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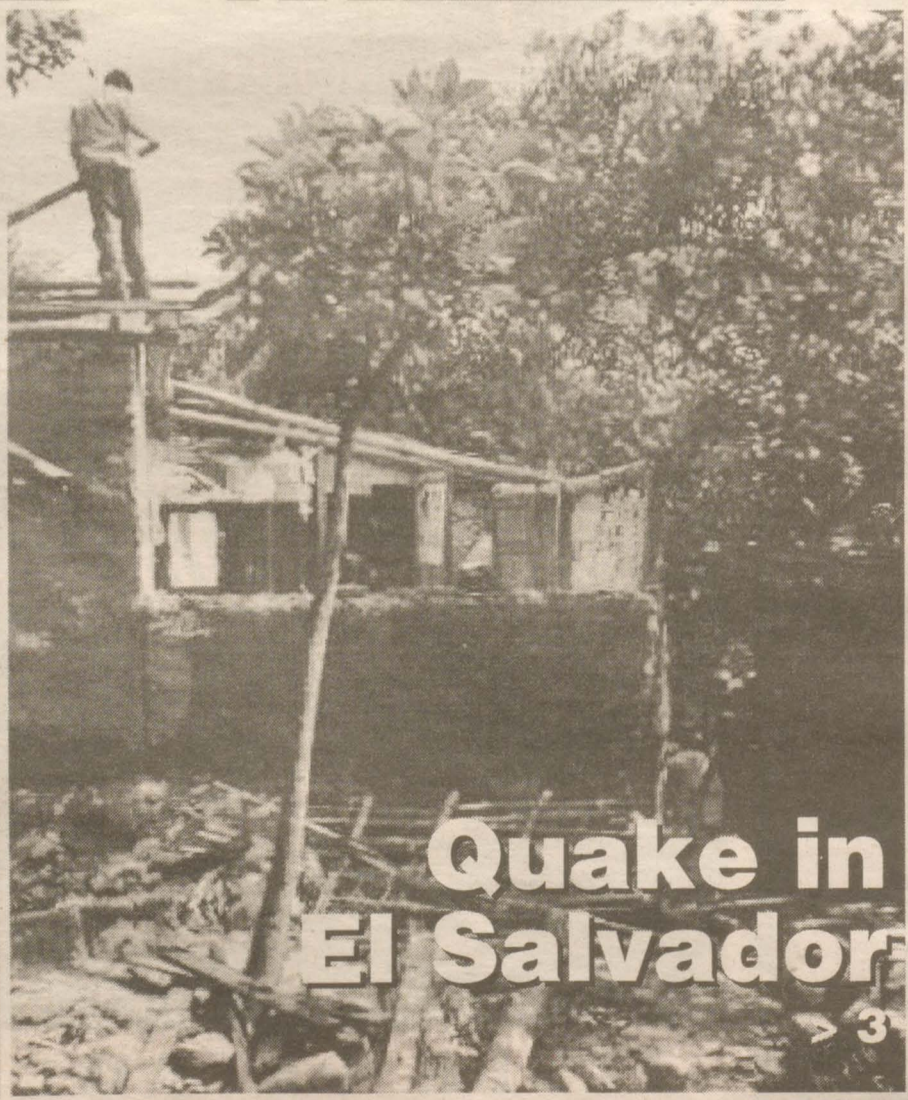


Meet the Candidates

Future DSU share their views > 3

Khyber beats for a cause

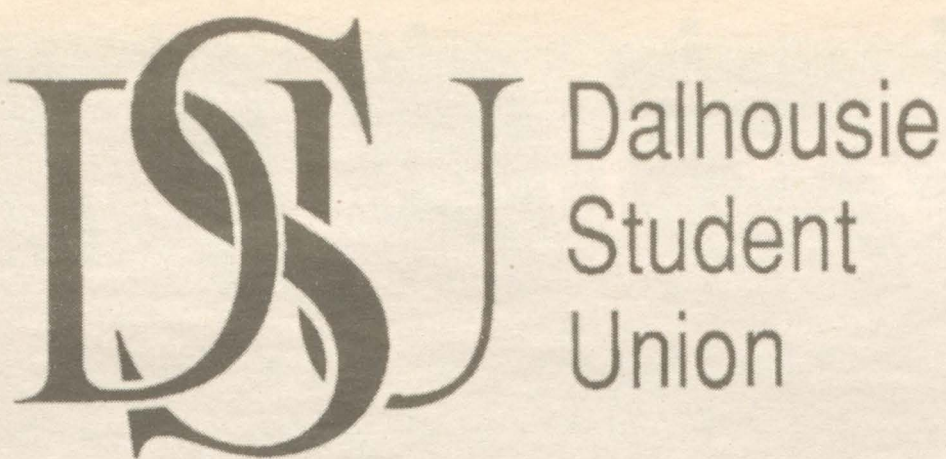
Halifax Refugee Clinic fundraiser highlights > 3



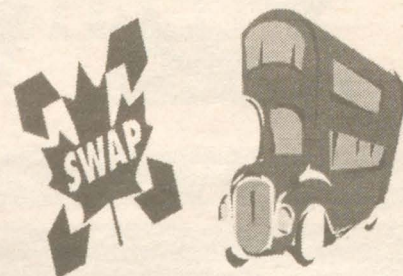
Quake in El Salvador

> 3

News > 3 Dalendar > 6 Streeter > 7 Feedback > 5
Arts > 8 Focus > 13 Sciences > 14 Sports > 15



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Dal goes to vote

Only two positions to be contested

by tyler kustra

the gazette

Mufaro Chakabuda doesn't need to tell people it's been a tiring campaign. Her blood shot eyes do that for her.

Chakabuda, along with Johanne Galarneau and Mohammed Wahid, is running in this week's elections for the position of the DSU's Vice-President of Student Advocacy (VPSA).

Chakabuda is nervous. At the urging of her younger sister Farai Chakabuda, she submitted her nomination at the last minute.

"I feel very nervous. At first I was really worried about [the election]," said Chakabuda. "But I learned that all you can do is put in your best"

For her that meant going to classes and candidates' debates, trying to get her name out and using word of mouth to power her campaign. She purposely put up her campaign posters when students were around so they could associate a person with her picture.

While she says she has trouble with English (her mother tongue is Shona, one of the main languages of her home country of Zimbabwe) it isn't apparent in how she talks. She speaks with a slight hint of King's English in her voice and says "Oh my goodness" not "Oh my God." Her measured sentences convey precisely what she means. She seems so polite talking about what she will do.

But make no mistake she says, she will take on authority.

"Yes, I will respect authority. But where the students' needs are more

important than respecting authority I will express the students opinion.

"I always saw myself on the DSU voicing the opinions of those students who can't be heard," she said smiling.

While Chakabuda is nervous, Galarneau is tense.

"It's nerve-racking, especially where the seat of Vice-President Student Advocacy is contested," she said.

She speaks firmly in choppy sentences using swift hand gestures to emphasise her points.

"I've never backed down from a fight," the current Board of Governors representative said.

But this week has put a lot of pressure on her.

"Campaigning week is a difficult week because you want to talk to as many students as you can."

Galarneau says the most effective way to campaign is to talk to students directly. Over the past week she has talked to between 30 and 40 classes as well as putting up posters and banners.

"There's no qualms about it, if you want to win you have to campaign.

If she does win she says the students will be her number one priority and she'll "work my butt off" for them.

But, she adds, "You have to pick your battles."

That's why she says she isn't making sweeping campaign promises.

For whoever wins, the job will be challenging. Chrystal MacAulay, the current VPSA, spent the year trying to juggle pressures of the job.

She says she tried to publicize

the DSU's course evaluation and student advocacy services without much student response.

Moreover, the VPSA sits on the disciplinary committee and votes on whether to expel students. MacAulay says the idea is frightening and sad, but feels expelling a student who cheats or plagiarises does a service to other students of Dalhousie.

Galarneau says she could expel a student if the need arose.

"I would find it very difficult," Galarneau said. "To hold a student's life in your hands is a really difficult thing and it's sad it might come down to the mood you're in that day."

"[Yet], if I had to expel a student you are going to have to be strong enough and confident in yourself to stand behind your decision."

Chakabuda agrees.

"When I believe the student has no right to be in school then definitely I will [expel him]," she said.

MacAulay advises the new vice-president, whose term starts May 1, to take advantage of the summer to learn about the issues and determine objectives. Frosh-week, she says, should be used as a chance to introduce one self to students.

After all the speeches, talking one-on-one to students and putting up posters, Galarneau says she'll take a fatalistic view to the results of this week's elections.

"Next Wednesday when the verdict comes down, I'll just smile and say 'I ran the best campaign I could have.'"

The VPSA position, along with the Vice President Community Affairs, are the only two positions.

Salvadoreans deal with quake

by sofia kalormakis

the gazette

Psychological stress and trauma are plaguing Salvadoreans as tremors continue to shake their nation, a CUSO representative said in a report last week.

Jennifer Guralnick is a Saint Mary's graduate working as an Urban planner for CUSO in El Salvador. She was there when the first earthquake happened about two months ago and is involved with Canadian relief efforts in the area. Guralnick says the effects of the quakes go beyond the physical destruction of cities, and is hitting people on a psychological level.

"It has become one of the biggest problems in the nation aside from the more obvious," Guralnick said. "The government here is reporting 10,000 people with symptoms of depression while most people have not even visited doctors but suffer from trauma and stress."

