

9 Tijuana
brass

11 Africville
on stage

13 Tigers vs.
Capers

3 days.
No
escape...

p. 10

THE GAZETTE

Volume 131. Number 14.

Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Thursday, January 14, 1999.



Line dancing, Mexican style p. 9

Cloudy stats obscure student loan discussions

BY SHELLEY ROBINSON

An expiring student loan contract that could have left students without money this January has been renegotiated — until the end of June.

But what happens after that is still up in the air. And some say the tension of not knowing where loan money might come from, coupled with all the statistics and jargon thrown around by the banks and the provincial government, is scaring students away.

Nova Scotia's contract with the Royal Bank, the province's only

student loan provider, was set to run out Dec. 31. Nine days before the deadline hit, the contract was renegotiated to cover the next six months.

"To students, the most important thing is that they have their student loans," said Peter Rans, a spokesperson for the provincial government.

Although the negotiations were down to the wire, Rans says students shouldn't worry about the six-month expiration — the government is already trying to recruit other banks to join the loan program. And he says even if it's

still just the Royal Bank, the government will do what it takes to keep loans coming.

The new contract with the Royal Bank included a five percent increase in risk premiums, payments made by the provincial

government to the bank to cover the risk of late payments and bad debt. The Royal Bank went from getting paid five percent of the total borrowed amount by the provincial government to 10 percent, an estimated increase of \$2.15-million.

The bank also gets all the interest earned from the loans.

"I think the terms were reasonable under the circumstances," Rans said.

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Trapped on the tarmac

The "Storm of the Decade" causes airport havoc

BY JANET FRENCH

6 am, San Francisco
I am lined up at the check-in desk in San Francisco International Airport. The clerk looks at my ticket and says "oh, Toronto." When I ask what's wrong with Toronto, she says "Oh nothing. Things are just a little slow there, that's all..." Um, yeah."

On Jan. 2, a powerful snowstorm crippled Toronto's Pearson Airport, leaving thousands of passengers stranded. And although the air travel industry has no way of controlling the weather, the resulting chaos has many asking if the airlines handled the situation well.

Dr. Stephen Bearne, assistant professor of Biochemistry, doesn't think so.

Bearne waited six hours to get on his plane. And when he finally got on the brakes were frozen. They decided them. But then the no. 2 engine wouldn't start. They fixed the no. 2 engine. But by then the brakes had frozen up again. He got off and was told a ticket agent would be there to help re-book tickets. The ticket agent showed up four hours later. He had already watched two other flights go to Halifax in the meantime — one with his baggage.

"The Air Canada personnel were incredibly rude to people. They told us not to argue with them... It seemed as though they just didn't care about us," he said.

5 hours later, Toronto
I arrive in Toronto and there is no gate available. We wait on the plane for two and a half hours, our 'seat belts securely fastened'.

As a result of the storm Air Canada has apparently been looking at new methods to better prepare themselves and their aircraft for future storms.

9 hours later, still Toronto
We got a gate. Got off the plane. Find pandemonium had broken loose. People are sleeping everywhere, on benches, linoleum floors, even the bathrooms. Ticket agents are screaming at passengers.

"The Air Canada personnel were incredibly rude to people. They told us not to argue with them... It seemed as though they just didn't care about us."

Air Canada employees not screaming are hiding. Announcements regarding delays or cancellations are being made at one minute intervals. Restaurants are running low on food. Passengers are angry, hungry and tired.

In order to repair its battered

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Seal hunt goes on

Difficulty ensues when trying to label the seal hunt right or wrong

BY DAISY KIDSTON

I can remember as a young girl being an avid fan of Barbie. Aside from owning numerous Barbie dolls and accessories, I also happened to own a sticker book which showed the many fascinating and fun things Barbie did in her life, from shopping to jet-setting.

One of the stickers that remains strong in my memory is when Barbie becomes an environmentalist for a day. Hooking up with her boyfriend Ken, they fly up to the Arctic in a small plane to visit seal populations. There, looking lovely in an Inuit-style leather outfit, Barbie sprays green paint onto the whitecoat baby seals, thereby discolouring their fur and discouraging the sealers from clubbing them on the head for their coats. Way to go, Barbie!

The fact that Barbie, the poster girl of mainstream America, actively thwarts the hunt demonstrates how protesting it is a socially-sanctioned and popular activity, particularly when it comes to saving the lives of the whitecoats — the adorably furry, big-eyed baby harp seals.

Yet the seal hunt, particularly the Newfoundland seal hunt, is not such an easy issue to label as right

or wrong. In reality, the hunt is tangled up in history, economics, culture, the protest movements, and the anti-protest movements.

According to James Candow's book, *Of Men and Seals*, the hunt originated 9000 years ago when Newfoundland's first settlers, the Maritime Archaic Indians, used the seal as a dietary staple. The Thule, or Inuit, who migrated from the Arctic down to Labrador between the 1300s and 1600s, also hunted seals for both food and for trade with the first Europeans who arrived at the beginning of the seventeenth century.

The seventeenth century was when the European sealing industry was born. The settlers of New France were the first to take it up in a large scale in 1661.

Demand for seal fur, skins, and oil made for a booming industry which continued to spread across Newfoundland. By 1844, seal products made up a third of the value of all Newfoundland exports.

Though both the first and second World Wars severely curtailed the hunt (partly owing to the fact that the steam ships used in the hunt had to be called into service) it was from the 1960s-on that the sealing industry's greatest enemy was born: the protest

movement.

SAVE THE SEALS!

It was the 1964 airing of the CBC film *Les Phoques de la Banquise* which first triggered public outrage. The film showed a hunt taking place on the Magdalen Islands, including a gruesome scene of a seal being skinned alive.

The wave of public outrage which followed the film forced the Canadian government to introduce the Seal Protection Regulations in 1966. The regulations required all sealers to be licensed, and protected breeding seals. And, under the regulation, skinning a seal alive became a criminal act. It also established regulations for the clubbing of seals, the most widely-used method in which seals are killed.

Despite the government's attempts to appease the anti-sealers, protestors continued to exert pressure, so much so that in 1982, the European Economic Community announced a two-year ban on the importing of seal products — a crippling blow to the industry as Europe was Newfoundland's biggest customer. In 1986, another victory came for

continued on page 5

Dalhousie Student Union

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Wednesday, January 27th

10:00am-2pm Society Fair (SUB Lobby)

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9:00pm Campus Sound Explosion (Grawood)

Come check out the best up and coming bands in Halifax. The next Sloan will be there somewhere!! Don't miss it!!

10:00pm Camping in the Quad (A&A Quad)

Stay out all night getting ready for Flapjacks the next morning!! If you haven't done this, you have to give it a try!!

Thursday, January 28th

9:00-10:30am Flapjacks on the Boulevard (in front of SUB)

Eat until you can't eat no more!! This is an old fashioned, lumberjack style, backwoods Winter breakfast so tell Mom she doesn't have to get up early!

10:30-11:30am Outdoor Volleyball (SUB)

Work off the syrup by kicking some ass in this rockin' tourney. Teams of 5 or more can sign up by calling 494-1281 and if you survive you'll win BIG PRIZES!

Noon-3:00pm Velcro Wall (SUB Lobby)

What could be more fun than hurtling yourself at a 12 foot wall AND NOT DYING!! You're young, be stupid, do this!

1:00-2:00pm Pie in the Face (SUB Lobby)

Make like Krusty the Clown and smoke your favourite person to hate in the face with a pie!! They'll be DSU guys, Res guys and anyone else we can get to take one for the team!

6:00pm Suitcase Party

You've eaten flapjacks, won the cup in Volleyball, avoided certain death by wall and thrown more pies than you've eaten in a lifetime. It's time to RELAX so hit the Grawood and party all night long. Bring your suitcase because you may win a trip leaving directly from the 'Wood!!

Friday, January 29th

Noon-2:00pm CKDU Funding Drive Kick-Off (SUB Lobby)

Come listen to some cool tunes on this live broadcast from the SUB lobby! This is the first of many events planned for CKDU's Funding Drive!

2:00-4:00pm Movie Madness (Green Room)

Come check out lo's o' movies care of Sandman Video.

