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Have you ever been rescued from your own bathroom while your pants were around your ankles? I'm sure some of you have encountered this problem in residence, perhaps face-down in your own vomit at 4 a.m., but my story is slightly more forgivable.

My parents still fondly remember hearing their seven-year-old son faintly plead for help after the weight of an encyclopedia volume had cut off the circulation to his legs and left him trapped on the toilet. If it hadn't happened quite so often, and if I had refrained from repeatedly locking the door absent-mindedly, it might not have been so memorable for either of them. You see, as a child, I was a power nerd. Trapped behind thick glasses, socially inept and ridiculously reclusive, I was hopelessly addicted to reading. Slowly but surely, I overcame my disabilities and discovered the world of sex, drugs and rock 'n'roll. By the time I hit university, it appeared that my days of drafting elaborate Dungeons and Dragons adventure modules for imaginary players were far behind me.

Or so I thought. After three years of pouring over reams of law school cases, I had almost forgotten when I enjoyed reading for the sake of reading. Last night, these distant memories came flooding back as I found myself awake at 3 a.m., desperately trying to pry myself from the grip of Umberto Eco. It seems that Foucault's Pendulum has interrupted my life once again. The first time was in high school, when after hacking my way through the first chapter, I realized that I was in way over my oversized teenage head.

Armed with an encyclopedia set, a Latin dictionary and a book about the Knights Templar, I made my crusade into the only literary work that has ever completely engulfed my life. It was worth the effort. Only Eco can merge high brow and pop culture so smoothly, blending a pulp detective novel with a historical textbook, wrapping it all in a meditation on the folly of intellectual elitism and sealing it with a catalogue of every occult conspiracy ever conceived. Sheer genius.



This morning, after I had finished the book, I read a recent interview with the author via the Internet. Discussing the film Spiderman, Eco reiterated his tongue-in-cheek claim that all the English he knew was learned from Marvel Comics and Finnegans Wake. I couldn't agree more. I still insist that I learned more from the brainchild of Stan Lee than I ever picked up in classrooms. A childhood trip to the library led to an unexpected and brief obsession with "stimoceivers" and the laboratory work of Jose Delgado after reading about the

Scarlet Witch's "assimilation" in West Coast Avengers #48. My year-long investigation into Norse mythology during junior high was spawned by reading about the X-Men in their Asgardian Wars graphic novel. I remember learning the word "ciao" from Hercules when the Masters of Evil captured the Avengers Mansion in Avengers #273-277. Ridiculous? Perhaps. But now that I've caught the bug to read for pleasure once again, I think I'll head down to Strange Adventures and pick up where I left off.

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Apology

To Heather Socken, we forgot to say it was her cartoon that appeared on the center spread of last week's issue. We had the space there for it, but forgot it. We are absent minded monkeys.

Student Appreciation Night Nowhere Near as Boring as it Sounds

ELIZABETH HALLET News Contributor

This past Saturday, the SUB's McInnes Room played host to Student Appreciation Night, an annual event that brings together SUB staff and DSU society members for a night of drunken debauchery, awards, catered food and live music. This year's band was Big Fish, and the theme of the night was tropical. There were martini glasses galore, and the wise decision to go with appetizers instead of the traditional sit down dinner was made.

Every year on SAN, awards are given out to societies and SUB staff from each department for their dedication and commitment to the DSU and student life in general at Dalhousie. The recipients are as follows:

A level society of the year: Pharmacy

B: Dalhousie International Students' Association (DISA)

C: CKDU

D: Bio Chem.

E: Jewish Student's Association

Society Member of the Year: Guy Le Blanc

Unsung Hero: Kerriane Ryan

Level Chan Award: Joanne Macrae

Lili Ju Award: Lili Ju

Grawood Male Staff of the Year: Jonathan Wilson

Grawood Female Staff of the Year: Kelly Woods-Turner

T-room Staff of the Year: Matt Vance

Full Time Staff of the Year: Christa Richards

Campus Copy Staff of the Year: Robbie Moser

Sub Female Staff of the Year: Cynthia Nagy-Dejenariu

SUB Male Staff of the Year: Shawn Legere

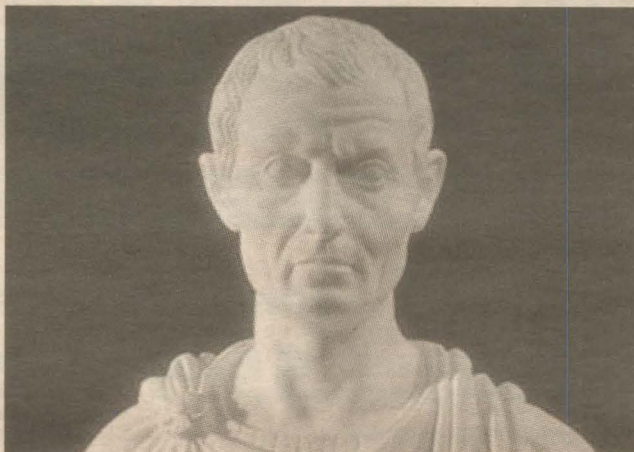
Info Desk Staff of the Year: Allison Hutchings

Tech Staff of the Year: Dave MacDonald

Overall, the night was a success. Several entertaining speeches were made, including Sextant Editor Chris Fedora's heart rending speech of love, loss and bitterness after failing to be selected as the T-Room staff of the year. Med students that attended provided endless hours of heckling and crass comments for all to enjoy. The dance floor stayed full—but SAN isn't just about partying. It's always an important event during the year, allowing those who work hard for the DSU and the student community at Dalhousie to be appreciated and applauded for all of their hard work over the course of the year—martinis included.

Conquerors MMIV

LI DONG Staff Contributor



When the Hurlly-burlies wrought the war tides embroiling 30 legions rumbling cross Dalhousie plains foretold the fair rise of nine amongst the fouled armies' blacken'd blood flooding maggot'd battlegrounds lest sewage'd amid Hellfire by thunder, lightning or rain. For lo! The omens have decreed DalOUT's levy vanquish'd and thine surrogate son of September Wasko shall himself twice be crown'd! All Hail the unsullied humors

that run in the veins of DSU in thirst for their due. Anon! For the day is nigh when the forces of counsel shall come alive. The treasuries shall be emptied! The influential unleashed! And the darkened campus shall glow with the torrid flames of munificent retribution!

King:

President: Kevin Wasko [Caesar]

Statesmen:

Vice President Internal: Tamara Nicole Conrod [Pompeii]

Vice President Education: Jill Houlihan [Cleopatra]

Vice President Student Life: Mark Szepes [Crassus]

Board of Governors Rep: Alison Archibald [Cicero]

Senators:

Senate Rep: Jen Bond [Brutus]

Senate Rep: Ashley O'Brien [Marc Antony]

Senate Rep: Kirsten Danielson [Cassius]

Senate Rep: Nick Dauphinee [Octavian]

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New Committee to Address Off-Campus Noise at Dal

TALIA FANNING Staff Contributor

Last November, many students at Dalhousie were surprised to hear the university commit itself to policing noisy off-campus partying. Rumours ran unchecked that the school would somehow punish disruptive students even though, legally, its right to do so was questionable.

Four months later, Students can rest assured that a "commitment" from a university—like those from politicians and corporations—does not necessarily mean that anything will change. But that's not to say that nothing has been done.

While many students were out partying on St. Patrick's Day, members of the Dalhousie University Community Committee organized their first meeting. The committee has representatives from the university administration, the community, the local police and, of course, the student body. Four students sit on the committee, including DSU president Kevin Wasko. The other three students were chosen from the group that attended a public meeting back in November and include two residence students and one off-campus dweller.

Jim Vibert is Dalhousie's new director of communications. He said that the first step for any new committee is to figure out what needs to be done. "[The meeting] was really about

setting the terms for how we will proceed. Our processes and procedures...We set up a steering committee of four or five people to lead the group," he said.

Vibert went on to say that the committee will deal with "all of the issues regarding universities in communities. Student behaviour, if it's disruptive, is just one issue ...Dal is part of the community, and it will work hard to make sure that it's contributing to all aspects," he said.

Mary Somers, who works in communications and marketing for Dal, agrees that the group will be involved in more than just noise policing. She sees the group discussing downtown development, ways of maintaining the vibrancy of the neighbourhood and building construction on campus.

Somers said that the group is an advisory committee—although committee members are not elected, its meetings are not open to the public. "We haven't discussed a communications plan yet," she said. "This is one of the first committees of this type. There are other town 'n gown groups, but not many. We're still deciding how we will proceed."

Somers said there will most likely be a public meeting—

perhaps in June. If this sounds a bit vague, that's because it is. Dal has committed itself to doing something about off-campus noise, and a committee has been assembled to discuss what Dal wants to do. But it seems it will only be much, much later that something will actually get done.

Jim Vibert said students can check the Dal website for committee news. Main points of the recent meeting will be posted so people will know what's going on, he said.

Staff Sergeant Hoskins, a divisional commander at the Halifax Regional Police Department, also sits on the committee. Until it becomes more organized, he said, consequences regarding noise complaints won't change.

Though police officers act at their own discretion, recent amendments to city by-laws mean occupants of offending houses or apartments can be fined \$125 and up based on noise infractions alone (By-law N200). Fines skyrocket if "drunkenness" or "property damage" are involved.

Sgt. Hoskins' advice is no surprise: "You can have your parties, but you have to be within the confines of the law."

Dal TAs Frustrated by New Negotiation Date

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

The scheduling of the first meeting between Dalhousie Teaching Assistants, university administration and a government conciliator for April 1 has left TAs frustrated that they may not be able to strike this term.