Although it's not part of her job description, Guralnick gives workshops to local teachers on disaster prevention which they teach the children and other members of the community.

Fearful that another earthquake would hit again, more than 800 people applied for passports in the last week as they looked for a way to flee the country.

Maria Ramos is the Office Administrator at MISA (Metro Immigrant Settlement Association). She's independently enrolled in relief efforts in Halifax, since MISA itself is

not involved in this kind of activity. Ramos' family in El Salvador has not suffered the loss of personal property as many others have because their houses were built recently and could withstand the shocks.

"[My family's] infrastructures haven't suffered greatly," she said. "But the tension, the nervousness shown by people in the capital region as well as in other parts of the country is disconcerting."

As residents of villages like Olocuilta and Jiquilisco gather up money and materials from relief efforts and start rebuilding, the approximately one million homeless people pick up the pieces.

As one of the first countries to provide relief, Canada has been involved with the reconstruction of thousands of shattered homes as well as government buildings and colonial-style churches the quakes destroyed. A non-governmental organization, CUSO, contributes to this effort by linking local relief efforts with people in El Salvador who are working in the field and were present when the first tremors shook their ground.

Another local CUSO representative, Beth Abbott, said that fear plays a significant role in this newly-developed paranoia. She said workshops like the ones Guralnick organised are one way to calm down people's fears and show them what can be done in the face of a natural disaster.

"The government in El Salvador doesn't allocate resources

for this kind of disaster, the preparedness that is needed psychologically and physically," Abbott said.

It is this fear that is keeping children out of school, Ramos said. Classes were supposed to begin in January but because of the ongoing tremors, the children have received a total of about two weeks of classes in the current academic year and they are still waiting to return.

With one quarter of the population left homeless and a shaky ground, people suffer from trauma and anxiety that affects their daily rituals.

"Trauma and anxiety affect virtually every facet of people's lives," Guralnick said. "Their ability to work, family relations, depression, etc. as well as the physical manifestations of stress and fear."

Local support finds its way to El Salvador through the efforts of organizations like CUSO as well through some local churches and even independent groups. At Dalhousie, a pub crawl in aid of El Salvador's quake victims raised about \$800 three weeks ago.

Abbott said this sort of support is most welcomed by CUSO members in Halifax as well as in El Salvador. But she fears the anxiety caused by the tremors are hard to address.

"We'll take the recommendations from the people we have in the field already and if there is a need and a way to ease their situation, we will co-operate every way we can."

National News

from the Canadian University Press newswire
by Wendy Sawatzky

B.C. cuts tuition by five percent

VICTORIA (CUP) — Tuition in British Columbia will be \$113.25 cheaper next September thanks to an announcement by Premier Ujjal Dosanjh to reduce fees by five percent.

To alleviate concerns of students, faculty, and administrators who fear tuition freezes and roll-backs hurt the quality of education, Dosanjh also announced that all post-secondary institutions would be fully compensated for the reduction in tuition revenue.

While the details have yet to be hammered out, the provincial legislature will reconvene March 14 and the provincial finance minister will table a budget allocating funds to compensate post-secondary institutions for the reduction in tuition revenue. If the budget is ratified before the NDP government's mandate expires June 28, the fee reduction will be in place in Sept. 2001.

Tuition in B.C. is the second lowest in Canada, after Quebec, while Ontario and Alberta charge over \$4,000 per year. Both Manitoba and Newfoundland are considering reducing fees.

U of T oral sex study call for volunteers a fraud

TORONTO (CUP) — A call for volunteers for a fake University of Toronto research study purportedly set up by the faculty of medicine has been circulating electronically and was posted in at least one teaching hospital.

The study claims to be examining the effects of human semen on speech in order to establish whether acts of "rigorous" fellatio contribute to the pathology of the larynx.

According to the bogus call for volunteers, male participants who were willing to receive fellatio were to be paid a conditional "bonorarium" of \$145.

"It's pretty clear that [the study] is bogus," said a University of Toronto spokesperson.

The document looked like an official U of T research participant form and claimed to have been approved by the research ethics board. The top of the form contained the U of T faculty of medicine official crest and motto, while the bottom of the form contained the mission statement of the department of otolaryngology along with pull out tabs that had bogus contact info for potential participants.

The document was mainly distributed by e-mail and wound up being sent as far as England. An employee in the university's department of otolaryngolog said they received some telephone inquiries about the study.

U of R teacher resigns after peer review shows no credentials

REGINA (CUP) — A University of Regina teacher resigned Feb. 13 after an annual peer review process revealed she does not have the credentials with which she was hired.

Lana Ngeyen is alleged to have used her ex-husband's degrees to get a teaching position at the U of R, claiming that Hien Nguyen was her name before it was Anglicized.

Since her resignation, the University of Ottawa, the University of Waterloo and the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan have confirmed she does not hold the bachelor's degree, doctorate, or professional status she claimed. Her ex-husband Hien Nguyen did study and receive diplomas from the two universities.

Faculty and students expressed shock at the accusations. But they say that from day one of her employment at the U of R, there were indicators that Nguyen was a professor unlike any other, such as confrontational and abusive behaviour and a problematic teaching record. Some students are asking for their tuition money back from her classes.

The U of R is passing its file on "Dr." Nguyen to Regina police, who will decide whether or not to lay charges.

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R-A-P, leaky toilets, and democracy?

The bathroom ceiling leaking interrupts my thoughts about democracy. It must be coming from our upstairs neighbour's bathroom my brain says... and I hope it's not what it smells like. Let's not find out, I elect, but sniff the drips anyway, talking to myself in the mirror.

Seconds later the telephone rings, startling me. I decide to answer

Our neighbours have clogged their toilet. Tampons? Condoms? Massive logs maybe? Probably a combination of all three.

it, and democracy is forgotten for the moment.

"Hello, the friendship connection, Kip speaking," I say.

"Hey, is this Kip?"

"Yes."

"Do you have a plunger?"

Aaah, the neighbours.

"Nope."

"Oh. Do you know if our neighbours have one?"

"Nope."

"Oh. How are you?"

"Good."

"Aaah. OK."

"Right-o. Merry plunging then."

"Bye."

Merry Plunging? Returning to the john I think at least the drips are running along the mildewy ceiling and falling into the sink. No effort need be expended really, and besides, it is funny imagining the ways our neighbours

have clogged their toilet. Tampons? Condoms? Massive logs maybe?

Probably a combination of all three. "Yes", I say, nodding to myself in agreement.

From the sitting room, Scotty strokes his guitar (not an analogy). He sings "the couple in the next room are bound to win a prize. They've been going at it all night long. Da da dee Da Da dee dee doo...Sweet new England."

I laugh. Things are going to get ridiculous. My eyes widen, the rumblings begin. "Oh no. OOH NO." Why now? Do I smell diapers? The neighbors don't have babies though. Maybe it's baby powder. But even the smells can't stop what's coming. "Oh shit. I'm sorry." The mirror says to

myself.

The R-A-P is on its way out.

"Western democracy, deplore your hypocrisy. Cast a vote, is no choice, but a toast, a boast for our host, stability, conservative civility.

But individuals combined, a choice for directions, asking questions, making connections that choice isn't elections for policy selections, but a promotion of the conservative notion.

The individual's hoist, true choice, is minds stimulated, ignorance hated, idiocy abated, beauty dated. Our future's over-rated by leader reports, statistical liar for hire. Politics a risk-it, another stale biscuit."

The R-A-P wanes for the moment. From the sitting room the guitar is diving gutturally. He's singing, "I can't keep living this way, getting drunk everyday..." I remember what day it is, Sunday, and the wine which was

guzzled over tuna melts an hour ago.

"French genius meet canned fish," I inform my reflection.

But, again looking at myself and putting on a severe face, DJ Kip returns to the mirror and his R-A-P.

"They're in pain man, they're in pain. It's not questionably insane, but unquestionably plain. It's pain. In the south, in our own house, they bust, for consumer lust, and take a fraction of the economic action spurned by corporate collars, sweaty and vile for dollars, taking a greedy cut, the capitalist slut. Kick his butt, and inexcusable smut, beat the beast, the state, but moderate, by asking, by tasking, by unmasking.

Don't second guess, compassion no less, a test:

Individual might,

Individual fight,

Individual height; a humble position.

No fashion but compassion."

The R-A-P is finished.

I don't want to think about democracy anymore, but wish that huge gains would be made for all the underpaid, over-worked, abused workers, wherever, doing whatever, by giving them a fraction more money. And making sure that if you want to be part of trade agreements that some basic, compassionate, rules over labour conditions be in place and ENFORCED.

The toothpaste, bacteria and shaving stains have struck a nerve inside me.

"We," I announce to my face, "are not talking about infringing on culture with western capitalist beliefs. We're not talking about cutting off the free hand of economy. It doesn't matter what beliefs you hold. We're talking about UNIVERSAL HUMAN COMPASSION shivering at pain. Somewhere, somehow, it must exist underneath our thoughts and attitudes, that sweet kernel of compassion."

The music has stopped. The wine is stretched out, and Goddammit I wish the drips collecting in the sink weren't that colour.

DJ Kip Keen

Get the facts

It's an indisputable fact that we in Nova Scotia have a serious problem with smoking and tobacco use. Oddly enough, there have been debates on the merits of increasing smoke-free places. On behalf of the doctors of Nova Scotia, allow me to clear the air on this issue.

Eliminating second-hand smoke from public places is elementary. We not only need to protect the public from the serious dangers of second-hand smoke, but the employees of places such as restaurants, malls and bars, as well, deserve to be able to do their work without risking serious illness and disease.