7:00pm Dal Tigers vs. St. FX (Arena)

Watch Dal put a beatin' on the hicks from St. FX in this rockem, sockem hockey showdown!

9:00pm Carnival Diablo Sideshow Freak Circus (Grawood)

Not for those with weak stomachs! Limited number of tickets available so come and get em!

Saturday, January 30th

8:00am-5:00pm Ski Trip (Wentworth)

For \$15 you're ready to go! Ski/snowboard rental, lift ticket, lesson and transportation for 1st 168 people are included. Get your ticket at the SUB Info Desk starting Friday, January 15th.

9:00pm Big Wreck (McInnes Room)

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^^^ Clip and Savell ^^^

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And then there was one...

Hot potato: big banks dropping NB student loan program

BY ANDREW SIMPSON

Carrie Ricker has asked her landlord to put off cashing the rent cheque for a couple of weeks.

Confusion, long lineups and a lot of paperwork are what she and many other New Brunswick students are experiencing in early January following Royal Bank's abrupt exit from the province's student loan program.

Two other banks have also diminished their roles in the program, and where there were four banks active only a month ago, today there is effectively only one.

The smaller, Quebec-based National Bank is now New Brunswick's lead lender, and the only institution that will grant student loans to new clients.

Students whose loans were with Royal Bank now have no choice but to deal with National Bank — and the time-consuming process of transferring loans and shifting money between accounts.

"There is a real sense of frustration," said Ricker, a second-year Law student at the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick (UNB).

She says uncertainty about when her money will arrive, as well as long lineups, red tape and lots of paperwork have disrupted her studies so far this term.

There are also concerns from students who say National Bank is inaccessible from some campuses, and anger from others at both government and banks for what they say is the poor timing and lack of communication surrounding the changes.

Ricker also says she doesn't like not being able to choose.

"You're really being limited to one bank and if you have an issue with their services, there's nowhere else to go," she said.

The old contract between the New Brunswick government and Royal Bank, as well as contracts with CIBC, National Bank and Federation des Caisse Populaires, a collection of credit unions, expired on Dec. 31.

Sam Miller didn't learn about the changes until he got back from holidays at Mt. Allison University in Sackville.

Nobody told me about this... I came back to school and found a National Bank table set up in the hallway outside [my office]."

Not unusual, except that Miller is the school's student union president.

"Nobody told me about this," he said.

"I came back to school and found a National Bank table set up in the hallway outside [my office]."

Miller is also concerned about National Bank's accessibility. There are no branches in Sackville, and only one in Fredericton.

Anthony Knight, president of the New Brunswick Students' Association, has concerns about National Bank's ability to run the program, but mostly says he's disappointed with the Royal Bank for allowing this situation to occur.

Knight says Royal Bank is

shirking its social responsibility to young people in New Brunswick, leaving them with very few options.

"That Royal Bank was losing money is not a good enough reason for them to pull-out," he said.

"Especially when they just made the highest single quarter profits ever."

But Royal Bank spokesperson Sean Kirby says the bank made an offer and competed for the business, but the province decided to pursue other deals.

He says Royal Bank would not have left the program if another bank had not come in to take over their business, but he adds that the bank was unhappy with the risk premiums they were getting from the province.

Risk premium is the assumed rate of default (loans more than 3 months late in payment), calculated as a percentage of total loans, which the province agrees to refund to the lending institution. In the recently expired contracts, the risk premium was set at five percent.

In the new contract National Bank is receiving 10 percent, and it is rumoured Royal Bank was asking for as much as 20 percent.

Kirby says actual default rates were much, much higher than what the province was paying back to the banks in risk premiums.

He says more needs to be done to help students make the transition from school, to work, where they can effectively pay back their student loans.

"Although we're not in this business to make money," he said, "the reality is that we were losing a significant amount."

Rachel Bard is New Brunswick's assistant deputy minister responsible for post-secondary education. She says it is disappointing Royal Bank is not in the program, but takes issue with both the assumption that New Brunswick's default rates are all that high, or that the banks are losing money off the province's student loans.

Bard says while she hasn't seen Royal Bank's figures, according to her figures only 15 percent of New Brunswick students allow their loans to slide into default, whereas the national average is 25 percent.

Bard says default statistics are often misleading. Just because a

loan goes into default, doesn't mean that it won't eventually be paid in full.

She also says that while students are studying, the provincial government is paying interest to the banks on their student loans.

"Banks do make money off student loans," she said.

"And they need to remember that students are future clients."

Both Bard and Kirby pointed out that the Royal Bank is still lending to New Brunswick students through the federal loans program, and that there is nothing to rule out their future involvement. Especially 18 months from now, the proposed start date for merging provincial and federal loan programs.

"We need to start looking at student loans as more of a social program and less of a financial one," Bard said.

Student loan worries

continued from page 1

But the Royal Bank says it's not trying to make money off of student loans. The bank says it's actually losing money.

It says the bank is suffering because of high delinquency and default rates. Delinquency is any payment late by more than one month, and default is any payment three months or more behind.

"If this was a business decision we wouldn't be in the student loans business," said Sean Kirby, a Royal Bank spokesperson. "As good corporate citizens we think it's important."

Kelly McKenzie, vice-president student advocacy of the Dalhousie Student Union, says she isn't so sure the banks aren't doing well for themselves by the deal.

"If they're saying they're losing money over student loans then why do they have their highest profits ever? It just doesn't make sense."

The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) pulled out of the provincial loans business in June 1997, also citing high default rates.

In figures the CIBC released in Oct. 1997, default rates hovered around 32 percent for all loans to post-secondary students.

The Royal Bank has not released its default statistics.

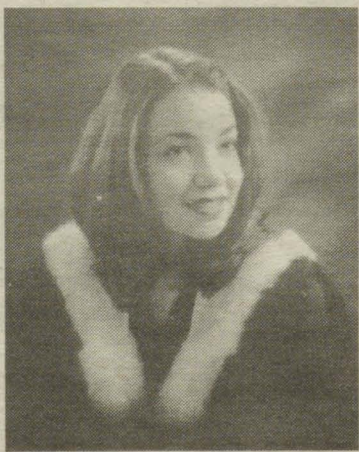
McKenzie says she is worried that people who misunderstand the concept of high default rates will have a false impression of students' ability to pay back their loans.

"If you're a high school student, you're saying, 'I don't want to get a loan I can't pay back. I don't want to be a statistic. I'm not going to university.' And where does that get them?" she asked.

According to the Nova Scotia Council on Higher Education, there are about 17,000 students getting a total of \$43-million through the Nova Scotia student loan program.

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Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of the President, three members of the Board of Governors and the Vice-President of Student Services. Nominations are invited, but the committee may consider other persons as well. Awards, in the form of a plaque, will be presented by the Chair of the Board or designate at the Student Appreciation Night in March.

Nominations should include a description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and the names of persons from whom further information about this contribution could be obtained. Nominations should be forwarded on or before Friday, February 19, 1999, to:

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UVic suspends prof after weed conviction

BY DARREN STEWART

VICTORIA (CUP) — Sociology students at the University of Victoria were shocked last week when they returned to classes to find out the school has suspended one of their teachers due to a pot-related conviction.

Following a recommendation from university president Dr. David Strong, the school suspended Prof. Jean Veevers and relieved her of her duties. Effective immediately, the interim suspension follows Veevers' recent conviction in British Columbia Supreme Court of cultivating marijuana for the purpose of trafficking.

Veevers pleaded guilty to the charge of growing the substance for the purpose of trafficking last October. Her Dec. 4 sentence included a \$15,000 fine, a one-year conditional sentence that she can serve at home and 60 hours of community service.

In a prepared statement to the public about the decision, Strong said the suspension was based on

evidence submitted to the court during Veevers' trial.

While Veevers declined to speak to the media herself, her legal counsel, Mel Hunt, said she was surprised by the suspension.

"She was quite astonished," he said. "She certainly didn't expect anything like that."

Hunt said Veevers plans to fight for her career by invoking the university's arbitration process to challenge her suspension.

"If the arbitrators decide there is no just cause for dismissal then that will be the end of this," said Hunt. "But if they decide there was just cause the case goes to the Board of Governors to decide. One would expect them to follow the president's recommendation."

