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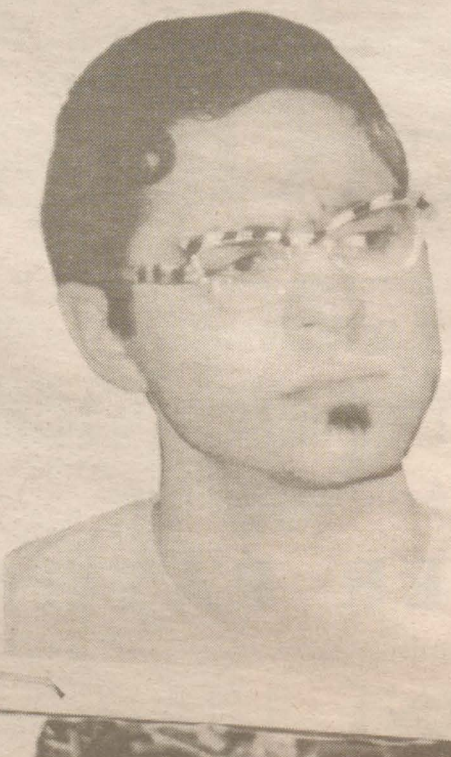
NO POSTERS

IRON FIST OF CITY HALL
CHOKES
COMMUNITY
VOICE

page 11

BEN SKINNER:

FROM PENS
TO ELECTRIC
TOOTHBRUSHES



this week
only on
page 10

Bye-bye Bill



Gazette
commentary

page 16



Dalhousie
Student
Union

11th Annual Charity Ball

is Saturday, February 10, in support of the
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National News

from the Canadian University Press newswire
by Wendy Sawatzky

York strike ends after eleven weeks

TORONTO (CUP) — Striking graduate and teaching assistants reached a tentative agreement with York University's administration early Tuesday morning after a bitter 11-week struggle.

The deal was struck after a forced ratification vote last Friday, which saw only one of three bargaining units agree to the university's proposal. The two sides went back to the negotiation table for a marathon bargaining session. They reached an agreement early in the morning of January 9.

The two-year agreement includes the much coveted tuition protection for both teaching and graduate assistants. It also establishes a first contract for graduate assistants, including a base pay of \$5,880 for the first year, plus an \$882 signing bonus and \$7,300 in the second year. The university initially offered a base of \$4,500 in October. All units will receive a two percent pay raise.

A Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3903 spokesperson says the agreement is "more or less exactly what we were asking for right from the beginning." York University President Lorna Marsden called the agreement "great news," in a prepared statement.

To make up for academic time lost to the strike, the university's fall will end Feb. 12. The winter term will begin on Feb. 26, and will be extended until May 11.

New study suggest educational imbalance across Canada

OTTAWA (CUP) — A new study of Canadian universities suggested massive imbalances in educational opportunity and quality across the different provinces.

Independent think tank and research group the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA) released "Missing Pieces II," on Jan. 10. The study uses a unique and extensive set of rankings to rate the services and opportunities provided by universities.

A report co-author said the CCPA discovered accessibility to university and college is now largely determined by income bracket and province of residence. The ten provinces were compared in terms of equity, accessibility, quality and public accountability, and further evaluated based on 19 indicators from the percentage of women in faculty to tuition rates.

Three highest-ranking provinces overall were British Columbia, Quebec and Manitoba, while the lowest three were Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario. "There are massive inequities entrenched across the country. The face of campus is changing as accountability is being limited," said one study co-author. She said the study illustrates important trends that need to be addressed. "We hope that this report might be a wake-up call for the governments."

Student group argues bankruptcy amendments discriminatory

OTTAWA (CUP) — The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) has filed a constitutional challenge in response to recent amendments to the bankruptcy act.

The federal government amended the bankruptcy act in 1997, making those who have loans under the Canada Student Loan program ineligible for a bankruptcy hearing for a period of ten years.

A spokesperson for Finance Canada said the rates of bankruptcy and default on students loans were "getting really high," making the change necessary.

A lawyer providing legal counsel to the CFS said that the act discriminates against students as a group, based on the false stereotype that they are irresponsible with respect to the repayment of debts. He said that the gist of the challenge to the act is that some people are being treated differently and therefore it is unfair.

CFS expects the case to be heard by a judge sometime this spring, after the Attorney General has adequate time to review the challenge and respond. Government sources have refused to comment on the details of the case because it is currently before the legal system.

Ontario passes private universities bill

GUELPH, ONT. (CUP) — The Ontario government passed legislation allowing private universities to operate in the province on Dec. 20.

"This act will help give students more opportunities for a high-quality education and ensure that they will have innovative and flexible choices," said the Minister of Training, Colleges and Universities in a prepared statement.

However, some academics and students say they have concerns about the introduction of private universities. A Central Student Association spokesperson said private universities could mean skyrocketing tuition increases and the creation of a separate post-secondary system for the rich. He said the new legislation is only giving more educational options to those who can pay high private tuition fees. He added that public university tuition fees could be also driven up by competition with private institutions for up-to-date technology and professors.

Critics are also concerned that under NAFTA's "fair treatment clause," private universities could claim that public universities have an unfair advantage in the economic market because they are publicly funded, therefore forcing the government's hand into funding both sectors equally. The provincial government denies this possibility.

Private universities could be in effect in Ontario as early as Sept. 2001.

King's College opens new academic building

King's welcomes more classroom, office space

by jay nathwani

the gazette

King's College opened its new academic building to classes this week, an accomplishment six years in the making that will make life considerably better for King's students.

The building, as yet unnamed, was host to its first class, a Foundation Year Programme, (FYP), lecture, on Monday, Jan. 15.

The building has been the project, some would say the baby, of Angus Johnston, the Vice-President of the University of King's College.

For the last six years, lectures have been held in the dining hall, the only place at King's big enough to fit FYP classes of about 250 people. Professor Johnston explains that "FYP took an unexpected growth spurt about six years ago, which necessitated the move to the dining hall. It was a compromise in a number of ways right from the start. There were some problems with intimacy and focus."

It also meant that class hours had to be structured around meal times.

"We used to play thirty-five minutes of music from nine to the beginning of lecture, as an argument to accompany the lecture." With breakfast ending just before class, they could only play 10 minutes of music before break.

The new academic building — a 300-person lecture room — solves those problems, and throws in high-tech audio/visual

equipment, such as large rear-projection screen, to match.

It also has a classroom for 100 people, two for 60 people, three seminar rooms for tutorials, two administrative offices and ten faculty offices. The office and classroom space has also been badly needed, and will be welcomed.

Still to be completed is a connection to the dining hall's breezeway, which will also make room for three or four new student offices, a request of the King's Student Union, which was consulted in the process of designing the building. That will be completed by Sept. 2002, after the Dalhousie daycare centre, which is currently occupying the space, moves out.

The new building would allow for the expansion of the Foundation Year Programme, though King's plans to keep the class at about the same size. It will also be a boon to the Contemporary Studies Programme, and to activities at King's in general.

The budget for the building was \$5.7 million, raised through a campaign that had as its target \$6.7 million and was financed largely by foundations, friends and alumni. Eighty percent of the target has been met.

"These financial contributors will be taken into account when naming the new building", says Professor Johnston, "but it is being deliberated."

Professor Johnston, whose term as Vice-President was extended by one year so that he could see

the building through to its opening, admits, "I've sort of fallen in love with it." He recalls the architectural saying, "great buildings make great ruins," and says that one could see that when it was being built. It was designed as "a contemporary building with older references, especially Renaissance. To my mind, it's a lovely way to express the voice of King's."

He has nothing but praise for the architectural firm, Duffus Romans Kundzins Rounsefell Ltd., the chief architect Roy Willwerth, and the construction contractor, Cardinal Construction. Hiring those two firms, says Johnston, were the crucial decisions in the process of bringing the new building into creation.

He also acknowledges the role of Dalhousie in selling to King's the space on which the building has been built, just outside the quad on the southwest corner. The Senate made an exception for King's to their rule of not selling land on the main campus. King's is, of course, part of Dalhousie, but the building could not have been built without the acquiescence of Dal.

Professor Johnston is pleased and says others are too.

"The reactions I've had have been very positive," says Johnston.

There is certainly a feeling of excitement at King's about the opening of the new building. The grand opening, to be attended by the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, will take place Friday, January 19 at 1:00 PM in the new academic building.

Alexa post-election

by tyler kustra

the gazette

Sitting at her kitchen table, Alexa McDonough is bathed in sunlight. She appears tired from her hard-fought election campaign, which only netted 13 NDP seats, down from 19 before the election. The showing has put her leadership and even the existence of the NDP into question. Buzz Hargrove, president of the Canadian Auto Workers Union, has criticized her leadership. NDP MPs say the party is in a state of crises. The Auto Workers Union along with the Canadian Labour Congress — once core NDP supporters, are reconsidering their backing. This has left the NDP pondering its future. Still the sunlight gives her hope, and McDonough is determined to go on with the work she believes, despite any adversity.

Gazette: The NDP was reduced from 19 seats before the election to 13 afterwards. How do you feel about that?

McDonough: Very, very disappointing no question on that.

Gazette: How do you account for that loss?

McDonough: As much as it pains us to say so, the Liberals

succeeded in [a] brilliant, cynical, partly-fictional campaign — that there are only two alternatives: the Liberals and Alliance. It was clear to Canadians that the Liberal campaign had [a]

very, very narrow objective: to persuade Canadians that the demon Day was about to become Prime Minister unless people

continued on page 4

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"This is the tenth anniversary of the Gulf War and the sanctions have been continuing to nobodies benefit, tens of thousands of people continue to die of needless things such as starvation and death from medical conditions that could easily be cured. The sanctions prevent food and medicine from entering Iraq."

Adam Squib, concerned Dal student.

Alexa post-election

continued from page 3

abandoned any commitment to the other three opposition parties.

I happen to think that that's worse than a fiction — I think that it's a grotesque misrepresentation. However, the Liberals relentlessly hammered the message that the Alliance was on the offensive, that Stockwell Day was a Prime Minister in waiting. That was quite effective. It's clear that we [have not been] successful and there are things that we have to look at. Part of that is a major party review, rethink, debate and wide-open discussions in the party [with] all items on the table.

Gaz: Have you made the choice to have a review or has it been forced upon you?

Why would you think that? At the very first caucus meeting we held following the election I called for [a] review and to convene a series of round tables where activists New Democrats very much engaged in the

campaign and disappointed with the outcome would come together with some of our serious detractors to do some brain storming not about whether we need a review but about what are some of the key questions that people really want to see on the table. To achieve greater unity on the left so we can become an electoral force.

There is an endless amount of right-wing interest in creating distortions, misperceptions, fictions about what's going on here — very little interest in reporting what's actually going on.

Gaz: How wide ranging will the changes be?

Mc: That will be determined by the participants in the process. It's an open process and everything's on the table. After every election you have, of course, a review, but there is a strong and broadly shared sense that it's bigger than that. There is a bigger need for a reinvention of the social democratic forces in this country.

Gaz: Does that include your leadership?

Mc: I'm leader of this party.

Gaz: How much support for

your leadership exists?

Mc: One million people voted New Democrat. I don't know what all [one] million think about my leadership on a regular on going basis. [However] I felt well supported by the vast majority of New Democrats during the period I've been leader. I'm sure some people would like to see me not be leader tomorrow but leadership is determined by New Democrats in a democratic process.

Gaz: What do you see as student concerns?

Mc: Clearly we have a huge problem in this country with accessibility of education. I think its fair to say through the NDP hammering on the issue, working with student organizations, highlighting student concerns, the good news is that we were able to get the federal government to recognize that [there] needed to be changes in terms of some post-secondary student funding. The bad news is the prescription they came up with in our view, and in the view I think of most fair, progressive-minded Canadians, certainly in the view of students, who are struggling with how to finance their education, struggling with damage done to the education system because of the failures the federal government, is very bad medicine. That's why we made post-secondary education a major priority of [ours] the past several years in parliament. It's one of many casualties of the election in the year 2000.

Gaz: How will you be able to fight for students when you have just lost under one-third of you caucus?

Mc: Same way the left has always had to fight — with every bit of passion, creativity, energy, innovation you can possibly engender. There is no magic. You've got to be creative, you've got to be energetic, you've got to not let the bastards get you. It isn't just the 301 people who sit in parliament who get to have their say. In Liberal politics that's what they try to make happen but we actually live in a democracy. The undemocratic notion of 'to the winner goes the spoils'. Not in a social democracy. Citizens have both the right and the responsibly to try to shape politics in a democratic society. Makes it harder when most citizens are viewed as a nuisance by Liberal-establishment forces.

Gaz: How do you view young people?

Mc: There is a lot of promise out there. I'm a very hopeful optimistic person about these things .The question is how to harness it.

Gaz: Where does the NDP go from here?

Mc : In [our] parliamentary activity we will vigorously, passionately, conscientiously defend the issues that we set out in the election. On the extra parliamentary [side] we will be [doing] two things. One is an engaging major rethink of the future of the party and the future of the left in Canada and how we can be strengthened by that. And the other extra parliamentary activity is to continue to work with progressive groups, progressive organizations and progressive forces to try and bring pressure to bear on the Liberals to keep the small number of progressive promises they made and try to strengthen the pressure on them to push forward with progressive polices.

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DALENDAR Jan 18 - 25

At the Borders of International Law: A Panel Session on Refugee Issues will be held Jan. 18 from 7-9:30 p.m. in room 105 of the Weldon Law Building.

Evolution of the German Romantic Organ will be held on Feb. 4 at 3 p.m. at St. Mathew's United Church.

Help Line is now looking for energetic individuals to volunteer on the Board of Directors or to lend assistance with strategic initiatives. No experience required. For more information call 422-2048.

Award winning poet Jeanette Lynes will be holding a

public reading on Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. on the 5th floor of the Killam Library. Call 494-3615 for more information.

The Dialogues of the Carmelites will be put on by the Dalhousie Music Department on Feb. 1, 2, 3. All performances take place at 8 p.m. in the Sir James Dunn Theatre of the Dalhousie Arts Centre. For more information call 494-2418.

A Faculty Potpourri will be held on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. in the Sir James Dunn Theatre at the Dalhousie Arts Centre. For more information call 494-2418.

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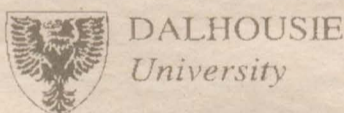
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NEW SERVICE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS!

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

WAL-MART CANADA

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE IN DATES FROM PREVIOUS POSTING

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

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

NORTEL NETWORKS

Information Session: January 24, 2001, Room 307, SUB, 5:00 - 7:00 pm. Those students who will be graduating (or have recently graduated) from Engineering, Computer Science, Math, Physics are encouraged to attend. (See job posting for descriptions)

Camp Winadu and Camp Danbee, Camps located in Western Mass. USA, will be on campus on January 31, 2001 for a drop in Information Session.
Camp Winadu - Room 307, 11:00 - 3:30 pm, SUB
Camp Danbee - Room 316, 11:00 - 3:30 pm, SUB
Looking for students with skills in all land and water sports, art, photography, computers, nature. Also openings for office and clerical work. (See job posting on Student Employment Centre website for more details)

Mary Jane's bad name

I have noticed a resurgence in televised efforts aimed at strengthening the "war on drugs," aimed at the minds of people unfortunate enough to have no other source of information on the topic besides what they see and hear on television. I recently saw a "commercial" on the fox network that was rather shocking. Some semi-famous elderly man, I think he played Archie Bunker, spoke about the timely end of his son. He said that his son began smoking marijuana. After picking up the habit, "Mr. Bunker" reported that his son "lost his capacity to love his family", shortly followed by "insane" hallucinations and finally a successful suicide. The commercial ended with a message for parents to not allow their children to do drugs, indirectly blaming drugs for "Mr. Bunker's" son's problems.

First of all, what are drugs? People commonly toss around the phrase "drugs and alcohol" reflecting our legal system's perspective on mind altering substances. It is quite inaccurate in this context to use the general term drugs to refer to a wide range of substances. The word "drug," in a more accurate sense, suggests any substance that has an effect on your body. This means that everything from caffeine to crack can rightfully be called a drug. Obviously, different substances have different effects on the body, some beneficial some deadly. In order to adequately deal with or at least discuss the issue, one needs to have accurate information regarding the issue at hand.

The most commonly pursued lines of reason in anti-drug propaganda are three. The first is that marijuana = crack = heroin = (insert any banned substance here) but not alcohol. The second is that marijuana is addictive. The third that marijuana is a gateway drug, meaning that if you smoke it you will inevitably move on to harder drugs down the road.

All drugs are not created equal. Marijuana, crack, heroin, alcohol and caffeine all have very different effects on the body. Smoking a marijuana cigarette delivers about six times the tar and other toxic chemicals as does a tobacco cigarette, however does not contain any physically addictive chemicals like nicotine. Marijuana does contain various substances, THC among suspected others, which are mostly responsible for the "high" and which are eliminated from the body in a matter of days. Alcohol on the other hand has quite different effects. Being a toxin that suppresses the functioning of the central nervous system, alcohol destroys brain cells and strains the liver in the elimination process. Without going into a detailed description of the physiological effects of every "drug" it is adequate to say that different substances have quite different effects.

Marijuana is not addictive. Marijuana does not produce withdraw symptoms when a frequent user abstains. Smoking marijuana can be viewed as more of a pass time than an addiction with social influences being a stronger motive for its use than physical requirements. Read the research, ask a professor, there is little to no evidence that this herb is addictive.

As for whether or not marijuana is a gateway drug I believe this is another matter that rests on the definition of gateway drug. If people who smoke pot decide also to smoke crack, eat magic mushrooms or drink coffee, their decision could be based on many factors. A lot of alcoholics smoke cigarettes, under the rationale that pot leads to harder substance use it is also equally feasible to say that cigarette smoking is a gateway to alcoholism. This is an unreasonable assumption. Again, read the research, ask a professor. Studies indicate that someone who smokes pot is not more likely to use harder substances because of their smoking habit.

I feel bad for "Mr. Bunker's" son. He had some problems, obviously. But was it marijuana that made him lose his capacity to love his family? To suffer insane hallucinations and eventually shoot himself? Doubtful. Research and plain reason point my opinion to other causes for this travesty. Maybe he had a poor family life? Maybe "Mr. Bunker" was a poor father who is looking for a scapegoat. It is scary to think that a lot of people have neither the time nor the inclination to double check what the television tells them and will most likely accept Mr. Bunker's twisted views. What is more scary is to think that government organizations are spending lots of money to produce anti-drug commercials, pushing propaganda on the malleable minds of primetime TV watchers. Propaganda that is based on nothing more than misinformation. I can only hope that the general population has come far enough over the past thirty years to see through such blatant lies. For those interested in formulating their own opinion I suggest you start in the library, or check out www.drugsence.org.

Jeremy Sears



SUBMISSIONS INVITED FOR COMMENTARY

Beginning with this issue, The Gazette will feature a commentary page. This week's is on page 16.

Meeting every Monday at 4:30 room 312 SUB.
Call 494 2507 for info.



Staple diet

This week's cover was inspired by the current controversy over City Hall's decision to push the HRM Police into enforcing anti-postering ordinances.

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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Volume 133, no. 15

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For advertising information, call 494-6532.

The Gazette welcomes letters to the editor and commentary. All letters will be printed up to four per week. The printing of additional letters will be at the discretion of the Feedback Editor. Letters may be edited for length above 300 words and we reserve the right to edit commentary.

All submissions must be e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a "text" format. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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Halifax off-season

To the Editor,

The following is an account of an off-season visit to the Halifax area by a friend of mine.

Unlike most travelers, I actually prefer to visit places that are frequent tourist destinations during the off-season. Not only can some good deals be had, but the off-season traveller gets to see a site as it really is for most of the year, before the fresh paint is applied, the brass is polished, and the locals are geared up for the inrush. The people that you meet and talk with are genuine and typically more relaxed and open to conversing with outsiders than they may be once the tide of tourists flows in. To be sure, you may not have access to all of the gift shops and guided tours, but to me that's not necessarily a bad thing.

To be honest, if I had not met a fine lady from Nova Scotia on the beach at Indian Rocks, Florida, near my home, I would have had no reason to consider visiting Halifax at all, much less in late December. However, aside from the wonderful time I spent with Christine, I was also thrilled with the human history and natural beauty that is Nova Scotia. Since I was only in town over the New Year's weekend, I was able to taste just a small portion of this maritime province on the eastern coast of Canada, but the sites that Christine shared with me were awesome.

A visit to downtown Halifax brings back memories of some of

the streets of downtown Boston, but without the gridlock! Traffic may be worse in the summer, but that's one more reason to go "off-season." Maybe it's the proximity to the harbour, but I did get that feel of an old "Yankee" city. I suspect that during the summer months, like Boston the streets may be home to vendors selling their usual street-side wares. But during the winter most of the people you see are of local decent and the flow of the city is laid back.

We visited the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic and it was there that I learned of the Haligonian's, a resident of Halifax, connections with their seafaring past. The wreck of the Titanic has sad ties to Halifax. The residents here had the thankless task of scouring the ocean for victim's bodies and returning them to shore. Scores of victims who could not be returned to their home are buried in Halifax, including a memorial to the "Unknown Child", a poor young victim whose identity was never verified. At the museum I also learned of the tragic explosion on Dec. 6, 1917 when a World War I munitions ship was struck by a lighter in the harbor. The ensuing blast and conflagration levelled a large portion of the city and the loss of life was indeed tragic. Of course the museum is not all about tragedy. There one can learn about the days of sailing vessels and of steam. The Canadian Navy and its contribution to the two World Wars is well represented. Fine specimens of pleasure craft

and learning exhibits for the children are also included there. It was a joy to go outside to the children's play area and climb aboard the wooden ship and have the child "crew" turn their imaginary vessel into the wind. To be young!

After a wonderful lunch at McKelvie's, a popular venue where the seafood chowder and the squash soup were top notch, we visited Pleasant Park, on the far southern tip of the city. The park is presently in the midst of selective logging that the government has determined is needed to eradicate a certain boring beetle. Since Christine is an environmental scientist by profession, she is truly dismayed by the lack of data collected prior to the decision to log. But one hopes that the natural beauty of this historic park, with its old citadel will not be terribly harmed by the logging and the people of Halifax will continue to enjoy this treasure forever.

A better choice for those who wish to commune with nature would be a visit to Hemlock Ravine Park. Prince Edward, Duke of Kent, commander-in-chief the British forces in the Maritimes from 1794 to 1800, built this park for his mistress, Julie St. Laurent in the early 19th century. There you can see the heart shaped Julie's pond that is a lasting monument to Edward's love. The park is traversed by many winding trails and the walk through the old growth hemlocks (including a rare virgin stand) on the snow-covered trails was a real treat for this inhabitant of the Sunshine State. It is said that if you fly over the park, the pathways spell out

Julie's name. I don't know if that's true but I can say is that the romance of this forest is alive and a late afternoon stroll with a loved one will add fuel to any heart's fire. Prince Edward knew a thing or two about romance!

The following day Christine and I travelled up the coast to the picturesque village, Peggy's Cove. Driving along the coastline, one passes many other small villages that are havens for the summer tourist. During that season sailing and sunning are the norm. But the summer tourist will not enjoy the site of ice flows or snow on the trees and the forest floors. The low light of the winter sun also paints a panorama that a summer sun worshiper will not share.

At Peggy's Cove the North Atlantic crashes into the continent with a power that inspires. The eons of wave action have smoothed the rocky coast as sandpaper smoothes softwood. The lighthouse at Peggy's Cove is ubiquitous with Nova Scotia. It is seen everywhere, from calendars to post cards and even on the Centennial quarter for Nova Scotia. The present minting of U.S. state quarters was preceded by Canada's minting of province quarters by seven years, but a good idea is a good idea! On this last day of 2000, the wind was blowing off of the water with a vengeance, but that only added to the experience. To be sure, this was not a day for the faint of heart but the constantly blowing wind brought continual changes in the weather (from sunshine to sleet, to snow and back) that only served to remind one of the incredible powers of the seas. Directly adjacent to the lighthouse is the Sou' Western restaurant and gift shop. This is a good place to step

inside and warm one's self over a hot cup of coffee. Of course, you can also pick up some nice presents for the folk back home.

All along this coastline, the land has a somewhat lunar feel. The constant wind and weather stunts the vegetation and the lichen blanketed boulders left behind by ancient glaciers are placed about as a child might throw her blocks. Christine and her family have a particular favorite rock on top of a certain hill that they have coined the "Flying Rock". She tells me that if you face into the wind, hold your jacket open, and jump up, your jacket will act as a parachute of sorts and momentarily you will feel the flight of weightless. On this particular day, this southerner was not prepared to open his coat to the roaring wind, but the visions of the day had me flying all the same.

A New Year's Eve celebration with family and friends was the perfect ending to my weekend experience. Since Nova Scotia is in the Atlantic Time zone, they welcome the New Year an hour before the ball drops in Time's Square. I was happy to see in 2001 but wished that it had been delayed so that I might have had more time with these friends. I had heard that the people of Nova Scotia are a generous and friendly lot and my visit with these wonderful giving people only confirmed that. The weather is, after all just the weather, but people can make a place either cold or warm. It is with that thought in mind that I would tell all of my friends of the south that Halifax, Nova Scotia is truly a warm city, regardless of the time of year or the temperature!

Mr. Alan D. Felts
Largo, Florida

RANT OR RAVE

Bring on the dancing horses

It doesn't get much more ludicrous than this. I mean, in a world that is responsible for things like David Hasselhoff, crack and Temptation Island, how can we feel justified paying intense amounts of coin for an education, that, for all intensive purposes, is of little value other than as a certification of yuppiehood. It seems like our time would be better spent running through the woods, breeding indiscriminately until our species is replaced by one that is far more efficient.

Well, it isn't that bad, considering that educational facilities (not Dal) churn out intelligent and productive members of society. But still, the urge to do things that are not congruent with logic still hits me on a daily basis. This is not the way people were meant to live. Raised by toys and television, socially trained by kids who would chastize someone if their shoes were the wrong shade of red, 'educated' by morons in a system that contradicts logic, and when it is all said and done, you take the secure employment, and do the same thing five out of seven days a week for the rest of your life so that you can restart the pattern.

But it isn't that bleak. Use it all to your advantage, understand and pay your dues to the system so you don't live trapped in it for the rest of your life. Take the punches now so that in 20 years, you can live the life you want. Work your own hours when you want, travel when you want, use the insight you received from the mistakes you and others have made to better the chances for your kids.

Essentially, now is the time. People look forward to graduating, so they can, quite often, take a year and travel, then get a job. Once you have to worry about bills, paying off your student loan, and other elements of security, you'll be less inclined to use your freedom to do what you want. The university years are the window of opportunity, the chance for you to prepare to emerge from university completely free from all considerations except your own desires or ambitions.

If you'd rather just opt for the job security, and leave living to the various characters on television, than I don't feel bad for you at all. After all, Temptation Island does look like a great show.

Patrick Blackie

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

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

Raising kids on second-hand smoke

by johneen manning
the gazette

In a move to cut smoking-related illness, both now and in the future, Nova Scotia doctors will focus their non-smoking campaign on youth during this year's National Non-Smoking Week, which runs Jan. 14 to 20.

The Medical Society of Nova Scotia is a professional association representing all physicians in the province. The Society works in partnerships with other health care organizations to enhance the quality

of medical care for Nova Scotians. This is achieved through negotiations on behalf of physicians with government, public education, development of health care policies, peer review and medical education.

A new information piece from the Medical Society of Nova Scotia "How to Talk with Your Children About Smoking" provides tips on how parents can begin the conversation about choosing not to smoke.

Parents must remember they have the responsibility to be a role model for their children, and that actions speak louder than words. If

you are a smoking parent and demand that your children make the choice to stay smoke-free, chances are lifestyle they will follow will be the one you send everytime you light up.

There are currently more than 16,000 underage smokers in Nova Scotia. Keep in mind that the total population of this province is less than one million — that rate signals a tragedy for the health of Nova Scotia's youth and those exposed to second-hand smoke.

Smoking parents may be offing their children more than they intend. Health Canada states that two-thirds of the smoke from a cigarette is not inhaled by the smoker; it enters the surrounding air, carrying with it the 4,000 different chemicals that scientists have so far identified in tobacco smoke. More than 50 of these chemicals are known carcinogens. Also, children breathe faster than do adults — they inhale more air, and more pollutants relative to their body weight. Their lungs are still growing and developing, and very young children spend a great deal of time indoors. Health Canada states these factors make children especially vulnerable to the effects of environmental tobacco smoke.

According to Health Canada statistics, some of the hazardous 'gifts' smoking parents have to offer their children as a result of second-hand smoke may include impaired lung function; eye, nose and throat irritation; a greater likelihood of respiratory illness, including asthma, pneumonia and bronchitis; up to three times the normal risk of heart disease; up to three-and-a-half times the normal risk of chronic middle ear infection; and increased misery from asthma, allergies and other pre-existing conditions. Other lethal risks of smoking and passive smoking may include cancer of the lungs, sinuses, brain, breast, uterine cervix and thyroid, leukaemia, and lymphoma.

"Eighty-five percent of smokers in Nova Scotia started before they were 16. If, however, you don't start smoking before the age of 18, you're not likely to smoke at all," advises Dr. Louise Cloutier, the Medical Society President. "One of the single most important steps we can take to improve our health, both on an individual basis, and for the entire population, is to stop smoking. It's obvious that preventing our children from smoking will go a long way towards a healthier future."

The doctors of Nova Scotia have pledged to carry on the momentum of last year's Millennium Project on smoking cessation by counselling patients and offering resources to anyone who wants to think about quitting smoking.

"If you smoke, or if you are concerned about your children smoking, the Medical Society of Nova Scotia encourages you to take the first step and talk to your doctor about your smoking this week during National Non-Smoking Week, and throughout the year," adds Dr. Cloutier.

This week especially, a visit to your doctor will most likely include a question as to whether or not you smoke. If you are a smoker, your doctor will briefly invite you to discuss your smoking and potential for quitting.

Recent studies conducted by Health Canada demonstrate that the benefits of quitting smoking are immediate. The minute you stop smoking your body begins cleansing itself of tobacco toxins. Their research revealed that as soon as two

hours after you stop smoking, the concentration of nicotine in your blood can drop by half. For ex-smokers, much of the damage done by smoking is reversed by the body's natural tendency toward health. Health Canada insists that the benefits of quitting apply to all smokers, young and old, men and women, as well as to those who are still healthy and those who already suffer from smoking-related illness.

Anyone considering quitting can

ask their doctor for a guide called Understanding Your Smoking Better, or access it on the Medical Society of Nova Scotia's web site at www.doctorsNS.com.

"We in Nova Scotia have the dubious fame of having the highest rates smoking in Canada at 30 percent. Cape Breton is notably higher at 33 percent of the population," Dr. Cloutier says. "We owe it to our youth, and to everyone, to protect them from the dangers of smoking."



Oyster Sake Shooter Suck It Back Raw

by johneen manning
the gazette

Try these Oyster Sake Shooters for an interesting and exotic alcoholic drink. Presenting these drinks in a sherry glass is a more elegant option than a regular shot glass; it is also easier to fit all the ingredients in a sherry glass. However, if you don't have the more elegant, stemmed glasses traditional shot glasses are fine.

These shooters are the perfect accompaniment for a sushi spread, although probably not ideal for those with squeamish stomachs.

- 12 sherry or shot glasses
- 1/2 English cucumber, peeled and julienned
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 dozen Kumamoto oysters, shucked, save liquor in the shell
- 12 tablespoons top quality chilled sake or Citron Absolute Vodka
- red garlic-chili hot sauce
- 1 lemon, zested

Melt butter in a small skillet over medium high heat; add julienned cucumber until coated with butter and softened. Fill each shot glass with 1/2 tablespoon cucumber.

Top with oyster and its liquor. Top that with a dollop of hot sauce, 1 tablespoon of chilled sake or vodka, and garnish with lemon zest.

Serve on a bed of crushed ice. For best results, make sure that you serve the shooters immediately after adding the sake or vodka — the alcohol can cause the oyster meat to cook and become rubbery.



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Vanessa's Closet

advice from someone
completely unqualified
by vanessa owen

Dear Vanessa,

My boyfriend, let's call him "Hal," and I have been seeing each other for not quite two months, but we are really in love. One of his best friends, let us call him "Andy" confides in Hal all the time and asks him not to tell anyone. So Hal doesn't tell me these things, even if they affect me/us, such as the fact that I didn't find out until after he asked her out that Andy is interested in my best friend. I'm not talking about deep dark secrets here, and I think Hal knows he can trust me, but it's important to me to have no secrets in a relationship. Hal thinks this is unreasonable, and I resent that I even need to point it out. What do you think?

Trustworthy

Dear Trustworthy,

This reminds me of a Seinfeld episode. Jerry was hesitant to tell George anything because he was in a relationship with Susan. Jerry knew that George would end up telling everything to Susan who would in turn tell all of her friends. George denied that he would reveal anything to Susan, but of course he ended up blabbing all to his GF and she (being the stereotypical female) told all of her friends. Hence, George and in effect Susan, was cut out of the loop.

I'm sure you are "trustworthy," but your demand strikes me as premature at least. Even at the ripe old age of two months, your relationship will be new enough to warrant Hal's keeping his best friend's confidences from you. In fact, I must applaud Hal for his ability to keep his mouth shut. What Hal's bestfriend says to him in confidence should remain that way. Even if the confidence is in your opinion not a "deep dark secret". By the way, it should be mentioned that the same goes for you.

Dear Vanessa,

Five years ago, I went to visit my first cousin who lives in another province. I thought I'd have a hot affair while I was there, and I did...with my cousin! I visited him again the next year and the next. We keep arranging these times to be together. But now he's moving even farther away, and I think I love him. How can I let him know?

Forbidden Love

Dear F.L.,

There are so many reasons why this union is not a match made in heaven. For instance: the genetic implications if your union were to produce offspring, the social stigma of dating a close relative, and more importantly I have seen this story line end up badly on more than one soap opera and after-school special. Stop having sex with your cousin and move on to different DNA.

Dear Vanessa,

My boyfriend is cheap. Whenever we go out, he makes me pay my own way, and he even asks me to pay the tip when we go out to eat. I wouldn't mind this except he's a highly paid lawyer and I'm a not-so-highly-paid receptionist. I don't want to sound like a gold digger, but I end up spending more than I can afford when we go out together. How do I let him know that I can't keep up with him financially?

No Precious Metal Excavator

Dear N.P.M.E.,

Simple: When you go out with him, leave your wallet at home. He'll clue in pretty quick.

Send your questions to: vanessascloset@Xweb1.com

Streeter asks: do you think it's fair that the HRM is going to start enforcing laws fining people for putting up posters on walls and telephone poles?



It's messed — I think people should be allowed to put up what they want to express.

Jeff
Marine bio — 2nd



Actually I've been Halifax for only one and a half years but I think it's not only for Halifax but for any city, it's a bad thing.

Morad
English



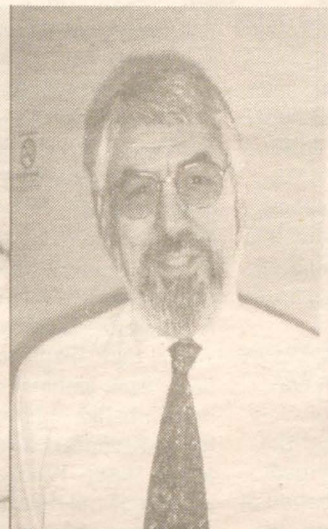
I think they should allow it to some extent in certain areas, but to absolutely forbid it is a bit extreme.

Alexis Cormier
Engineering 1st



Why not?

Andy
Computer Science 2nd



I disagree, I think people should be allowed to advertise for their social and cultural events.

Joe
SUB Food Service
Director, Compass Canada



They're going to start fining people? I don't have a problem with people putting up posters. Depending on where, but I don't see any problem with it.

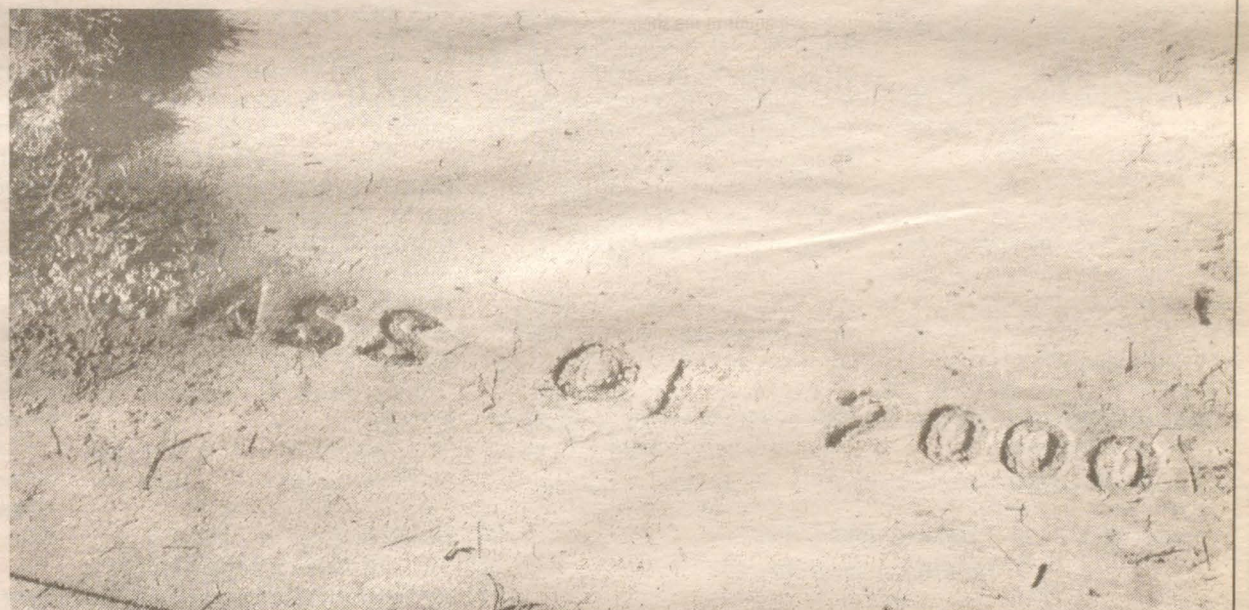
Leanne Surret
Travel Agent,
Travel cuts

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Something to do on the pier with your pole, umm.

Must have been a good one.



Helping save lives

Captain Bruno Castonguay coordinates air rescue for the Canadian Forces. He and his colleagues and partners help Canadians in danger. They respond around the clock to emergencies on land or at sea and help save lives. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

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Canada



artist and boor meet for the first time

by lauren krishner

the gazette

Art, notably that of the modern sort, is easy to brush under a carpet labeled "esoteric." With ink-stained fingers, society mumbles through the daily papers reading of murder and brutality and the thought crosses one's mind — is there even room for abstract art in this dystopia?

A cursory glance at art history reveals that art of any given era was indicative of the state of culture at the time. The art of the ancient Egyptians was concerned with symmetry and the formation of fundamental laws of structure. The decadence of the Renaissance is reflected in the shocking frescoes depicting ethereal goddesses and cherubic men fueled on wine and machismo. Later, the Impressionists sought out beauty in nature — a return essentially to the roots of civilization. As palates and minds rounded the Twentieth Century, focus was shifted onto perception. No longer were things painted after perception, but rather the opposite way around — Picasso said this of modern art: "I paint objects as I think them, not as I see them."

Art is fundamentally in the seeing and not the telling. To write about art is like making love to bones instead of flesh. And it's embarrassing, too.

To speak of embarrassments, notably rooted in my own fears of performance: I find Ben Skinner, abstract artist, dark and hunched at a table at The Economy Shoe Shop. He is nursing a Coke with lime. I order the same. We exchange pleasantries. I imagine a blatant sign on my forehead that reads, "I know nothing about art; I am a boor."

There is an element of care given to interviewing any sort of artist. And in this case, a variable that makes it all the more difficult is the fact that Skinner's paintings are both oblique and gorgeous. I would like to understand them, but am afraid to make a faux analysis and end up sounding like a

pretentious art hippo. This is not existentialism; this is not complex. It is merely the dilemma of the non-artist.

The facts on Ben Skinner, NSCAD graduate, Loomis and Toles employee, and visionary artist:

If you give him a pen, he will give you a pen. He has a Virgin Mary nightlight. He does not know anyone who uses an electric toothbrush. His favorite zoo exhibit is the walrus cage because he enjoys their shape and skin. He has never been alone on New Year's Eve. He paints like a genius. And as his frame disappears into the mist of Argyle Street, I feel as if I did not ask any of the right questions.

Growing up in Petrolia, Ontario, the birthplace of asphalt, Skinny was privy to an endless supply of paper. His parents owned a printing business and from the age of five, Ben knew that he wanted to be an artist. But between that age of innocence, and his entrance to the Ontario College of Art and Design, lay the treacherous years of teenagehood, which Ben remembers with a sense of bitter relish.

Perhaps it is my own dismal experience speaking here, but every artist seems to go through years of malignancy and torture in those endless linoleum halls of high school. Ben Skinner contemplates his isolation and his initial ascent into the world of teenage boy camaraderie, kinship and crank calls.

"My friends and I would stay up all night calling 1-800 numbers for stuff like resorts in Florida, and catalogues...I would give my address and they would send me all these catalogues. There was one for

cathedral accessories and you could buy communion wafers by the thousand."

"I'm still looking for a charcoal gray minister's shirt with a collar," he notes. "If anyone knows where to get one..." and his voice trails off.

Since then, Ben Skinner has honed a love for Catholic iconography. Currently he has a Pope hot plate, a series of plastic Jesus holograms, and one of his own paintings — a Virgin Mary crafted in muted army green and brownish yellow, with a crown of pink lilies on her head. It seems that Skinner's collection extends beyond the ironic Jesus-chic of college art student rebellion. It is a



serious vocation.

"Some stereotypes of artists is that they are pretentious," he says. "But there are plenty of other fields with really crazy and eccentric people."

To this Skinner adds, "But I don't think I have any strange habits."

After one year of art school in Canada's cultural hub town, Toronto, Skinner moved to Nova Scotia where he enrolled at NSCAD. He found Toronto to be wholly saturated with an end, rather than the means to attaining it. He wanted more than that, and rode into Nova Scotia like a Byronic anti-hero.

"I wanted (a school) that was more community based. I wanted something that was not so competitive, but collaborative."

The series of paintings exhibited at the Economy Shoe Shop up to Nov. 6, was an amalgam of Skinner deftness — the largest painting, more than coffee table size, is a sprawling canvas of rainbow colored circles with a taupe plant outline layered over top. The painting is entitled "Botanical Color Blind Test." Other paintings include a detail of a Victorian comb, a cluttered easel of a boy's outline in neon orange with what looks like a dog running through the bottom corner. I try to analyze. I question the canine significance.

"But that wasn't meant to be a dog," Skinner points out.

Another project Ben Skinner constructed several years ago paid morbid tribute to his parent's marriage and in turn, divorce. He received old trunks full of their correspondence when his mother packed up the house and moved to Florida. Of the contents he says, "It was stuff like those old-fashioned fold out airmail letters. They were romantic but tinged with

something else. They were dark and tragic; it was like I saw foreshadowing of their divorce."

Out of these shards of history, Skinner constructed a mixed media project that paid homage to the rift between lovers. The subjects of love and loss seem to be so fitful together, and Skinner pays detail to this melancholic combination in the standout painting of the Economy Shoe Shop exhibit. "The Absence of Your Plant," is a simple oil painting depicting a jaundiced spider plant against a simple wash. The painting seems to grieve from every bubble and orifice of the canvas.

"It's about a break-up, and splitting up possessions," he says.

Ben Skinner sees beauty in the small things. "I don't understand how some people can't see things as beautiful, like the appreciation of a wrought iron fence or a rusty bolt in the gutter."

Perhaps this romantic sensibility is a virtue that will set Skinner apart from his peers. He speaks with idealistic tones, and the lilt in his voice is contagious. He occasionally pushes up his glasses, black and thickly framed. There is something disarming and honest about him.

"I had a rat named Gary in high school," he says and then pauses. "He just went stiff one day. I think he may have eaten an eraser. Then I had a spider, a tarantula my old teacher found on his sidewalk. I caught him and named him Big Honkin' Spider."

Three years ago, Ben Skinner began a conceptual art project called "Ben's Pen Exchange." People send him a pen and receive another one back of equal or lesser value. The point of this project was purely conceptual. It was, in a sense, a collaborative project between Skinner and the 400 pens he has collected, coming from as far as Wales and as close as Creighton Street. One letter he received was from a friend of the infamous OCAD student, Jubel Brown, who, three years ago ate food coloring and barfed on a Mondrian painting in the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

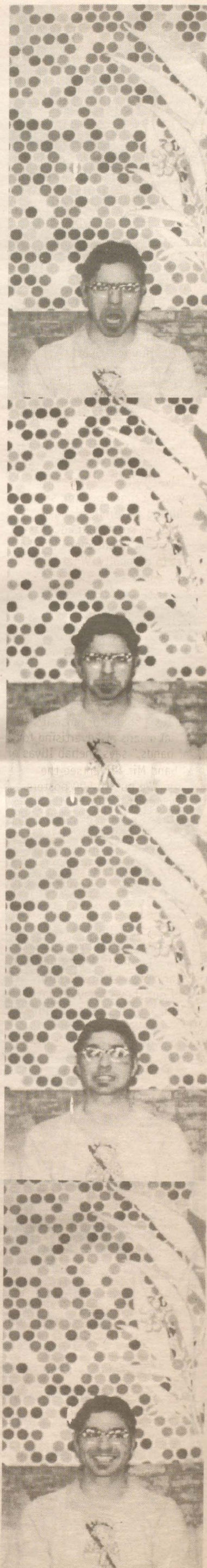
Skinner relays this story with an air of disgust and amusement. Perhaps he is more of a puritan than his art would suggest.

Ben Skinner, wearing a self-made Keith Haring bike helmet plods into the slick blackness of Argyle Street. I watch him until he becomes a dot, and when I blink, he has been reduced to opaque fog, a classic artist enigma. One of the last things Ben says is: "I want to survive by making things."

It can be said that only a true artist, as loaded as the title is, will subsist and thrive on art itself, and most likely, die in obscurity. Not to resort to fatalistic ideals, but in a sense, the completely altruistic cause of painting for the evolution of art, and in turn human thought, as well as the artist's own drive, is as noble a cause as any Arthurian legend. Art is a complex medium, too often scoffed at, ignored, or smothered in verbosity.

Send Ben a pen. He will send you a pen. Perhaps art is this simple.

Ben Skinner's work will be on exhibit at Argyle Gallery starting Jan. 20. The exhibit will include work by other NSCAD students and graduates.



Volunteer With L'Arche "The Place of Small Miracles"

L'Arche Cape Breton is a community for people who are mentally challenged and those who choose to live and work with them. We are committed to equality, solidarity, and simplicity, and since we began in 1983, hundreds of men and women have come to share this way of life with us.

Most of our volunteers are university students or graduates who have found something lacking in academia. They come to L'Arche from all over the world to discover the importance of relationships, to be pushed to develop their potential, and to discover the beauty of men and women who are mentally challenged.

We are always accepting applications from energetic, open-minded, and committed people. We provide room and board plus a monthly stipend, and will cover your student loan payments as well. There are even programs available for people interested in volunteering overseas, as there are over 100 L'Arche communities throughout the world.

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Ph 902-756-3162
Fax 902-756-3381

e mail <larchceb@atcon.com>
WEB SITE <www.larchecapebreton.com>

Poster wars

by malcolm kempt

the gazette

Our recently elected mayor, Peter Kelly, has dealt the arts and entertainment scene in Halifax a crushing blow. His newfound weapon is City Council Ordinance #19.

This rediscovered by-law, first enacted in 1936, has long been ignored by the city.

"No longer!" says Mayor Kelly, as he begins a new wave of enforcement regarding the posting of bills on public property. Work has already begun on clearing all posters and advertisements from telephone poles and public structures around the municipality and a second major sweep of the city is in the works for later this month.

The city by-law states that any person caught posting signs, distributing materials along sidewalks, or scattering advertising materials in a public place will be subject to a penalty. What is the penalty, you ask? Section #11 of the legislation states that anyone who fails to comply with the by-law faces a fine of no more than \$100.00, or in default of payment, up to twenty days in jail.

That will teach all those evil criminals who promote the local music scene and artistic culture.

"It's a shame because it's the only real means of advertising for a lot of bands," says Shehab Illyas of local band Mir. "I can see the problem. We put up 500 posters and they get torn down in a few days. The city has a guy who comes and tears them down. It's a real waste of paper. The real problem is the city's solution. A total ban is totally stupid."

Who will the local arts community react to the by-law?

"We can't afford to put up posters and pay the fine so we will have to rely on other mediums like CKDU and our website to inform fans of our shows," says Illyas.

The city has yet to begin any visible development on the proposed designated bulletin boards it offered as an alternative to local groups.

"If only they set up some kind of message board system or something instead of just banning all posters," says Illyas.

Tony Smith, of the popular local act The Mellotones, isn't going to defy the newly enforced by-law either.

"We don't tend to make posters and distribute them ourselves."

The band, like many in the city, relies mainly on advertisements in local papers and posterings done by the venues at which they play. What happens if the venues can no longer effectively advertise their artists?

"I haven't really thought much about the situation," says Smith. "We've always had a pretty good following in the Metro area but had it not been for the opportunity provided by the posters, especially around the universities, we might not have built up that following," says Smith.

Other artists are more defiant and vocal about the recent drive to "clean-up" the city.

"We are going to continue to put up posters and a lot of other bands we have talked to are going to as well," says Tim MacNeill of the band Arlibido. "Hopefully this will make city council realize that this by-law is taking the vigor out of the industry. I ran the Vallepollooza festival for five years. It helped generate a lot of industry motion with bands and other people involved. Anyone who tried to organize something like that now would be helpless without posters. When we first started, we postered like crazy and most people knew our name before they ever heard us play."

Local rockers Bucket Truck are putting up posters for their upcoming show with a message directing fans to the Arlibido website where they can get more information on the poster ban situation. A trip to www.arlibido.com provides interested parties with a written notice of the impact that the ban will have on grass-roots social groups, activist organizations and small businesses. MacNeill's commentary reminds us that people will be shut out of the local culture and be more vulnerable to the "mass produced and marketed corporate-arts culture".

When MacNeill logged on to the page this week he noticed something that made him smile.

"Somebody posted the mayor's email address and a few other emails at City Hall in our guestbook and

now all of our fans are emailing them — not just for us but in defense of all bands. I thought that was pretty cool that they took that initiative," says MacNeill.

The quest for a quote from an official of any kind was much harder than expected — the call to the Halifax Regional Police Force general inquiries department to receive information on the enforcement of the new legislation was deferred to the by-laws department; the by-laws department kept *the Gazette* on hold for over 15 minutes on two separate occasions while operators "dealt with other inquiries." This directed the search to the media relations section of the police department. A secretary at this point provided a phone number for the HRM officer of Corporate Communications, John O'Brien. His secretary was only too kind to

provide the number of an official named Peter James who could answer any questions the public might have. Having almost abandoned all hope of receiving information, Mr. James eventually returned the call and was eager to explain the actions of the city council and provide facts about their progress.

"The first sweep took place on Dec. 14, 2000 and we are planning a second sweep in the near future," explains James. "We will be maintaining an inventory of the materials we collect to form a database. Using this information, we can proceed to isolate repeat offenders and take them to court."

The project appears to be in its early stages and it may be some time before a complete ban can be enforced. The key to enforcing such a by-law is the need to inform public interest groups and artists of the

particulars of the legislation.

"We are moving ahead with this task," says James. "Every sign company in the municipality will be contacted and we are in the process of dealing with local groups and universities to make sure they receive information about the by-law. We are also trying to move forward with the construction and placement of community bulletin boards."

Only time will tell if the enforcement of the by-law will be effective. Perhaps we will see the demise of posters in our fair city — or maybe the city council will lose interest in their fight against posting bills and declare war on pigeons and fine them for pooping on public property. Regardless, it will be interesting to see how the arts community reacts to this by-law as restrictions and enforcement increase.

CD REVIEWS

Coldplay — Parachutes (Parlophone/EMI)

The first album from this British foursome has been gathering quite a bit of critical attention. They have been favourably compared to Radiohead by more than one reviewer, and the guy behind Oasis has panned it as "bed wetter rock," but fuck him, I mean really, he's the guy behind Oasis. As for the Radiohead comparisons, sure, why not; those who know me know that I'm not one to argue or make waves with my betters, and besides, my knowledge of Radiohead begins and ends with "Creep."

What does any of this have to do with my opinion of *Parachutes*? Not a goddamn thing. It's completely irrelevant and beside the point — which is that this is a fine album. Melancholy, slow, thoughtful, good lyrics, which is more than you have any right to ask for in a first album. Well worth your time and money. Pay attention to Coldplay, they are hopefully the last you will hear of Oasis and that god awful brit-pop — Jason

54-40 — Casual Viewing (Columbia Records)

The only good thing about Hootie and the Blowfish is 54-40. The only negative thing about 54-40 is having to explain the Blowfish connection.

On *Casual Viewing*, 54-40 continue their long history of recording brilliant songs. If there is any justice in the music business, this album will bring them the recognition they deserve.

For too long, these hippie rockers from the West Coast have released albums into a "Made in Canada" void — too little fanfare, too little hype and too little appreciation. They should be, and deserve to be, as big as the Hip. Crowds of screaming yahoos should flock to the Intimate and Interactive and interrupt traffic on Queen Street just for the chance to catch a glimpse. What the hell is wrong with you people? Eminem? Britney Spears? N'Sync? Temptation Island? You are all fucked. Seriously fucked. How about for a change you consume something worthwhile, and, say, buy this album. — Jason

Various — Songs of Innocence (Virgin Classics)

When was the last time you heard an album that gave William Blake a song writing credit? Well, maybe Iron Maiden, but never mind, this is world beat at it's finest.

"Dedicated to childhood, *Songs of Innocence* is a series of dialogues between children's voices and musical instruments from different cultures throughout the world." A perfectly fine description straight from the liner notes that does little to hint at just how good this album is. Amazing voices and stellar arrangements make this a listening pleasure. Even if, like myself, you find most world beat an offense to your western ears. Not "specifically aimed at children...this is a disc for everybody," more than a Barney or Sharon, Lois and Bram album, this really is for everybody. This is what globalization promises, but so often fails to deliver. — Jason

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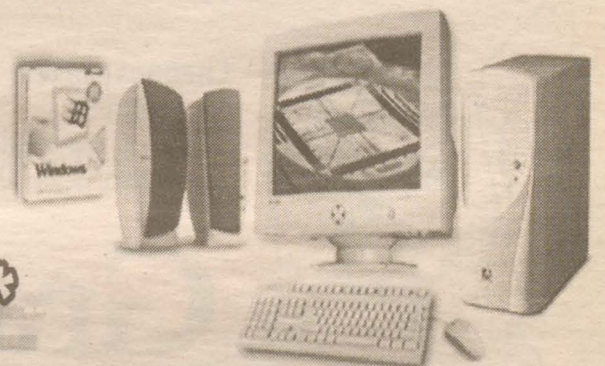
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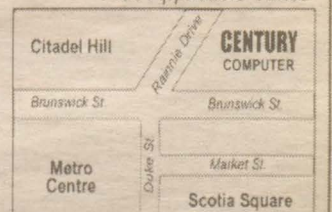


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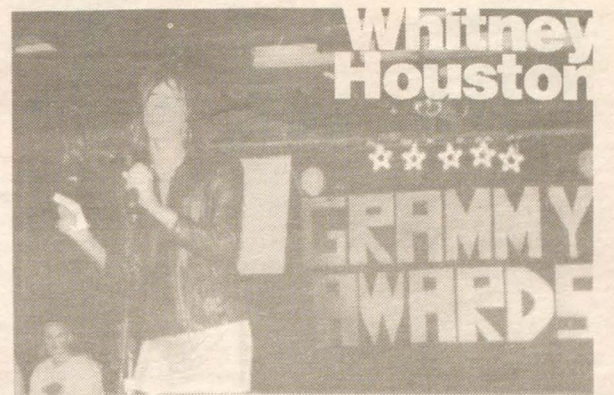
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Reflections Grammy Awards 2001



Whitney Houston

GRAMMY AWARDS



photos and cutlines by thomas cameron edelson

Madonna



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Lil' Kim



"He used to like it when I..."

Whitney Houston



Performed by Lolita, the Ms. Reflections Drag Queen of 2001 stole the show.



Lil' Kim



Pink

Almost — but not quite.



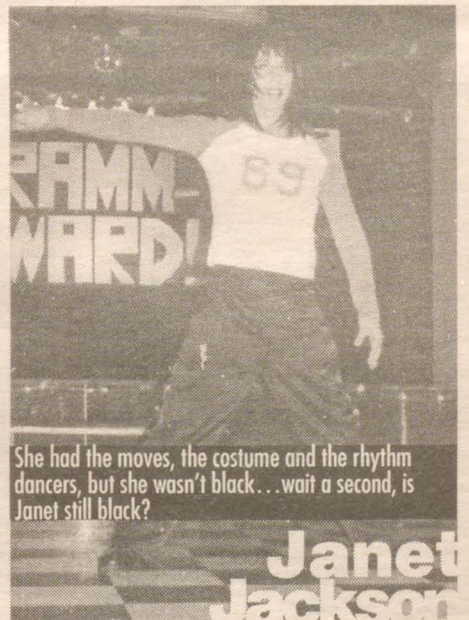
Toni Braxton

After a brief stint on the body building circuit Braxton emerged stronger than ever at the Reflection Grammy Awards



Britney Spears

Oops I did it again.



Janet Jackson

She had the moves, the costume and the rhythm dancers, but she wasn't black... wait a second, is Janet still black?



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Classics, I says...

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

by wendy sawatzky

the gazette

CD

The Mercury Records Songbook, Various Artists (Verve, 1995)

100 jazz vocal classics: what more could a girl ask for? All the '40s and '50s standards are here, sung by the best on the Mercury label: Sarah Vaughan, Dinah Washington, Helen Merrill, Shirley Horne, Nina Simone, Oscar Peterson, Chet Baker, Louis Armstrong and some Blossom Dearie for good measure. The four CDs are well-sorted by mood; there's a CD for lying around in sexy poses, one for moping, one for kicking ass, and one devoted to live recordings, for when you feel like belting out the tunes and hearing the crowd applaud. It's de-lovely.

Movie

North by Northwest (Hitchcock, 1959)

A case of mistaken identity. A cool, mysterious blonde. And a chase scene down the faces of Mount Rushmore. Cary Grant plays an innocent "adman" caught in a situation beyond his control. He's wanted by the police, who think he's a murderer, by enemy agents, who think he's a spy, and by the blonde — no one's sure whose side she's on. Grant is forced to embark on an unlikely cross-country escape, with assorted enemies making extraordinary attempts on his life. You've seen the clips in those "100-years-of-great-film" blurbs at the beginning of MGM movies. They're all explained. NxNW is the perfect Sunday-afternoon movie.

Book

The New Canadian Poets 1970-1985, Edited by Dennis Lee (McClelland and Stewart, 1985)

Even if the poets in this anthology can no longer be called "new," the collected works hold up well over time. This collection showcases the talents of 45 Canadian poets who first published between 1970 and 1985. The overarching style here is what Lee calls the "literate vernacular" in his introduction, but don't let that scare you. Even if you think you don't like poetry, give it a try. Browse this Crozier excerpt:

Carrots are fucking the earth. A permanent erection, they push deeper into the damp and dark. All summer long they try so hard to please. Was it good for you, was it good?

Now tell me you don't want to read more.

Reel Life

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon

by mark evans

the gazette

Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon deserves the honour of being a doubly astounding motion picture. For one, it's one of those very rare non-British foreign films that has a chance of making an impact on the mainstream movie-going public. For two, it's graced with the best fight scenes of any movie I have ever seen. After the full-tilt fights in *The Matrix* many people wondered where 'the next level' was. Here's their answer.

I don't want to rave about the fight scenes to the extent that I ignore the story line, which would truly be a disservice to a well-written, thoughtful movie. I will, however, definitely give them their due, as they take a great story and elevate it to the level of excellence. Fight choreographer Yuen Wo-Ping, who did Jet Li's *Black Mask* and *The Matrix*, deserves a lot of credit for these scenes. There are only four main fight scenes, but each one is like a small movie unto itself, a work of art in a work of art.

The very first occurs during the night time theft of a mystical object, and it starts off looking fairly pedestrian as the masked thief subdues a guard with some brief kung-fu moves. Once that's done, however, the thief leaps onto the roof of a nearby building and proceeds to run and glide across the rooftops of Peking. Following that, the thief's pursuer does the same thing and a wild chase ensues both over roofs and up and down the sides of buildings. The best part is, that's the least impressive of the fight sequences, as each one manages to top the one that preceded it, culminating in an unbelievable

fight in the high branches and tree trunks of a bamboo forest that's nothing short of breathtaking.

Impressively the story has a suitable explanation for these scenes, in that all the combatants capable of these amazing feats have trained in a particular style of martial arts. This kind of brilliant attention to the little details is what makes *Crouching*



Tiger, Hidden Dragon such a rewarding movie. Nothing here has been casually done.

Speaking of story, the one told here is most excellent, if convoluted, and stars Michelle Yeoh and Chow Yun-Fat, who both have made some Hollywood films. It concerns Li Mu Bai (Yun-Fat), a martial arts master who has grown weary of fighting and seeks to retire. In preparation, he entrusts his most important possession, the mythic sword Green Destiny, to his pupil Yu Shu Lien (Yeoh), who is to take it to be placed in the possession of a Pekinese merchant.

The sword is stolen and the thief just happens to be linked to an old nemesis of Li Mu Bai's, the same one who killed his father years ago. What then follows is a tale of action and revenge, betrayal and romance, wrapped around the message of appreciating what you have in life. The film's main theme is taking advantage of the choices or options that life presents us before they've forever passed us by, and it deftly presents this theme with a welcome subtlety rather than the heavy-handedness most movies give their messages.

Michelle Yeoh's acting here



Michelle Yeoh, the lady or the tiger?

is just excellent. The final fight scene her character has is not only a show-stopper on its own, but it's mixed with a palpable touch of both anger and betrayal. Chow Yun Fat does his usual excellent job, expressing every nuance of his character perfectly. Equally praiseworthy is Zhang Ziyi, who does a stellar job in bringing her pivotal character to life.

A word of warning to some of you: this movie is subtitled, and while many don't like this style, it's perfectly necessary for *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

The story is great and the price you pay in extra length is more than made up by the actual pay-off. It's a credit to director Ang Lee's vision that he justifies every second he spends filming this movie. One instance in particular, a lengthy flashback that occurs about three-quarters

of the way through the film, seems like it's merely fleshing out one character and introducing another, while not promoting the plot at all. This theory is subsequently disproven when the denouement ties everything together in a stunning conclusion that would lose its hardest impact without the earlier flashback.

Bottom Line: While watching *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* I was reminded, of all things, of *Charlie's Angels*. I was critical of the latter for its excessively negative portrayal of women and its unjustified use of special effects for its fight scenes. This movie, in contrast, portrays the women of a more repressed time behaving far more competently, and it not only justifies its fight scenes, but wraps them up in a rewarding and involving story line. Pure cinematic satisfaction, highly recommended.

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And the Cool Kids will be...

Friday Jan. 19 - My newest favourite local band, Kary are opening for Bucket Truck at The Marquee. Kary is a band that may have molded themselves after Burnt Black but have now come into their own sound. The result is an amazing show to bang yer head to. My other newest favourite local band, Mir is playing The Attic as well. I'm going to run back and forth again tonight - I wish I could do the booking in this city so I wouldn't have to bust my ass to see the bands I want to.

Saturday Jan 20 - Apparently, Ninjatune's DJs are amazing. I've been informed that this is the place to be. DJ Food, DJ Fink, and Dynamic Syncopation are all members of the Ninjatune's posse, and will, it has been forecasted, rock The Marquee so hard it will shake until sometime next week.

This week over at Mount Saint Vincent University Art Gallery there is a showing of cloths created all over the world with computer assisted looms. I'm a dork what can I say, it sounds pretty cool to me.

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

gazette@is2.dal.ca

Caitlin Kealey

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Wickedly Entertaining!
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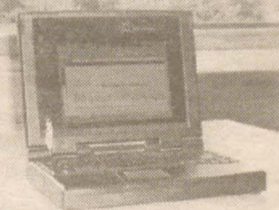
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Q U O T A B L E

"You agree that birds fly because you have seen them flying. But you will not agree on other things that bird do, because you have never seen birds doing them." Don Juan, The Teachings of Don Juan: A Yaqui Way of Knowledge

The Straight 8 Train



photos by Thomas edelson

by **joseph cooper**

the gazette

They may be only starting to get the much deserved notice as one of the best bands in Halifax, but Straight 8 Deluxe have been burning a trail of hot gigs worth the trip for years and last Thursday Night at the Marquee was no different.

The band was revved and kicking as they proceeded to belt out some truly original western stylings of what one could call Creep-a-Billy music, since they possess the ability to create such evil sounds, without an overbearing sense of a 'too loud', spooky band. That something can be described as a dark mood — almost pessimistic in sound.

Their one so-called "gimmick" that so many viewers may notice, which throws off the whole idea of Straight 8 in a nutshell, is the big beautiful stand-up bass Max Lloyd sports with the grip of a man indeed giving it the go. Don't get me wrong though, his bass hits are thick and true with the rest of the band's go of things, its just that the whole band is needed for the overall kick of music they portray through their instruments.

As for the rest of the band, who all hold their own, you may notice that there has been a change up in skinbeaters from a couple of years ago. Neil Terry has been doing his duty behind the trap kit with the jazz timing of a metronome, yet still adding a punch of his own within the music that Straight 8 has come to create since finding his talent.

Basically they've moved from a Cramp-like-tone of heavily filled rhythm, to the more electric twang/acoustic chomp they now possess — maybe the band crossed the same road Robert Johnson did years before.

Behind the mic lays low the lungs and coyote screams of Trent Olson, the vocalist and rhythm guitarist who has stayed on the Straight 8 Train since the name existed. Now this tall, lanky man of unknown reason has the 'front man' position, yet never gets big headed about it.

He can sing, scream, growl and moan as gritty as they come. He is sometimes calm within himself, but sometimes he sings on your table while drinking a cold one and kissing your baby all in one go. But to Olson, it's the way it goes when the mood is right and Straight 8 Deluxe becomes the reason your Friday night was good.

Now the high end of this dusty-boot-spooky-sound slides and picks its way to your ear. Guitar stylings from Jay Melanson, who is another key player for Straight's lowbrow raw sound. The man has a possessed knee which buckles and shakes to the crazy steel lap guitar which has been known to slide into their sets, the instrument itself carries a sound that will make your spine twitch and crawl with urges to drink and shimmy following shortly. Now not to forget Melanson's lead work, his playing is not to be missed and surely noticed at certain moments, when the bass thumps double tick hits laced with flowing strums and howls of

acoustic vocals with thick bottom backings of a well placed drum break.

For any notable comparisons one should try listening to Straight 8 and you will find enough new sound to stop you from wanting to find anything else. Very fresh is one way to put their sound, Rockabilly is another, but no words do the justice that a couple of beer and a Straight 8 gig can.

Word has it on the beat that a CD might be in the makings from this band and also the possibility of touring has been mentioned by unknown strangers I've been known to share a street corner smoke with. But in the long run waiting will be the true proof of word.

So no matter where you find yourself, the Marquee or abroad, chances are Straight 8 Deluxe are brewing yet another gig of strangely hypnotic western sounds on that sound you can place a finger on.



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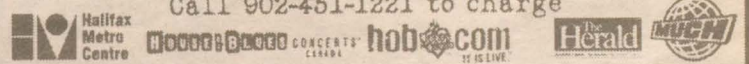
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Election 2000: corruption in all its unprecedented prosperity

by jon elmer

the gazette

The reason for President Clinton's puckered face could be the source of any one of a number of pains. Perhaps it is a reaction to a question posed in a 1998 impeachment hearing, something like, "did you or did you not have sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky".

It also could be a result of an overwhelming disappointment and disbelief at the campaign-rebuke of long-time friend Al Gore. Gore, who despite being given responsibilities and duties far beyond that of any Vice President in history, perceived it advantageous to distance himself as far as possible from the President during the most crucial points of campaign 2000. Everyone could feel the sadness in Bill's words when he told the *New York Times* in October, "you can call me, Al".

Or better still, is the outgoing President's face wrapped up like so because he has just witnessed a veritable coup d'etat in which a peacetime government with solid job-related opinion polls in a "period of unprecedented prosperity", will be succeeded by a fella with scarcely six years of political experience, executing the gubernatorial duties of the almost self-governing state of Texas. A man who, when asked if he had committed a felony, responded, "I have not committed a felony in the last 25 years", and who signs death warrants at rates that would impress even the Burmese junta.

Corporate welfare

What a lesson in civics we all got during the year-long campaign, especially in the final few days before the first Tuesday after a Monday in November when it became apparent that Al Gore was very possibly going to lose the election. An election that was his to lose against even the best of opponents — let alone against a man who has accomplished remarkably little in the 40 years before he became governor — unless one counts the feat of getting into Yale with a C and then into Harvard's Business School with the same mediocre grade. In fact, on the top of Bush's list credentials is arranging a group of oil tycoons to purchase the floundering Texas Rangers Baseball Club for relative chump change, then having the taxpayers buy the team The Ballpark in Arlington, one of the finest in the game. He then turned around and sold his share of the team for a multi-million dollar personal profit. A whole new kind of civics is that achievement, a slightly different style of welfare.

But now, after generations of students wrestled with frustration the intricacies of the archaic Electoral College, it was all becoming relevant in the centuries exiting election. Throw out the hypothetical case studies, teachers had real life content at their disposal. Could the President-elect win the Electoral College, but lose the popular vote? Dust off the *Encyclopedia Britannica* circa the late 1800's to find the last time that happened. But in this most unusual of election years, it did seem that anything was possible.

Invite-only debates

Indeed, it is an unusual election campaign that sees two 'combatants' agree no less than 32 times during a nationally televised debate. Critical to perpetuating the scarcity of challenge during these big-alcohol funded debates was the exclusion of third party candidate Ralph Nader. Nader was officially excluded from the debate for not meeting the Debate Commission standard of

15 percent polling support. When he arrived at the debate at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, with a ticket to watch with hopes of commenting afterwards to the throng of media present, he was summarily arrested by regional police and escorted off the university premises. Nothing was going to get in the way of this machine. Not in this election at least, but Nader has sued the Debate Commission as unconstitutional, likely putting an end to privately funded, censored debates in future elections.

Just talking heads

In all three of the nationally televised debates, despite moderator's Jim Lehrer's ceaseless attempts to spur discussion, Bush and Gore fundamentally agreed on such issues of paramount importance as the unreviewed perpetuation of international trade deals like NAFTA, WTO, and the pending FTAA. They allied on continuing the death penalty, opposing universal health care, and continuing the bombing and sanctioning of civilian Iraq. They patted each other on the back about continuing the ban on same-sex marriages, continuing the obviously ineffective War on Drugs and increasing the Pentagon spending to realign the budget with Cold War levels.

All this harmony despite the fact that inflation-adjusted rates indicate the average labouring American is earning less than he did in the 1970s; despite the fact that the United States is the only industrialized nation without any form of universal health care. Despite the fact that 42,000,000 Americans have no health insurance at all; despite the fact that record levels of homelessness are being recorded; and despite the fact that fewer Americans can read at a grade-four level than in the 1970s, both candidates agreed that toeing this stagnate line of mediocrity was the best avenue to the oval office. A splicing of the political gene, satirist filmmaker Michael Moore calls it, settle for less and you get less.

Soft money: Auctioning of the White House

Though he garnered more mainstream-media attention by ill-advised attacks based on the nonsensical slogan 'a vote for Nader is a vote for Bush', candidate Ralph Nader's posit of the two-party 'duopoly' is, by even the most superficial scrutiny, clear and present. The deciphering characteristic Nader cites is the speed at which each candidate falls to his knees when corporate America comes knocking. Nader's pointed sound bite is ably supported by big business — where massive amounts of soft-money from Microsoft, Citigroup, Verizon.com, Bristol Myers Squibb, and weapons manufacturer Lockheed Martin went to both the campaigns of George W. Bush and Al Gore.

In light of all this, it seems elementary that in an election with such parity, the result would be so close.

And close it was, just more than 300,000 votes nationally separating the two candidates out of 100,000,000 ballots cast, including an absolute dead heat in states like Oregon, New Mexico, and of course the deciding state of Florida, whose 25 electoral votes were the final indicator of just who would oversee the continuation of the march of unprecedented prosperity of the richest tenth percentile. All the while 100,000,000 more American's stayed home, marginalized by the irrelevance of their ballot to make a discernable difference in Election 2000.

Overriding the will of the people

Enter the Electoral College. A treasure from the Founding Fathers legislated as a safety net to protect civilized America from the dangerous ballots of the uninformed masses. Now, after more than 200 years, despite losing the popular vote, President-

elect George W. Bush was still alive and kicking; in fact, he was poised to take office by virtue of his thinner-than-razor sharp victory in Florida. Thanks to the Electoral College, all that was left was blocking those pesky recounts.

Little did the son of ex-President and head of the CIA know, the longer this fiasco drew on, the more damnable information would have to be kept under wraps as well. Information such as Republican Secretary of State Katherine Harris and Governor-brother Jeb Bush's pre-election purge of the Florida voter-list, whereby 173,000 black voters were 'scrubbed' from the lists by the Atlanta-based firm ChoicePoint, as part of a \$4M contract to eliminate those peoples who had ever been convicted of a felony. It was reported that as many as 15 percent of the names were erroneously wiped, a mistake attributed to a felony list submitted by none other than the State of Texas. There are currently token, non-binding Civil Rights Commission hearings into this matter, but they are not exactly *Headline News*.

Voter irregularities

There was the infamously flawed butterfly-ballots of South Florida. Those ballots successfully confused an elderly Jewish population into voting for Reform candidate Pat Buchanan in wildly disproportionate numbers. All these votes to a man, Mr. Buchanan, who once wrote that Adolf Hitler was a man of great courage. In addition to vast numbers of votes cast for the wrong person, no less than 19,000 of these butterfly ballots were discarded because of 'irregularities'.

It was scenarios like this, and a myriad of others, that prompted the international community, notably Fidel Castro to suggest an international monitoring group be brought in to ensure democratic ideals were being upheld — perhaps even one chaired by former President Jimmy Carter.

Spinning to disinterest

For 36 days following the Nov. 7 election, a circus of attorneys swarmed Florida courthouses, while no fewer than five cable channels went round-the-clock with coverage and punditry. Bush's lawyers were looking for injunctions to block recounts and when that didn't work they simply sued the counties, while Gore's attorney's struggled to have every ballot counted, especially those cantankerous ones with hanging or impregnated chads, the ones that the antiquated vote-counting machines could not register. And on and on...the American people, flogged with half-truths and flooded by punditry, gave-up on the affair, apparently convinced that a quick and dirty settlement was preferable to a tiresome and fair one. A massive machine of political spin mastery created so much noise domestically that the din of opposition to the thievery was drowned out. Already effectually debilitated by a system that forced people into positions of choosing between the lesser of two evils, or the frighteningly common practice of tactical voting, the masses overwhelmingly threw in the towel. And when hardly half the eligible voters even left their houses on election day, convincing the people it was in the best interest of the nation to select a president swiftly was almost too easy for the propaganda machines at CNN and NBC.

Chickens coming home to roost

"If you vote for Bush, or Nader, and the Republicans take office they will appoint crazy right-wing Supreme Court Justices like Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas," Democrats cried throughout the never-ending campaign. As the matter elevated to the highest judicial branch in the land, a bitter old wound long covered over by the Democrats surfaced in the very persons of Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas. Just how it came to be that Justices Scalia and Thomas were appointed is a little known fact, but it looks something like this: Thomas was appointed 52 to 48, with 11 Democrats

crossing over to swing the vote in his favour, in a Democrat-controlled Senate no less; Scalia's was a little more clear, he was elected in a 98-0 vote which included a "yea" of support from then-Senator Albert Gore

With the election turned now into a de facto Presidential selection by the nine Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, one of two things was going to happen. The court could either rule to uphold the decision of the Florida Supreme Court which allowed a hand recount of about 50,000 ballots, which had already, with less than one-third of the ballots counted, reduced Bush's lead to barely more than 50 votes statewide; or, they could halt the recount on unprecedented legal grounds and effectively award the White House to George W. Bush.

President George W. Bush

Everyone knows how the Court ruled, it is why they ruled in the way they did that got swept aside in the revelry of Gore's concession. In an official vote of five to four, both Scalia and Thomas voted to stop the recount — a further swath of ironic tendencies for those Republicans since they are the ones so bent on state rights, yet they used Federal powers to over-ride the sovereignty of Florida because it was their only means of reacquiring the White House. Justice Scalia in his concurring statement with the Court's official decision, made it clear that if the count continued a cloud would be cast over the legitimacy of a Bush administration and would thus cause irreparable harm to his presidency. This observation seems logical enough: if the people discovered that in reality Gore won the election fairly, and likely handily, a whole lot of Bush's legitimacy would be compromised. In fact, a similar undertaking was attempted by Slobodan Milosevic in Serbia back in September, when he employed a little bit of vote-magic in order to manufacture a second-round of elections in Yugoslavia. In this case though the people would have none of it, instead the masses stormed the legislature behind the might of a bulldozer and took back what was rightfully theirs — a legitimate electoral process.

Coup d'etat

Shudder to think of the kind of election bamboozling which took place in the US occurring in a country of American strategic interest, say in Panama. How about if it happened in North Korea — an unrelenting NATO attack would befall that nation, almost certainly. If not para-military forces would be armed and trained to redress the coup in swift fashion. Where does the irony end in all this?

Now that President-elect Bush has turned up the jets on his transitional process, appointing almost exclusively members of the Reagan/Bush Old Guard. All that's left now is the Reagonomics, legislation of \$1.3 trillion in tax cuts, the privatization of social security, and that neat-o Star Wars missile defense system. It is an interesting afterthought to see that the biggest winner in Election 2000 was not the upheld legacy of any of the four Presidents honoured on Mount Rushmore for their contributions in defining the democracy of America and all of whom voiced their disaffection at the two-party system. In this election, the legacy that will stand most prevalent is that of Republican Ronald Reagan.

So as words of ending the divisive tendencies of partisan politics eddy about Washington, of healing the nation and moving forward, it would serve a duty to justice to not ever forget just how George W. Bush became the leader of the "free world". Because, as Ralph Nader so eerily warned, "if you are not turned onto politics, politics will turn onto you."

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

Dal's own Moby Dick

by amy durant

the gazette

There is a Gina, a Gemini. There is even a Polyanna. If members of Dal's marine biology society can help it, there will soon be a Dalhousie.

The society is working to raise enough money, approximately \$500, for right-whale research and in turn, get a whale named after Dalhousie.

The money will go to East Coast Ecosystems, one of the largest Canadian organizations of its kind, who will be able to use that money for whale research.

Brianna Newton, the society's communications rep, says the whale will be a source of pride for all of Dal.

"We wanted to name the

whale - if we raise enough money - Dalhousie, so it's not just for the marine society," says Newton.

According to Newton, once the whale is named, it will keep that name forever.

"That's our whale - it's called Dal, no one else can adopt it," says Newton.

There are currently only 296 North Atlantic right whales, the fundraising, such as that being done by the marine biology society, allows for more research to be done on this very endangered species.

"North Atlantic right whales are the most endangered large whale species," says Newton. "The biggest threat to them is human activity. The more we learn about their habits, the more we can learn about how to prevent the

damage we do."

Newton is helped by fellow society members Melissa Smith, Sherri Johnson and Dawn Armstrong, as well as by non-member Dave Gillet.

The group has organized several activities to help their cause, including a bar night at the T-Room, a talk by East Coast Ecosystems representative Deborah Tobin, and t-shirts - soon to go on sale.

Newton is adamant that the society will raise the required amount. She says the feedback for the project has been good, and everyone recognizes it is a good cause.

"There's been a pretty positive reaction," says Newton. "Everyone loves whales, whether you're a marine biologist or not."

Chemistry Student Wins First Annual Scholarship

by jonathan dieli colburn

the gazette

Jennifer Durber has been named the first recipient of the Anna Wilson scholarship in the Department of Chemistry. She has been working as a graduate student with Dr. Norm Schepp since this September.

"It wasn't something that I applied for," said Jennifer, "it was given to me much to my surprise and pleasure."

Schepp says Durber is very deserving of her scholarship.

"She's been doing very well so far," said Dr. Schepp, "she's got a lot of classwork, but given the limitations of her time, she's done a very good job."

Jennifer is working with Dr. Schepp on a project that analyzes short-live reactive intermediates, which are molecules involved in biological reactions that exist only for a short period of time. They are observed and recorded using lasers and then studied by computer models.

This type of research could potentially have applications in

the pharmaceutical industry or other biological research, according to Dr. Schepp. Studied in enzyme reactions, they could give insight into the function of enzymes and the eventual production of man-made enzymes to be used in reactions.

The award, given to a promising female student from the Atlantic region, is named after one of the first female students to ever be awarded a

Master of Chemistry degree at Dalhousie. She later worked for the federal government and for Merck. She was also a founding member of the Canadian Institute of Food Science and Technology.

The scholarship was established with contributions from the family and friends of the late Anna Wilson and from members of the Department of Chemistry and from Merck Frosst Canada Inc.



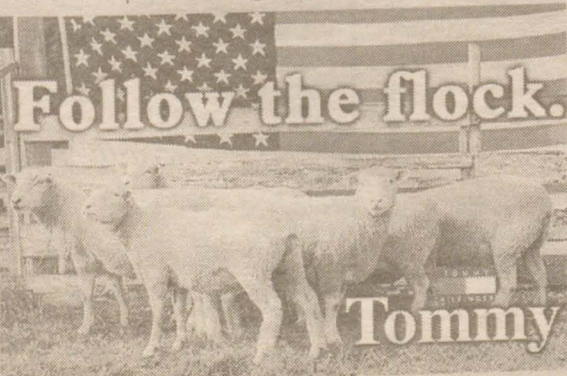
Jennifer Durber, winner of the first Anna Wilson scholarship.

The Mind of ~~Mr. Minimal~~ of MR. MAXIMUM TAKES OVER!!



Mr. Minimal can climb an electrical pole and take a hot steaming piss on a transformer 'cus today Mr. Max is on the attack.

Who does Mr. Minimal suppose he is? What does he expect, some goody-two-shoe, hippy



hipster, my-name-is-Grean-Peice, leader to install a better world order?

Individuality should be left to sage, not the sadicious hell bent, rabbit fodder eating, activists, who want to subvert our well weathered political and economic institutions.

The masses should trust. The elite should be trustworthy, so damn the bog building revolutionaries. We should pass legislation to bury them in the very peat they wish to destroy the agricultural industry with.

Hipocnisy is their mandate, and enjoying the fruits of capitalist profit under the auspices of organomatic food their trickery.

The more frog genes in my wheat the better. Support the right minded, not the sunworshipping blinded.

Information Hash

news & facts

by kip keen

Hacking up parents in pieces...

"By this wise prejudice we are taught to look with horror on those children of their country who are prompt rashly to hack that aged parent in pieces, and put him into the kettle of magicians in hopes that by their poisonous weeds, and wild incantations they may regenerate the paternal constitution, and renovate their father's life." Edmund Buke, written over two hundred years ago, drawing an analogy on why the French Revolution was bad.

WTO saving savages...

"We don't lay down the law. We uphold the rule of law. The alternative is the law of the jungle, where might makes right and the little guy doesn't get a look in," Says Mike Moore, World Trade Organization Director General, concerning fair, open, trade.

Mike makes a joke...

"I speak to you today as Director General, or as so much of my correspondences accuses, the World Terrorist Organization."

Jesus of Nazareth speaks...

"Whatever you want people to do to you, do also to them." (Matt 7.12, Luke 6.31) A good vow.

Mahatma Gandhi's seven deadly sins...

Wealth without work

Enjoyment without conscience

Knowledge without character

Business without morality

Science without humanity

Religion without sacrifice

Politics without principle

New suggested WTO seven deadly sins...

Work without wealth

Enjoyment with conscience

Character without knowledge

Business with morality

Humanity without science

Religion with sacrifice

Politics with principles

CKDU 97.5 FM

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FRI., 26 JAN.

- Dal SUB Lobby • Funding Drive Official Kick-off! — 12-2 p.m. • Michelle Tompkins and One Eye'd Trouser
- Grawood — DJs R\$ \$mooth and San Fran!
- Khyber Club — Dead Tone Collective Show

SAT., 27 JAN.

- High Life Café — DJ Naz

THU., 1 FEB.

- The Marquee Club — 10 p.m. • Straight 8 Deluxe, Kid Gorgeous, Dead Red
- Merrill's — Hip hop DJs

FRI., 2 FEB.

- Oxford Theatre — Midnight movie!
- Khyber Club — Pagan drum jam
- The Marquee Club — 10 p.m. • Neusiland, Sequel 17

SAT., 3 FEB.

- And Artspace Café — Heavy Meadows, Squibzobingo
- Planet Pool — Sara and Kamilla, Amelia Curran, Rose Cousins

SUN., 4 FEB.

- Paradox — 3-8 p.m. • Breakdance and DJ competition

*schedule subject to change



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Dal Basketball picking up

by jenn weatherhead

the gazette

The Women's Basketball team had an exciting weekend and so did the Dal fans, as the Tigers moved to 8-0, with a stunning 67-42 victory over the Acadia Axettes last Saturday. Ranked first in the women's Baldwin Division, the Tigers also recently moved into the top ten in the country, ranked ninth. The win over Acadia will certainly help keep them in the top ten rankings.

The Tigers shot well both in the paint and in the perimeter, hitting nice post moves, lay ups and three pointers. It was an easy

task, as the Axettes got into early foul trouble, including a technical for Coach Sanders, early in the first period. Dal did an excellent job at taking advantage of Acadia's foul trouble and kept their lead to ten points or more throughout the game. The Tigers had scoring from nine players, with Janice King as the top scorer, with 11 points. Kerry Maier, Julia Burden and Logan Dunning had ten each to contribute to the win. Trisha Cormier led Acadia in scoring with ten points off the bench. Acadia now slips to 1-6 this season and is in last place in the Baldwin Division.

The Tigers are now 6-0 at home, thanks to the Dalplex

being packed with Tiger fans cheering them on to victories, such as the one against Acadia.

In men's hoop action, the Tigers took on the Axemen and gave them a run for their money. At the half, Dal led 26-25, despite the early run Acadia made. Acadia, coming off of a loss against St. Mary's earlier in the

week, were looking for better shooting in this game. The Tigers, who came in second at the Rod Shoveller memorial tournament, were also looking for a win. In the end, Acadia rebounded from its loss against St. Mary's with a 58-53 victory over the Tigers.

Despite cheering fans, the Tigers couldn't hold off the

Axemen and fell to 2-5 and have lost five straight league games. Acadia improved to 3-4 with their close win over the Tigers. Both the women's and men's teams head to their Halifax rivals home court, as they play St. Mary's this Friday at 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

Tension in Tampa

by krishna parmar

the gazette

On Sunday Jan. 28 the most wanted football trophy will be played for in Tampa Bay, Florida. Tampa is hosting this year's NFL Superbowl, and does it ever look like an exciting final.

The NFC Champions are none other than the surprising, unheard of, New York Giants. The Giants demolished the Minnisota Vikings last week with a 41-0 onslaught. Quarterback, Kerry Collins, came out firing as he led the way for New York, throwing five end zone strikes. All week the talk was the explosive offense of the Vikings, but that was quickly

thrown aside by the Giants. New York proved to the world that they are both offensive and defense wonder. It's been 11 years since New York has seen a Superbowl. The last time being 1990 when they defeated the Bills to become the best.

In the AFC, the champions are just as worthy. The Baltimore Ravens shut down the number one Oakland Raiders and earned their trip to Tampa with an impressive 16-3 victory. The NFL's all-time greatest defensive team held up to their title as the forced five turnovers and held the powerful Raiders to just 24 yards rushing. The Ravens haven't allowed a century rusher (100 yards or more) all season. The Ravens are

looking forward to their first Superbowl in franchise history.

So how do the teams match up? On one end you have the acclaimed Ravens known for their outstanding defense. The Ravens have allowed the lowest amount of points ever in an NFL season. They are simply the best at their game. And then there's the Giants. They were counted out since day one of the NFL, and yet here they are playing in the league's most important game. They are the team that hasn't been heard of, but just stuck to their game plan and made it to the top. We're not sure who the better team is but it's for sure that Jan. 28 is going to be one hell of a super Sunday.

A CAREER IN ORTHOPTICS/OPHTHALMIC MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY

Orthoptics is the clinical science of ocular motility and binocular vision, and related disorders of the eyes. An Orthoptist is an allied health professional who works with ophthalmologists, (eye physicians and surgeons) analyzing and treating patients unable to use both eyes together because of an eye muscle or sensory abnormality. An Ophthalmic Medical Technologist assists the ophthalmologist with a wide range of diagnostic tests and procedures requiring a great deal of technical expertise.

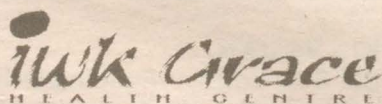
In July 2001, the IWK Grace Health Centre will commence an accredited twenty-four (24) month training program leading to a Certificate of Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology. Applications are now being accepted from individuals holding a baccalaureate degree with courses in any of the following areas: psychology, physiology, biology, anatomy, physics, statistics, research methodology. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field will be considered an asset. Candidates should possess good communication skills, sound judgement, emotional maturity and a demonstrated ability to relate well to small children and to adults.

Financial assistance may be available to qualified students.

Deadline for application is February 28, 2001

For further information regarding a challenging, interesting and rewarding career in the health care field, please write:

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IWK Grace Health Centre
P.O. Box 3070
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3G9



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Faculty from the Education Department will be available to answer your questions.

Education Department, St. Francis Xavier University, PO Box 5000, Antigonish, NS, B2G 2W5
Tel. (902) 867-2247, Fax (902) 867-3887

This Week's Games:

Women's basketball

Dalhousie University @ Acadia University
Monday, Jan. 15, 2001 07:00 p.m.
Location: Acadia University

Men's Basketball

Dalhousie University @ Saint Mary's University
Friday, Jan. 19, 2001 12:00 a.m.
Location: Saint Mary's University, The Tower

Women's basketball

Dalhousie University @ Saint Mary's University
Friday, January 19, 2001 06:00 p.m.
Location: Saint Mary's University

Dalhousie Athletes of the Week

Janice King
Women's Basketball
5th Year
Therapeutic Recreation
Grandlake, NS

Janice King of the Women's Basketball Team is the Dalhousie Tigers Female Athlete of the Week for the week ending January 14, 2001. King led the Tigers to a 67-42 victory against Acadia at Dalplex on Saturday. Janice led the Tigers with 11 pts and was perfect from the field and the foul line shooting 4/4 and 3/3 respectively. Janice helped the Tigers to their 21st consecutive Atlantic University Sport regular season victory.

Patrick Benjamin
Men's Track and Field
1st Year
Bachelor of Arts
Dartmouth, NS

Patrick Benjamin of the Men's Track and Field Team is the Dalhousie Tigers Male Athlete of the Week, for the week ending January 14, 2001. Patrick was the first Dalhousie runner to ever break 7 seconds in the 60 metre sprint event. Benjamin ran a time of 6.97 at the track and field meet held in Moncton on the weekend. His performance ranks this freshman 5th in the CIAU

SCOREBOARD

MEN'S HOCKEY

St. Thomas 3 @ Acadia 1
St. F.X. 1 @ UNB 4
Moncton 1 @ St. Mary's 5
Dalhousie 2 @ UPEI 6
Moncton 2 @ Acadia 2 (OT)
StFX 4 @ UPEI 2
Dalhousie 3 @ UNB 4
St. Thomas 4 @ Saint Mary's 7

WOMEN'S HOCKEY

Acadia 5 @ St. F.X. 0
St. F.X. 8 @ Acadia 0
Saint Mary's 3 @ Moncton 2

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Memorial 77 @ UCCB 47
Saint Mary's 68 @ StFX 63
Acadia 42 @ Dalhousie 67
UNB 62 @ UPEI 61
Memorial 67 @ UCCB 57
UNB 59 @ UPEI 57

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Memorial 87 @ UCCB 84
Saint Mary's 58 @ St. F.X. 61
Acadia 57 @ Dalhousie 53
Memorial 76 @ UCCB 84 (exhibition)
UPEI 97, Senior Men 82

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

St. F.X. 0 @ Moncton 3 (25-11,25-13,25-17)
Saint Mary's 3 @ UPEI 0 (25-20,25-21,25-14)
Memorial 3 @ UNB 0 (26-24,25-13,25-21)
UCCB 0 @ Mt Allison 3 (25-15,25-17,25-19)
UCCB 0 @ Moncton 3 (25-15,25-11,25-16)
Saint Mary's 3 @ UPEI 0 (25-17,25-22,28-28-26)
Memorial 3 @ UNB 2 (23-25,25-23,29-27,26-28,15-9)
StFX 1 @ Mt Allison 3 (19-25,25-18,25-17,25-20)
Acadia 3 @ Dalhousie 1 (25-17, 21-25, 25-21, 25-20)
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL
Memorial 3 @ UNB 1 (21-25,25-19,25-21,25-22)
Memorial 3 @ UNB 1 (25-23, 13-25, 25-20, 25-20)

The fight over Laker supremacy:

Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal fight for top spot

by cj foote

the gazette

I'm sure by now that most of you have heard about the controversy that has risen between Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal of the L.A. Lakers. In the past months the team has been split between the two of them; both of whom have been covertly fighting as the "big man" in L.A.

On one hand we've heard a Kobe interview in *The Magazine* where he commented with unrest on the team's reliance on O'Neal. To the alleged "hand signals" that Shaq was using to other players to signal to deny Bryant the ball when he became selfish. These are just a few examples of the tactics the two have chosen to catch centre stage.

However, both players as well as the fans are not realizing one important thing — that the Lakers are not Shaq's team, Kobe's team, Jerry West's, or even this city's team. The franchise is coach Phil Jackson's team, and that's coming from one of its most-fervent fans.

The escalation of the situation can best be shown by the situation with Jamie Sanchez.

Jackson, and each of his players, saw Sanchez as each of them steered their rigs into a Staples Center parking lot off 11th Street early Friday night.

They couldn't have missed Sanchez.

Decked in a gold silk robe, a purple silk headdress, worn sandals, dark shades and a shepherd's staff, Sanchez stood to the right of the lot holding a three-foot-wide sign that read "Coach Jackson, Gather Your Flock."

"The only reason I did this," Sanchez said, "is because of the conflict."

A disharmonic convergence engulfed the Lakers after they lost to the Clippers at Staples on Sunday, and it festered during a rare four-day layoff.

A national magazine

revealed that Kobe Bryant turned down an opportunity for a trade a few months ago, and then a late-December trade request by Shaquille O'Neal hit the public's eyes and ears.

Kupchak, who succeeded Jerry West as general manager over the summer said he would never put O'Neal on the market to see what he could fetch; O'Neal hasn't pressed the issue.

"We're cool," Shaq said to NBC. "As long as we stick to the program, everything's all good. There aren't any problems."

Even though Shaq has said this, recent reports have stated that he has recently asked for a trade, however, L.A. has been unresponsive to his requests.

Then Bryant, the NBA's leading scorer, and O'Neal fought a battle on the media battlefield. Bryant said change is inevitable, that maybe the Lakers could depend less upon Shaq and more upon Bryant's lethal talents. O'Neal suggested that Bryant is selfish.

All of a sudden, two players who will reap tens of millions of dollars from the game were seen as a disruption to a potential dynasty because of a drawn-out power struggle that a few, namely Jackson, consider juvenile.

"They were talking like babies," Sanchez said to a television station. "If the shepherd doesn't gather his flock, they'll be lost. Coach Jackson has to be the shepherd. He's the director. The commander. That's what it's all about. The shepherd has to guide his flock. It's simple."

As simple as reinforcing ball movement and unselfishness in practice, and taking advantage of opponents, like the Lakers did last week with O'Neal (34 points, 23 rebounds) against roster-ravaged Cleveland.

The controversy was tempered a tad after the Lakers squeezed out a 101-98 victory over the Cavaliers before a sellout Staples crowd of 18,997, nudging the 24-11 team within two games of Pacific Division-leading Portland.

Bryant commented with distinct words about the tension in the arena.

"It was like everyone was on

pins and needles," Bryant said to NBC. "I said to Horace Grant right before the game that it seemed like a playoff atmosphere, for some reason."

The tension was an obvious indication of the apprehension the fans had for the situation. However, if the fans thought that they were going to see the players fight it out they came to the wrong sport. Thank god that the NBC still hasn't turned into the WWF.

However, Kobe must have been on pins and needles even minute of the game because he took 20+ shots (half of what he normally takes).

"Right before the game, we just looked at each other and I said, Let's go!"

When asked if solving this "problem" posed a significant personal challenge to him, Jackson did not hesitate with his answer.

"I'm interested in players playing team basketball. That's the only thing that's an issue," Jackson said. "The issue is when players stand above the team. (They are) rewarded, financially, (so) they have to drop that. Then it becomes, not a personal game but a group effort, and that's

what we have to emphasize."

Jackson recalled some similar cat fights in Chicago during Jackson's fabulous run with Michael Jordan and the Bulls, like one feud between Horace Grant and Jordan about selfishness.

Jackson insisted that such pettiness is not, and should not be, common.

"Success is one of the most difficult things to deal with," Jackson said. "A lot of people want to feel that they're part of the thing, what made the effort successful."

But there is unquestionably a problem with basketball these days. It seems that the sport has taken a turn for the worst. It has plunged into a gray area where players concentrate on their contracts and name rather than on the team.

"It's not the same as it was with Bird, Jordan, or with Wilt," said a Halifax authority on basketball. "(In those days) the team was the major emphasis and the good players were important because they could lead the team. But now with all the egos, talented players, and big contracts the game has changed."

with files from NBC TV

RANK

Rank	Men's Basketball	Last Wk
1	Alberta	1
2	UQTR	2
3	Western	3
4	Manitoba	4
5	SFX	5
6	St. Thomas	6
7	Saskatchewan	7
8	Lethbridge	8
9	*Dalhousie	9
10	Calgary	10

As of 1/7/01

Rank	Women's Basketball	Last Wk
1	Regina	2
2	Victoria	1
3	Manitoba	3
4	Laval	9
5	Winnipeg	5
6	Calgary	4
7	Simon Fraser	6
8	UBC	10
9	*Dalhousie	NR
10	Laurentian	7
10	Alberta	8

As of 1/7/01

Rank	Men's Volleyball	Last Wk
1	Manitoba	1
2	Laval	T2
3	Calgary	T2
4	Saskatchewan	6
5	Alberta	4
6	Toronto	5
7	Dalhousie	NR
8	Winnipeg	10
T9	UBC	8
T9	Queen's	7

As of 1/7/01

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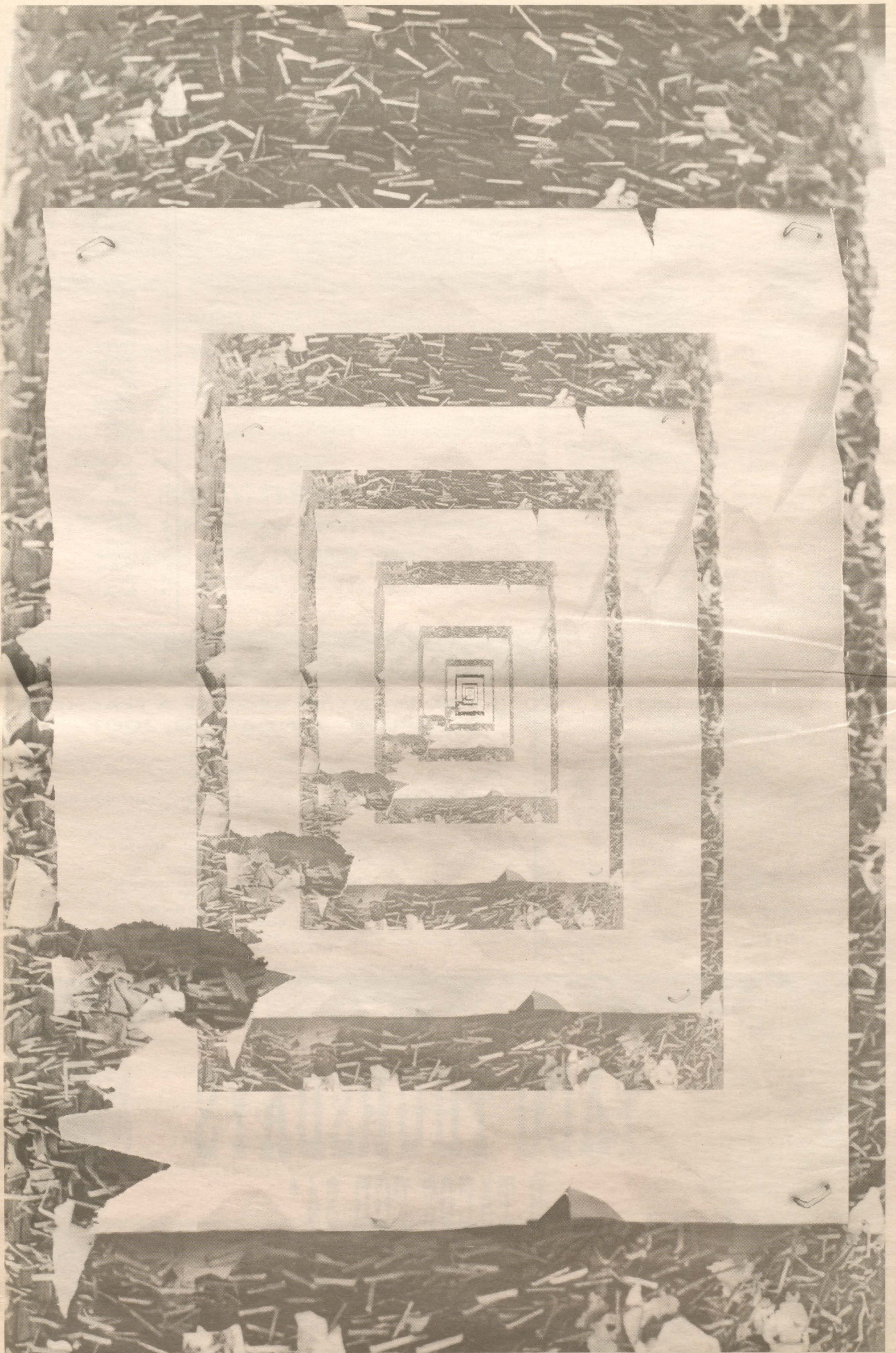
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