In a recent media article, a representative from the Canadian Restaurant and Food Association relayed that a smoking ban would hurt such businesses. The doctors of Nova Scotia echo the revealing statements of Dr. Robert Strang, Medical Officer of Health, Capital Health District, Public Health Services. He explains experiences from many jurisdictions across the continent show that the effect of non-smoking designations on restaurant and bar retail sales is neutral or perhaps even positive.

Consider just the fact that the most of the population is non-smokers — all those people are looking for smoke-free establishments. Ask around and you will likely find many people who have abandoned frequenting many pubs, bars and restaurants simply because they cannot stand the smoke. The Medical Society of Nova Scotia wants you to have the facts. Increasing smoke-free areas will make a difference. There is no time to lose.

Sincerely,
Louise Cloutier, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President
Medical Society of Nova Scotia

Leading questions

"In every country where man is free to think and to speak, differences of opinion will arise from difference of perception, and the imperfection of reason; but these differences when permitted, as in this happy country, to purify themselves by free discussion,

are but as passing clouds overspreading our land transiently and leaving our horizon more bright and serene."

Thomas Jefferson

This past week a number of Dalhousie students took part in the annual DSU elections. In response *the Gazette* printed a list of questions and responses at the back of their paper. The final question asked by *the Gazette* (unfortunately the article was unsigned) was "how do you address accusations from Dal students that the DSU doesn't work in favor of Dal students?" Aside from being poorly worded this question was an insult to those participating in the process.

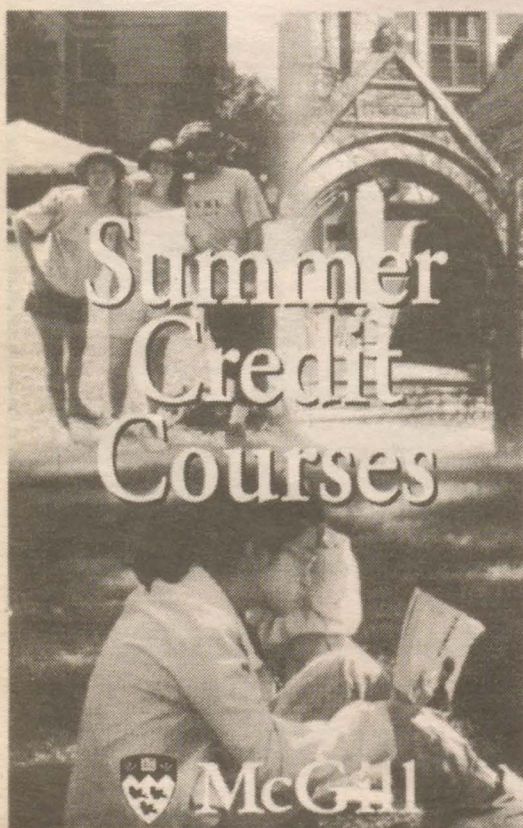
Each year students across Dalhousie and Daltech are for the first time introduced to the idea of Public Service. Students under the umbrella of the DSU serve as councilors, work on awareness campaigns and raise thousands of dollars for charity. For many students this first experience of public service will be the beginning of a life long dedication to volunteerism. That these students' activities are woefully unreported is unfortunate, that they take a back page to a story about the benefits of Echinacea is absurd.

These students should be celebrated; these students should be front-page news.

Increasingly I have seen around campus acts of vandalism to bathroom advertisements, personally I am not a huge fan of bathroom ads however the vandalism concerns me. I don't think many of us will shed many tears at the possibility of these ads being removed because the advertiser can no longer afford to replace the damaged ads, but we should. We should be terrified at the prospect.

What does this have to do with the DSU elections? Everything, actually.

The students who have campaigned for the DSU positions and the hundreds of students who work as volunteers and councilors on behalf of their constituents cannot hide behind the anonymity of vandalism. Nor can they take pot shots at an organization



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Volume 133, no. 21

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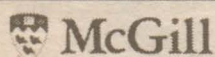
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All submissions must be e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a "text" format. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

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anonymously from the sidelines. In contrast these students have no choice but to face their detractors and publicly defend their ideas. Those who vandalize bathroom signs may have a point of view but lack the courage of their convictions to express it publicly, or the determination to work towards change. Instead these individuals hope to have their goals reached without consensus and without debate. These people are not democrats, they are cowards who wish to compel others without the burden of thoughtful persuasion, these people do not belong at a University.

If at a University the brightest and best young minds succumb to the cynicism reflected in *the Gazette's* last question then all is lost, if we as a society view those who participate as "suckers" or those who dedicate themselves to public service as having some sort of hidden agenda then as a society we will be adrift. The University and the University community has always been a place where we help build good citizens, not complacent citizens but those who

believe that they have a responsibility to participate in the betterment of their society.

I truly hope that *the Gazette* will do more in the future to enliven debate rather than take pot shots at those who still believe that debate is worthwhile.

Brian Kellow

Bill C-68, go suck your gun

Dear Editor,

Re. "Firearms Survey is the best ever done" (Feb. 23), a more fitting title from David Austin, Canadian Firearms Center should have been, "This is the best piece of junk science we have ever produced!"

Deception #1: Austin says the goal of C-68 is to improve public safety by keeping firearms out of the hands of people who should not have them. Rubbish! He presents no evidence that there is a safety problem in Canada. Statistics Canada (2000) reports that

crime has been declining for the past eight years. Firearms accidents have been dropping steadily for the past 40 years, thanks to safety education programs created and implemented by gun owners. Who are the statistically safest citizens in society? Firearms owners. Who does C-68 target?

Canada's safest citizens. Yikes! Of 124 pages in C-68, seven pages legislate against criminals while 117 focus on honest gun owners. Since criminals never register their guns, C-68 cannot prevent them from obtaining illegal guns. Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray verified that after 64 years and \$640 million, there was no evidence that Canada's RCMP handgun registration system had reduced crime or saved lives. This explodes the Austin/McLellan safety myth. Can you say needless, hoax and scrap C-68?

Deception #2: To demonstrate the incredible incompetence within the Department of Justice, the 1998 Canadian Firearms Safety Course Manual instructs firearms owners specifically: "Avoid advertising about the firearms in your home. You may be inviting theft." Two years later, the bungling bureaucrats at Justice contradicted their own advice and polled gun owners on exactly what they had been instructed not to reveal to strangers. Is it any wonder why firearms owners refused to answer anonymous strangers and why the survey statistics are bogus? The insane ten-year jail sentences for non-compliance have traumatized responsible citizens. The CFC even predicted its politicized survey would deliver the expected results, before the survey was ever released. Can you shout fraud and junk science?

Deception #3: Austin tricks Canadians with the false illusion of scientific accuracy. Given the previous conditions, claiming an anonymous telephone survey has an error rate of 1.25% at the 95% confidence level is like arguing the costs of C-68 will be \$3.769201 gazillion! Previously, an average of three government surveys justified seven million gun owners and 21 million firearms in Canada. However, when the gun registry became riddled with errors and gun owner compliance with licensing flopped, Justice Minister Anne McLellan wasted \$93,000 on a highly politicized survey claiming only 2.5 million gun owners. Obviously, this was a feeble and transparent attempt to sway public opinion toward C-68, to deflate the real costs and to create the false illusions of gun owner support and CFC success.

Deception #4: Austin says the government agenda is not to discourage firearm ownership. More rubbish! At United Nations conferences in Cairo (1996) and Buenos Aires (1998), Canada and Japan initiated secretive agendas to disarm all civilians in the world with Canada as the role model. In C-68, 1600 pages of onerous gun laws are intended to harass recreational shooters and destroy Canada's \$6 billion/year shooting sports industry. In New York City, during July 2001, Canada will be sponsoring a United Nations conference on world civilian disarmament.

Quite simply, David Austin is unbelievable! He is sinking in the footsteps of his CFC predecessor, Jean Valin, whose contract was not renewed for spin doctoring outrageously tall tales.

Professor Al Dorans
Director of Operations, CILA

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RANT OR RAVE

FTAA not A-OK

I recently attended a teach-in on the FTAA where various NGO representatives spoke to educate attendees how their lives and futures stand to be altered under the FTAA. I'd like to share some key areas with you today, hoping this article awakens and inspires you to continue your awareness and action against the FTAA.

So, what is the FTAA? It stands for the Free Trade Area of the Americas. Essentially, the FTAA extends our current North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the entire hemisphere, minus communist Cuba. The proposed FTAA will involve 34 nations, over 800 million people, with an accumulated annual GDP of 19 trillion dollars. Leaders of these nations will gather in Quebec City in April to negotiate the FTAA policies and inclusions.

The FTAA will align itself within WTO trade regulations, surpassing mere geographic borders, as it will encompass more than products — Canadian services stand to be 'up for grabs' as well. So what? These services include our Canadian education system, natural resources like our water and forests and the Medicare system. Other Canadian social values may also be endangered, including mail delivery, food production (GE Food acceptance is predicted to expand under FTAA) and Canadian content on television and radio are all threatened under the FTAA. I say may, because no one outside of our government knows what will be debated. A problem with FTAA negotiations is the secrecy as only 'member' nations and their governments have access to the details.