The university administration agrees the issue is far from resolved.

"The president has made a recommendation and the board makes a final decision," said Bruce Kilpatrick, director of communications with the University of Victoria. "There is no indication when this will happen as of yet."



THE GAZETTE

Just like your first time, always.

UVic student missing

BY DARREN STEWART

VICTORIA (CUP) — A student at the University of Victoria was still missing last week after more than two weeks in what police are describing as a suspicious case.

Steven McLaughlin was reported missing on Dec. 23 after he failed to show up at his parents' house for the Christmas holidays.

Police say he was last seen the day before, and hasn't checked his answering machine, accessed his bank account or used his vehicle since then.

"Everything he has is here," said officer Paul Morrison, of the Saanich division of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"We have to be suspicious. We can't rule out suicide, his just taking a holiday or even foul play."

Search and rescue teams have combed the university area and the surrounding brush and beaches with helicopters in the hopes of learning something about McLaughlin's whereabouts. But they've had little luck.

"This is strange for any case. I mean, where is he? We have nothing attached to this person to lean on," said Morrison.

A psychology professor who was the last person to see McLaughlin says he was at the university that day looking into on-campus employment.

McLaughlin held down several jobs at the university and volunteered periodically for the campus radio station.

Police say they're hoping that with all the people who knew McLaughlin through his various connections to the university, somebody will be able to give them a clue about what happened.

The university's own security department would also like to get

to the bottom of the case.

"It's primarily a police investigation," said Ken Marrison, assistant director of campus security services. "But we're offering any sort of assistance or information they need to find this gentleman."

Air Canada woes

continued from page 1

image, Air Canada has published apologies in several Canadian newspapers, and has mailed letters of apology to Aeroplan members inconvenienced during the storm.

John Hamilton, a spokesperson for the airline, says it does claim some responsibility for the havoc during and after the storm.

"Although this situation was created by the weather, we didn't handle passenger communications very well," he said.

17.5 hours later, in Halifax
I finally make it to Halifax. My baggage doesn't.

Air Canada's Hamilton says about three thousand pieces of luggage didn't fly with its owners, clogging up the endlessly revolving carousels.

Rob Soczka, a third-year commerce student at Saint Mary's University, arrived in Halifax to find mountains of bags in the arrivals area.

"I had to crawl over piles of luggage that were higher than me to get to the conveyer belt," he said.

20 hours later, Halifax

I finally arrive home and flick on the television. The news shows pictures of the Pearson Air Canada terminal building in chaos. Then, they show the Canadian Airlines terminal, which is almost empty. What is wrong with this picture?

John Reber, a spokesperson for Air Canada in Montreal, insists that other carriers were also thrown off schedule by the storm. He says Air Canada is not the only airline which caused customer inconvenience.

"When discussing a transportation network, it would be misleading to look at only one of the players in the situation," he said.

Canadian Airlines could not be reached for comment.

Reber also said Air Canada isn't concerned about losing business regardless of the recent events.

"We are recognized for our superior customer service. We see no reason why we will not continue to be successful."

Three days later, Halifax. My bag flies home to meet me.

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SCIENCE / ENVIRONMENT

Despite criticism, seal hunt goes on

continued from page 1

the anti-sealing campaign when the House of Commons announced an end to the seal-pup hunt, a ban which still exists today. This law meant that no "whitecoats", the famous white-furred baby harp seals, or "bluebacks", the smooth-skinned baby hood seals, could be hunted. Though these regulations have been installed, and the government, through the Department of Oceans and Fisheries (DFO), continues to regulate the hunt, voices against the hunt are far from quelled.

One of the biggest thorns in the side of the sealing industry is the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), an animal-rights group that was one of the first to speak out against sealing. In a recent advertisement in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, IFAW states that the

The DFO states that as many as 50,000 seal penises were harvested in total, due to the existence of an aphrodisiac black market.

DFO's Total Allowable Catch for 1998 of 275,000 seals must be reduced on the grounds that "well in excess of 300,000 seals are actually killed" and that if this amount of seals continues to be killed, then the seal population will face a dangerous decline.

IFAW continues to fight sealing by attempting to educate the public about the facts surrounding the hunt. One myth is that baby seals are no longer killed. Though they may not be killed legally, illegal harvest continues today — as many as 26,000 pups were harvested in 1997. Another claim IFAW attempts to refute is that the seal population is responsible for the depletion of the Canadian cod stocks. Not only does IFAW state that scientific data shows that seals cannot be blamed for the collapse of the cod stocks, but also that "seals should not be used as

scapegoats for human mismanagement of fisheries". Rather, the group believes that the DFO should be held "accountable for its past failures and future conduct".

OF MEN AND SEAL PENISES

Another aspect of the hunt which IFAW stands strongly against is the current trend of harvesting male seal penises for the Asian aphrodisiac market. Since there is not a great demand for seal products in today's market, "alternative" seal products, such as the penises, become one of the primary reasons for sealing.

The great importance of the aphrodisiac market for the seal hunt

is explored in a 1997 economic analysis of the seal hunt by the University of Guelph's Dr. Clive Southey.

In the report, Dr. Southey states that 30,290 seal penises were officially recorded as being harvested, but the DFO states that as many as 50,000 were harvested in total, due to the existence of an aphrodisiac black market.

As well, Dr. Southey states that the "sealing industry is heavily dependent on meat subsidies and the seal penises. These constitute 55 percent of the revenue of sealers and boat owners after paying for fuel, ammunition, etc."

SUBSIDIES

1996 was when the government first introduced the meat subsidies, and according to Southey's study, these subsidies



SEALS IN THE HEADLIGHTS: wildlife or consumer goods?

encouraged more intense sealing. Yet these subsidies don't just assist the sealers — they keep the industry alive.

Last year, \$3.4-million was spent by the Canadian government to subsidize the hunt, which amounts to \$28,250 to \$33,000 per sealer. Seeing as only 100-120 full time jobs were created from the hunt, the vitality and importance of this industry to Newfoundland is increasingly under question.

PUBLIC THINKING

Another documentation of the negative reaction towards the Newfoundland seal hunt is the 1997 IFAW-commissioned Angus Reid poll to measure Canadian citizens' attitudes towards the seal hunt. The poll found that 41 percent of Canadians didn't even know the hunt still existed, but when told information about the hunt, 55 percent supported its termination. 82 percent are against the trade of seal penises. 85 percent support protection of pups under one year of age. 75 percent want an end to government subsidies. In Newfoundland, 54 percent support an end to government subsidies.

Obviously, the negative reaction against the hunt has put Newfoundland on the defensive. Though 54 percent of Newfoundlanders support an end to government subsidies, 55 percent strongly support the hunt. Their defence has primarily come through the formation of the Canadian Sealers Association (CSA), which was created in 1982 "in response to negative publicity against the sealing by some animal rights groups", as stated on the CSA website.

The CSA is an association of 6,000 sealers which promote public awareness and educational campaigns to stave off negative public reaction to the hunt.

Tina Fagan, the executive director of the CSA, declares that the CSA fully acknowledges that seal populations must be "well managed and harvesting must be kept within proper boundaries."

"We have recommended, and the Federal Minister has acted, to carry out population counts in the harp species in 1998 and the hood species in 1999 to ensure that we are harvesting this resource well within the replacement yield."

AN END TO THE HUNT?

Though these actions represent a concern for the seals, the fact that Fagan describes the seals as a "resource" shows the CSA's view of seals as a sea crop whose existence is to serve humankind. This outlook is explored by James Candow in *Of Men and Seals*. He states that "the controversy over the seal hunt is, more than anything else, a clash of cultures. Broadly speaking, the protesters represent

modern, urban culture and the sealers the traditional culture of the past."

That is, the sealers continue to view animals as "resources", whereas the protesters, people most likely far removed from the sealing industry, tend to view the seals in a "sentimentalized" fashion.

For people in which the hunt is a main part of their life, to view the seals as anything but a resource would be strange. Similarly for protesters who are detached from the hunt and have no dependence on or experience with sealing, they can afford to view the seals as cute and cuddly. It is easy to point the finger and say something is wrong when it is not how you support your family, or it is not a part of your culture.