The union representing TAs and part-time faculty, CUPE local 3912, had been pushing for a meeting with Dalhousie's administration as soon as possible. "The members believe this late date has been set, in collusion between the conciliator and Dalhousie, hoping to make it difficult for a legal strike to occur this term, allowing for the required waiting period after the conciliator reports," said CUPE 3912 secretary-treasurer Michael Earle. But he did say such allegations cannot be proven.

Jim Vibert, Dal's director of communications and marketing, denied that any "collusion" had taken place. "The conciliator picks the date, and the conciliator picked a few dates and offered them," he said. He added that the possible dates were all around April 1.

There have been negotiations between the university and the union since the strike vote earlier this month, but both sides are still far from agreeing. "Conciliation is the appropriate time for [new] offers," Vibert said. One of the main issues in bargaining is wages; Dal TAs are paid almost 50 per cent less than their counterparts at other Canadian universities.

TAs held a successful strike preparation meeting on March 16 and a strike school on March 20, and they have been making picket

plans, so they are angry about the wait. If conciliation fails, the union must wait two weeks after the conciliator's final report before it can strike. Although the union would be cutting it close, an exam-time strike is still a possibility.

According to Vibert, there are contingency plans in place in case a strike occurs during exams, but he could not describe the plans in any detail. Part-timers and markers have been advised by the union to not submit any grades until the last possible date in order to make the end of the term as difficult as possible for the university.

Even if there is no strike action this term, Dal administration will not be out of the woods. "We're so mad this time around that if conciliation fails, we're willing to show Dal just how much we can shut this university down, hinder summer school from beginning [as so many classes are taught by part-timers],

make mail delivery and collection difficult and hamstring first-year registration from happening in June," said Rita Henderson, a TA and master's sociology and anthropology student. "We can make it pretty hard on the university to open in the fall, and we're preparing to do just that."

When confronted with these possibilities, Vibert stressed that they were "hypothetical" situations, and that the university hopes to avoid strike action. Even if the TAs' union tries to hinder summer operations, Vibert does not see Dal "shutting down." "The university does everything in its power to ensure that classes and other services are offered as usual."

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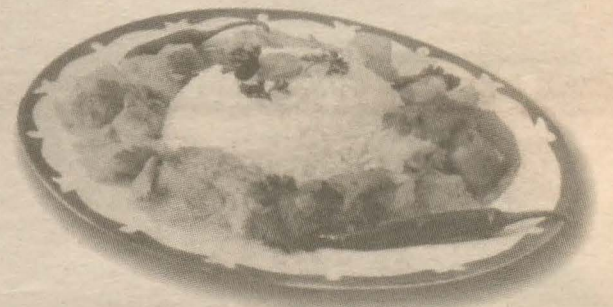
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Candidates Garner Fines; Two Disqualified

NEAL CODY Staff Contributor

After the polls closed on Thursday, the elections committee announced that two candidates—Grace Cassidy, running for VP Internal, and Tammam Kbeili, running for VP Education—had been disqualified. Several candidates were found to have violated poster regulations, and were fined accordingly. If candidates accumulate fines in excess of \$160, they are disqualified. Both Cassidy and Kbeili were fined \$225, and several other candidates came within \$10 of disqualification.

"Although it is unfortunate, let me just say that neither of the disqualified candidates would have won," said the Chief Returning Officer (CRO), Will Szubielski. Only one appeal had been registered before the Monday afternoon deadline, though the identity of the objecting candidate could not be disclosed.

Grace Cassidy has acknowledged that she is appealing her disqualification. The Judicial Board would have to overturn

just one of her three \$75 fines in order for her to be reinstated. She is disputing the fines based on several points, one of which is that candidates were not told that the \$75 fine was per building, but only 'per incident.'

"The disqualification of a candidate because they were unable to remove six posters out of 300, is not in the spirit of the constitution," said Cassidy in an email late Monday. She insists that because there was no intent to campaign during balloting she should not be penalized.

"I believe we made the right decision," maintained Szubielski, saying that the final decision is up to the Judicial Board—a body that deals with appeals and other requests from candidates concerning the elections committee. It must rule on the appeal within two weeks. Szubielski says that the board generally meets within two days of a petition being entered and that a decision on the appeal could be expected as early

as Thursday.

Under the current rules, candidates must remove all campaign materials by 8 p.m. the day before voting begins. However, Szubielski will be recommending that in future elections, candidates be allowed to campaign during the voting period. "Campaigning is permitted on voting day in federal and provincial elections. I think that our candidates should be able to do the same," he said. The CRO will also be advising Council to change the present rule banning campaign websites. "If we're encouraging online voting, why are we discouraging online campaigning?" he said. "It's ridiculous."

A complete list of fines can be found on the bulletin board between the first and second floors of the SUB. The Chief Returning Officer will present his final report on the election results to Council at the last meeting of the year, April 7.

A Little Help from Labatt

CAROLINE SCHULZ Staff Contributor

With the end of the winter term in sight, students amidst the stress of papers and exams are struggling to find a decent summer job—one that doesn't involve saying "fries with your order?" or cleaning some kid's bottom. And Labatt may be able to help—without drowning your worries or forcing you to like their beer.

Labatt sponsors Labatt People in Action (LPIA), a program you may have heard about around campus. It's billed as a unique summer job program that allows university students to create summer employment for themselves. Labatt has a "Campus Crew" responsible for promoting the LPIA around campus; a few weeks ago they hosted an open-mic night at the Grawood.

The program works like this: Students come up with an idea for a summer job in conjunction with a local non-profit organization (or charities registered with the federal government—don't worry,

most of them are) and LPIA pays the student's wages (minimum wage) for a minimum of 30 hours/week, a maximum of 40 hours/week, for 16 weeks. Students are supposed to develop leadership skills and further their career paths while also helping their community and getting paid.

"LPIA provides students with a chance to pursue their dreams, all while making meaningful connections to communities, earning a salary and receiving valuable employment experience," says Irene Lane, Public Relations Manager for Labatt Atlantic.

Dal MBA Student and Labatt Atlantic Public Affairs person Rebecca Walker works closely with the students engaged in LPIA projects and says the feedback she receives from them is always extremely positive.

Imagine planting a communal vegetable garden as your summer work: NSCAD student Lea Brander initiated this project in Antigonish, N.S. and got land and growing materials donated to her by the community. Brander teamed up with the Anglican Food Bank in Antigonish and donated all cultivated crops to the food bank. Food bank recipients were also welcome to take part in the cultivating process. As Walker says, these projects can really "bring the community full circle."

The program is not unlimited, however. Begun in 1977, LPIA aims to help 130 students in Canada this year and has accepted over 4,000 applicants in its history. The program only encompasses students working non-profit organizations and registered charities.

More information about the program can be found at www.lpiajobs.com. The application deadline is March 29, 2004.

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The Gold Standard

Harping on Harper

QUENTIN CASEY **Opinions Editor**



Last weekend, I had the great pleasure of watching the concluding moments of the leadership race for the "new" Conservative Party of Canada. Yes, I understand that this does not sound the least bit interesting, especially when one considers that I was watching this at home with my parents. In my defense, I was waiting for my girlfriend to finish studying so we could "hang out." But I digress.

In the end, the persistently boring Stephen Harper pulled out a first ballot victory over his two rivals—the voluptuous Belinda Stronach in second place, and Tony Clement in a distant third. Yet, even before Harper had been declared the evening's victor, pundits and overzealous Tory war horses alike were championing Harper as a genuine competitor against Paul Martin in the forthcoming federal election.

But let's slow down here a minute and take a quick lesson in recent history. Those who hold Stephen Harper as a force to be reckoned with should take a second look at his views on issues of the past—particularly his stance on the war in Iraq.

It is now apparent to all that the US coalition's decision to invade Iraq was based on—at the very best—false intelligence, and—at the very worst—George Bush's attempt to finish the job his father started more than a decade ago. For the most part, the war has been a disaster, and the whole fiasco could possibly derail the President's re-election efforts—provided that average Americans can rouse themselves from their perpetual inward, self-serving view of the world. But, again, I digress.

Nevertheless, it is important to note that it was less than a year ago that our very own Stephen Harper was calling for Canada's full involvement in the war on Iraq, and was equally fervent in his attacks of Jean Chrétien for not offering the support of Canadian soldiers in the war effort. Harper even went as far as to call the then-Prime Minister a "coward" for wanting to remain on the sidelines in the absence of UN support.

In his efforts to spark a Canadian war effort, Harper tabled a motion that called on Ottawa to back the US in its assault in Iraq. While speaking as the leader of the opposition, he stated that Canada's anti-war position "only diminishes us," and then added that, "[The US] is our biggest asset in this very dangerous world...We are lucky to have the Americans as our neighbour, ally and friend." Yet while the latter may be true, it certainly doesn't mean that we must reply to the beck and call of the US like an obedient lap dog. Harper seemed to forget that as a democratic nation, and as a proud member of the UN, we have a degree of self-determination and political muscle that we are allowed to flex as we see fit.

But not only did Harper endorse the idea of Canada joining the war, he also had the impudence to suggest that the majority of Canadians supported the fight. According to Harper, "the silent majority" of Canadians were in favour. It was only in Quebec, with its "pacifist tradition," that most people opposed the war. "Outside of Quebec, I believe very strongly the silent majority of Canadians is strongly supportive," he said confidently.

When in reality, as journalist Larry Zolf has said, "Harper led his Alliance into a pro-Iraq war stance that was anathema to most Canadians and truly opposed by Quebecers." Similarly, at the time of Harper's claims, Liberal defense minister John McCallum rightly stated that "[Stephen Harper] is trying to score cheap political points on the backs of our soldiers."

So before running out in the upcoming election amid the sponsorship scandal and voting for Stephen Harper as a way to rid Ottawa of Paul Martin and the Liberals, be careful you're not simply replacing one evil with another. Personally, I'd much rather have a few million go missing (as this practice will never cease to exist with government anyway) than have a Prime Minister who supports the same imperialist foreign policy as the US President.

Streeter

QUENTIN CASEY **Opinions Editor**
CATHERINE COOPER **Poster Girl**

What's your honest opinion of the Gazette?



I don't read it that much. It's pretty much all just about gossip. **Amber Rogers, first-year theatre**



It's great. Absolutely super. (Oh, honest opinion?) **Paul Tobin, third-year philosophy**



I like it. It's fun to read. **Danielle Rocheleau, first-year kinesiology**



Thanks to the Gazette I got hooked on "Seadogs." **Brittany Vandentillaart, first-year kinesiology**



The Sextant page is the best. Elizabeth Chiu... [laughter]. **Andrew Mader, third-year health education**



I like it. I think it's funny. I read it every week when I get bored. **Kimberley Joyce, first-year kinesiology**



I really don't know much about it. I read the "Sex" issue where that guy Chris LaRoche said he wanted to change the Grawood to the Palace. **Drew Edward Butterworth III, Esq. first-year commerce**



That communist rag? It needs more titties! **Chris LaRoche, Dal Daycare coordinator**



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THIS WEEK'S JOB NEWS

Attention Nursing and Social Work graduating students!!

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When: Wednesday, March 31st

Time: 12:30 - 2:30pm

Where: SUB - Social Work Students - Council Chambers (2nd Floor)
- Nursing Students - Room 302



Dal Sprouts Sense of Community?

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

Three positively alarming signs have as of late convinced me that our little university is growing up. In fact, these hints of maturity may even signal that Dal is—gulp!—developing a sense of—gasp!—community. Here they are, in random order:

1. The recent DSU elections. For the first time in my experience at Dal, a good, clean (for the most part) campaign created a veritable buzz on campus. From the day the candidates' posters started gracing the walls and the candidates themselves started making their in-class cameos, students took note, assessing the differences between Kevin and Kevan, VP Student Life and VP Internal, Senate and Board of Governors. The two forums I attended in the SUB actually had audiences, whose members asked intelligent questions about residence, study space, food, campus media, the possibility of a TA strike—in other words, about more than just tuition. Voters had a choice, one we discussed

in class, in the halls, and even around the *Gazette* office, despite our perennial attempts to adopt a holier-than-the-DSU attitude. According to the preliminary results, the elections had the highest turnout in years (note: while writing this article, I had two post-election MSN conversations). We may have to swallow our pride and admit that a lot more of us care about our DSU than usual.

2. The weather. See? You're still reading! Weather is no longer a boring topic of conversation, especially after the life-altering hurricane and blizzard that we collectively endured during this school year. Both storms prompted incessant commiserating among students, but even run-of-the-mill weather makes for scintillating discourse. I would bet that most of us check The Weather Network on TV or at www.theweathernetwork.com and compare findings like maniacs. As of late, there have also been endless "why won't spring get off its ass and get here?" conversations that are the farthest thing

from small talk.

3. Nalgene's. I first heard the word a while back when staying with friends at St. F.X., but I had no idea what the heck a Nalgene was. Now I know they are the granddaddy of all water bottles, and will soon be taking over the world—or the Dal campus at the very least. I recently tried to calculate all the money I pump into Aquafina/Sodexo each week, and the costs were astronomical. So I have commenced sizing up everyone's Nalgene's: how big mine should be, what colour, etc. I honestly had an intellectual discussion about Nalgene's with two other students in the Killam Atrium the other day. As a result, I foresee a trek to MEC in my very near future, all thanks to the Dal Nalgene orgy.

Like it or not, school spirit may be on the horizon too. Building a community at Dal may have only just begun, but it's happening, one vote, storm and one Nalgene bottle at a time.

The Passion: Revisited

LINA HUSSAIN Staff Contributor

This article may be a bit late, but I couldn't help but offer my opinion on *The Passion of The Christ* and the ever-growing popularity of Christ, especially since his life is still sparking controversy today.

Sitting in a sold-out theatre during my spring break, slowly taking in the violent images of the torture being put upon Jim Caviezel (who, by the way, is pretty hot)'s bloody body, I prayed long and hard for it to end—either for the power to go out or for a friend to walk out so I could have an excuse to get out of the theatre. As the Romans slashed and beat Caviezel's body, I pushed myself to endure the physical pain I was experiencing, as if it was me who was being tortured. It was as if I was feeling every beating

and every slash put upon his body. I couldn't bare the sight of the violence, and I had to look away many times. But looking away never helped, it probably only made it worse. Closing my eyes made me visualize images as I heard the loud banging of what I knew were nails driving into Caviezel's hands.

With every passing minute feeling more like an hour, it got harder and harder for me to breathe. I almost choked, feeling the wind being knocked out of me. It didn't stop there, though. During the crucifixion, the Romans grabbed his two feet, pulled them down, grabbed a nail and hammer...by this point I had shut my eyes tight and was looking away, but the loud bangs didn't stop. Simply remembering the images of this movie makes

me shudder as I write this. At the end of *The Passion*, just when Christ died on the cross, I felt a great relief. "Finally! It's over" I thought. But no, a Roman decided to pierce his flesh with a spear to "make sure" he was dead. Simply watching *The Passion* is exhausting.

Despite all of the violence and brutality this movie conveys, I left the movie theatre with a new, true, genuine appreciation for life. While still feeling the "pain" hours later (physically), and demanding that none of my friends talk about it in an attempt to "repress" it and hopefully make it go away, images from the movie kept flashing into my mind. My best attempts to repress all memories of this movie failed, and I couldn't help but want to learn more. I became drawn to all images or words that reminded me of it.

The Passion of The Christ is a disturbing, overwhelming, intense and amazing production, regardless of whether Mel has got the story right or wrong. What is important is that it has sparked an overwhelming interest in many of its viewers. Although many might feel that the movie didn't explain the life story of Jesus, depicting the last 12 hours of Christ's life did a good job in getting its audience interested in the events before these 12 hours (his life). A compelling movie like *The Passion* gives audiences a lasting shock, encouraging them to educate themselves about Christ if they are unfamiliar with the story. This movie is an indirect invitation to go out and search for answers. Brave, provocative, controversial and intense, *The Passion* is a deep movie you have to see.

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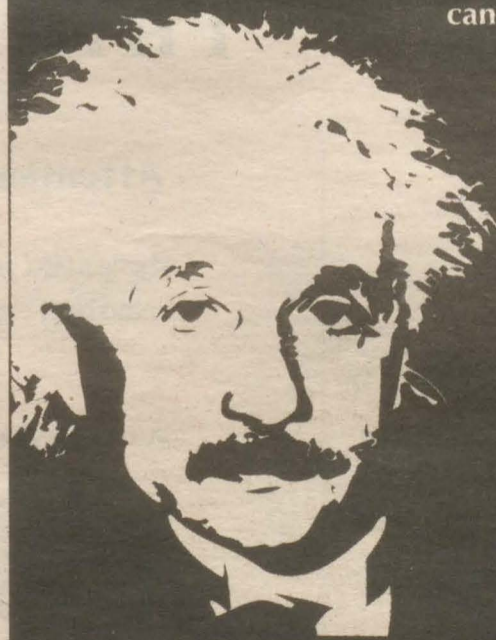


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Super Sex in the Super City: Kama Sutra 101

DAVE MORINÉ **Sexpert**

India. As a nation, it conjures up images of a vibrant culture, a gigantic population, poverty, bewilderment and pandemonium. These conditions are enough to keep many away from the subcontinent, but not Dalhousie student Alexis Palmer. Between September and December 2003, Alexis participated in a term abroad program offered through the University of Calgary. She lived in Pune, a modest Indian city, with a population ballooning over three million. Pune is situated 175 km southeast of Mumbai (Bombay).

A senior IDS student with past international experience, Alexis was well prepared for India. She says India can be a daunting travel option. "Our plane arrived in the middle of the night. I can remember the heat, the smells and I was tired," recalls Palmer. Upon arrival in India, the group went directly to Pune, but certain aspects of Mumbai made an impression. Alexis recalled leaving the airport and passing through a 100 square kilometer slum.

During the exchange, students took classes at the University of Pune. Along with offerings in Hindi and Indian History, Alexis also studied social work. Her professor, a woman named Marati, took students to see some of the problems that are current in modern India. Students witnessed some shocking conditions that are common to disenfranchised persons in India. In addition to visiting an addictions centre, participants also observed the ominous conditions of sex trade workers. Even with my vested interests in sexology, I found it hard to visualize what Alexis described. I asked her to elaborate on the lives of Indian sex workers. She said that "Indian women are regarded as submissive, and there is an emphasis on purity. There are child prostitutes, and things like homosexuality and HIV are not discussed."

I returned to this notion of purity, "Do Indian men or tourists seek out prostitutes?" I asked.

"Men see prostitutes. Men take younger men to prostitutes for their first sexual experience." She also said that "there is a large market for foreign women, specifically Nepali, Tibetan and Bhutanese girls."

With a population over one billion, issues like HIV and AIDS are greatly important to India. Alexis acknowledged that "India is modernizing. If AIDS explodes it will be devastating. It could be another Africa." Family planning has also been a focus of Indian health clinics. Sterilization for women has been encouraged, and literature has been distributed. "What about access to literature for illiterate individuals?" I asked. Alexis explained that Bollywood, the Indian film industry, has helped to spread the message. Many people admire these film stars, so they are more willing to heed their advice. Still, it can be difficult for Indian women to get sexual health information, as there is a stigma of going to clinics, access can be difficult and many simply cannot take time off from work.

But even Bollywood has its own agenda. Alexis said that tradition still prevails in some Indian films. "Caucasian women are loose and easy, and the Indian woman is pure. I remember being in a theater, and when the male ended up leaving the white girl for the Indian girl, everybody in the theater sighed in relief."

Finally, I wanted to ask Alexis if she had seen any Hijras in India. Hijras are India's third sex, and are basically male eunuchs who live as women. Alexis remembered being on the



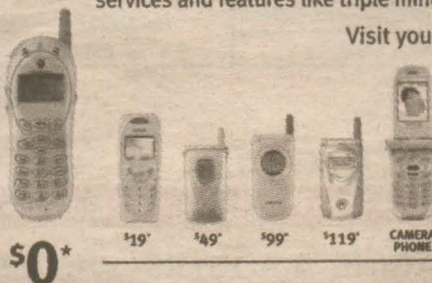
train in Southern India. "I was sleeping, and all of a sudden I woke because somebody chimed their hand bracelets. They were dressed in a woman's sari with a beard. I didn't know who it was at first, and then my friends told me it was a Hijra." Gender signals in India are often mixed, as it is common to see men embracing one another or holding hands while out in the town. This has nothing to do with their sexuality; it is simply an element of Indian culture.

India isn't a giant slum. It is a country of insurmountable diversity and tradition. I finish by asking "where next?" Alexis confidently said, "Vietnam." Wherever her work takes her, Alexis is a Dalhousie student making a difference in the world.

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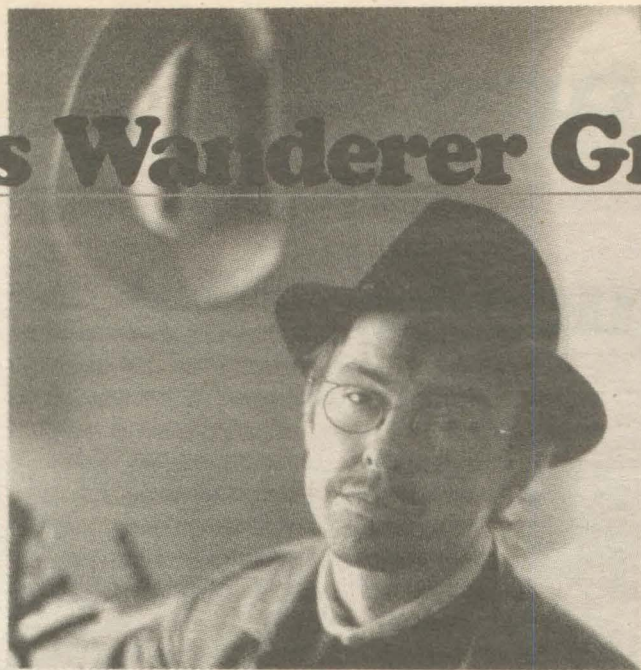
Dusty Sorbet's Wanderer Grounds

LINDSAY DOBBIN Staff Contributor

In musical genres that value traditions such as folk and blues, also valued is the wisdom of age. As people grow older, their lives become fuller and richer, so it only makes sense that the varied breadth of experience feeds one's creativity and music. In an age where mainstream music such as pop and rock is generally dominated by a younger generation of artists and where one is usually considered a has-been if one actively pursues music beyond a certain age, it's refreshing to listen to music that is kind to maturity.

Wisdom is a tricky word to deal with, but most would consider it to be collective knowledge and insight derived through direct experience. Whether it's through a song, in a conversation or on his rather animated online journal, Haligonian folk artist Dusty Sorbet has no qualms about sharing the many interesting experiences he has had over his 15-year musical career.

It's these interesting experiences that Dusty usually translates into song. On his most recent release, *Wanderer's Grounds*, there is a humorous song entitled "Raccoon's Nest" in which Dusty details a hitchhiking trip through the Annapolis Valley. At one point, he had to sleep near a highway exit, and when he woke up a raccoon that had fallen asleep on him throughout



the night scurried away into the tall grass: "I feel asleep on a clover leaf, and I woke up and I was a raccoon's nest."

Despite a large repertoire of original music, Dusty doesn't restrict his performances to original music. Upon sitting down with Dusty prior to his performance at the open mic he hosts at The Khyber Club every Tuesday, it was immediately evident that he has a strong interest in the history of his genre. "I'm currently trying to find songs that were written before recorded music," he says. "What draws me to Bob Dylan [his largest influence] is his take on that music."

Other than his weekly solo shows at The Khyber, Dusty also performs solo at the Market every Saturday morning and plays with his band, the Rusty Wheels, in various venues around the city. The eclectic crowd Dusty draws is quite noticeable. Even more noticeable are the various children dancing to his music at the Market. So what can be credited to the accessibility of his music?

Dusty's tunes are earnest and usually maintain a certain vagueness that will allow them to be understood years from now. Furthermore, they're crafted without force and are true to tradition. "It all really just comes down to the songs and the tradition," he said. "I'd be happy if in 40 or 50 years there was a CD of mine on someone's shelf and they listen to it and they like it."

Dusty has been actively creating music for a long time—longer than the average artist—but his experience has definitely lent itself well to his creations. And while many artists are looking for the next big break and riding the next wave, Dusty is happy where he is, wandering around his own territory.

See Dusty Sorbet and the Rusty Wheels play Wednesday, March 31 at Reflections around 10 p.m.

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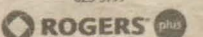
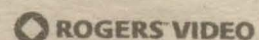
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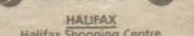
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Good Vibrations

HEATHER MILNE Staff Contributor

It seems as though fantasia parties are sweeping the nation. In the past week, I have had two invitations to attend these newly popular sex parties. I went to one not knowing what to expect and ending up having so much fun, while becoming more sexually aware.

Parties where women gather to learn about everything from bath products to vibrators have fallen under the category of "fantasia" parties, but not every party is really a fantasia party. Fantasia is a national company that has been around for about 20 years. Other smaller companies exist with a similar mission to that of Fantasia. One such example is the party that I attended called a "Sexy Girl Party." Sexy Girl is a locally owned and operated company that has been around for a little over two years. Rachel Dodds, the owner of Sexy Girl, has made it her mission to promote sexual awareness and health for women in a fun, laid-back and completely casual environment.

Rachel started Sexy Girl in an effort to make sex for girls more fun, comfortable and mainstream. She universally promotes safe sex whether you have a partner or are flying solo; she is effectively able to provide you with sound information to avoid infection and have fun while in the process. Sexy Girl parties can take place with at least four girls, there is a no boys allowed policy as it is felt that they may take away from the laid-back and comfortable environment that occurs with all girls.

Once you have a group together Rachel, or one of her sales representatives, will show up armed with several interesting products, all of which are available for purchase after the party.

What can you expect from a Sexy Girl party? Aside from a good time during, and depending on what you buy, a great time after the party, you can expect to learn things that you may not have known before. As the host, you can expect 10 per cent off your purchase, and finally you can expect to taste things so good you may want to eat the whole thing, or buy it to taste later.

Not only is there learning and tasting taking place at the party, there are also games. Everyone loves a good game, and who doesn't love a game that allows you to hone some essential skills while having fun with the girls.

When asked what she thought of the party, Allison Lovesey said, "I had my reservations about attending, but I'm so glad I did because I discovered Pina Colada Lube."

Lindsay MacDonald said that she's "mastered the art of the Italian Job." Both girls, along with myself and everyone else in attendance, have agreed that the Sexy Girl party is the best way to spend a night with the girls. Rachel is confident and makes you feel good about yourself. The products she

shows range from lip balm to the "Cadillac of vibrators" to "the mermaid"—you have to see it to believe it.

Rachel also puts on couples parties, where you and your partner can sit down with a Sexy Girl representative and find the best products for you, again while learning about different preventative measures. Sexy Girl will be appearing at Brides 2004 to advertise their availability for Bachelorette parties. A Sexy Girl bachelorette party is a great idea, since it is sure to spice things up for the newly-weds.

Whether you're highly experienced or new to the sex scene, there is something for everyone at a Sexy Girl party. With the increase in parties of this nature, women everywhere are becoming more sexually aware, and are now packing more punch with all their new bedside products in hand. There is something for everyone, and all purchases are completely confidential—there is no need to feel shy or embarrassed. If you're interested in booking a party for you and the girls, you can check out the website at sexygirlonline.ca for further information.

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↳ Chapped Lips

↳ Texas Chainsaw Remake

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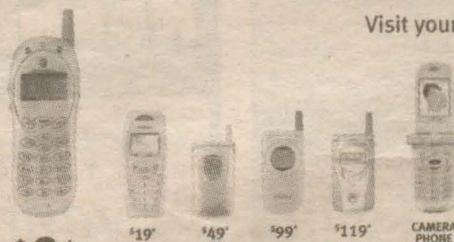
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Dynamic Doyle

LINDSAY DOBBIN Staff Contributor



Report Card

The Maynards



Date: March 20, 2004

Venue: The Seahorse

Reporter: Lindsay Dobbin & Chris Durning-

Photographer: Lindsay Dobbin

Stage Presence: A+

Audience Reaction: A

Sound: B+

Effort: A+

Get-it-on-ability: A

The Maynards definitely live up to their self-proclaimed "rock and roll made fun" tag. Original music spiked with personality makes this trio (Heath Matheson on guitar, Kristina Parlee on bass, and Chantal Tardiff on drums) a musical force to be reckoned with. Their sound is a mixture of white blues with progressive-fueled punk and 50's surf/twist music—music that's rocking and danceable. Matheson is probably one of the best guitarists in Halifax and is an extremely charismatic bandleader. One particular song during the set required a large amount of clapping, so he made two audience members face off in the front in an "all original clapping contest." If you're looking for fun, I highly recommend checking out one of their shows in near future.



Dynamic, innovative, emotional and intelligent are all words to describe Newfoundland singer/songwriter Damhnait Doyle. Doyle just won two East Coast Music Awards at this year's event, including Female Artist of the Year, and her song "Afterglow," from *davnet* (co-written with *davnet* producer Gordie Sampson) was a semi-finalist in an International Songwriting Competition. However, the most notable thing about this artist's young career is her determination and musical philosophy.

The *Gazette* caught up with Doyle while she was in Toronto for this year's Canadian Music Week in order to get behind the time line and see what drives Doyle to create music and to find out why her life was changed by a recent experience.

From my observations, you're fairly hesitant in revealing a lot about your personal life, but that has allowed you to display a "music-is-my-life" image to the public. Do you think overlapping life and music is important for an artist's longevity?

Music is all I really have. Most of my friends are musicians or in the arts, so when we do hang out we're usually jamming or listening to music. I've been really trying to force myself to do an online diary on my website, but it's difficult to do. I've been thinking about it every day, but I haven't put in an entry since three months ago. I just find it really difficult to be revealing about my personal life and who my friends are and stuff like that. I go onto people's websites who are musicians who do a daily journal, and the things that they reveal about themselves and put out into the world are completely startling to me. So, I think that's what I hold on to so it doesn't overlap too much. I am actually a fairly private and guarded person. It's so strange that I released *Hyperdramatic* at all, because all the songs are entries from my diary/journal.

Do you think that may have had something to do with your confidence level when writing *Hyperdramatic*? You were just signed to a



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Well, I think that what you just said had more to do with the song writing behind *davnet*, my most recent record. I really felt extremely confident and self-empowered when I was making [*davnet*], because I was doing it all on my own. I really had nobody pushing me forward, so I knew how much work it was and I really felt confident putting the record out into the world because it was all coming from me. It was so incredibly difficult to get everything together financially, and the organizational aspect behind it is difficult for a musician to do. I think the lyrics behind *Hyperdramatic* were more coming from a place of "should I really be doing this for a career?" They were a bit more introspective and in terms of "what am I doing with my life?" where *davnet* was more "I know what I'm doing with my life." But I was wrong...no I'm just kidding [laughs].

You've been described as having a "natural theatricality" when you perform, and when you were growing up, you participated a lot in theatre. Do you find that your experiences in that genre of performance allow you to approach your music with a certain sensibility?

Absolutely! I think that what I was just talking about totally ties into that. For instance, imagining yourself in another place and going on that gut instinct. I also take the theatre school approach before I play a show. I really have to be alone, focusing on what we're about to do or what I'm about to do before I go on stage. Some performers can be having a business conversation right up until before they go on stage, and I find that can be too distracting and sometimes people don't understand that. I need to be left alone for about a half an hour before I go on stage or just with the girls [of Shaye] before we go on stage, but sometimes that can be really difficult when you have a band and whoever else is around. So I think that the theatre sensibility doesn't really help me when no one else is applying them [laughs].

You went over to Kabul, Afghanistan, over Christmas to perform with Tom Cochrane for the Canadian troops as a part of Rick Mercer's CBC Christmas Special. Has the experience of going to Kabul changed your perspective on what music can do, the power it holds, and your future plans?

With this trip, I didn't give it any thought, and then when I got closer and my VISA came through and I went to get my immunization, I started to get really freaked out, but ultimately it was the best experience of my entire life. It was absolutely phenomenal, life changing and eye-opening. It's so hard to describe what you get from an experience like that. It changes every single day. It really changes everything. I was thinking the other day for an hour while I drank my tea what the next step was. Right now, I think my plan music wise...well, I just realized that I've been really resistant about getting my own home recording studio set up just because I'm not really a big fan of computers and that's not really where my passions lie. But I realized that's my big goal at the moment so I can work on music on my own time. I've never actually done that, it's always been a series of collaborations and that's just fantastic, but I really want to spend time by myself.

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Get To Your Stations, Contrived is Back!

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor



For someone who claims to have been watching the new Slayer DVD all day, Mike McNeil is surprisingly upbeat when he arrives for his interview. His bandmates share his enthusiasm. It seems even Slayer can't squash the excitement McNeil (vocals, guitar) and fellow Contrived members Mike Bigelow (bass), Loel Campbell (drums) and Jon Samuel (guitar) feel about their first show in over three months.

For Samuel, who joined the band in February following the departure of Tim d'Eon, it will be his first public appearance with Contrived. McNeil admits that because of the long layoff as well as some differing views within the band, breaking up was definitely a possibility. But both he and Bigelow credit drawing support from one another as the reason the band didn't call it quits. "Loel had some great things to say to me," said Bigelow. "He said 'as long as we can keep it interesting, [we should be playing]'. I highly doubt our new songs are all going to be heavier, but as long as we can keep it interesting, it totally makes sense."

And for now, the band will concentrate on doing just that. The immediate focus is getting Samuel broken in with the band's current catalogue and then writing and playing new material. This means that at least for right now, you can expect the band's sound to be the same in-your-face hard rocking intensity that has made them such a popular act. "I think right now [our sound] is going to be the same because we're playing the same set," said Bigelow. "But the band's sound will probably change once we begin writing with Jon."

McNeil sees a lot of potential for writing with the new line up, as the process moves more toward a group effort. "Since [the album] we've only done one new song, but it was written in

the jam space," he said. McNeil added that he thought writing together in the jam space would be a good way to monitor progress.

During Contrived's hiatus, Campbell was busy with his other band, Wintersleep, while Bigelow and Campbell made up half of Halifax's latest buzz band, The Holy Shroud. Bigelow is also busy with his side project, Mass for Shut-ins, while Samuel plays with Oh God.

McNeil is the only one without a side project at the moment, and while he admits that he was worried about the side projects for a while, he's now over it. "Since we've had this change, we've talked, and I've been able to think differently," he said. "I'm more excited to play and so are these guys, and so that's why we [jam]. When we first started, I was playing with another band, and I went off with them for a month and did that. When I look back on that, I'm like, 'fuck I just headed off for a month.'"

McNeil sees all of the respective bands as being on a line where everyone is equal—a sentiment Bigelow and Campbell share. "If Loel is busy with Wintersleep, I have another band, so I can go and play and continue to practice and keep that routine," said Bigelow. "I love playing bass, and [I] do it in other bands as well. But it's just because [I] love it and want to do it as much as possible. I don't think priorities are an issue. We all want to be busy with music."

For his part, Bigelow also isn't concerned about things such as differentiating between what would be good for the Holy Shroud and what would be good for Contrived. "That doesn't even concern me," he said. "One thing that has concerned me is a lot

of people come to see those bands play and I don't want it to come to the point where generally people would associate myself with just wanting to play loud crazy music. I love doing it, but it's like giving myself a heart attack every night. I just want to play bass no matter what."

McNeil agrees. "I think [the same people playing in different bands] can get stale pretty easily," he said. "But as long as [the music] stays unique to each band, then I think it's OK. If I can look at someone onstage and see them in a different vein than what the other projects are doing, then there's no problem."

Contrived's second album is in post-production stages, and the band hopes for a summertime release. Once again, it will be released on the dependentmusic (dp) label, shared by the likes of Wintersleep and Jill Barber.

Though dp still has a characteristic sound, Campbell sees it as being more diverse. He cites bands like Junior Blue, Extra Virgin and Jill Barber as helping to expand this sound. "We're working with artists that we like and are fans of," said Campbell. "We're passionate about it, and playing music instead of being businessmen. We can market all the different releases accordingly. We have Outside Distribution for Canada, but we're also going to reissue an album that's a press of 500, and we're not going to give it to the distributor. It's a bunch of artists who can help each other out, but at the same time there are no contracts."

Help welcome back Contrived this Saturday in Hell with Ermine, while the Marquee has Wintersleep, Brent Randall and Mass for Shut-ins. \$7 for access to both shows.

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The Best Little Whore House in Halifax

NATALIE PENDERGAST Arts Editor

The Halifax Burlesque Society is not in favour of selling sex in return for money. In fact, the popular belief that strip clubs are the direct descendents of burlesque houses is not entirely true—they share this role with another performance culture. Burlesque shows were, above all, forums for entertainment, including choreographed dance, comedic theatre and erotic kinesthetic.

The pure definition of the word "burlesque" actually has very little to do with sex. The word's root meaning is closer in sense to the word "comical" than it is to "eroticism." Whether considering the Italian "burlesco," which comes from "burla," meaning joke, or the vulgar, Latin slang "burrula," diminutive of late Latin "burrae," meaning nonsense, as a performance style, a "burlesque" show should resemble a parody more than a striptease. However, since our society is obsessed with sex, strip show culture has become more popular than

what burlesque traditionally symbolized.

The difference between the eroticisms found in burlesque and strip shows is that the former is a theatrical performance that offers a fantasy, whereas the latter showcases raw sex.

Esten Gerriets, a third-year history student here at Dal, said that the Halifax Burlesque Society shares the traditional burlesque mentality of providing an open outlet for artists to express their sexuality in an inviting and entertaining way. "It works out to be something kind of like a variety show, with everything from singing and dancing to original music and spoken word, to silly dance music," said Gerriets, who has been a member now for over a year. The "variety" aspect of the show comes from the different performers' styles of entertainment, but the common theme is erotica. "There's comedic aspects of the sexual titillation," Gerriets said.

Of course, the women who are performing want to engage the audience, but is it in the oh-so-stigmatized way that burlesque is known for? Gerriets insisted that the women offer entertainment rather than arousal to their fans, and they get something greater than money out of it themselves. "For a lot of the women, they do it as kind of a statement," he said. "They see being nude as an empowering thing."

But there is a fine line between empowerment and objectification. For every woman who claims to perform out of confidence, there is a pompous stiffy who will tell her she does it to satisfy her low self-image. "Whether or not it's harmful to society at large, it's still women who make the decision to do this, and we agree that it's ok," Gerriets said. "Some people certainly don't."

Another unique quality of the Halifax Burlesque Society is that one third of the members are men. "I'm a performer, and I see it as a venue where I can express myself, and I don't find there are many other places where I feel comfortable performing that way. The acceptability is a big part of it for me as a man," Gerriets said.

The free-spirited philosophy of the society is what makes it such a healthy atmosphere for artists and performers who may not otherwise get the opportunity to express themselves in such a way.



Photo: Laura Newton

In order to enhance the shows they put on, the society compliments their entertainment with informative literature for the audience. In their manifestos, "they discuss sexuality and women's issues, they talk about STDs and STIs, as well as the theme of the show," Gerriets said.

Two years ago, the Halifax Burlesque Society was begun by some people in the North End who "thought it would be a fun thing to do." After its fourth or fifth show this year, the group plans to tour the Maritime Provinces during the summer. To achieve this goal, the Halifax-based cavalry will only take the show on the road on the weekends and will probably feature different performers every time.

Gerriets said that the members of the society are not by any means trained professionals, but are just creative, hard-working individuals. "A lot of the members are just regular people who put on these elaborate performances," he said, "so anyone can join—it's a pretty informal structure."

This openness is important to the society and to distinguishing their shows from the more tainted version of burlesque—Burlesque is different than just getting money for sex," Gerriets said. And this statement particularly holds true when you consider that the proceeds from every show go to a different charity.

Previous shows put on by the society have all sold out, and on April 2 and 3, the Halifax Burlesque Society will present *Bottoms Up Burlesque!* at the Vimy Legion, 5527 Cogswell St. (across from Centennial Pool). Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at Venus Envy or NO Records. Doors open at 8:30 p.m. Proceeds will go to the Family Pride Camping Association.

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Review: A Box of Matches

DANNY CONRAD Staff Contributor

"What am I deducting from my everyday life?" This seems like a good question to ask before reading *A Box of Matches*, by Nicholson Baker.

Simplicity is the game here. Baker is giving the ordinary passing occurrences of everyday life a respectfully humble, but nonetheless enjoyable texture. This is the novel's greatest virtue, but it also leads to its vice: oversimplification, repetition and uneventfulness.

Baker's verbal illustrations are more than adequate for what he tries to accomplish. The novel's distinction is that it illustrates very insignificant pieces of life and largely non-dramatic images. At one point, Baker describes a sock he is wearing and its comfort well enough that you can easily relate to its comfort. The subject is not nearly as important as the description of it. By describing objects as he does, Baker shows the reader an unusual approach to life.

It becomes obvious over the course of the novel that the sparse events Baker describes are nothing more than devices to expound his philosophy. The philosophy of the novel is one of incredible appreciation. Baker finds artistic beauty and elegance in the smallest, most unlikely places. The problem is that Baker does not attempt to express anything beyond this philosophy. The entire novel is virtually uneventful, and the philosophy becomes old—its novelty wears off half way through the book.

The book's biggest weakness is its repetitive and downright boring nature. The book has interesting assets, but will only ever appeal to those few individuals who truly share or admire Baker's philosophy. Ultimately, it falls short in many ways as a novel. In the context of what Baker attempts, he succeeds, but this is not enough to forgive his lack of vision. This book is only for the fans of non-dramatic philosophical reads.

The Juggler

JENNY COOPER Staff Contributor

I grew up in a very liberal arts based family. I have been very fortunate to have very open-minded parents who are always enthusiastic when I show them a new and exciting skill when I acquire it. There was the time when I was 12-years-old and took it upon myself to learn Norwegian through a series of language tapes. Or the time when I spent countless hours trying to perfect my strawberry jam recipe, or the basket weaving classes my mom and I went to when I was in junior high.

Last January, when I was home for a few weeks from ballet school, my dad asked me what exciting stuff I had done that past term. "Well, we have *Swan Lake* coming up" I said, "but look what this guy taught me in rehearsal the other day!" I picked up three oranges from the fruit bowl and made a very bad attempt at juggling them and then dropped them all on the floor, one gushing open and getting orange juice on the new carpet. My dad just looked at me and said, "just stick to ballet, Jen."

Juggling is something I have always wanted to do, but have never, ever been successful at. What would be cooler than going to a party and impressing everyone you know by grabbing random objects and tossing them in the air? It is a timeless skill. That's why I was so utterly fascinated by Ryan Whalen, a self-proclaimed performance artist.

Born in right here in Nova Scotia, Whalen has done more in his 25 years than many people do in a lifetime. Whalen started juggling as a hobby, but it quickly grew into a passion he wanted to pursue seriously. It all started one day while he was in Munich and was juggling on the street. A slew of tourists came by and started taking photos of him doing his act. He then decided to get proper training to take his skills even further. He went on to New Zealand to attend a professional circus school. He trained hard eight to ten hour days with everything from learning to be a clown to basic acting classes. He then traveled

for several years all over the world to showcase his talents. He even turned down a job this summer in England to perform in Halifax.

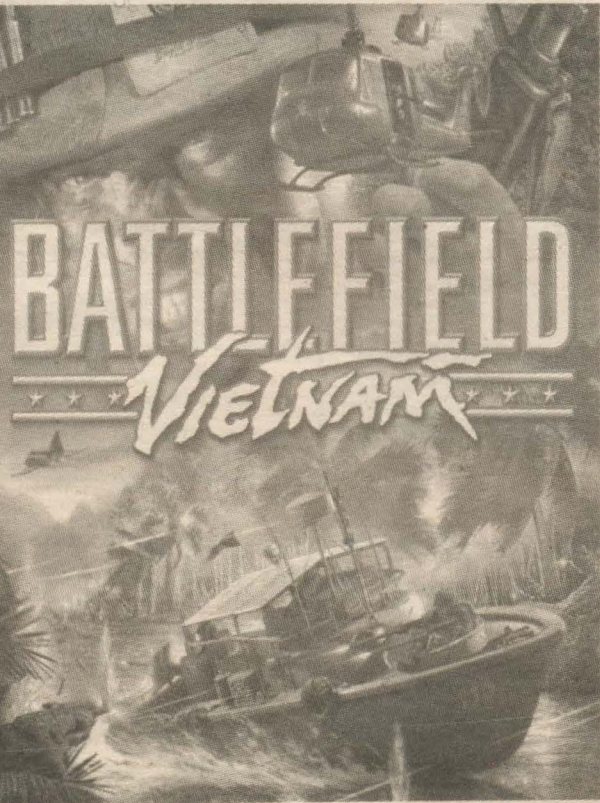
Whalen likes to add his own twist to his shows. "I like to stay clear of stock material," he said, "I like to add my own creative elements to my work." And that he does. He uses everything from fire, broken glass and knives in his acts, which made me wonder if he ever gets hurt. "I was once doing a headstand on a pile of broken glass and ended up cutting my head up pretty badly. I lost so much blood that I thought I might pass out, so I just whipped through the rest of my act pretty quickly, but afterwards I was fine."

Whalen then went on to elaborate on the art of fire eating. "There is definitely a proper technique to it, but there is no special trick. You literally are just eating fire. But don't go out and just try to do it. I cannot stress that it is a skill that has to be taught."

So, what brought Whalen to Dalhousie? "After I was living on the road for a year, I was sick of living in hotels and motels, so it is nice to have a home base." He is currently a history major and has a passion for learning. He's "really into the school thing now," and you may even see him practicing his skills at Dalplex when you go for a workout. He doesn't have any shows coming up right away, but you will be sure to see him busking this summer.

When I made it home after meeting Whalen, I saw three apples sitting on my counter. I was inspired, so I picked them up and tossed them in the air. Things looked promising one minute, but then the next there were apples everywhere and one knocked over my teapot on the edge of the counter. Needless to say, as I was cleaning up the broken glass all over my floor, I heard my dad's voice in my head saying, "don't give up your day job, Jen."

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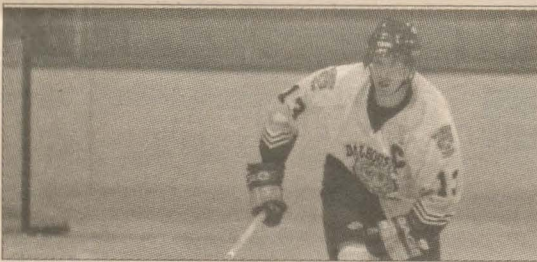
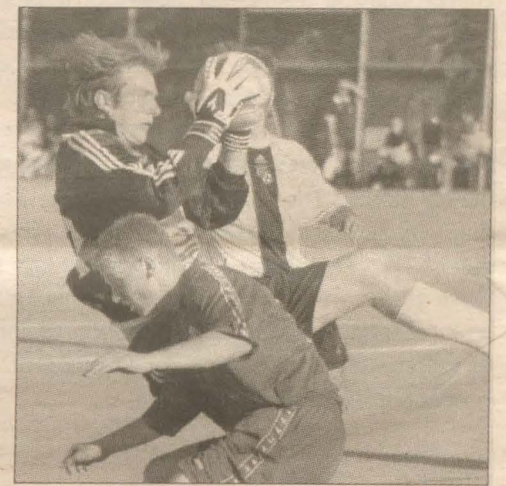
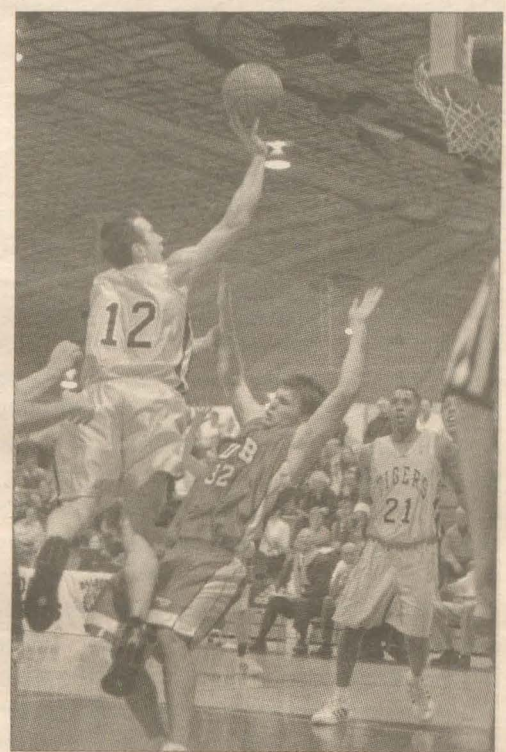
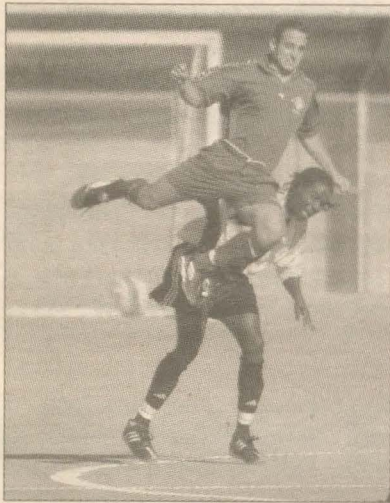
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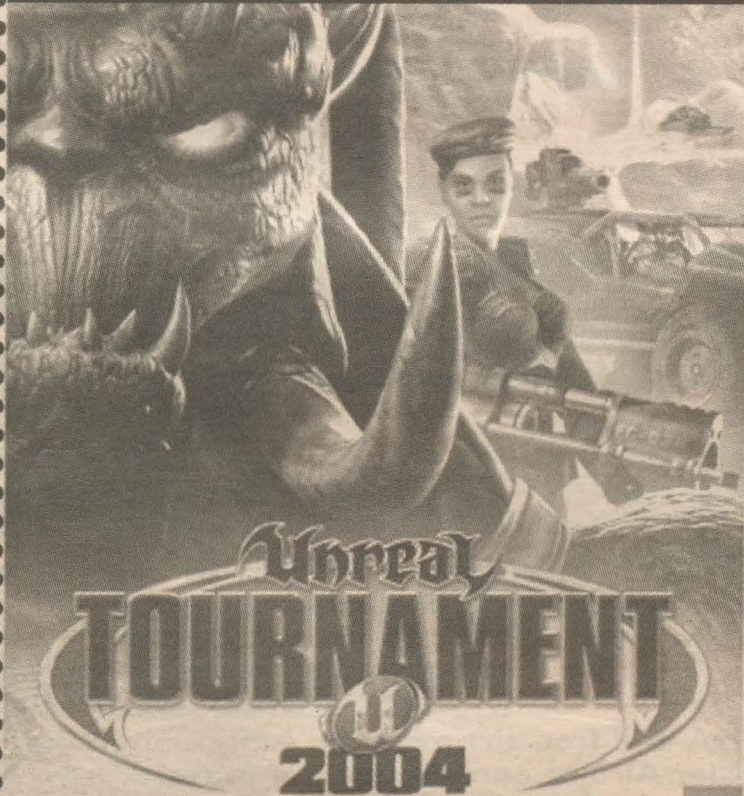
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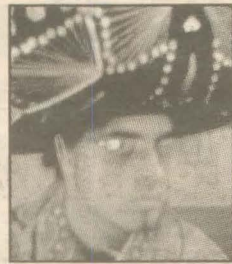
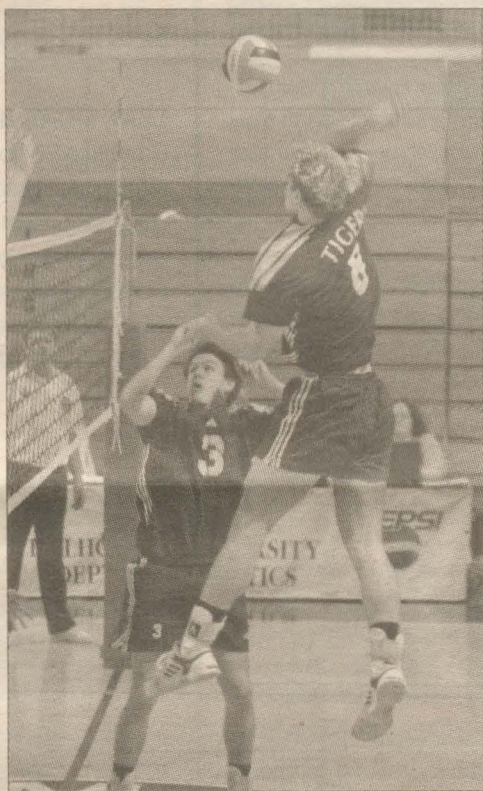
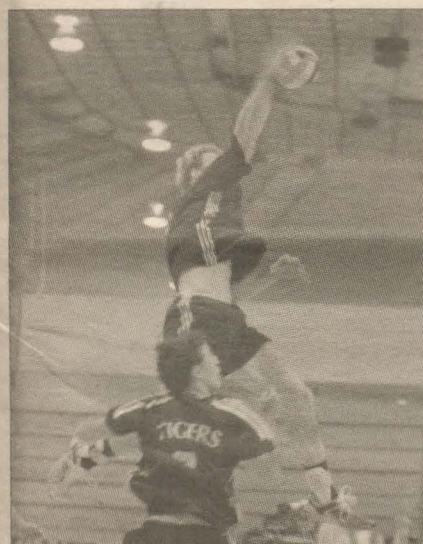
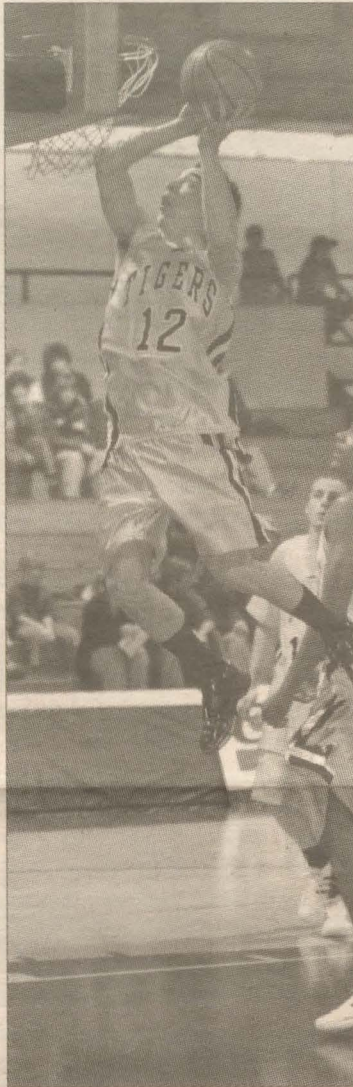
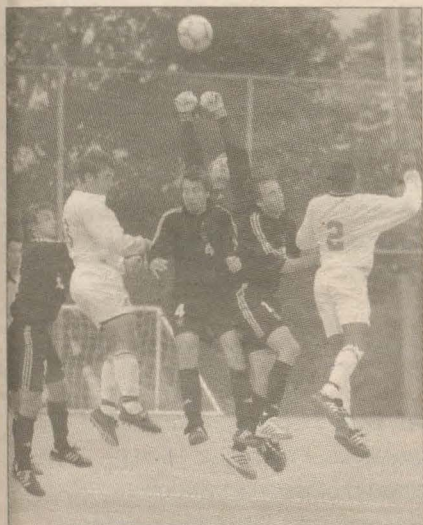
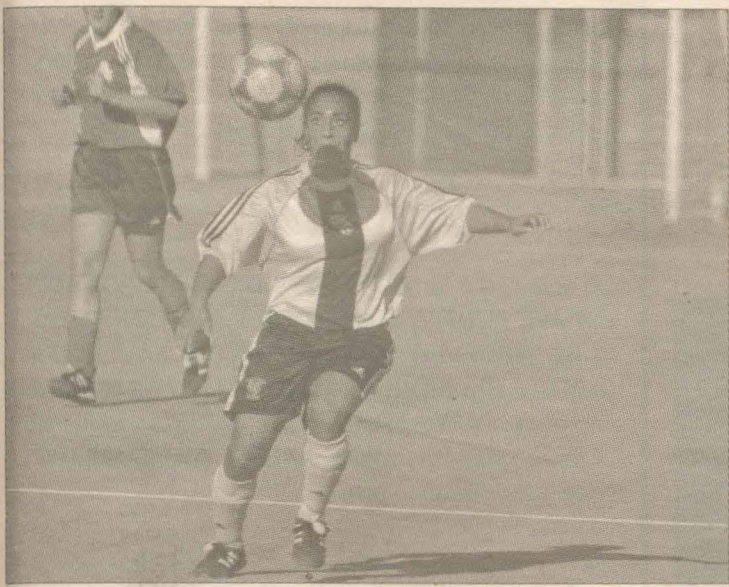
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Duncan Enman (con't...)



10 Questions

with J.F. Perras, Men's Hockey

QUESTIONS BY THERESA ANNE SALAH

- 1) On a scale from 1 to 10, how boring is your hometown? Why?
Mexico. This time of year, a 10 star.
- 2) What are you taking at Dal?
French. Voulez-vous couchez avec moi ce soir?
- 3) Who's your favorite athlete and/or sports team?
Hugh Mullaly. He's got a dirtier 'stash than I do.
- 4) What's the last thing you do before a game?
Ask my girlfriend... boun chicka boun boun.
- 5) What's the worst thing you've ever done to a player on the other team?
Speared a dude in his "Jimmy and the twins."
- 6) Who's the hottest person in the world? (girlfriends don't count)
Jenna Jamieson
- 7) What's your pet peeve?
No Sunday shopping.
- 8) What do you think of the sports editor?
I don't know him, but I like his mom.
- 9) If you could invent one useless holiday, what and when would it be?
All you can eat taco day. Arriba! Grow your moustaches boys!
- 10) What's the sexiest animal in the world?
Have you met my pet snake, Pedro?

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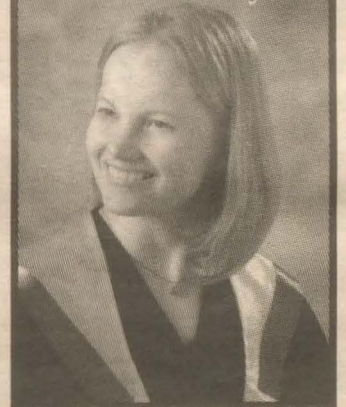
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Underdog Dal Rugby Cleans up at National Tournament

SEAN HUTCHINGS Sports Contributor



The weather was chilly, the players anxious and the fans in full throat. Teams from all over country had come to Truro, Nova Scotia, for the annual Truro 7s rugby tournament. It seems unlikely that anyone would choose to play rugby in an unheated barn in the middle of March, but they do. In fact, teams from McGill, U of T, Concordia, Dalhousie, Acadia and St. F.X. were all represented, as were senior men's teams the Ottawa Indians, Ottawa Irish, Canadian Irish, Cole Harbour and the Halifax Rugby Football Club, to name but a few. In total, over 75 teams were there.

This tournament has made a name for itself over the past 20 years as a hard-hitting, nail-biting, nose-splitting good time. Pitted against their older and stronger opponents, the young team from Dalhousie never really stood much of a chance.

"It has been a real rebuilding year for us," said Dal men's rugby head coach Matthew Gibbon. "We have a lot of young talent, but the chemistry wasn't there yet this year. Up until the tournament we were all quite disappointed."

To say Dal was an underdog for this tournament is an understatement. In the last 10 years, Dalhousie has only won six games in Truro. They have never crawled past the quarterfinals in either division, and many counted Dalhousie out of the tournament.

The Dal men's A team did not get off to a good start. They lost 3-0 to a much larger senior men's team from Moncton. The B-side quickly notched their first win by knocking out Saint Thomas University 4-0, as Ryan Smith got the ball out quickly and Dave Salisbury scored three big tries. Down but not out, the A-side were spurned on by the B's win. "We can't let them outdo us," said team captain Padraic O'Malley, and they started the second day of

the tournament with a stunning upset win over Acadia 3-1. All of a sudden, Dal became the crowd favorite. Though they were much smaller than the other teams, they used the size difference to their advantage by spinning the ball from side to side and tiring their opponents out.

Later that weekend, the B side had knocked out the Ottawa Indians B side, and the Dal A side had destroyed Saint Thomas A and Concordia A. Sadly, the B-side's luck turned against a quick and mobile pack from Acadia B. Looking for vengeance for their A-side's loss, Acadia popped in two ugly tries and locked the Dal team into a war of attrition with standouts like L.J. Snow, Jeremy Frankfurt and Richard Pummell held without a score.

But while the B side faltered, the A side went up against the formidable size and strength of the Ottawa Indians A side and came out victorious in overtime. Dustin Ceretti tied the game up on a crushing try that forced him to leave the game, and then Scott Gordon threaded a perfect pass to Ian Sinclair to score in the corner for the win, marking Dalhousie's first Truro Championship in 20 years.

"This is a big win for us. It was heart and fitness that won it for us. I feel like this is finally a team," said new team president Dustin Ceretti as he left the pitch. The team would also like to acknowledge the Dalhousie women's basketball team for their generosity in allowing us some of their gym time to prepare.

Classifieds

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Rrrrrroll up the Lawsuit

Sextant Press

New Waterford, Nova Scotia—It seems Tim Horton's may have enraptured a Cape Breton man into filing a lawsuit against them. Lloyd "Buddy" McFadden of New Waterford, Nova Scotia, has filed a \$10 million lawsuit against the Tim Horton's coffee chain, claiming their yearly "Rrrrrroll Up the Rrrrrrim" contest has caused him to file for bankruptcy. The 45-year-old former coal miner has recently filed for bankruptcy and has been evicted from his mobile home, and he believes the coffee contest is to blame.

"I'd go to (Tim Horton's) at least five times a day to get a cup and try to win the big prize," claims the disgruntled McFadden, "and the most I ever won was a look down the coffee girl's shirt, and it weren't pretty." Buddy was known at that particular location as a regular and even had his own seat in the smoking section.

Buddy's lawyer, Terrence Grievancespoon, said, "Mr. McFadden's complaint comes from the fact that, unlike most other contests where purchase is not required for entry into the contest, Tim Horton's requires individuals to purchase their product in order to enter." Grievancespoon claims Buddy, a self proclaimed caffeine addict, felt compelled and sometimes forced to buy numerous cups of coffee in order to try and win

a truck. In doing so, Buddy spent his entire life savings, and was evicted from his mobile home.

There have been claims in the past that the coffee giant had used subliminal messages in their advertisements for the contest, all of which turned out to be unfounded. This latest lawsuit has sparked some resurgence in the investigation, however. Researchers at the Nova Scotia Community College in Sydney are looking into the possibility of a subliminal effect on the brain, upon hearing the rolling sound of the tongue, as used in the ads, that promotes agitated and sometimes compulsive behavior. The researchers feel the sight of the coffee added to the subliminal "rrrrrr"ing causes certain individuals, within a certain IQ bracket, to purchase abnormal amounts of coffee.

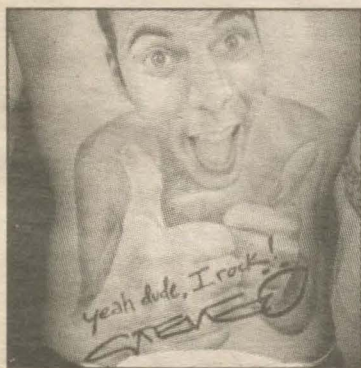
Tim Horton's spokeswoman Anita Koffy had this to say in response to the allegations: "Rrrrregretfully, we arrrrre sorrrry forrrrr Mrrrrr. McFadden's situation. We, howevrrrr, claim no rrrrrresponsibility forrrr it."

For now, Buddy is preparing his case and has had to switch to instant coffee, which he gets from family and friends. The trial is set to begin in early 2005.



Steve-O is Better Than You

Warner Jamal-Malcolm



As much as Steven GilCHRIST Glover (aka Steve-O)'s self-mutilation is disgusting and, to some, sad, it's also damn entertaining. This performance artist became known to me when I saw him working on MTV's Jackass. But Jackass is tame compared to the stuff I

have seen him do on video. I've seen this man do everything from balancing ladders on his chin to jumping off bridges to stapling his scrotum to his inner thigh.

I have downloaded his videos from Kazaa and was impressed as hell. I liked them so much, I went on a search to buy them for my collection (which now modestly consists of Steve-O, CKY and kung-fu DVDs). He's coming to the Palace on March

31, and so am I.

Steve-O is not the talentless idiot you closed-minded conformists think he is. And I will take this opportunity to tell you why he is smarter than you:

He paid more to go to school than you did. Steve-O paid \$50,000US to graduate from Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey's Clown College. I can't make this shit up.

To come up with the stunts this guy comes up with takes creativity. Who else would do a tequila shot by snorting salt, drinking the shot and squeezing lemon into his eye (which made the "best of" Blind Date).

This man has a threshold for pain that may only be met by Mick Foley (a wrestler). Sure he cringes, but I don't picture him bitching about a paper cut.

Having a sense of humor is a requirement of intelligent life. Steve-O giggles like a mensa member every time someone mentions something funny. Having a larger than life-size tattoo of yourself on your back is pure genius (read that again if you have to).

As a performance artist, he seems willing to do anything to make the crowd happy. He actually cares if you're entertained. This is more than I can say for some of the other artists I've seen live. (The Rolling Stones didn't play "Paint it Black" at Sarsfest, those lazy fucks.)

Steve-O surrounds himself with talented people. His partners in crime include Preston Lacy, Wee-Man and Ryan Dunn. All of these guys should be millionaires for what they do to entertain the rest of us.

Kudos to The Palace for bringing this guy in. People will be talking about the disgusting shit they've seen at the Steve-O show for years.

Student Appreciation Night