Expanding economics and financial growth are the primary benefits for extending trading blocs, such as NAFTA (and its extension FTAA), rather than environmental, social or human rights protection. Individual rights weaken as NAFTA expands — do we want that to happen? Expansive trading blocs steal power from individuals and smaller governments — passing it to policy makers and capitalists, which wish to expand corporate power via trade globalization. Organizers and proponents of the FTAA preach its benefits to small communities and local economies, but they often get disrupted instead. Their once safe self-sufficiency is destroyed permanently, upon signing the dotted line.

Remember that trade is beneficial, in fact, trade is essential for bringing products/services, growth and employment into our economy. But, without rules and restrictions trade is too powerful — too much is at risk. Lopsided, unfair (i.e. free) trade is NOT a solution; as it 'works' through backroom government dealings, corporate lobbyists, and unclear disputable terms.

Angela Bishop, a marketing professor at Saint Mary's University, representing the Council of Canadians (CoC), warned the attendees that the FTAA will lower government influence on corporate operations and business objectives. As trade blocs, and corporate power expand, all governments lose their power and ability to impose 'barriers to trade' like sanctions, tariffs, quotas, etc. So, as NAFTA grows, corporations have less regulatory hurdles to overcome — and we stand ready to allow it to happen.

What's happening now? Are our governments eager to portray their publics' interests? No! Quebec has launched a public 'fear-campaign' against protestors, which expands daily. Barbed wire fences have been erected around people's neighborhoods to shield visiting government leaders from direct contact with protestors. Our federal government has also reserved an additional 5000 Mounties for the negotiations, expecting violence. Quebec's security minister was quoted as saying (translated), "if you want peace, you have to prepare for war". Well, it seems they are prepared, but for what?

So, what can "poor and powerless" university students like you or I do? First, by realizing that everyone reading this article can make a difference — the key is through awareness and unified action (not mere passivity). Action need not be on the 'front line' in Quebec City, nor need it be violent. Here in Halifax you can generate change by writing letters/emails to your governments, attending local teach-ins, spreading awareness to your friends and families, even signing simple petitions shows support against the FTAA.

Weekly meetings are held for interested persons (like you), at Kings College in Halifax — near the DAL campus, Monday nights around 7 p.m. There is also another teach-in, by the Mobilization for Global Justice on March 16, 17 & 18. The topic of prime concern is the FTAA, the Quebec City summit and some various action plans to further raise awareness. Please if at all interested in the FTAA and how it can impact your life — intend to attend!

In closing — join the movement, speak up and out! Each of us has a say today for our tomorrows!

Jeremy Sears

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March 1 - 7

CAUT is stepping up its campaign work in 2001 with the launch in Halifax on March 9-10 of the first in a series of cross-country hearings on the state of post-secondary education in Canada. A Townhall meeting will take place from 7:30 pm — 10 p.m. on March 9 in Room 117, Sir James Dunn Building, Dalhousie University.

Leading Social Change Workshop will be held March 1 from 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. in Room 304 of the Weldon Law Building. All welcome.

Daniel Blake Rubenstein will talk on "Environmental Accounting and Auditing." He is a chartered accountant, auditor, author and Commissioner at the Office of the Auditor General. It will take place on March 2, 11:30 a.m. — 1 p.m. in Room 112, Faculty of Management Building.

Halifax in Motion-

Transportation and Land Use, A public Forum at Halifax Hall, City Hall, will be held on March 7, 8, 9.

The Bluenose Cat Club will be hosting their 30th Championship and Household Cat Show on March 17 at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. For information please contact Show Manager Janet Burke at 463-7717 or David Langille at 865-0966.

School of Occupational Therapy, **application deadline is extended** for B.Sc. (Occupational Therapy) to Mon. April 2, 2001, for Sept. 2001 admission. For info or application package: www.occtherapy.dal.ca; email occupational.therapy@dal.ca; phone 494-8804.

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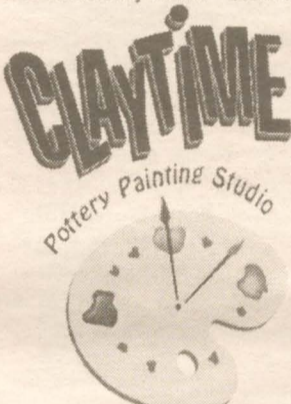
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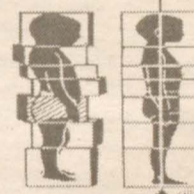
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WEBSITE UPDATE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS!

A new category has been developed within the SEC website for graduate students. Students who are pursuing a Masters or PhD can directly access job postings from employers requiring graduate training. The address of the site is: www.dal.ca/sec
This new initiative, Graduate Student Employment Services, is focusing on the unique needs of graduate students through the provision of career development workshops and one to one assistance, and facilitating relationship building with non-traditional employers. **Requests for information can be sent to: gradstudent.employment@dal.ca or to the Coordinator, Quenta Tynes, 494-2688.**

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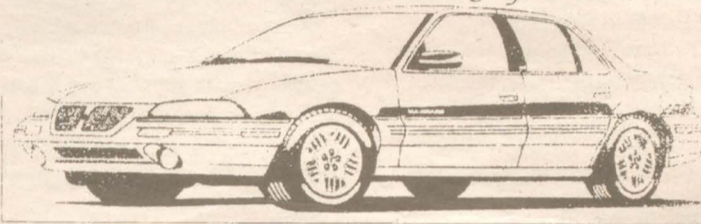
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Did you vote in the DSU elections? If you could replace any of the candidates with someone else, who would it be and why?



Rubens Aubourg,
aka Basketball Star
1st year Commerce

No, I didn't vote in the elections. But Michael Jordan would be a good role model for Dal!

Cindy Hatton
2nd year Pharmacy

No, I didn't vote in the elections. I think that Mickey Mouse should run for President, as he would probably do a better job.



Jen Peterson and Melissa Flemming

No I didn't vote, but if President Bartlet from the West Wing ran, he would be the best. Only because he is an actor.
No, I didn't vote, but I wouldn't replace the candidates with anyone. I think they will do a good job.



Jonathan Murphy
2nd year Science

No, I didn't vote. But I think that Fidel Castro should be president, 'cause I love his cigars!

Kathleen MacFarlane
2nd Year Science

Yes I did vote. But I would like to see Barbara Streisand run for anything.



Vanessa's Closet

advice from someone completely unqualified by vanessa owen

Dear Vanessa,

I have been seeing a guy for about three months and things were going well, or so I thought. Last night he wanted to have sex and I wasn't ready to take that step. He walked out without a word and drove away and I haven't heard from him since. Any idea what I did wrong? Should I try to talk to him or just leave it alone and count my blessings that if that is all this relationship meant to him I am better off without him? This may sound trivial but it has really upset me and I can't stop crying about it. Please advise me.
Kicked to the Curb

Dear Curb,

If you never see this jackass again you should consider yourself fortunate. I know you still have feelings for him, but the pain of loss you feel now is minute compared to the agony of having him do the same to you *after* he got what he wanted from you: a quick fuck. If he was interested in anything else he would have respected your decision rather than huffing off like a four year-old who wasn't allowed to watch his favorite cartoon. You deserve better than him and don't you ever forget it.

Dear Vanessa,

How cum (har har), is it that when you give a blow job, you can taste whatever food the guy has been eating or drink he has had?? Being a woman, I don't understand these sort 'o' things. I think I will get my boyfriend to eat chili all the time. Hot eh?
Curiouser and Curiouser

Dear C & C Question Factory,

Somehow I doubt if your man is eating chili all the time you'll want to get anywhere near his crotch. STINKY FLATULENCE!
I vaguely recall some mouse-like health teacher from my high school telling us that "we are what we eat". She could not have been more right, don't you think? In an age where we guzzle more cola-flavored sugar water than actual H2O and eat endless bags of deep-fried animal and vegetable entrails (because, you know, they'll make more), it's little wonder we've become a society of little substance. As we suck down empty calories our culture slowly unravels until we reach a point where no one will possess the skill or inclination to cook anything more than a microwave burrito — and only then because the microwave has a button labeled "burrito". So in every sense we are what we eat, which begs this question: Does your boyfriend say you taste like semen when he goes down on you?



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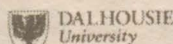
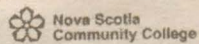
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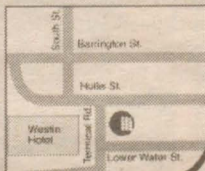
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HUSH

The Carson Downey Band

by caitlin kealey
the gazette

Hush Hush. The division is visible, but seldom discussed. In downtown Halifax racial boundaries exist, but few people talk about them.

On the phone from his home in North Preston, N.S., the front man for the Carson Downey Band talks about his recent show and newfound success.

Imagine Carson Downey on stage at the Attic in his loud coloured shirt growling into the mic to a huge crowd of drunken

students. His hands are violent over his guitar, and you wonder if this man lives, dreams and wakes to his music.

"Blues was a turn on for me." Downey's blues seems to be a turn on for a lot of people.

The show before the band's trip to Nashville felt like a big rock concert. People crammed themselves to the front of the stage long before the band made its way out, chanting "Car-son, Car-son, Car-son." The instant the door to the backstage room swung open people started clapping and screaming. There was a surge

forward. The crowd was pumped for a night of rockin' blues.

They may not be the people you might expect at a blues show. It's mainly early 20 somethings — the university crowd. There is also the obvious lack of any race besides white. There's a strong black community in Halifax's Regional Municipality, but why don't they come to these shows downtown?

"Folks back here got no use for downtown, they don't go into bars because they don't feel wanted," explained Downey. "Downtown is like going to Toronto to them, it doesn't matter because they don't miss it."

Regardless, his band takes him away from Halifax. This is the band's last show in Nova Scotia for the next eight weeks. The tour takes them from Tennessee back to Toronto to open for Buddy Guy and then out to Vancouver and all the way back to Halifax.

Carson Downey onstage and offstage are two very different people.

Onstage he is a whirlwind, bleeding the blues while his fingers stroke the guitar with an understated frenzy. Offstage Downey is a shy, quiet man; he's extremely happy to have the chance to expose his music to a larger audience after nearly two decades of paying his dues in Eastern Canada.

The Carson Downey Band has signed a three-album deal with Loggerhead Records and their first album, *All the Way*, came out last year.

It was a case of both hard work and being in the right place at the right time, says Downey.

It paid off. A few years ago at the East Coast Music Awards, the band was playing the 74-hour jam. Loggerhead's President, Andrew McCain was there and quickly offered the band a spot on his

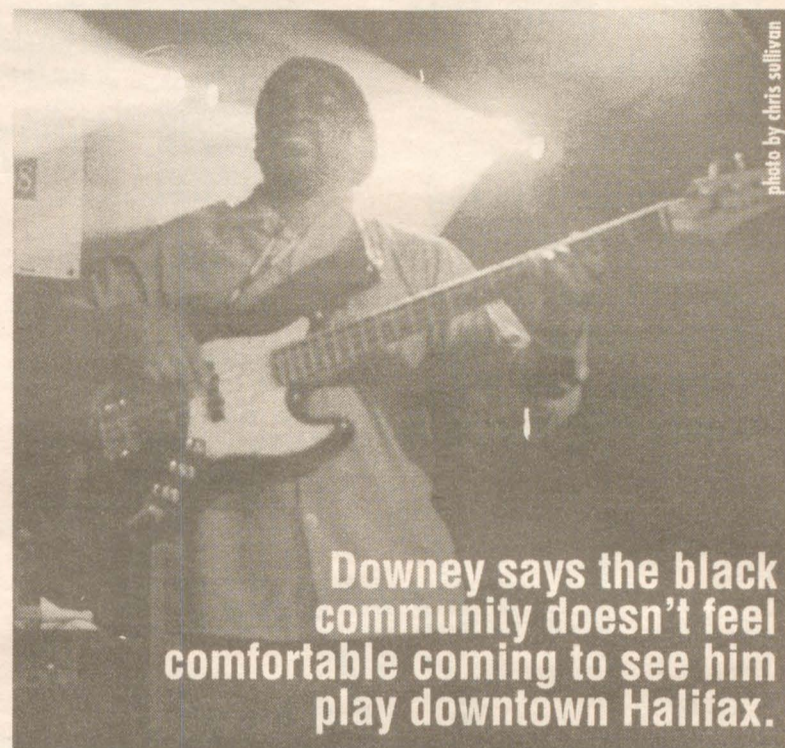


photo by chris sullivan

Downey says the black community doesn't feel comfortable coming to see him play downtown Halifax.

label.

It's been tough keeping up with their success ever since.

"I'm overwhelmed," says Downey. "Things happened so fast. I'm not complaining — I'm enjoying it."

At last year's ECMA's, Downey was awarded the East Coast Guitarist of the Year, and later that year he received the Dutch Mason Award for exceptional contribution to the preservation of the Maritime blues. Then at this year's ECMAs, The Carson Downey band walked away with two awards: Best New Artist and Blues Group of the Year.

Downey's musical potential began at an early age.

His first introduction to music was at the age of 12. At school he saw the music teacher play a big ukulele and he decided that he wanted one too, but disappointment hit when he got one because it was really small, unlike the one he had seen. He didn't like it, so after watching Martin Smith play the guitar around the age of 14 he ran home

and asked his mom to buy him one. He played in two bands before his introduction to the blues where he dabbled in funk and a little R&B and pop. In the late 80's he even worked in construction, almost never doing the blues thing.

"I was doing construction work, and it was hard. Real hard, my hands, my back, everything hurt. I told myself never again, that's when I started booking my band myself. I told myself I'm never doing this again and I never looked back."

It wasn't until Downey went to check out his brother-in-law's band that he realized blues was the sound for him.

It's a good thing for the rest of us that he did. Audiences love Carson Downey.

"We have a unique style for a three piece. We go hard — we're hardcore. They come to hear and see something that's real — no foolin' around — hardcore right in your face."

While audiences definitely flock to shows, certain communities are not represented at shows in downtown Halifax.

Downey says change seems slow.

"I been here for 40 years and ain't nothing changed. I wish but," he said. "Ya know."

And then adds "Do you think it'll change?"

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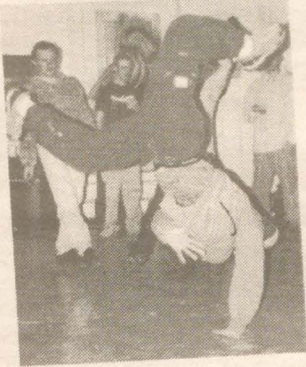
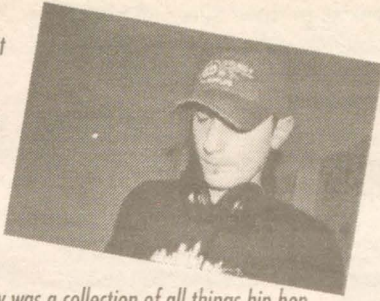
Goods beats on a clean canvas (Khyber)

Phantasmagoric hip hop inspires for charity

comrade kip

photos by mayra williams

The Khyber was a host for a hip hop extravaganza in the name of charity last Saturday as dozens of people flooded the club for a Halifax Refugee Clinic fundraiser. The clinic is a group dedicated to aiding refugees in the area, and the event supported the charity with droves of people.



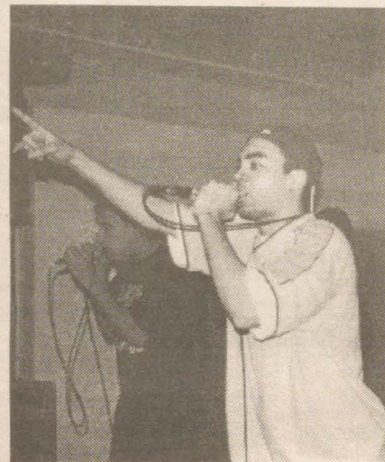
The show was a collection of all things hip hop. With a crew consisting of Grey Matter, Buck 65, Skratch Bastard, SixToo, JoRun, The Goods, Taichichi and Kaleb Simmonds, and featured a floor of DJs, breakers and a display of graffiti by local artists.



Skratch Bastard was one of the many DJs to grace the floors on Saturday, whipping out beats for the drunken mess of people.



Buck 65 delighted the crowd with his chicken-style dance and solid hip hop before heading upstairs and rippin' a few off on the decks. He says his new album, Man Overboard, should hit the shelves at the end of March.



Taichichi and Kaleb Simmonds open the gates early in the night, reamin' off rhymes with Simmonds' seemingly impossible beatboxing. The loud and muffled Taichichi was spot on, desite being incomprehensible, and Simmonds is something that has to be seen to be believed.

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Underground Initiations

by ryan delehanty

the gazette

I decided I'd focus on band breakups, new releases and some other interesting tidbits this week. There have been some rumors of the breakup of **Royal Trux** this past week. **Neil Hagerty** formerly of **Pussy Galore**, and currently in **Royal Trux** with his wife **Jennifer Herrema** is releasing a solo album this month and **Drag City**, his record label, ran a story that **Royal Trux** had broken up. This story turns out to be premature, and apparently **Royal Trux** is just on hiatus, with a break up still possible. Apparently **Hagerty** has finished a second album, which is a **Drag City** all-star album

slated to be released this spring. I've been hearing contradictory news on the status of **The Make Up**, currently I'm leaning towards believing that they are still together, but I'll try and find out for sure and let you know by next week. Also for any **Pavement** fans it sounds like they are broken up, but since there are no hard feelings between the members, a reunion is not unlikely at some distant point in the future.

Since I've been talking a bit about break ups, I thought I'd mention a new band creation that sounds quite promising. Born a few weeks ago in Portland, Oregon, **Polkadot Chokealot** is debuting at a women's festival in Portland this Friday. **Lulu** and **Maxi** (short for **Maxim Booty Queen**) are

looking to shake things up a bit, featuring keyboards, drum machines and a sharp wit and **Polkadot Chokealot** is a band with tons of promise, who you should keep an eye out for in the coming year. Odds are they won't reach Halifax any time soon, but I'm expecting to get their first tape in the mail soon, and I'll give it a full review in the coming weeks.

In Canadian music news, both **Tricky Woo** and **The Flashing Lights** have new albums that should be out in May, with new **Sloan** and **Local Rabbits** albums tentatively scheduled for June. **Joel Plaskett** is also recording at the moment, and his new album should be out in the next few months. I've heard that a track from the upcoming album is already getting limited airplay on **Q104**, always at the forefront of cutting edge music, and of course **Joel's** playing one of his fabulous two-set concerts this Friday at the **Marquee Club**.

Superchunk has a new album

on the way this summer, or possibly fall, but two tracks from it are currently available for download in MP3 format on the **Merge Records** website (www.mrg2000.com). **Merge Records** will be releasing a couple promising albums on May 22, **Argyle Heir** by **The Ladybug Transistor**, and **Looking for Leonard** by **Portastatic**. Out on **K Records** in April is the long lost **Modest Mouse** album, **Sad, Sappy Sucker**, which was recorded in 1994. Check out www.kpunk.com in the next few weeks for mp3's from the upcoming album.

Bjork's first new full-length in over three years is due on May 22nd. **Vespertine** (said to mean things that happen in twilight) was recorded all around the world, and is described as being very quiet, introspective and peaceful. The album features the song "Harm of Will" with lyrics written by **Bjork's** friend filmmaker **Harmony Korine**. San Francisco's **Matmos** also contributed to the album, and will be opening for **Bjork** on her upcoming tour.

Death Cab for Cutie fans, and those who aren't familiar, should check out www.holidaymatinee.com. A film crew traveled with **Death Cab**, and bands **The And/Ors** and **Jealous Sound** filming concerts, backstage shenanigans and life on the road. Photos and diary entries are available online for your viewing pleasure, and the film will be edited together, then released on DVD in the following months. **Death Cab for Cutie** could most easily be described as **Elliott Smith** fronting **Built to Spill**, and although that doesn't really do them justice, I'm too lazy to come up with something better.

On the lighter side of this week's column, in some stores at this moment is the newest release from **Snoop Doggy Dogg**. **Snoop Dogg's Doggystyle** was released to a select type of store on Feb. 27 and features 6 new **Snoop Dogg** and **Eastsidaz** music video's, and 11 unreleased **Snoop Dogg** songs played over a variety of hardcore sex scenes. Produced by **Hustler Video** "Doggystyle" is said to feature "fine-ass bitches, blunts and some serious stroking." The news stories I read are unclear as to whether **Snoop** is actually involved in the action, or just walking around cheering on the participants, but apparently he hand selected all the ladies. The video is rated X with an R-rated video planned for release at a later time. If **Snoop Dogg's** music videos aren't quite dirty enough for you, put on your favorite hooded sweater and a ball cap, hang your head down and walk to your nearest video store without drawing too much attention to yourself.

Well that's it for this week. I'll be back next week with a review of the new **Guided By Voices** album **Isolation Drills**. I've been listening to it for the past week, and it's catchy as hell, but I'm back and forth on my opinion of it.

As per usual, please email me at undergroundinitiations@hotmail.com with any comments.

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Reel Life

The Mexican

by mark evans

the gazette

The Mexican contains the most unforgivable sin a movie can ever hope to commit. Far beyond being overly complex, far beyond being bad, although it has both those qualities, it is boring. As long as a movie doesn't bore you, it has a shot. Well, *The Mexican* is very boring, padded endlessly with pointless scenes, characters that rarely work, and forced, trite humor.

Jerry Welbach (Brad Pitt) is an utter moron of a criminal, botching one assignment after another while desperately trying to work off his debt to a powerful crime lord. Jerry's final assignment before his debt is repaid is to go to Mexico to retrieve a valuable gun and return it to America.

Displeased with his lifestyle, Jerry's girlfriend Samantha (Julia Roberts) throws him out of their place and takes off for Las Vegas. Things naturally don't work out as planned, with Jerry managing to bungle every aspect of the job in Mexico, and Sam getting herself abducted by a gay hitman named Leroy (James Gandolfini of *Sopranos'* fame).

The Mexican has problems from the beginning, the biggest of which is the relationship between Jerry and Sam. Pitt and Roberts barely have any screen time together, and when they do they have no chemistry with each other. All the romance in the movie fails because at no point would you believe that Jerry and Samantha have some deep

meaningful connection to one another.

James Gandolfini does the best acting of all the lead characters and his relationship with Sam is actually deeper and more meaningful than Jerry and Samantha's. The problem is that the Samantha/Leroy segments constantly just feel like filler to the Brad Pitt story line and act as



a long road to get things together for the climax.

Julia Roberts is marginally adequate in her role and it's hard to believe she's the same actress who got a well-deserved nomination for *Erin Brokovich*. Brad Pitt is decent as the goofball, but he's really given very little to work with.

The problem with Gandolfini's character is the "clever" twist they add in at the end, which does surprise, but makes every little thing his character had done beforehand make absolutely no sense.

Character problems form a lot of the problems with this movie, as people appear then disappear, or exist for no real reason, or exist only to move the plot along and then disappear.

Too much of *The Mexican* seems to be added in merely to pad the running length. The story behind the gun, awkwardly inserted at various points of the movie, works better than most of the actual film, but the only

reason for it to be in the movie is to set up the stupid ending, which tries to be surprising but is instead given away by the final part of the gun story. It would have made more sense for the last portion of the story to come after the climax.

Not everything is bad in *The Mexican*, just most things. The music, for one, is great. It's exactly what you'd expect to hear in Mexico, but it's still entertaining and helps keep you awake. Some of the comedy is worth a chuckle or two. Brad Pitt's scenes with the football-chewing dog, irrelevant as they may be, are cute, and another scene involving a car thief in the desert is hilarious. More moments like this would have made *The Mexican* a far better film.

Bottom Line: *The Mexican* ambitiously tries to be a mix of comedy, action, and romance, yet fails on all three counts. The sum of its parts is far below what one would expect from a film starring Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts. Compared to the far better *Out of Sight*, which hits everything this film almost completely misses, *The Mexican* not only wastes its considerable talent, but the audience's time as well.

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Friday March 10 — My favourite surprise band from PEI's ECMA experience is opening for **Inland** at **The Attic Port Citizen** is a reggae-ska-rock blend. With their high energy the night promises to be a success.

Saturday March 11 — Check out ECMA nominated Alternative Group of the Year, **Madhat**. They're playing in **Hell** at **The Marquee**.

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Caitlin Kealey with "help" from the sorry-ass Repo creature

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CD REVIEWS

Lemon Jelly — There is apparently no title.
XL Recordings

This is a wicked ass album of mixed stuff perfect for the psycho-active drug user. These two guys rip off everyone from the hypnotist Raveen to Nana Mouskouri. Hell, Raveen gets a song writing credit for his vocals on track two, "Nervous Tension," and some genius by the name "Streisand" gets a credit on track four, "His Majesty King Ram."

This album is a compilation of three previously released EP's. I highly recommend this disc. Lovers of Lamb would be well advised to check it out, I'd tell you it's name but I can't be sure that it even has one. While covering it with day-glow colours and groovy shapes they seem to have almost forgotten to put their own name on it. — Jason



Holly Cole — *Romantically Helpless*

If ever I wanted to be someone else for a day, just for a day when I had a lot of essays due, I'd be an absolute bad ass. I'd wear flip flops that wouldn't make my feet bleed, a leather jacket that would fit me and I'd sing my lungs out. In a few words, I'd be like Holly Cole. Her newest CD while, more poppy

than her last few, is incredible. It focuses on her voice, sultry and strong in one song, but calm and almost mellow in the next. It's hard to get away from the amazing talent which displays itself everywhere in this CD. I must admit though that I was a little disappointed when I first heard this CD because of its more poppy nature, but with a little more careful listening, discovered that the jazz is still, definitely there. — Amy



Dave Matthews Band — *Everyday*
(BMG)

I have a tendency to rip up anything that I'm in charge of reviewing. If there is something wrong with it I'll find it, point it out, and exaggerate on how bad it is. I have to admit that it's easier, and more fun, to write a bad review than to write a positive review. I would like nothing better than to rip into the

new CD by Dave Matthews, oops I mean The Dave Matthews band. I could say, for example, that it sounds like every other CD they have put out; or I could say it lacked originality; or that the song leaves your head as soon as it's over; (it doesn't have any sticking power). But I'm not going to say that, I've changed, I'm a new person. Their new CD is good music to listen to if you're just sitting around hangin' out, sleeping or if you're not even in the same room as it. See, I can write a positive review, don't ya think? — Jodi

Classics, I says...

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

by graham simms

the gazette

ALBUM — Pink Floyd *Dark Side of the Moon*

It's probably the best long-term selling rock album ever. I have owned a dozen copies of it throughout my short life. It's influence can be seen through different genres of music and it seems to stimulate creativity in artists of all media. The technical breakthroughs that Floyd invented to come up with the sounds on this album were a major precursor to techno-electronic music, and this was 1972!

This process — Floyd actually jamming and fooling around with electronic filters and effects in the studio — of which the finished product was *Dark Side*, is documented in the live music video 'Live in Pompeii'.

FILM — Pink Floyd *Live in Pompeii*

Featuring the band playing live at the Roman amphitheater, at night, the only audience being the film crew (which they make no attempt to hide) and you. The band is in their prime, the early '70's. The highlights include 'Echoes', a 20 minute epic aquatic sound that takes the listener into an underwater cetacean trance. This film is also so special because it features the band in candid moments between filming at a local diner, revealing their true nature to be not so much LSD soaked magicians, as salt of the earth Guinness drinkers. To witness candid studio scenes of Gillmore literally inventing the historic solo to 'Time', and Nick Wright looping digitally distorted sounds that evolve before your eyes and ears into the truly original tapestry from *Darkside* is to witness rock and roll's historical evolution.

BOOK — Douglas Adams *Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy*

Or anything by Douglas Adams, is a classic for any lover of science fiction or highly intelligent humour. Serious inter-stellar hitch-hikers will find *The Guide* essential for their travels. No surprise that Adams happens to be good friends with Pink Floyd. In this series, Adams weaves a laugh-out-loud view of the universe and turns his tales with mastery. He introduces the reader to the more interesting places and people around the galaxy and demonstrates the true place of we carbon based bipedal life forms in life, the universe and everything.

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Dal library receives old, rare atlas

by graham simms
the gazette

A rare 250 year old anatomical atlas has been donated to Dalhousie's Kellogg Health Sciences Library.

The volume was a family heirloom given by Nancy Prescott Forest, the granddaughter of Dr. John Forest, an early President of Dalhousie.

Betty Sutherland of the Health Sciences Library was happy to receive the atlas.

"Her great grandfather, who is the person who we think is probably the person who acquired the book in the first place, he was Alexander Forest — a physician who had studied in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and London and we expect he acquired the book in Edinburgh or London. There's no way of knowing but we do know that Alexander Forest was a book collector

of old and rare books and that he was studying anatomy."

The volume is estimated to be worth over \$20,000 and was published in Paris around 1740 with engravings by Jacques Gaultier D'Agoty using an advanced four colour printing plate technique which gives depth to the prints.

"The book itself, its primary value is as an example of an early anatomical atlas and it's important in the history of anatomical illustration. It certainly is not a book that would be used to study anatomy today. This particular book is important for it's one of the first anatomical atlases to be printed in colour, using a colour printing technique as opposed to hand painting," said Sutherland.

The Dalhousie copy is one of a few copies of the book that exist. Digital copies of the prints will be available to the public and the original will be stored in the library's special collections department.

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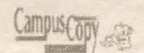
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Watching out for the health of Atlantic Canadians

Millions allocated for Nova Scotia stroke research

by **Jonathan Dieli Colburn**
the gazette

Every science faculty at Dalhousie is flooded with research projects, on topics ranging from the obscure to the even more obscure and then back again. Every one of your professors can tell you about his or her latest publication, but you'll get less straightforward answers if you ask "why are you doing this?", or "who does this matter to?"

A research program centred on Dalhousie's campus has made it their goal to expedite scientific research which can extend its significance far beyond an insulated laboratory environment

to the policy makers that have such a vast impact on health issues in the region.

Dr. Renee Lyons is the Director of the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre, (AHPRC), a co-operative venture between medicine, dentistry and health professions programs at Dalhousie.

"We try to do a lot of work that moves research to policy and actions," said Lyons, "besides doing the research, we try to have provincial health policy forums, that bring researchers and policy makers together to talk about issues and to see how the information can be used more effectively in making decisions.

"It's important to move away from the trend of just publishing research in science journals," said Lyons. "A lot of research just ends up in an academic publication, and gets shelved to collect dust."

The AHPRC works with more than 200 research associates on its various projects, which is beneficial for the researchers and the policy makers that they hope to impact with their reports. The AHPRC has an excess of experience in writing grant or funding proposals, and scientists on these programs have the chance to include their research in an archetypal interdisciplinary approach.

A recent grant of \$615,000 will go toward building a research database for research purposes in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, related to health, social and economic issues. With no database like this available to area researchers yet, tracking health trends is extremely difficult. Another \$315,000 will go toward mental research, specifically better systems for dealing with depression.

"The idea is to try to do



From left — Jody Rice Gallagher, Patricia Williams, Renée Lyons, Liz O'Neill, Derrick Enslow, Karen Woodard.

research that really addresses issues in Atlantic Canada," said Lyons.

Stroke is the biggest producer of disability in Canada, and project starting in Yarmouth is looking at all of the different contributing factors to the problem. Communities like Yarmouth are indicative of many Nova Scotian towns, younger people are moving out in larger numbers, so the population percentage that deals with incidences of stroke is growing. Unhealthy lifestyles, food choices,

a lack of exercise and even low income can put a person at risk for stroke.

"For three years we'll be working on a pilot project, which will be focused very much in the community, not in a hospital setting," said Lyons, "that looks at all the different types of therapy, speech, occupational therapy and physical therapy."

The project will also involve pharmacy programs and several other health information professionals to evaluate the effectiveness of each program in a rural setting.

"I had been working for quite a few years with the Heart and Stroke Foundation in the area, trying to get things moving in stroke treatment," said Dr. Lyons, "so we did a needs assessment a few years ago in the province, and that really determined for us that something needed to change, particularly in rural areas.

The current team of researchers consists of four key partners: the Heart and Stroke Foundation, the QEII Hospital, the AHPRC and the District Health Board.

"With these partners it makes it easier for us to create the kinds of teams we need to do good work and also to move onto changing some things within the system," said Lyons.

Funding for the AHPRC's projects comes from the Canadian Institute of Health Research, Health Canada and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, with contributions from other federal and private sources.

For other areas of research, go to the AHPRC's website at www.medicine.dal.ca/ahprc

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The Mind of Mr. Minimal

The maw of the ai-see lizard

Sets of journal researchers sat acting cerebral, facing north-east and career possibilities. The orientation of the Killam stood perpendicular, fecundated by the germplasm of a Rosary Pea for label models seeking field parallels and cold-cash security. The almost mirror fascia of the vestibule hosted patches of pupils, intermittently skimming surfaces looking for their similar familiars seated upside down under the arc lines of dayflights and red-winged blackbirds.

Over different landscapes, a grey crane cirumpaces above pagoda acreage of the late Ming dynasty. Below, the Ai-see trees swing painfully from the weight of the of the seven-year cycle cicada's copiously emergent numbers. On outer branches of a 20 year-young Ai-see growing along the pathway to seventh pagoda, a Flying Lizard scurries to fasten a fattened lingering cicada into its jowls. This lizard's paternal parent was a Norai Ai-See that ate grasshoppers along the sulfurous Ai-see corridors of Tei-guan's new shoe production plant. Mating with a Ruogee Ai-See, the parents conceived a hybrid with a synergistically produced tolerance for sulfur-based toxins and an augmented level of predatory aggressiveness. A mutation of the chromatid encoding the production of poisons in the brain and upper glands sent toxically productive ribosomes to the hatchling's salivary glands.

Below Tai-rhu and Du strolled toward the seventh pagoda with baseball caps that shadowed their eyes from the bright afternoon sun. Maybe if Du had not heard for the first time that this year was reviewed as the peak for sunspot activity he may have not said to Tai-rhu "hats today?". Without their sporty bright hats they might have seen the final viral Ai-See progeny diving from the branches jewels agape in anticipation of human neck...

Mr. Minimal grows tired and trite of boustrophedonic text-based escapades, dispatch a discourse for response, or this column may undergo transmogrification.

mr_minimal@hotmail.com

Mr. Min's confused editor says "send in your not so verbose translations to Mr. Min."

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From woes to woah's: the Blue Jays look ready to contend

by ashley allinson

the gazette

For most of us, these cold Canadian winter months are riddled with runny noses and coughs due to colds. But the up and coming baseball season gives many of the games' loyal followers a much needed reason to smile. The Toronto Blue Jays have made moves during the off season, enough to leave fans scratching their heads and hope for the best.

Buck Martinez, the famous catcher who platooned beside Ernie Witt in the 1980's, is perhaps best remembered for his

valiant double play at Seattle's King Dome in which both of his legs were broken and his career was cut short. As such, he has been hailed as having a heart the size of Toronto itself, remaining affiliated with the club in the broadcasting booth. The voice of the Jays will now become a welcomed addition to the Blue Jays management, taking over Jim Fergosi's position as head coach for the 2001 season. Martinez has recently been criticized as not having enough coaching experience to be a viable major league skipper, but his input surrounding Toronto's off-season acquisitions should quell any

further cynicism.

The biggest shuffle this off-season saw All-Star Game starter, and 20 game winner David Welles dealt to the Chicago White Sox, for fellow southpaw Mike Sirotko, who sported an impressive 15 and 10 record last year with an respectable earned run average of 3.79. Rumour has it that Sirotko's throwing arm might be injured, however if healthy, he should prove to be an excellent pick-up. Regardless, the departure of Wells and his annual eight million dollar salary is a much needed lift regarding the future development and flexibility of the team.

As a number two starter, the Blue Jays acquired control expert Esteban Loiza from the Texas Rangers last year. His five and seven record will surely be improved on this year, as a full season with the Jays can only further his potential. Steve Parris, Cincinnati's work-horse last year, should fit into the number three spot. His 12 and 17 record in 2000, although lack-luster, suggests that he is capable of pitching innings. A shift to the American League, and away from multiple starts at the infamous Coors Field in Denver, can only help his situation, not to mention his ERA. Joey Hamilton, injured for most of last season, has proven himself in the past with a 20 win season in 1998, and shined last year with moments of absolute brilliance when he was able to hurl. At two and one with

an ERA of only 3.55 for the 2000 campaign, Hamilton, if healthy, could prove to be Toronto's go-to-man come the pennant race.

The fifth starting position is up for grabs. The Blue Jays acquired New Brunswick native Jason Dickson from Anaheim who has proven himself as a reliable starter in the tough American League West. The trio of Chris Carpenter, Kelvim Escobar and Roy Halliday have yet to be consistent starters on a regular basis, but their young age and reasonable success suggests that, starters or not, Toronto could have the most depth its bullpen has seen in years. Combine this youth with the re-acquisition of left-handed veteran Dan Pleasac, five and one last year with playoff contender Arizona, and of former ace Jamie Navarro from the Chicago Cubs, and Toronto's bullpen looks to finally have balanced the right blend of youth and experience. Always last, but never least, Billy

"the kid" Koch, sporting 33 saves last season, gives the team a real closer. Hopefully someone will solidify themselves as the set-up-man to establish a powerful late inning tandem necessary for success.

The loss of David Welles might have legitimized ones right to scoff at the Blue Jays chances for the 2001 season. The club's off-season acquisitions, however, suggest that Toronto deserves the status of a contender, a position they have not been able to reach for some time. This all rests, of course, on whether the club can stay healthy. If Toronto's starting pitchers are plagued by injury, as they have been in recent years, it appears as though their bullpen is ready for the challenge, proving that this blend of youth and experience might actually make some noise, and perhaps fill the seats of the Sky Dome in the process. Good luck boys, Play Ball!

Behind the lines

by josh smith

Taking one last glance

Despite a possible work stoppage, baseball is back, so enjoy it while you still can

by josh smith

the gazette

Sure, the game has problems. The looming players' strike. The struggle of smaller-market clubs. Gary Sheffield.

But at this time of year, as with the beginning of baseball seasons past, there seems to be a sense of hope for every team, whether or not they actually have a realistic chance of contending. It happens every year, at about this time, as starters and bench-hopefuls gather for their pre-season workouts, with hopes of a championship brighter than the Florida sun. To Joe Q. Cubsfan, it doesn't seem to matter that the team was 30 games under .500 last year. It's springtime, right? Until Opening Day, everyone's even. The sun is shining. Baseball is back!

Forget about the upcoming labor problems the league is faced with. Sure, thanks to Texas Rangers' owner Tom Hicks and his signing of shortstop Alex Rodriguez to a \$252 million deal, there will be no baseball in 2002. And okay, every middle-infielder from Abbott to Zuleta is jealous of the money A-Rod is scheduled to make. But come on, people. This is Spring Training. Grab a cool glass of lemonade, sit back in your lawn chair, and watch the decline of sports' most historic and traditional game.

Don't worry about the future. For the time being, the game is still here. Hit the mute button when that report of the latest contract squabble airs. Ignore the increasing number of stories in your local paper predicting a turbulent labor dispute set to follow the upcoming season. Remove the words 'disparity' and 'competitive imbalance' from your vocabulary. Don't worry about next October, when the two teams with the highest payrolls will be playing for another title.

For those fans in Kansas City, Minnesota, Pittsburgh and Montreal, this is the best time of year. Why? Because, for a few wonderful weeks, they will not trail the Atlanta Braves and New York Yankees in the standings. For a

short, sweet time, they will not be Generals to the rest of the league's Globetrotters. For now, until the Rangers and Toronto Blue Jays open the campaign on April 1, things are looking up. If I were in a small-market city, I'd enjoy it while it lasts. Because after the final out is recorded in the 2001 World Series, nothing is guaranteed. The present agreement between the players and owners is set to expire just hours later.

Cheer up, Royals fans. After all, your team could always end up with a better pre-season record than the inter-state rival St. Louis Cardinals. Talk about bragging rights! And as for Brewers and Pirates supporters, you have brand new state-of-the-art facilities to revel in. Don't throw in the towel just because you might not win. Next year, you might not even play. Despite the dark clouds hanging over the approaching season, there are still a host of reasons to stay glued to your set. Just because you can't vote Frank Thomas off the island doesn't mean you should tune out before the first pitch settles in the catcher's mitt.

It's a fresh new season, and the slate is once again wiped clean. There is newfound optimism on every team's part, and even though my hometown Blue Jays have no realistic chance to outplay the powerhouses in the Bronx and Beantown, I'm happy just the way it is. Baseball is here, for now. In a year's time, the most intriguing match-ups will be played out not on the diamond, but in a Manhattan boardroom. Be a true fan. Savor every leaping catch, play-at-the-plate and crack of the bat like it's the last.

Hey, you! Got something to say? E-mail any great story idea, stinging comment, or sublime suggestion to Josh Smith at misterknowitall@thegame.com. You could see your thoughts in a future column. All forms of feedback are more than appreciated

Projected Opening Day Starters w/ 2000 Statistics

1.	LF	Shannon Stewart	.319 AVG	21 HR	69 RBI
2.	CF	Jose Cruz Jr.	.242	31	76
3.	RF	Raul Mondesi	.271	24	67
4.	1B	Carlos Delgado	.344	41	137
5.	DH	Brad Fullmer	.295	32	104
6.	3B	Tony Batista	.263	41	114
7.	C	Darrin Fletcher	.320	20	58
8.	2B	Jeff Fyre	.307	1	16
9.	SS	Alex Gonzalez	.252	15	69
	P	Mike Sirotko	15W-10L	3.79 ERA	197 IP
				128K	

Women Tigers take AUAA title

by cj foote

the gazette

The female Tigers have yet again proved that they are worthy of the top seed in the AUAA as they overtook the second seeded X-Women in the second half of Sunday's game. This marked Dalhousie's first women's Atlantic Universities Basketball Conference title since 1996.

The attendance for the game was by far the best seen in Dalplex this year, with 1,100 diligent Tiger fans cheering on the team.

In the first half, Dalhousie seemed to be nervous which may have been due to the girls' devastating loss last year. In that postseason game, the Tigers lost a one point heartbreaker to Memorial who eventually became the CIAU champions.

The beginning of the game left the fans apprehensive. With 12:11 remaining in the first half, Katie McDonaugh hit a big three pointer to give the X-Women an 18-10 win. But Dalhousie got over their jitters and started a run of their own to close the gap to four and eventually closed off the first half 36-34.

The push was provided by Macdonald, Crealock and King of the Tigers.

The second half was a hard, concentrated effort for the women Tigers. They came out with a roar and organized an attack that dumbfounded the X-Women.

The X-Women were only able

to muster ten points in the first ten minutes of play, which frustrated them.

X-Women three-point specialists Katie McDonaugh and Laura Whitehouse took a number of threes in an attempt to rally but were unable to convert. The two combined to hit one-of-12 three point attempts.

On the other hand, Dalhousie's Crealock drained a three-pointer that put the Tigers up 55-45 with a little more than nine minutes left and our women never looked back.

A last attempt by Nikki Doucet, who came up with a few shots as well as a three pointer with three minutes remaining, was not enough. The Tigers maintained an eight point lead with consistent scoring and tenacious rebounding from Macdonald, Crealock and King, all of whom scored 16 points. King also ripped 14 rebounds, while Crealock provided six assists in the win. Doucet scored a game-high 21 points for the X-Women.

Our women won in fashion to a standing crowd with a 70-62 win.

"They were just the better team today. They played well," said Doc Ryan, coach of the X-Women.

"Dalhousie has a real shot at the CIAU championship this year," said fan John Penny. "The girls have a good chance against Calgary next week."

Dal coach Savoy was extremely opportunistic about the

CIAU's. She said that, after listening to her teams dialogue, she could tell that they were analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the teams ahead.

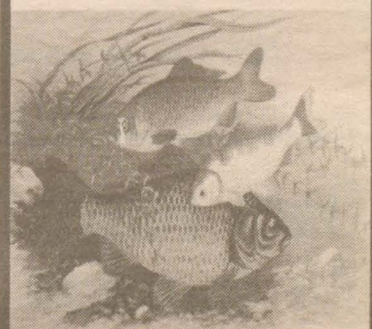
Referring to previous games this season she suggested that the team's performance is as good now as ever and that games such as the game against Calgary, where Dalhousie lost 86-81, might turn in their favor.

"I'm very optimistic of our chances," said Savoy.

The women Tigers have never won a CIAU crown. They captured a silver and bronze in 1981-1982 but have since shown any comparable team to this season's.

The Tigers will represent the AUAA conference at nationals beginning tomorrow at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

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The Gazette

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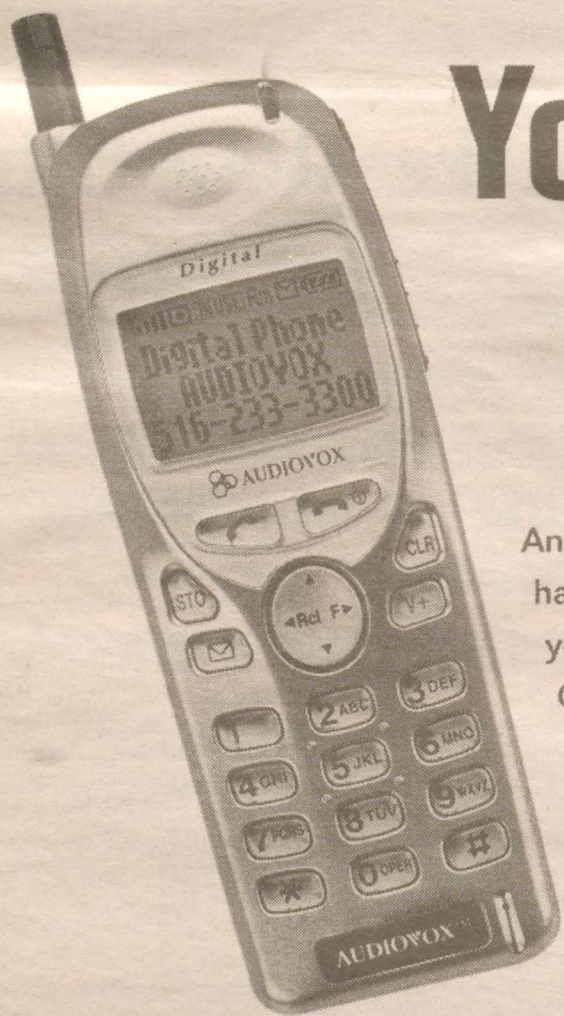
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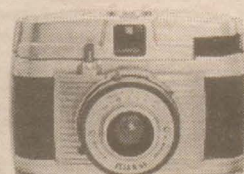


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