However, perhaps it is time for Newfoundland to start looking towards a more sustainable and eco-friendly solution that respects animal life, instead of submitting it to the needs and wants of humanity.



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In the name of cash

The Halifax Oland Exports, a junior A hockey team, is in the midst of trying to recruit a bit of a commercial boost — in the form of a hockey player banned from the Ontario Hockey League named Jeff Kugel.

Kugel was kicked out of the Ontario league for 25 games (and later incurred a stronger ban) for jumping from the bench and sucker-punching an opponent from behind while the opponent was completely oblivious. If that hadn't gotten him kicked out, chasing the referee and other opponents around the rink immediately afterwards (in a way that could only be explained by insanity or too many lines of coke prior to warmup) would have done the trick.

And last week, the Exports tried to recruit him. The reason given — they have to pay the bills.

It's not a surprise, I guess. It's not as if I've never seen anyone lower themselves into the depths of depravity for a bit of money. From corporate executives to crack junkies — it's vital to survival, and worth virtually every non-fiduciary sacrifice.

However, it's not everyday that you see something this blatantly shortsighted and morally dubious. Most people in management positions at least have the common sense to conceal the lengths to which they would go for green. Either the Exports think that it's good publicity to admit that they're hiring a mentally-unsound exile for the specific purpose of beating his fists against an innocent opponent, or maybe their

management's 6th-grade education didn't cover marketing strategies and the announcement was made out of ignorance.

Don't get me wrong, I enjoy watching people getting their faces smashed in to the tune of "Rock You Like a Hurricane", and when the victor of the confrontation goes after other people, especially the ref, it's like having Christmas every 3 months. I also know that this is more or less the consensus among hockey fans. For that reason, I can't really blame the Exports for seeing the commercial value.

And it's OK to see a scrap now and then. Occasionally it's also

nice to see something out of the ordinary happen in a fight. (ie: bench brawl, crowd participation).

So, you see, it's not the fighting I object to, it's the depth of ignorance displayed by Oland Exports management, the kind of stupidity required to admit in a television interview that a player is being hired in the hopes that he will beat up enough people to aid the team's dire financial situation.

"We're hoping this will draw people in," they said. That, to me, demonstrates an embarrassing lack of resources to the Exports. If that's the only way for them to make money, perhaps their sponsors should look at restructuring the Exports management.

Fighting is an almost-inevitable aspect of hockey, and despite the continuous efforts of people like the great Wayne

Gretzky to stop the fighting, it's an uphill battle, with no realistic end in sight. The fear is (and justifiably so) that one of these days, a fight will result in more than a couple loose teeth or a broken jaw.

Of course, many opinions have been expressed on the subject of the Exports' interest in Kugel — some good, some bad. And as a result, the Exports have altered their reasoning. Now they want to give another chance to Kugel, as a legitimate player and not a goon. OK, they are going to get a player with one goal and virtually no assists in all his career to help the club's ticket sales.

But, if Kugel wants to play, it's going to be through legal action. The 18-year old is facing at a lifetime ban from all playing levels governed by the Canadian Hockey Association. Not even 20 yet and he's a pariah.

The fighting is going to stay. Rooted in hockey from minor hockey leagues to the National Hockey League, the practice of beating the shit out of someone you've never met is not going anywhere. I certainly do hope the injuries remain relatively docile, and I would also hope that the Exports management gets fired for their gross incompetence and morally questionable tactics.

And, if Kugel does manage to beat the law and is allowed to play in Halifax, I would also hope that while those fired Exports managers are unpacking their offices, their new acquisition charges and beats them all, one at a time. That would basically be his job description anyway.

PATRICK BLACKIE

EDITORIAL



THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

editorial board Volume 131, no. 14

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For advertising information, call 494-6532 or visit our ad manager, 9am to 5pm daily.

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 Opinions Editor. Letters may be edited for length above 300 words and we reserve the right to edit commentary.

All submissions must be typed double-spaced on paper, e-mailed, or on a Mac or IBM 3 1/2 inch disk, in a WP version not greater than Word 6.0 or equivalent. The deadline is Mondays at 4:30 p.m.

Founded in 1869 at Dalhousie College, the Gazette is Canada's oldest student newspaper. With a circulation of 10,000, the Gazette is published every Thursday by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society, of which all students of Dalhousie University are members. The Gazette exercises full editorial autonomy and reserves the right to refuse or edit any material submitted. All editorial decisions are made collectively by the staff. To become voting staff members, individuals must contribute to four issues. Views expressed in the Gazette are not necessarily those of the editors or the collective staff. Unless otherwise noted, all text © 1998 the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. ISSN 0011-5819

LETTERS

APEC clarification

To the editor,

Thanks to Avi Lambert for covering the APEC panel discussion at King's ("Canadian Compliance", Dec 3, 1998). I'd just like to correct a few minor points that might have been a little misleading.

I didn't state that "the degree of genocide exacted by Suharto in Indonesia and adjacent independent East Timor, is nearly twice that of former Cambodian dictator, Pol Pot". What I said was that a full third of the population of East Timor was exterminated by Suharto's forces, "a death rate roughly double that of Pol Pot's killing fields".

Furthermore, Mr. Lambert's reference to East Timor as "independent", while technically accurate, might confuse those unacquainted with the issues.

Under international law, East Timor's right to self-determination is indeed guaranteed, but in fact it has been savagely violated by Suharto (and now by Habibie) and by such illustrious crusaders for human rights and the rule of law as the US, Canada, Britain, Australia — all active accomplices in the genocide — and every other rich Western nation hoping to continue to exploit the resources of Indonesia, and get their hands on East Timorese oil.

Until Indonesia withdraws, the East Timorese are no more independent than the Tibetans, Palestinians, or Kurds.

Finally, it was INCO's profit margin — not the government's — to which I referred as taking precedence over the obligation to oppose the genocide in East Timor, in the sociopathic priorities of Chretien's administration. As the largest mining operation in Indonesia, I used INCO as a metaphor for Canadian business interests in the Archipelago for the sake of which Suharto's atrocities have been endorsed.

What should concern us most of course is our own government's contribution to the carnage as it is ultimately this over which we have some control, and for which we bear some measure of responsibility.

Brooks Kind

CFS Love

To the editor,

This past week I attended the National General Meeting of the Canadian Federation of Students, in Renfrew, Ontario, where the Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students was ratified as a prospective member.

Although DAGS is still in the stage of evaluating potential memberships in a number of Canadian graduate student associations, as a delegate to the CFS conference I want to report my impressions to other Dalhousie students while they are still fresh.

Overall, I was impressed by the incredible feat of democracy required to collate the diverse and sometimes contradictory views of 200 students from almost every province in this country, and from numerous ethnic, social, and gender backgrounds.

The four days of hashing out the Federation's policy, campaign, budget and organizational workings

for the next year made me realize that there is no "CFS" in the sense of a monolithic and mysterious entity, but that the CFS is, naive and impossible as it might sound, 400,000 Canadian students working together to ensure that a collective student voice is represented in the political system and in the media.

CFS's ability to integrate diversity was perhaps best seen last week as talks began towards uniting with the student movement in Quebec into one organization.

This weekend the CFS passed motions to initiate campaigns on behalf of issues of interest to students — both as students, and as people. They undertook to publicize issues affecting students of color, to develop a more realistic model for assessing student financial need than student financial assistance programs currently use, to circulate a petition opposing Mumia Abu Jamal's execution, to present a Charter challenge against legislation which would prevent students from declaring bankruptcy, to support legal actions of demonstrators who were pepper-sprayed outside the APEC conference, and to publicize the problem of date-rape drugs on campuses. They also began organizing towards an international student strike in February 2000 which would unite students globally in a statement of our concerns about our education systems and the world we are entering as citizens.

The conference was, on the whole, an extremely energizing experience, and one in which I regret more Dalhousie students were not able to participate.

Suzy Waldman

Chair, Advocacy Committee
Dalhousie Association of
Graduate Students

Impeachment Crisis Solved

To the editor,

As I watched the impeachment farce in the House of Representatives I devised a solution to the impeachment crisis that might make all parties happy.

First, Clinton resigns. This will make the GOP happy because they will have been able to embarrass him and he will have to quit, plus there will be no trial in the Senate and therefore no conviction or bar to future office.

This would cause Gore to become President (as an added bonus, he could pardon Clinton but he wouldn't have to).

Then, Gore could name Clinton vice-president. Then, Gore could resign. This would cause Clinton to become President again and he would be able to serve out his term, barring any future scandal the Republicans could cook up.

Then, Clinton could name Gore vice-president, which he would remain until 2000. In 2000, Gore would still have 8 years of presidential eligibility and he could run for President. (He could name Clinton his vice-president running-mate.)

The magic is that all of this could be done without violating any existing presidential term limit or qualification rule and we would have at least another ten years of quality leadership in the White House.

Jason J. Hanson

The Letters/Opinions section of the Gazette is meant as a campus forum for all Dalhousie students. The opinions expressed within may not necessarily be those of the Gazette staff or editorial board. We welcome all submissions, but reserve the right to edit for style and content. It is the Gazette's policy not to print racist, sexist or homophobic material.

OPINIONS

Shackled youth — the sad truth about student loans

Recently, students complained publicly about their student loans to The Honourable Paul Martin, Finance minister. Yet, even the students don't realize the full impact that these loans will have on themselves and on society.

We have created, through the student loan process, 10-to-15 years of financial difficulties for many graduates. These thousands of young workers are deprived of purchasing power, thereby shackled from the time they start their career. By the same process, we have created an endless void in the influx to our economy.

This is an exasperating social and economic situation which must be corrected.

A CASE IN POINT - (THE GRADUATE'S SITUATION)

My daughters graduated from universities located in the province of Ontario.

One daughter with an honours degree in psychology, works for a large computer firm in Toronto. Another, a psychotherapist with a masters degree, practices counselling in Ottawa. They both had several jobs before the current one.

Together, they owe to the banks, \$79,000. This is made up of their student loans and a personal bank loan of \$11,000. The sum of their yearly salaries is slightly less than \$60,000 per year.

They are 25 and 29 years of age. They both received their degrees this year.

At the ages of 37 and 41, their loans will be paid. Only then, will they be in a financial position to start a "normal" life, and benefit from their education, e.g. raise a family, buy a house, etc. As we well know, this is late to start a normal adult life.

Acquiring their student loans through a complex and inefficient administrative system has been a nightmare. Making arrangements for repaying the loan is again a

nightmare and paying it is worst. Many owe more than the value of their yearly salary. Their monthly payment for a typical student loan often equals one or more weeks of their take-home pay. They will repay their loans for the next 10-to-15 years.

We would be hard-pressed to find a bank who would lend the equivalent of one year's salary or more to someone who does not have any collateral. Yet, this is the financial situation that we have imposed on these new graduates. A financial situation which is an absurdity in itself!

Moreover, a new law prevents these new workers from declaring bankruptcy for a period of 10 years after graduation, a discriminatory treatment.

The student loan process is available to children of needy parents. Children of well-to-do parents rely on their parents for tuition and other expenses.

Upon graduation, those fortunate new workers, who were subsidized by their parents, can purchase products and services to meet their needs and start a normal life.

Their economic head start creates a case of "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer".

The process of student loans deprives our new generations of their purchasing power. We have cut forever, by this process, the influx of monetary funds that this new growth in the working force used to provide. Where in the past, these new graduates bought clothing, furniture, cars, new homes, went on trips... and created an influx of money in the economy, we now have a void.

Graduates of the past would buy products with the little money that they had and borrowed for the balance. Now, the new graduates can do neither because their debt level is too high to borrow. Whatever little funds that are left after paying for the bare essentials goes to the bank to repay their loan. This situation only expands and

strengthens the void.

This economic void regenerates itself every year with the new flock of university and college graduates. It will be part of our children's society forever.

One can say that the students knew what they were doing when they acquired the loans. Not having been involved in mortgages and loans and not knowing what kind of jobs they would have, no, they did not know what they were getting into. However, our governments and the banking industry certainly knew!

They had only two choices — either borrow and get an education, or go to work without an education.

The time has come to think of post-high school education as we did years ago for our high school education. It is necessary nowadays

to have more than a high school degree to survive for the next 30 to 40 years in the work force, and to have the knowledge base and capabilities to adapt to our changing society. The work force gets more competitive every day. Our children will have to change employers several times during their lives.

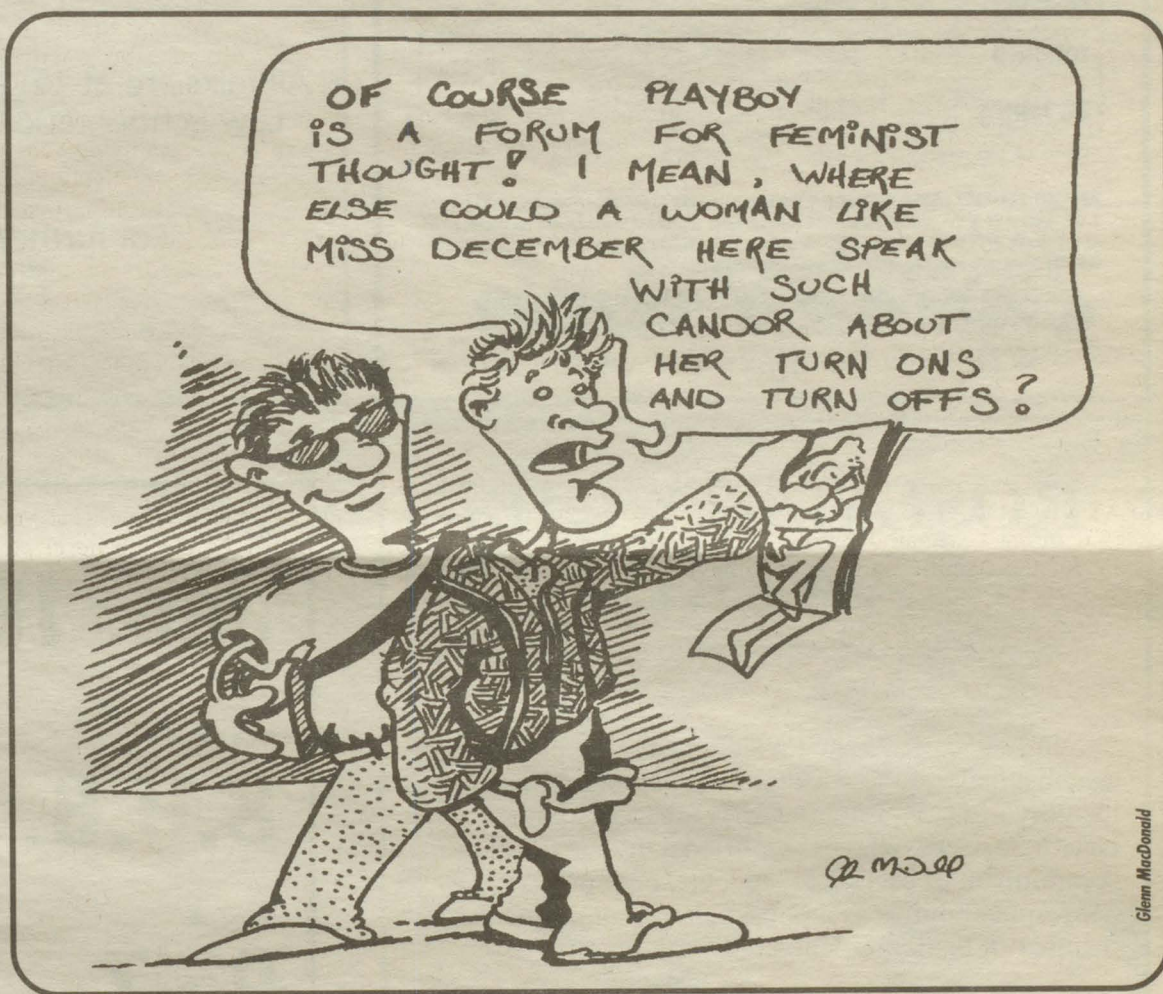
Responsibility for student loans policies and administration seem to be shared by several parties and the banking industry. The office of one of my political representatives suggested that I send it to Finance ministers.

But, for the immediate problem at hand, wouldn't it be more beneficial to repay the banks using our taxes. A sacrilegious thought!

But, by reducing the capital debt through the elimination of

education subsidies, have we not thrown on the back of our students part of the repayment of the capital debt? They will pay their taxes like we all did. Why should they pay for those debts? This process of repayment would liberate this young generation from their financial hurdle. The banks would certainly be happy, as it seems that the repayment success of the loans is disastrous. Our youth would have some money to inject into the economy. They would start to purchase houses, furniture, clothing, cars, etc., and borrow money, which would make the banks happy. They would have the option to start new families like we did and the endless economic void that we have created would be eliminated.

GILLES R. CHENIER



Not the "man" I used to be

I recently read an article in a business journal about the efforts of a company to regain its market share using the newest Internet technology. I remember this article because it has something in it I hadn't seen in a long time.

The article referred to the company's top guy as the "chairman". "Chairman," I thought. How refreshing to see that word again after such a long time. Today every major journal, book or other publication uses the word "chairperson" or simply "chair." It is just part of the on-going campaign to erase the word "man" from the English vocabulary.

Every word that used to contain "man" or "men" has been changed to something more acceptable to our cultural elite. "Policeman" is now "Police Officer", "Fireman" is now "Fire Fighter", "Mailman" is now "Postal Worker", etc., etc., etc.

You see, the establishment feels that if they can change the language we use, they can change

the way we think. And that, of course, is the goal — to change the way you and I think. All major publications have joined in the effort.

An article in *Scientific American* I read last week refers to a new medicine's benefit to "Humankind". You see, the word "mankind" can't be used because it contains the word "man".

Interestingly, though, it may be more difficult for our language police to erase the word "mankind" than other words they have targeted. This is because Neil Armstrong (inadvertently, I'm sure) cemented the word "mankind" into history with the phrase "...one giant leap for mankind." It will be hard for the established to erase that phrase from the history books (although I'm sure they will give it their best).

The effort to erase the word "man" has been largely successful in most areas of our society. People are like cattle and they will stampede in whatever direction they think the herd is running.

Today, the only place you will find the word "man" in the vocabulary is, perhaps, at the Selective Service department — where only "men" are slated to be drafted and sent to war to be killed.

Or you might find it within the hundreds of "affirmative action" programs that government and industry design to specifically discriminate against men in school admissions, hiring, promotions, etc., etc., etc.

Why have the efforts to erase the word "man" been so successful in our country? Because men are pansies. While other groups fight and try to increase their power in society, men are taught from an early age that they don't have a right to do the same.

We have accepted the establishment's judgement on this and have learned to live with it. Until we woke up and stop being such suckers, the establishment will continue to succeed in these efforts.

JEFF BURHANS

LETTERS CONTINUED

Trash talking

To the editor,
I have been a resident this past 40 odd years of our lovely city and it seems we are getting more careless by the year with our continuing littering of our properties and streets.

You can certainly tell when our students return from their summer vacation; the litter around Dalhousie quadruples when the kids return for their studies.

Garbage from students is improperly packaged and is left in yards to be scattered about by rodents and our feathered friends.

We have the healthiest crows and gulls in Nova Scotia.

Please help to keep our city neat and clean.

N.H. Akerlund

Change advisor, not website

To the editor,
In an apparent effort to present a proactive image, the Advisors to Students With Disabilities office recently expanded and upgraded its website.

What is really needed are substantive and not cosmetic changes for this "Advisors" office to have a shred of credibility.

A meaningful makeover would require that the incumbent Advisor be replaced by someone with a disability. That way, the likelihood of students being patronized while consulting with this office would be significantly reduced, if not eliminated.

Mary MacDonald

The Gazette welcomes letters - letters "under 300 words", letters with a point, letters that deal with some currently relevant topic, letters that will interest someone other than the writer, letters that hit the heart of the matter faster than your head hits the pillow. Any matter, interesting matter, in "less than 300 words".
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JANUARY 1999

TO	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
VANCOUVER	—	18:55	—	—	—	—	—
CALGARY	—	18:55	—	—	—	—	—
TORONTO	—	16:00	12:25*	15:20	—	—	—
ST. JOHN'S	—	11:05	—	10:25	—	—	—

* Week of Jan 4 only

AIRPORT STANDBY FARES: Are subject to available seats prior to departure. Passengers may register 2 1/2 hours prior to the scheduled departure of flight. Fares are subject to change without notice. Travel on any specific flight is not guaranteed. Payment (Cash or Credit Card only) must be made on departure. One way travel only. Schedule subject to change without notice.

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Speakers: Dr. Ian McLaren, Sable Island Preservation Trust, & Mr. Bill Appleby, Regional Director, Atlantic Region, Atmospheric Environment Branch, Environment Canada.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1999

"How Shipping Cases Decide Everything"- The Supreme Court of Canada Decision in Bow Valley"

Speaker: Mr. Wylie Spicer, Q. C., McInnes, Cooper & Robertson

This talk is jointly sponsored by MELP and the Eastern Admiralty Law Association.

All talks are at 12:00 p.m. They are held in Room 304 of Dalhousie Law School, 6061 University Avenue, Halifax (Bring your lunch if you wish)

For further information, contact Moira McConnell
Director of MELP- Tel: 494-1019 or
E-mail: moira.mcconnell@dal.ca

**ROSEMARY GILL
AWARD**

In June of 1995 the President approved the establishment of the **Rosemary Gill Award** in memory of Dr. Rosemary Gill, Director of University Health Services, who exemplified a high level of commitment of service to students, both in terms of her responsibilities as a physician on campus and as a member of the larger University community.

Awards are presented annually to a member or members of faculty or staff of the University who have provided outstanding service, other than teaching, to students. The selection of recipients is to be made by a committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President - Student Services, the Chair of the Student Relations and Residence Committee of the Board of Governors, and a student appointed by the Student Union.

The first Rosemary Gill Awards were presented in February, 1996, and nominations are now being sought for awards to be presented in 1999. Written nominations that include the rationale for the nomination and up to three letters of support should be submitted to:

The Office of the Vice-President
Student Services
1234 LeMarchant Street
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The deadline for nominations is
Friday, February 19, 1999.

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Tijuana: leave credit cards at home

Commercialism abounds at America's doorstep

BY JANET FRENCH

If cities had mottos, Tijuana's would be "The most aggressive sales tactics on Earth".

Tijuana is a city located just south of San Diego directly on the border between Mexico and the United States. It takes just five minutes in this crazed place to see why Tijuana has the busiest border crossing on Earth. Since this city inside a developing country borders the wealthiest, most powerful country in the world, it only makes sense that locals will stop at nothing to get their hands on some of that American green.

The citizens of Tijuana are literally falling over themselves to get your money. The second you cross the border, taxi drivers run up to you, pleading to drive you downtown for the mere cost of one American dollar. Never mind that downtown is less than a ten-minute walk away. Tourists must be too

stupid to look at a map, because most of them pile into the taxis anyway.

To be a tourist walking down a street in Tijuana is akin to begging for attention. Store owners were running after me down the street waving gold chains, blankets, belts, bead necklaces, candy and every other kind of bargain-basement paraphernalia, yelling, "come on, pretty lady, just five dollars!"

Waiters at restaurants were not much better. They too would chase you with menus, hollering that day's specials even as you dash away. One proprietor was even offering free Tequila to anyone who would enter his store. Is there a drinking age in Mexico? It seems it would hardly matter.

Sadly, however, between all the commercialism and pandemonium, there are also poor, homeless people wandering around, hoping that you will save a little money for them too at the end of

your souvenir spending spree.

Naturally, the tourists who arrive by the minivan-full in nuclear-family units eat the bargains up without a second thought. You see them trudging back to the hotels at the end of the day, loaded down with \$5 gold chains, Mexican blankets and giant sombreros on their heads.

It is uncertain who deserves more pity or shame in this scenario. Mexico is going through hard times, and these people work 16-hour days, running up and down the street to sell things for a marginal profit at best. Meanwhile, at the end of the day, the tourists go back to their comfortable suburban homes with tacky souvenirs, useless goods and a minimal dent in their pocket.

On the other hand, Tijuans will do their utmost to make a buck. My friend bought a blanket advertized for \$4.99, but paid \$5.30, with tax.

"Hey! There is no tax!" he



WELCOME TO DISNEY'S MEXICO: Cheap toys for sale in Tijuana.

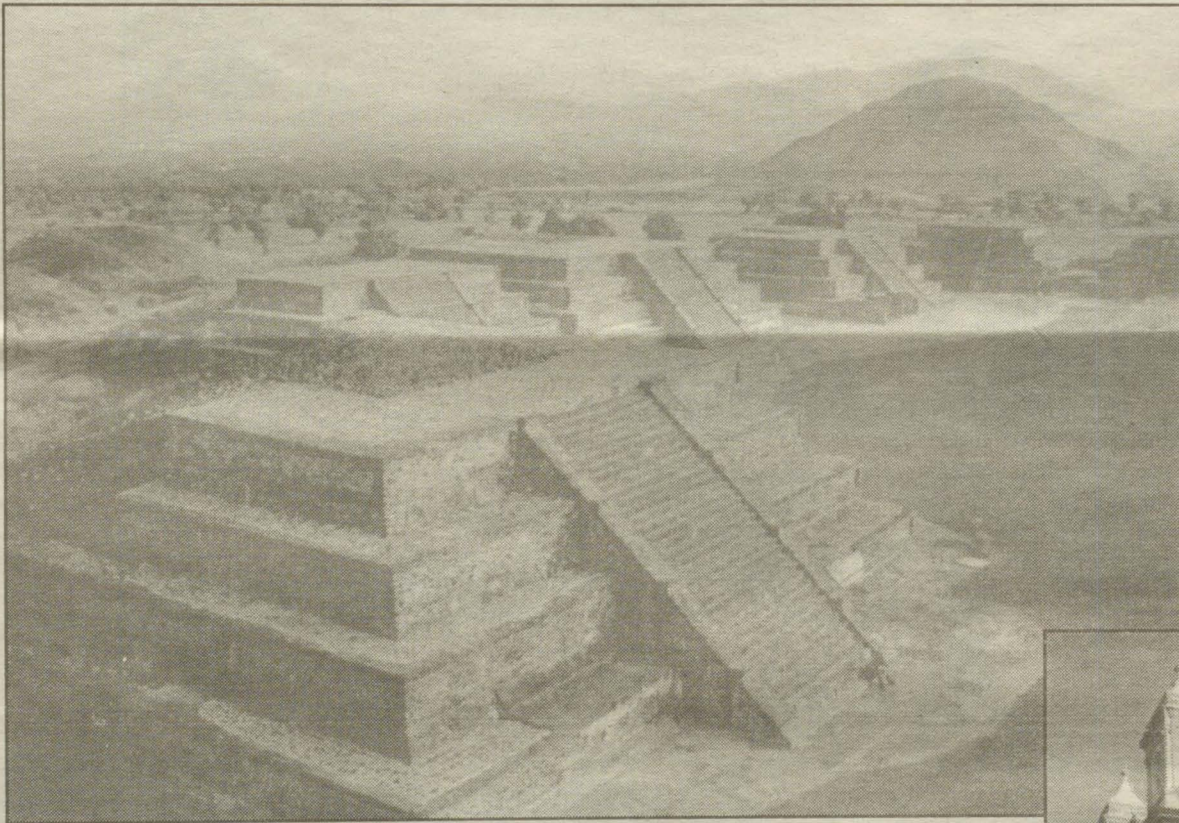
realized a while later.

In another store, I bargained a sales girl down to \$14 for a tablecloth, then she gave me change for \$16. The tourists must deserve some pity, then, for not paying attention to what goes on.

The contrast between the southern California desert and the crumbling shacks of Tijuana is a harsh one. Yet, these local entrepreneurs have the perfect market, the American public, right at their fingertips. Americans do not shop in Tijuana to graciously fund the struggling economy of Mexico,

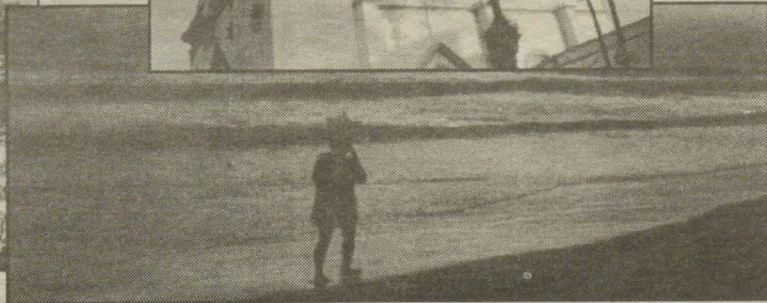
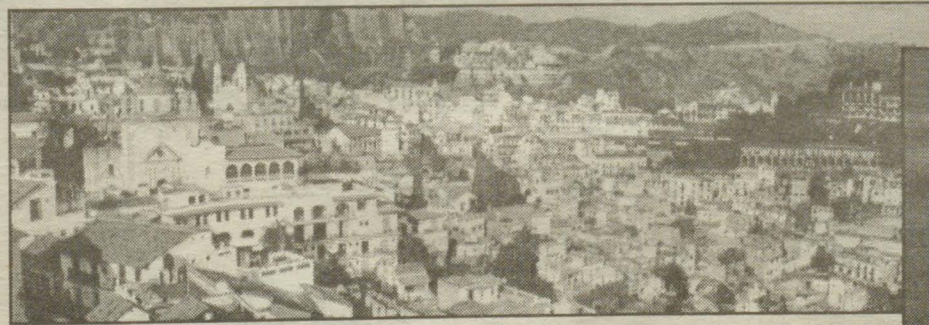
but only to save themselves a buck. If they really wanted to help, it would be more sensible to send aid to central and southern Mexico where people do not have the advantage of location that Tijuana does.

If you are so inclined to travel to Tijuana, don't let the merchants convince you to buy junk you'll never use. Leave your wallet at home. Instead, just head to the nearest restaurant, throw back a cheap Corona and shake your head at the people trying to live the American Dream.



La Ruta Pascal

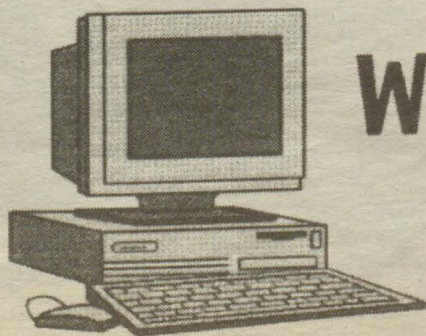
Photo editor Pascal Languillon catches a few rays and photos in Mexico



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Streeter

INTERVIEWS AND PHOTOS BY LEE PITTS.

If you were stuck in an airport for three days and couldn't escape, how would you pass the time?



"I don't know, I'd buy a magazine or buy a book — read and snooze!"

Deanne Kelly, 2nd-year Engineering, Parts Unknown



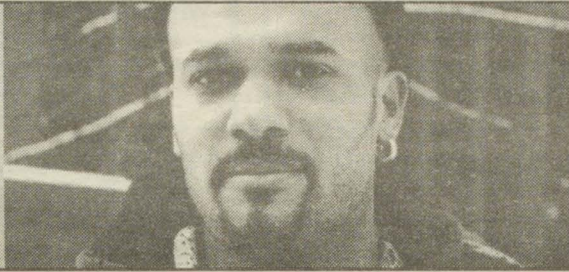
Nadine: "I'd meditate."
Tamara: "What would I do if I were stuck at the airport?"
Nadine: "You can't go anywhere!"
Tamara: "I don't know. I'd probably be really upset, you know."
Nadine: "How would you calm yourself down?"
Tamara: "Probably read, yeah, just to pass the time."

Right: Nadine Gray, 1st-year Arts, Halifax NS
Left: Tamara Brown, 1st-year Arts, Halifax NS



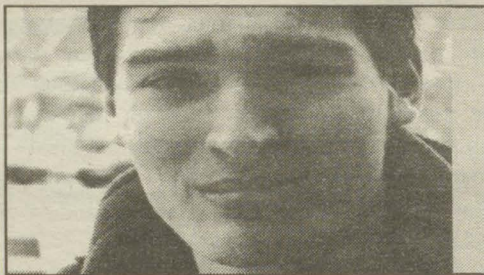
"Get a sex change and marry a rich businessman who was stuck there as well and live happily ever after at Pearson Airport."

Daren Okafo, Volunteer co-ordinator/technical trainer, CKDU, Halifax NS



"I don't know... there's no TV there or something? If there's a lot of people around, I'd probably talk."

Trevor Smith, 1st-year Computer Science, Parts Unknown



"Probably read."

Erin Squarey, 4th-year Science, St. John's NF



"I'd sleep and go to the restaurants and call my friends and bitch and complain a lot."

Diana Fitzgerald, 2nd-year Commerce, Toronto ON



"I don't know... go shopping!"

Michelle Booth, 2nd-year Kinesiology, Halifax NS

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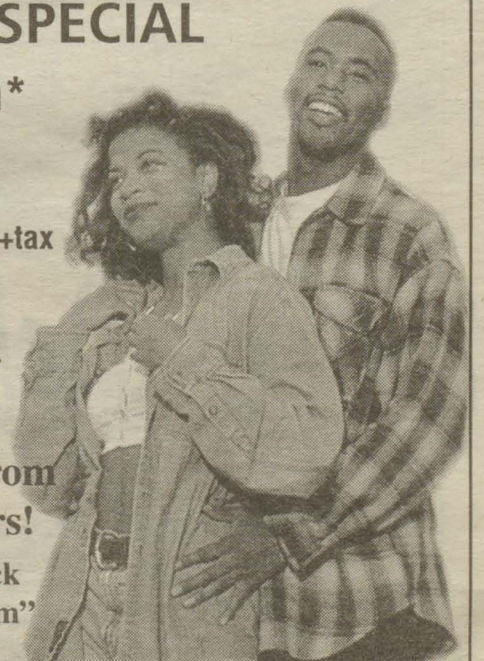
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ARTS / CULTURE



Sacred struggle

"...people want to know about other cultures, and those stories are here [in Nova Scotia]. It's time they were told."

BY GREG MCFARLANE

The plight of Africville remains firmly entrenched in Nova Scotia's collective memory. Consecrated Ground, the latest effort by local playwright George Boyd, brings the issue to the fore once again. As actress Anne-Marie Woods says, "It's not a sugar-coated story, but it's one that needs to be told."

The play itself centres around a mother who wishes to bury her deceased son in Africville, but, from a historical perspective, the backdrop is far more important.

The time period is the 1960s, and the people of Africville are being relocated against their will from the area that is now Seaview Park to housing in Halifax's north end. While the actions of government officials make it difficult for the son to be buried, it

is only one of many examples that document the injustices committed against Africville's population.

Anne-Marie Woods, who plays the part of Groovey Peters, says those injustices threatened the vitality of Africville's people.

"To outside people looking in, they may have just seen run-down homes beside a dump, but it was a thriving black community," says Woods.

Woods says *Consecrated Ground* is about more than houses erected and demolished on Halifax's north end shoreline. Instead, it is about the lessons to be learned from prejudice and discrimination.

"Some people didn't want to leave," Woods says. "Their homes were bulldozed and they were forced out in garbage trucks — that's the most demeaning thing."

"What people white and black will take away from it is the story of Africville. It is most important that white people come to the show and see the struggle of the people."

Woods is confident that people of all cultures will come to the play. And though she knows that everyone will have a different take on the events portrayed in

Consecrated Ground, she says that the desire to learn within most people will evoke compassion towards the characters in the play and the real-life struggle embodied in the history of Africville.

"There are stories to be told in every community," says Woods. "To the larger community this is not the norm."

"But people want to know about other cultures, and those stories are here [in Nova Scotia]. It's time they were told."

Through the medium of theatre one such story will be revived. Woods sees this play as one part of an ongoing process to create awareness and respect for the larger

issue at hand. And while the government actions of the 1960s can never be completely resolved, the play helps to keep the memory of the community alive.

"Each time the story of Africville comes up, it seems to be bigger and stronger," says Woods.

"I'm not sure what it is that could resolve the situation... but a plaque to commemorate Africville just doesn't do it."

Consecrated Ground plays from January 14-24 at the Sir James Dunn Theatre in the Dalhousie Arts Centre. Shows begin at 8pm from Tuesday through Saturday, and 2pm on Sundays. Tickets are \$17.50, and \$14.50 for students and seniors. Sunday performances are priced at \$10 per person.



Actress Anne-Marie Woods.

Bricks smash art boundaries at SMU

BY NATALIE MACLELLAN

The Saint Mary's Art Gallery opened two unique exhibits on Friday — *Brickworks* by Joan McNeil and *Tableau* by Catherine Beaudette. The two exhibits are as different as any two could be, and their juxtaposition in the same setting provides an interesting contrast.

Upon first entering the Gallery, unfortunately located off a high-traffic SMU hallway, one faces four rather large piles of bricks. Each has its own distinct shape and size, but you don't yet appreciate any of that.

To really appreciate *Brickworks* takes time. You can't just look, you must think. Approximately 6000 bricks were used to construct the four sculptures. Each is perfectly placed so as to firmly support all those on top of it. I was not surprised to learn that Joan McNeil's first degree was in architecture.

I was surprised however to read that the entire exhibit, which was three years in planning, is temporary. When the exhibit closes on Feb. 14, it is to be dismantled. All the bricks are to be re-stacked

on pallets and returned to the factory. *Brickworks* will exist only in the memories of those fortunate enough to have seen it.

In a smaller room just off to the side is Beaudette's *Tableau* exhibit. At first glance it seems much more conventional than *Brickworks*, being a collection of watercolours — but they aren't your ordinary watercolours.

The exhibit was inspired by another exhibit Beaudette saw in 1996 entitled "Be Our Guest" — a collection of artifacts from The Fortress of Louisbourg. Beaudette was interested in the artifacts because, though they are highly valued today, they were years ago

discarded as junk.

Beaudette began to travel to Louisbourg, where she painted watercolours of the artifacts. *Tableau* is a collection of artifacts on loan from Louisbourg and her paintings of them.

Her artwork is incredible. Her paintings seem to breath the life back into the objects, giving them the shine and colour they once had, while still reproducing every crack and hole and smudge on the actual objects. Any history buff or antique lover will definitely be intrigued.

Brickworks and Tableau will be on exhibit at the SMU Art Gallery until February 14.

Request for Input

**Killam Library
Reference and Instruction Services Review
January 28 and 29, 1999**

On January 28th and 29th an external review committee will be on campus to examine and comment upon reference and instruction services offered by the Killam Library. The external reviewers are: Claude Bonnelly, Director of the Library, Laval University; Patricia Yocum, Coordinator of Collections and Librarian, Shapiro Science Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and, Suzanne Sexty, Library Instruction Coordinator, Information Services Division, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

All members of the university community are encouraged to make written and/or oral submissions to the committee to help them understand faculty, student and staff needs and concerns with respect to these library services.

Written submissions should be addressed to the Chair, Killam Library, Reference and Instruction Review Committee, c/o Library Administration Office, Killam Library, and be received no later than January 25th, 1999.

Appointments to meet with the Committee can be arranged through Janice Slauenwhite: Ph: 494-3601 or email: Janice.Slaunwhite@dal.ca. Times are available from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., January 28th and 29th. Hearings will be held in the George Munro Room, Arts and Administration Building.

For the terms of reference of the review, and biographies of the external reviewers, please consult the review web site at:

www.library.dal.ca/general/review.htm

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Globetrotting with four Henrys

Character-driven production filled with laughs and suspense

BY GREG MCFARLANE

What do you do when you find out your aunt is your mother?

Before you let your imagination run amok and think Graham Greene's *Travels With My Aunt* is a lurid depiction of rural incest gone awry, calm down. Instead, