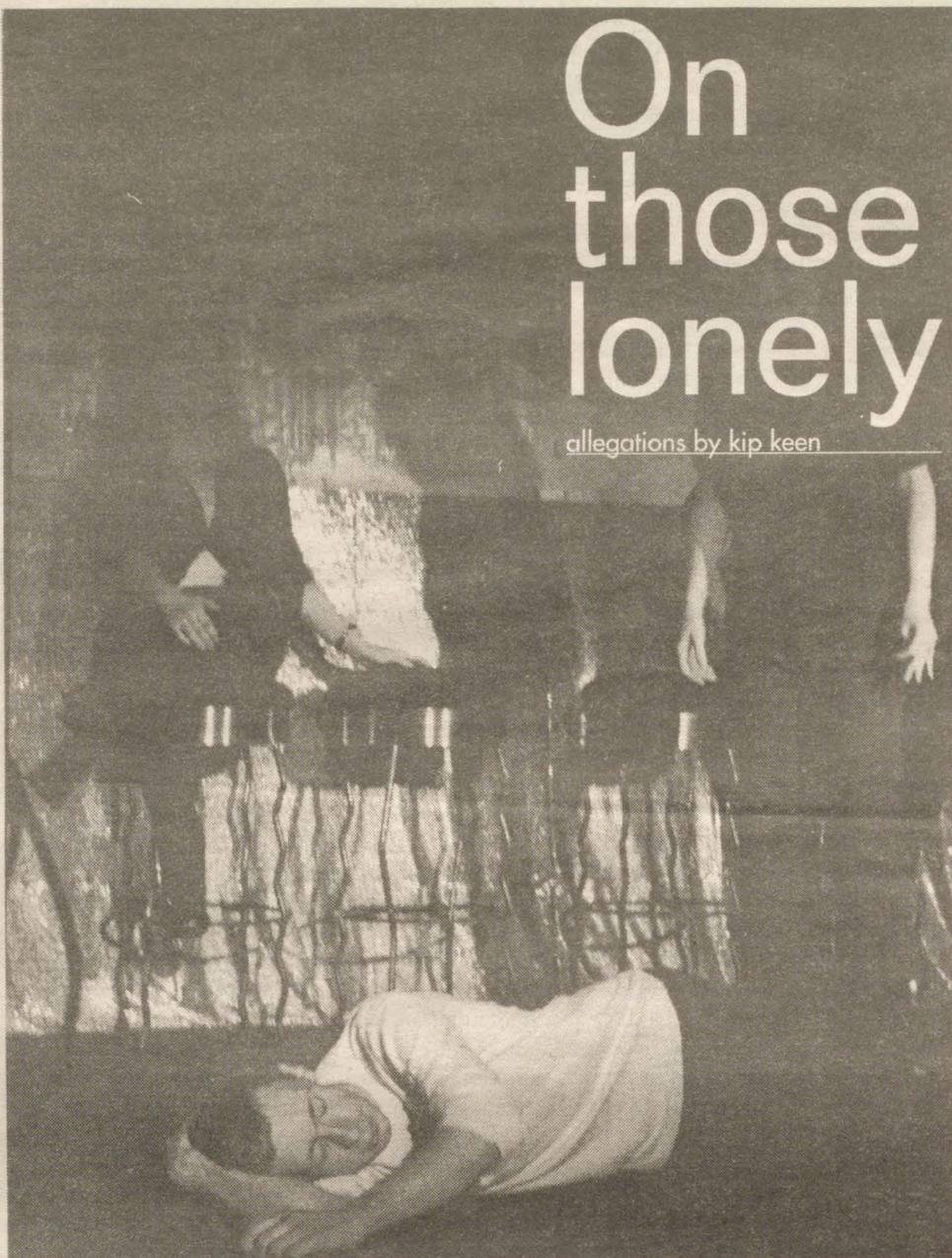
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On those lonely Knights

allegations by kip keen



photos by tonie mcmahon



They define multifaceted. These are *The Improv Knights*, comedy in the vein of *Who's Line Is It Anyway*, but better, proving that television is just a soapbox for the boring - and on a Monday.

They have followers. Let's call them peasants, or pages, or even maybe an audience, who make the trek to see them, battling the acute bone-chilling cold of Nova Scotian nights, to not just watch a new show each week at the Velvet Olive, but to take part in it.

How about spawning salmon? How about Austrian slap dancing? Or a musical infomercial selling the CD *Dysfunctional Family Favourites*? And what about an expert of Octopus Mating-ology?

It's the very nature of improvisational science to be insane, never the same, never boring, often ridiculous, always hilarious.

"Some of the best suggestions are sort of real," says Bill Woods, Improv Knight. "Like in a cave in Pakistan, or wherever Osama Bin Laden is hiding, those suggestions are not the best. What's better is if you get something normal, and approach it from a normal point of view, and then have it be funny. Something I always think about when doing improv is not to be funny, but to show the audience a good scene with a nice proper theatrical arc. A good beginning, middle and an end. Because if I'm not funny but you give them a good, real, scene, they still enjoy it, and you still get that feeling of rightness to it. But if you don't have that and you're not funny the scene just sucks."

If the often packed venue isn't an indicator of their improv skills, than the fact that once they had to cancel because of a snow storm, and still 15 or 20 people risked hypothermia just to see them, must be.

Running two years now, first at the Halifax Feast, and now at the Olive, *The Improv Knights* were founded by Jeremy Webb, Gord Gammie, Jim Fowler, Racquelle Duffy, and Marty Burt. The troupe has since grown to include many other members. Among them still is Webb, who often hosts the venue, although others have recently have shared in this role.

-Mondays 8:00 at the Velvet Olive

What they have to say for themselves



Daniel Williams Benjamin Wood

Aliases include Bill Wood, Bill the Amazing, Bill King of the Grill. Lived on naval base, Washington State, Oak Harbour.

Says after Sept. 11 you might have seen this place on T.V. because it's where much of the Pacific Air Force is garrisoned. Or, as he explains in technical terms, "because of how important it is to airplane military stuff"

Why Knighted: "Because someone didn't show up one night and they said 'Bill are you sober? And I said of course I am.'" Then he was on stage.

Favourite game: Change. How played? Suggestions for a scene are solicited from the audience. The host butts in on the scene whenever he or she desires and says change. *The Improv Knights* must than alter their previous line of dialogue.

Says "it leads to a something very quick. It makes me think of something more bizarre than my first instinct. You don't have time to think. Maybe your first sentence or two where planned but when you hear change you have to think so quickly that it's always something completely bizarre."

Meredith Zwicker

Lunenburg

Says "Drew Carey, host of *Who's Line Is It Anyway*, should be fearing for his job."

Favourite game: Alphabet game. How played? A location and starting letter are solicited from the audience. Two Improv Knights have to alternate starting every phrase or sentence, in a semi-coherent story line surrounding their location and situation, with the next letter in the alphabet.

Favourite suggestion: Was expert of "Octopus Mating"

Fan of Austrian Slap Dancing as a musical style

Favourite CD compilation: "Greatest Hits of the Royal Family" and "Dysfunctional Family Favourites"

Kelly Peck

Cape Bretoner

Says Caesar salads follow him around, as one arrives at the table.

Knighted in mid November.

Favourite game: Change.

Favourite Suggestion: Slaughterhouse romance, meaning a couple were on a romantic date in a slaughterhouse. Valentines is here...

Marla McLean

Woodlawn Dartmouth

Says that, although there is a bus terminal named after the area, she did not live "at the bus terminal", but she did spend much of her time commuting to and from Halifax.

Favourite game: Domestic olympics, where mundane chores are made into Olympic events. There are Two competitors and two hosts for the event.

Domestic Olympics has included a Fridge Cleaning competition which ended in an imaginary fridge being pissed on and the Olympians hugging.

Favourite suggestion: Improv Knight Travis Ferris, in the game **party quirks**, had to portray Marla. This is a game where an Improv Knight is hosting a party which the others are attending. They have peculiar audience-given traits that the host is unaware of, but must guess. She thought Travis was trying to be Mini Mouse, not herself.

Marla's alias was potty-mouth McLean, but may currently be Mini Mouse.

John Allen

PEI

Favourite game: Worlds worst. With props or not, the troupe must give examples of the world worst something.

Says "every week we get proctologists, every week we get hookers, and prostitutes...Porn, frequently..."

Ian Mathew Sebastien Gilmour

Dartmouth, near Woodlawn.

Alias, Iggy.

Why Iggy? He played an Iguana in a show. Says "I did a childrens show once...and I had a really long tongue, well I have a really long tongue, so people still call me that..."

What can he do with this tongue? "Things that I'd rather not mention. But I can dangle a beer bottle off of it."

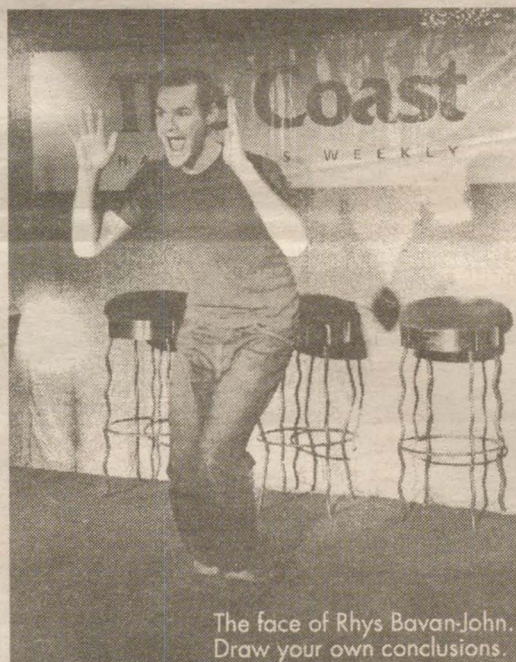
Says about *The Improv Knights*. "For one evening of work, and for just making an ass of ourselves, it's pretty good money."

Near to twenty years dance experience.

Favourite game: World's worst.

Favourite suggestion: Austrian slap dancing.

Also had to portray a spawning salmon as a party quirk. Says "it was a lot of rolling around on the stage, humping the floor, trying to swim up the stairs or something. Very odd."



The face of Rhys Bavan-John. Draw your own conclusions.

Travis Ferris

Moncton

Knighted how: "through miraculous wonders of the universe I have managed to become a regular."

Says "I've never tried portobello mushrooms before but they're awesome."

Also says "the hardest thing in improv is actually listening to the other person. Because all of a sudden you get on a train of thought which you think is funny and you do two or three things which you thought of saying in the past ten seconds...so you're like, I think I'll go with this. But if nobody is listening to you then it just gets sidetracked. If you're not listening to anybody else you're not going to pick up on the funny stuff."

Favourite game: Alphabet game.

Favourite suggestion: A manure weeder. "Apparently it's necessary, there's a lot of manure out there."

Do NOT invite these people into your home.

They are all the *Improv Knights*:

Jeremy Webb
Stacy Smith
Marla McLean
John Allen
Bill Wood
Travis Ferris
Jeremy Webb
Karen Bassett
Ian Gilmour
Rhys Bavan-John
Kelly Peck
Meredith Zwicker
(Spelling mistakes included.)

PERSONALS

The Improv Knights agreed to be interviewed only on the condition that they could publish personal ads in the Gazette.

As a game, have yourself and a friend each try and guess which personal goes to which Knight. Come to the Gazette any Monday at 4:30, or alternatively go to the Improv Knights to find the correct answers, and then compare your scores.

Seeking companion for recreational dancing, clothes optional.
#460

Coupled single white female looking for extroverted yet subtle lover for short tryst while boyfriend is away. Enjoys short walks on the beach. If you enjoy attending theatre presentations in a fake moustache and dark glasses to hide from all of my friends, call me.
#459

24? 25? Year old oversized teddy bear, likes to be cuddled at night, sings and dances when alone. Looking for energetic, puppy dog like girl who can match his energy.
#458

Thirty two year old English man is a brilliant actor/director. Insane, but has very quirky sense of humour. Looking for women of similar tastes.
#457

Sassy number, enjoys artistic flair in just about everything from whipped cream to piano playing, looking for someone deathly romantic, passionate at all levels, intrinsic and others.
#456

Caucasian male in early thirties looking for someone special to help him fulfil his life through exploration of music therapy, physical therapy, and yoga. Will do extra massage therapy for sushi.
#455

CALL NOW: 1-900-XXX-NITE

Kohoot is ko-hot



by erin goodman

the gazette

Laura Kohoot is the hottest thing happening in Halifax this chilly season. A former model and actress, she gives it all with a great voice that will give your heart a case of palpitations.

Although you probably didn't hear her, unless you were one of the lucky few to have spent the night with her on Friday at The Tickle Trunk. With a combination of sex appeal and verifiable talent, her intimate performance was an edgy mix of original songs and cover tunes which included, to name a few, Jewel, Sarah McLachlan, Joydrop, Sheryl Crow, and The Corrs.

Kohoot's life story reads like an adventure novel. She was born in a one-room hut in the middle of a rainforest in Paraguay to Mennonite parents. She grew up surfing in Hawaii, planting trees in the wilds of North America, eventually walking fashion runways in Canada and the United States and acting on the big and small screen. Kohoot admits that music has always come naturally to her, in spite of her previous successes in other areas.

"I've done music for years and years, but I've just gotten into recording and focusing serious attention on everything in the last few months. Right now, we just have a demo recorded, and we're working on some original songs, so we're going to record a CD this year."

The 'we' she's referring to is her amazing backup band: Tim Kohoot on guitar, Neil Colosimo on guitar, backup vocals and occasional piano, as well as drummer Luke Meredith.

While in some cases the band behind the chanteuse might merely blend into the background, these three don't compete for attention but rather compliment each other's strengths, adding depth and energy to Kohoot's passionate vocals.

Kohoot and the boys are hoping to become more recognizable fixtures on the Halifax music scene, and having lived here for over a year, Kohoot acknowledges the unique circumstances which have brought them to this point.

"I really believe that you have to do what's right for you. There's also people who will do it just for the money, but I know that money doesn't drive me, it has to be something much deeper than that. And I think if people are just looking at dollar signs, they're never going to get the full value of everything."

Kohoot's positive attitude in this infamously difficult business is convincing, after having the privilege to watch her live show, that her entertainment background provides her the necessary confidence to succeed. After one of the obviously inebriated patrons hollered a witty request from the back of the bar, "Show us your panties!" as Kohoot prepared to share a thoughtful anecdote between songs, she simply quipped to her drummer, "Luke, I think he's talking to you!"

Although she may look like a barbie doll, Kohoot is a strong woman with an even stronger voice, and she's not afraid to use it.

"I'm a very spiritual person, so within my music, I want to inspire people. The bottom line is we want love and hope and we want to be inspired. I want my music to fuel that in people. It's all about hope."

- with files by Jeff Wright

In the beginning there was the word...

by caitlin kealey

the gazette

Mary Walsh is the host of a new CBC television show, *By The Book*. It is a half-hour talkshow that offers viewers discussion "about books I like, with people I like," says Walsh.

Walsh is one of the two executive producers on the show. Michael Donovan, Salter Street's daddy, is the other and the show was his idea. Walsh had come to Donovan with another kind of book idea. "When I went blind, I tried taped books. The fucking things were all abridged and I thought there would be a great market for the unabridged versions."

Although he didn't go for that, he came back to Walsh with the idea for *By The Book*, which she accepted simply because "I wanted to."

To date, they have taped eight episodes. CBC has yet to decide when they will be aired. "I don't know when they are airing. Sometime when no one will see them no doubt," says Walsh.

Tuesday's episode is being shot at 2 p.m. because of a stormy airline delay in Newfoundland. Associate Dean of Arts and English professor, Noreen Golfman of Memorial University of Newfoundland was unable to make it for Monday night's taping so it was moved. Joining Golfman and Walsh is Ian Brown the host of CBC's television documentary series *Human Edge* and has his own bookshow on CBC Radio One, *Talking Books*. The final guest is Megan Follows, an actress that any self-respecting Canadian would recognize by face if not by name. "She's taken up that space in our collective psyches as Anne of Green Gables, poor thing. She can't escape it," says Walsh.

The four participants sit around a coffee table on Bell Road in the same studio that tapes Walsh's other show, the weekly comedy hit, *This Hour has 22 Minutes*. They are to discuss Edna O'Brien's *Country Girls Trilogy*.

O'Brien is an Irish writer who is well known for her books that have been banned in Ireland. Walsh told the audience that O'Brien's books had even seen book burning back in the 60s by the Roman

Catholic Church in a style reminiscent of the Nazis. The trilogy is the story of two girls from age 13 on. The two characters grew up in a convent and are contrasting: shy Kate and rebellious Baba. Their strict Roman Catholic upbringing comes in conflict with their sexual desires and their dependence on men.

The ensuing conversation between the four commentators was a no-holds barred debate of all aspects of the trilogy - and some slightly less relevant, yet funny stories about Walsh's past. Walsh joked after the show that although she liked the format, no one else would relate telling stories about their own pasts.

Ian Brown, being the only man, seemed to feel the need to defend the male gender. He commented that Kate was like a gaping wound of need and said he sympathized with the male character Eugene. Whereas both Walsh and Golfman seemed to think that Eugene was a generally bad man and Kate was a character that every woman could relate to. "There's a little bit of her in all of us," says Golfman. Walsh agrees. "I'm Kate although I always longed to be more like Baba."

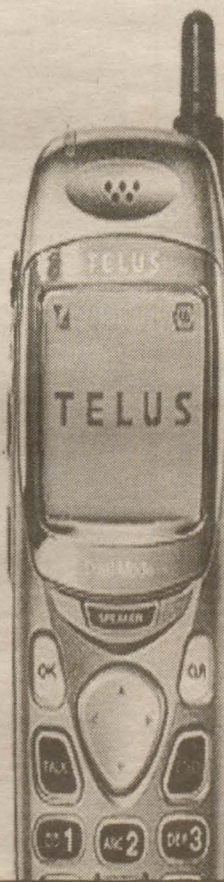
Brown continued to ruffle feathers by saying that he thought the novel was "chick lit," likening it to something Oprah would recommend. None of the women took that comment lightly and proceeded to chide him in a humorous fashion.

The whole show was engaging and funny. Walsh says that people will enjoy the show because of the arguing. "So far we've had tremendous guests who have spoken eloquently, and brilliantly about the books. I think people will enjoy that."

The show is also a good way of finding out about Walsh's life, because the novels she picks are ones she loves. Often in literature the books you like are the ones you can relate to. At least for this one episode she tells many stories that are often harsh but because of her humour the sadness is removed from the tale.

"Books do furnish your room and save your life - they did for me." That may sound too serious for Walsh, but a little while later she offsets the serious by adding that "shoes can also save a life and furnish a room."

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They say it's All In The Timing

by **andrew soren**

the gazette

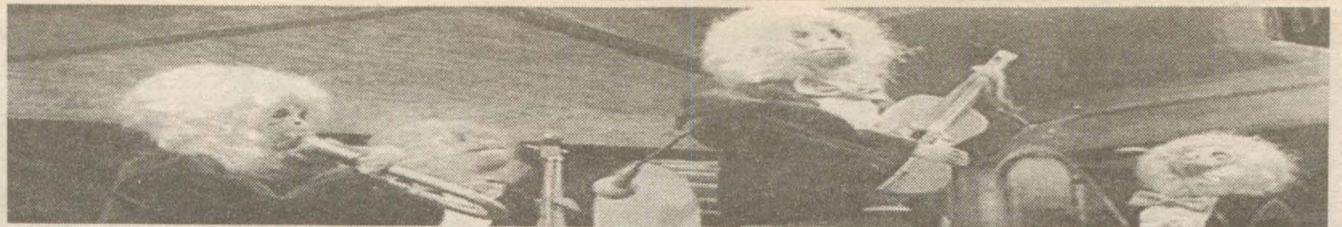
The most exhilarating moment in Dal Theatre's latest production, *All in the Timing*, comes when the ground moves and the audience is twirled around the room, as if on a carousel. If only the rest of the production could have matched the excitement of this moment, Dal Theatre would have done a masterful job. Unfortunately, this collage comes up a bit short.

Combining these plays into one evening of theatre is ambitious and a great way to showcase the diverse talents of an ensemble of actors who have been together for four years. They now possess, as director Patrick Christopher says, "a vocabulary from the classroom, and the ability to work in an ensemble that they've formed over a long period of time."

Their in-class training and ability to work as a solid group is clearly present in the wonderful choral dissonance and mechanical movement of *Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread*. The infrequent, but when present, perfect synchronicity of a golf swing, squeal, grunt and sexual release of all the actors in *Foreplay*; or the seamlessly fluid transitions between each of the 50-second distillations that David Mamet's entire oeuvre has been reduced to.

Naturally, even in ensemble work, the virtuosity of some stands out. Between her walking, squatting, jerking-off, and general likeness of a crazed monkey, Holly Smith displays such brilliant primate physicality in *Words, Words, Words* that one wonders whether she hasn't escaped some lab in the LSC. Darcy Hagerman gives a wonderful evolution from a stuttering nincompoop to amorously fluent Unamunda speaker in *The Universal Language*. And the chemistry between Kristen Bell and Gordon Trites is electric, particularly in *English Made Simple*.

Peter Perina's minimalist set uses the space of Studio One to its fullest. With a few indicative set pieces, and the brilliant use of the revolving audience, actors perform on all four sides, in each corner, and even in the lighting booth and



catwalk that spans the perimeter of the space.

Perhaps the cleverest elements of Patrick Christopher's staging are the inventive transitions between each play. The audience is caught up in the midst of a moment and, as characters from one play move with them, are transported into a new scenario making a compilation of plays into a flowing evening of theatre.

But what this production makes up in moments, it cannot sustain over the two and half hours it takes to stage all nine of these shorts. Possibly the most remarkable thing about Dal Theatre's rendering of these plays, considering how intimate a space Studio One is made (there is only room for 60 people in the house) is the utter detachment that is created. Such a sentiment is most certainly not called for in Ives inclusive comedies.

Perhaps Christopher missed the words of Ives himself in American theatre.

"I think of theatre of this great civilizing arena where people find a common ground. It's where, in one way or another, we realize that we're in the same leaky boat, and we realize it in person."

David Ives is a very clever playwright. "He's a bit like a modern Shakespeare, he likes to play with the language and push the barriers, to see what you can do with language," says Christopher. Throughout *All in the Timing* sophisticated puns and ridiculous gags are incorporated in the same sentences, and yet, as is often the case with most productions of Shakespeare, the potential of these plays is all too seldom realized in Dal Theatre's production. Three monkeys named Swift, Kafka, and Milton being forced to type ceaselessly on typewriters until they eventually pen Hamlet, something they wouldn't recognize even if it has handed to them; a universal language where virtually every phonetic syllable is a witty pun; Trotsky attempting to figure out why a Mexican gardener, a veritable member of the proletariat, would have been the one to smash the mountain climbing axe sticking out of his skull. These concepts are present in the words the actors speak, but Christopher rarely provides equally clever physical manifestations of these heady concepts onstage.

Nonetheless, Dal Theatre has tackled an ambitious project, and overall this is quite an impressive show. Plus, with such a small audience capacity, this show will be sure to sell out fast.

***All in the Timing* is a collection of nine one-act plays by celebrated playwright David Ives.**

Sure Thing shows us two people (Kristen Bell and Gordon Trites) meeting in a café and, after over 40 false starts, gaffes, and faux pas, fall in love.

Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread centres on a moment of existential crisis as the celebrated post-modern composer (Trevor Scott), two women (Elizabeth Elliott and Melissa Renshaw) and a baker (Allison Amirault) surge through a musical vignette in trademark typical Glassian style.

Long Ago and Far Away is a rather dull philosophical escapade following a troubled young wife (Amanda Levencrow) who finds herself while she crosses through time - and identities - on a fateful winter evening.

Words, Words, Words takes three monkeys named Swift (Holly Smith), Kafka (Bell), and Milton (Elliott), all dressed in ridiculous children's clothing, and sees if, typing to infinity, they will sooner or later produce Hamlet.

The Universal Language (Darcy Hagerman and Art James) is a one-on-one lesson in Unamunda, the universal language that will one day unite all humankind.

Foreplay, or the Art of the Fugue asks whether true love can be found on a mini-putt course or whether it's all just a metaphor for sex.

English Made Simple has Bell and Trites meet and fall in love once again, this time at a party, and turns their attraction into a grammar lesson.

Variations on the Death of Trotsky illustrates the Russian revolutionary (Amirault) on the day of his demise, trying to cope with the mountain-climber's axe he's discovered in his skull.

Speed-the-Play is crash-course send-up of David Mamet, presenting the major works of the master of scatological dialogue in just under seven, male-bonding minutes.

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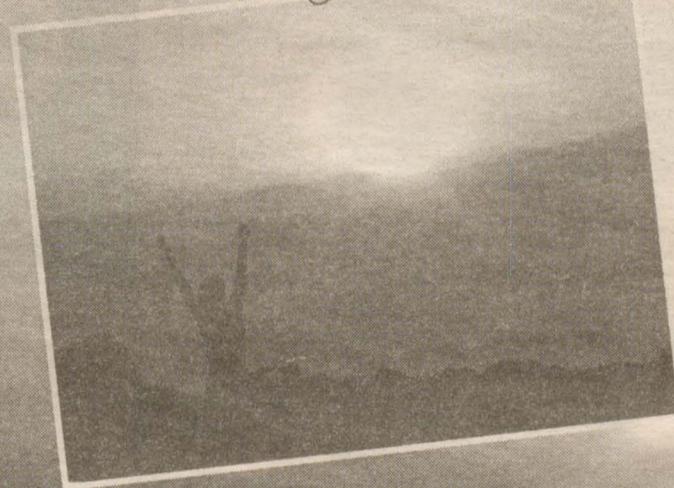
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DalOUT auctions off *hot bods*

by jodi magliaro

the gazette

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight - if you are Queer you were there. There being of course the Queen of Hearts pageant held Sunday night at Reflections.

Hosted by the always-entertaining Dagne Marie who, while showing off her lip synching skills as well as her great legs, held the whole show together with her quick wit and ability to delay.

The contestants, Boom Boom, Cherie L'amour, Mikaela, and Gina, showed off their talents, their evening wear, and their booty in a show that, while not as great as the Miss Reflections pageant, brought fun to a boring Sunday night. Even Ben Dover, the very beautiful Mr. Reflections, made an appearance to remember and was swarmed later by a crowd of female fans.

The voting system at the Queen of Hearts was different from the Miss Reflections pageant, which saw a panel of judges deciding the winner. The crowd was given the power in the form of secret ballot for this pageant. This year, Miss Gina was awarded the title and the \$200 prize, but the fun had just begun.

After a quick dance break, Dal OUT, a Dalhousie society

formed this year to replace BGLAD, auctioned off the very best specimens of gay boys and girls, up for sale to the highest bidder.

The auction raised a lot more than money. The boys ripped off their shirts for a higher bid and the girls flashed some panties as the crowd cheered them on. Peter Hudston was one of the eleven participants.

"I wasn't nervous until about ten minutes before when I thought 'oh shit, what did I get myself into,'" says Peter. "Our egos were bruised but we made a lot of money for a good cause."

One ego definitely not bruised was that of a hot blonde boy who went for a \$100. People scrambled to win the bid on this very flexible young man, while a group of girls in the audience screamed for the removal of his pants.

"Put your money where your mouth wants to be," replied Dagne, showing off her infamous wit once again.

The total money raised from the auction was \$653, which will help keep DalOUT alive and kicking. The auction was a definite success although Peter Hudston has some regrets.

"Looking back I should have taken it all off...I froze like a deer in

headlights," he confesses.

Fundraising aside, DalOUT strives to help young gays and lesbians, as well as providing much needed information to the Dalhousie student population, on many gay issues. The money raised from the auction will help them to continue. For instance, Pink Triangle Day, to be held on that superficial Hallmark holiday called Valentines day. During World War 2, pink triangles were placed on gay men in concentration camps and black triangles were worn by lesbians, bisexuals and any other women deemed "anti-social." The purpose of Pink Triangle day is to "reclaim the symbols of hate."

Simply put, Sunday night was a fun night of dancing, drag queens, and cute gay boys risking the embarrassment of an auction to raise money for a more than worthy cause. But, to many who attend Reflections, it is a place where you can be yourself and be accepted for it. Sunday night just proves that diversity, no matter how corny it sounds, should be celebrated, and what a better way than with a drag show, some dancing, and boys buying boys.



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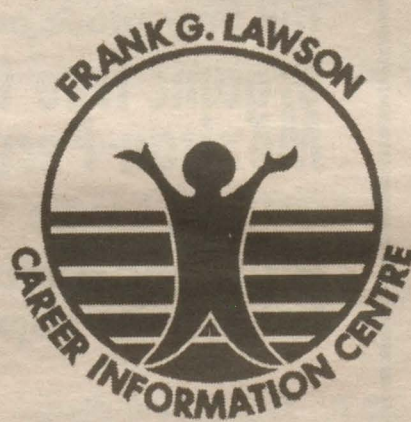
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Tigers Keep Tradition

by Terri Feoner

the gazette

The Men's Volleyball team hosted UNB on Friday, Feb. 8 and followed up with a game against the Memorial Seahawks the next day. The Tigers picked up both wins 3-0 to finish the AUS season undefeated and cruise into the conference play-offs as heavy favorites.

In Friday's game, the Tigers easily took the first set 25-10 and continued to win the next two sets 25-15 and 25-21. Second-year middle blocker Adam Jones led the Tigers, recording nine kills, four aces and six blocks earning player of the game honours. Fourth-year psychology major Jeff Stevens also put in a strong performance with 11 kills, four digs and two blocks.

In Saturday's action, the Tigers faced the Memorial Seahawks and claimed the game with three consecutive sets, scoring 25-14, 25-9 and 25-8. Jones, a 6'8" native of Coburg, Ont., led the Tigers yet again with seven blocks and four aces, repeating his

player of the game performance. Outside hitter Jeff Stevens contributed eight kills to the Tigers victory.

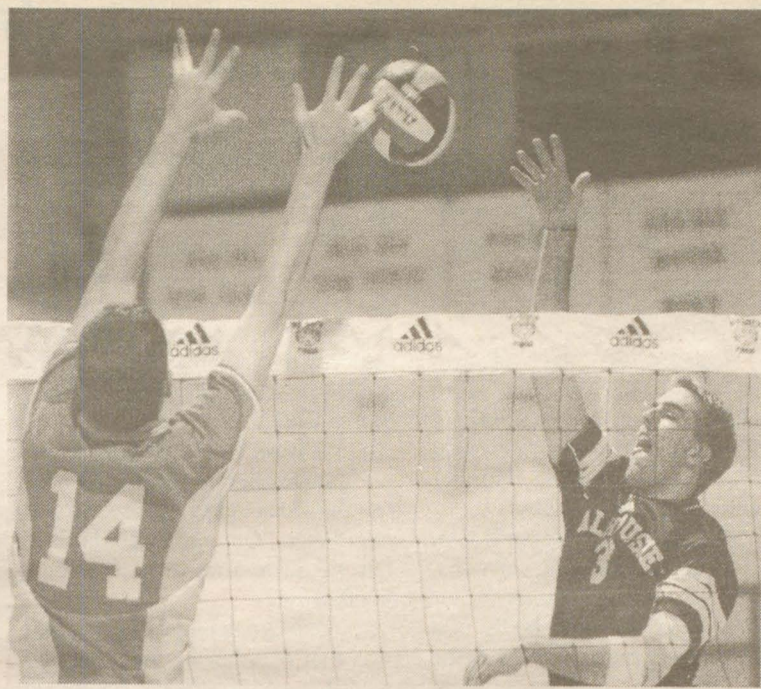
The Dal Tigers will be hosting the AUS championships from Friday, Feb. 15 to Sunday, Feb. 17. The Tigers will battle Moncton in a best of three series on the weekend. Game one is at 3 p.m. Friday and play continues on Saturday at 7 p.m. A third game will be held at noon on Thursday if there is a 1-1 split. The Tigers have won the last 14 straight championships and are looking for number 15.

Most of the Tigers' starting line-up has suffered injuries throughout the season and many different line-ups have been appearing on the court. On the other hand, the rash of injuries has given opportunities to guys like Kanitha Boranprasit to step in and get some major play time.

Despite the barrage of hard-luck, the Tigers have managed to put away the competition and top the league. "Even if guys are hurt everyone knows that we can put six quality players on the floor at

all times. One thing we've been able to establish this season is that we can win with any lineup on the floor," says Tigers head coach Dan Ota. "Everyone is itching for the playoffs next weekend, because we know what's on the line there. We always seem to play our best ball around this time of year, so we want to continue to build our confidence."

Ota and the Tigers certainly proved they can get the job done; hopefully there will be no surprises come the weekend. This is the Tigers most important home action of the season so come on out, support the Tigers and let's cheer for number 15.



photos by www.123photo.ca

Volleyballers finish season at home

by Joe LeBlanc

the gazette

The Dalhousie women's volleyball team played its last regular season home game this past Sunday at Dalplex versus Moncton. It was a battle for first place in the league, and the team from New Brunswick were the victors as they took the match 3-1.

The first set saw some very solid volleyball played by both teams. The Tigers were able to get a little lead early in the set and increased it throughout as their serving prowess was on display. When the Tigers combined the serving with the mighty attacks from Jenn Ward, the "Blue Eagles" had no chance as Dal took the first

set 25-17. The second set was close like the first in the early goings. However as the second technical timeout was approaching the "Blue Eagles" went on a 10-point service run. This propelled them to a big lead, and despite a valiant effort the Tigers were not able to recover. Moncton won the set 25-16.

To start the third set, the Tigers were able to recover from the previous set as they jumped out to the early lead. As their solid play continued, the Tigers found themselves up 20-12. It was then when the match took a swing for the worse for the Tigers, and some would say was the "TSN turning point." Moncton was able to make a comeback and showed lots of resiliency as they clawed their way

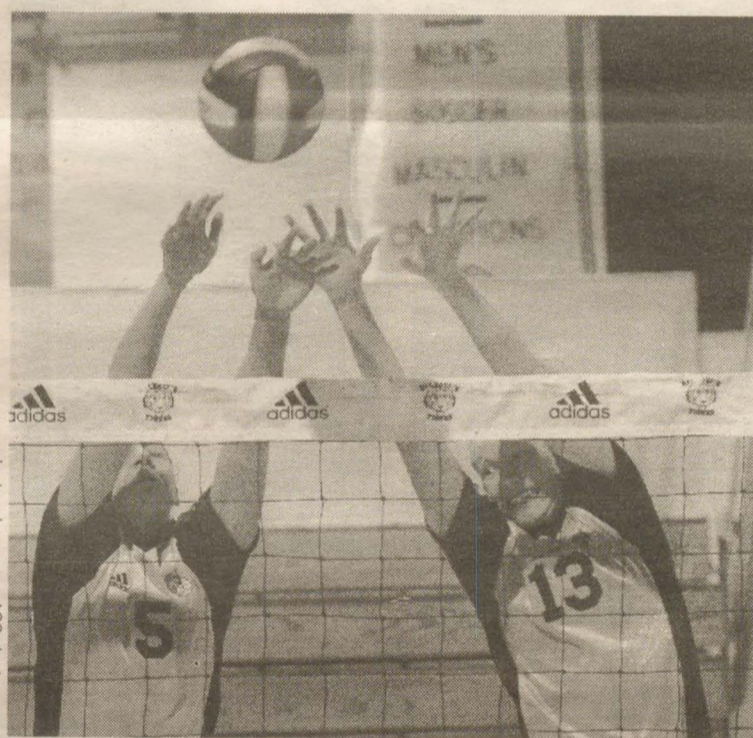
back in the set. Before long the "Blue Eagles" were winning 23-21, and they closed off the set winning 25-23. The comeback seemed to take the wind out of the Tigers sails as Moncton capitalized on Dal's errors in set four. Dal did not go down without swinging, however Moncton was too far ahead as they took the match 3 sets to 1 as they won the set 25-17.

Despite the loss, there were some strong performances by the Tigers. Jennifer Ward led the way with 16 kills and seven digs, while Jilliane Goulet accumulated 12 kills. On the defensive end, Allison Gillis had 17 digs, while Angela Cormier bumped her way to 18 digs.

Also important to note from the game was the fact that two Tigers played their final games in the Dalplex. Katryna Gaudet and Allison Gillis will graduate this spring after serving two and four years of duty with the Tigers respectively. They were honoured for their accomplishments by being presented with a plaque showing a photo of them in action.

Coach Yanofsky's remarks following the game concerned the playoffs, which take place in two weeks time. "I believe that this match will serve us well as we return to the play-offs. It represents to me a reminder that you must bring your best effort, together, each and every rally. I am still very confident in our players and our team as we make our return to the play-offs."

However, before the playoffs take place the Tigers will finish their regular season with a match this Saturday in Antigonish versus



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Leila Burden

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 Number 4
 Forward position
 Combined MBA and law degree
 Fifth year of eligibility
 Hometown, Mississauga, Ont

by quentin casey

the gazette



University life is hectic for all students. But there are a certain few who push themselves, and their schedules to the limit. Leila Burden is one of those students. The fifth-year starting forward for the Dalhousie women's basketball team is a dedicated and hard working student-athlete, who is making the most of her opportunities. Leila is currently in her second year of a combined law and MBA degree that will take four years to complete. The 24-year-old successfully manages her school responsibilities while practicing for two hours, six days a week. And that doesn't include three sessions in the weight room and three individual practices each week.

Leila admits it's a difficult task, "It's tough. During my undergrad degree it was okay, but this program is extremely intense. Between practice hours and the work load, the demands are unbelievable."

But Leila has no doubt that the sacrifices have been worthwhile, "When you are playing for a great program, with great teammates it makes it that much easier. These are some of the best girls I've ever played with, in terms of personality and skill level. And to have a coach that is really dedicated to the program is so extremely valuable."

In her fifth and final year of athletic eligibility, Burden is playing her first season as a Tiger. She played four years at York University before relocating to Dal to play alongside her younger sister, co-captain Julia Burden. Leila had to sit out last season due to CIS transfer regulations, but she did practice with the team.

She clearly enjoys being so closely involved with her sister, "It's fantastic, and hopefully it's not over yet. Julia works so hard and has come such a long way, the last time I played with her was in high school. To see how she's doing now is incredible." When asked if there is any competition between her and her sister, Leila smirked and said, "Yeah, sometimes when we get matched-up there's a little bit of sister rivalry." The two sisters and their younger brother Robert, grew up in Oakville but now reside in

Mississauga, Ont. Basketball has been a major part of her life since elementary school and athletic excellence runs in the family. Leila's parents were both athletes, her father played hockey at Yale and her mother participated in ballet and track.

When asked about her role on the team, Leila was very modest but stressed the importance of leadership. "Being a fifth-year player I bring a little bit of maturity, and because there are a lot of other veteran players I sort of feel that I lead by a different style of example. I try to bring a different perspective and try to show the young players that they have a lot to be appreciative of here. It's more of a silent example."

Eventually Leila hopes to practice law when she finishes her degree, but for now she is looking ahead to playoffs and the Tiger's quest for a first round bye at UCCB. She is content to work hard and sacrifice so that she can play the game she enjoys so much, with a team that she admires.

"The chemistry on this team is unbelievable. I've never known whether winning breeds camaraderie, or whether camaraderie breeds winning, but it seems that we have both right now. We've got a great group of girls, there are so many different personalities but we just seem to compliment each other very well. Everybody is interested in the same goals and everyone is very supportive of each other. It's a real treat when everyone gets along and you really enjoy coming to practice everyday."



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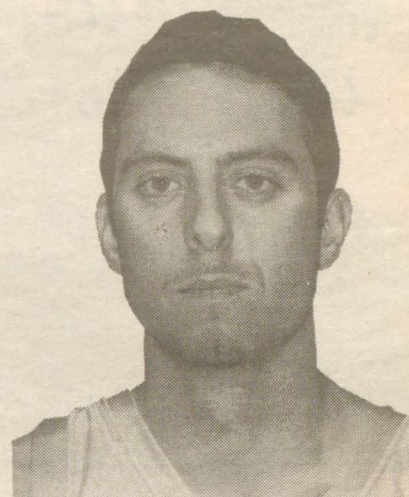


Stuart Leech

Age 23
 Height 6'8"
 Number 42
 Centre Position
 Arts program
 First Year at Dal
 Hometown Mirboo, North, Australia

by gerry faber

the gazette



This time last year Stuart Leech had never heard of Dalhousie University. Now he is the starting center of the Tigers basketball team and many people know who he is. It is difficult to miss someone 6'8" in most cases, but when they speak with a definite Australian accent and can really play basketball they draw even more attention to themselves.

This is Leech's third visit to Canada and last July he was in Toronto playing some basketball where he ran into Shawn Parker, a famous Toronto club coach and brother of Dal assistant Mark Parker. The Ontario Parker told the Aussie about Dal and he came down for a visit. The rest is history, as Leech liked Halifax and became a Tiger. "I've found Halifax to be a fun and friendly city. It is a good size but it has a touch country-town feel which is comforting having grown up in Mirboo North [a small town in the south of Australia] ", says Leech.

Leech, who has been playing basketball since he was nine, is having a very steady year for Dal in the front court. "My role on this team is to be an inside scoring threat, grab some rebounds, play defense and block shots." He is currently doing that as he is averaging over 15 points and eight rebounds while blocking just about two shots a game. He was also selected an all-star in the two exhibition tournaments the Tigers have competed in. His time in Canada has not come without adjustments though as he says there are differences both on and off the court.

On the court, he is used to facing bigger players that play a much more physical game. Off the court, Leech has had to face the Nova Scotia weather, saying "It is taking a long time to adjust to the snow and really cold weather but I've survived so far."

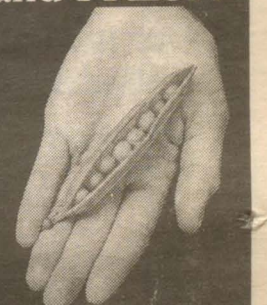
When he is not playing basketball Leech is still very busy as enjoys water skiing, surfing, triathlon, tennis, trail riding and jet skiing. To fuel his body for the all these activities, Leech likes to eat, and one of his impressive non-athletic feats is eating 55 chicken wings at one sitting.

"In my opinion, the team this year has tons of potential. With each game we are learning more and developing into a force that will be taken very seriously coming into the playoffs," says Leech about his Tiger teammates. With seven games left in conference action basketball, let's hope they are right.

There is more to Stuart Leech than sports, as can be easily seen when asked about how he thinks about life. "Life is for living and you have to make the most of the short time we have. I work out my priorities and focus my energies on them rather than getting caught up on insignificant issues. Life is great if you make it that way, be happy and help others when you can."

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by terri feoner
the gazette

The Dalhousie Hockey team recorded a lot of firsts to end the regular season on Sunday. They are first in the AUS, Marty Johnston is first in goal scoring and points and Mike Weatherbie is first in goaltending. In a landslide 7-1 victory over the Acadia Axemen the Tigers clinched first place in the league and head into play-offs

with a first round bye and home ice advantage.

With St. Mary's and Moncton in close competition with the Tigers over the past week, points were threatening a head to head tie breaker between the three teams. Any other outcome for the Tigers could have jeopardized their first place finish but they kept their eye on the prize and came out fighting.

The first period started off slow with no goals added to the

board until 13 minutes into the game. Marty Johnston opened the scoring for Dal and set the pace for the rest of the game. Three minutes later, Tiger Warren Holmes added a second goal for the home team. The Tigers went into the break with a 2-0 lead over the Axemen.

In the first ten minutes of the second period, Dal lengthened their lead to 4-0 with Johnston and Holmes each racking up another goal. Chris Tellum scored a single with four minutes left in the period and the Tigers kept the Axemen off the board for the second straight period.

Acadia got a lucky break in the third period with an early goal by Shane Reagh. Chris Pittman picked up the torch for the Tigers and netted two consecutive goals to end the game at 7-1 and shut Acadia out of the playoffs. St. Thomas will also be missing out on playoffs this year.

Marty Johnston ended the regular season with 44 points to earn honours as the league's top goal scorer and Mike Weatherbie is the top goalie in the AUS with 33 goals against.

In other action last week, the Tigers battled the Huskies to a 4-4 draw in what could easily be a preview of the league championship. Johnson, Pittman and Tellum scored in this game as well, while second year player Bob Crummer also got his name on the score sheet. Dal got behind early but scored three unanswered goals to go up 4-2 heading into the third period. SMU came back to tie things up late in the game and the overtime decided nothing.

The Tigers will be preparing for semi-final action while their competition will be decided in the upcoming week. Let's keep an eye on the Tiger stock because we just might see some returns this year.

Tigers kick dominates

by gerry faber
the gazette

The Dal swim teams continued the pool dominance they've shown almost all year as they won both the men's and women's AUS titles this past weekend in Fredericton for the third time in four years.

The women's side was tight throughout the three day meet and it took Dal a win in the final event of the meet to take home the title. The 4 x 100m medley relay team of Kiera Aitken, Lori Borgal, Sandi Maclean and Gail Whittaker broke the conference record giving their team just enough points to sneak ahead of their conference rivals from UNB, 232-221. Maclean led the way for the Tigers winning the all three distances in breaststroke as well as the 200 IM. Aitken, a rookie from Bermuda, also had a strong meet winning the 50 and 100m back and the 100m freestyle. Borgal, a third-year swimmer from Halifax, captured the 50m butterfly. Leigh Jaschke met the CIS standard in the 50m butterfly giving the Tiger women a school record of 12 swimmers heading to the national meet Feb. 22-24 at UBC. Jaschke joins Maclean, Borgal, Aitken, Whittaker, Katy

Legrow, Diana Bennett, Hannah Fraser, Caitlyn Peterson, Lesley Hambleton, Amber Mather and Alison Vigeant as swimmers who had already qualified and are saving their best swims for the National championship.

The Men's team swam away from the competition as they defeated the closest opponent by almost 80 points. Dal had a solid team effort but there were notable performances from brothers Matthew and Mike Terauds who won three individual events total and each swam on a winning relay. Long distance specialist Mike Smith won the 1500 and 400m freestyle events. Mike Lockett won the 100m butterfly and Jamie Wildsmith took the 400 IM to finish Dal's individual event winners. The Tigers also took the 400m medley relay and the 800m free relay. Swimming at nationals for the men are the Terauds boys, Graham Smith, Nick Graham, Mike Gorman, Alex Middleton, Aaron Butler, Rob Harrison, and Adam Ferguson.

With 22 swimmers going to Nationals, Dal will have their highest numbers ever and are expecting tremendous results. Good luck to the swim team.

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ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

Kiera Aitken
Women's Swimming
First Year Computer Science
Bermuda

Kiera Aitken of the Women's Swim Team is the Dalhousie Tigers Female Athlete of the Week for the week ending Feb. 10. Kiera was a triple event winner at the AUS Championships held at UNB this past weekend. She claimed the 50m and 100m back as well as the 100m freestyle. Kiera is a member of the AUS Championship Women's Team and was awarded AUS Rookie of the Year.

Marty Johnston
Men's Hockey
Third Year Political Science
Gloucester, ON

Marty Johnston, team captain of the Men's Hockey Team, is the Dalhousie Tigers Male Athlete of the Week for the week ending Feb. 10. Marty scored two goals in Sunday's 7-1 victory over Acadia and earned honours as the league's leading scorer with 44 points for the season. This was a crucial win that earned the Tigers first place in the AUS and a first round bye in the playoffs.

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The Gazette darkroom is available for rent - for pricing and availability call 222 5934, or drop in 312 in the SUB.

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES FEBRUARY 2002

To include your non-profit events, email gazette@is2.dal.ca

Friday, Feb 15:
The United Way presents the **Sing-a-long Sound of Music**, an interactive theatre event at the Rebecca Cohn on Feb 15 and 16. Tickets are currently on sale at the Cohn box office: \$21.50, or \$16.50 for students and seniors. A portion of the proceeds go to the **United Way**. Shows are at 7pm on Friday and Saturday, and the Saturday matinee is at 1pm.

Sunday, Feb 17:
There will be a **Zen Meditation Workshop** on sitting, walking, chanting in the Korean Buddhist tradition with Zen priest Samso Sylvia McCormick. For beginners and experienced. The workshop will take place from 1:30 - 4 pm in the Dalhousie Life Sciences Centre Room 216. Suggested donation \$10. For more information call Sylvia at 453-1946

Monday, Feb 18:
The Economy Shoe Shop presents **Monday Night Jazz** with Pam Paton

Tuesday, Feb 19:
The **Hepatitis Outreach Society** invites people with Hepatitis C and their family to their monthly support group. The meeting will be held from 7-9pm in room 5110 of the Dickinson Building, QEII Health Sciences Centre, 1278 Tower Road. Dr Sarah Baillie will be the guest speaker.

The Economy Shoe Shop **Shoe String reading series** features **David Woods** with "A Fire in the Snow" at 8:30pm

Thursday, Feb 21:
The Art Gallery of Nova Scotia will host its **Newsmaker's Breakfast** with guest speaker **Rex Murphy**. The event benefits the Gallery, and takes place at 7:30am in the Nova Scotia Ballroom of the Halifax Sheraton Hotel. Tickets are \$50 each, or \$500 for a table of ten, and are available by calling the gallery at 424-7754.

Sunday, Feb 24:
The **Sunday Evening Chamber Music Series** at Dalhousie concludes with **Djokic/Stodola Duo** at 8pm in the Sir James Dunn Theatre. Tickets are \$15, and are available from the box office, 494-3820. Preludes to chamber music, informal talks by Dr Walter Kemp, begin at 7:15pm in the MacAloney Room #406 in the Arts Centre.

Wednesday, Feb 27:
The **Dalhousie Symphonic Wind Ensemble** will present an impressive program at 8pm in the Sir James Dunn Theatre. Tickets are \$8 general admission, and are available from the music department, 5th floor Dalhousie Arts Centre, and at the door. The **Dal Women's Centre**, located at 1229 Le Marchant St, is open Monday-Friday. Volunteer meetings are held every Wednesday at 6pm. Open to anyone looking to get involved or get more information. Call 494-2432.

Friday March 1:
The **Dalhousie Spanish Society** is holding its eighth annual "**La Velada**" at the North St. Church, 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. Ticket includes dinner, a show, dancing and a glass of Sangria. They're \$10 in advance, available at the Spanish Dept. (FASS), or \$12 at the door.

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A **Russian student** (19, female) from Moscow State University is looking for a **pen-pal**. My name is Tania. My E-mail: kuzmenko@ran.gpi.ru

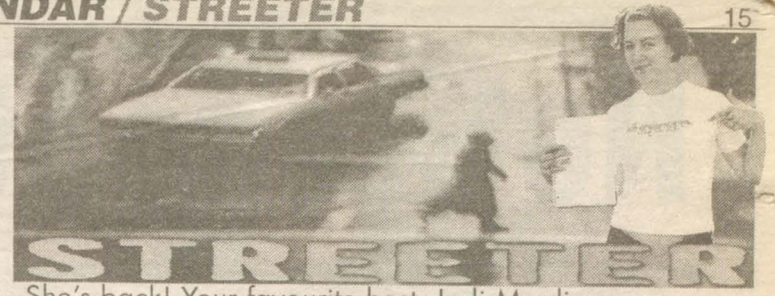
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STUDENT EMPLOYMENT NEWS

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 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**

UPCOMING INFORMATION SESSION:

Germaine Lawrence will be holding an Information Session on March 19, 4:30 - 5:30 pm, Room 307, SUB. GL, located in Arlington, MA, is a private, non-profit agency that provides specialized residential treatment for girls. For job details visit our website at www.dal.ca/sec

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(Late applications will not be accepted)

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Numerous summer jobs are posted on our website. Don't miss out on that great summer job! Apply early!

Notice to Students

INFORMATION
Re: Potential Strike

The prospect of a strike by the Dalhousie Faculty Association, if it does occur, alarms students. This is understandable. Everyone involved recognizes that important student interests are at stake. The University will make every effort to avoid a strike.

During this period of uncertainty Dalhousie University will provide students with current information about the status of the labour dispute with the Faculty Association and about matters of concern to students. *Here's how...*

WEB

Go to *Web for Students*, log in with your Banner number and follow the links.

E-MAIL

Watch your **Dalhousie E-mail** account (IS2* or CS) for updated information.

*All Dalhousie students can receive an IS2 E-mail account. If you do not have an IS2 account, please go to <http://www.dal.ca/support/> and click on "Applying for an E-mail Account"

PHONE

A labor dispute information line has been set up with a recorded message that is updated as new information becomes available.

There is also a press 0 option, if you have any questions that have not been answered on the web or on e-mail.

Recorded message:

(local number) — 902.494.3358

Toll Free line: (valid in North America) — 1.866.677.2961



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*University Presidents Council, 2000 BC University Baccalaureate Graduate Survey

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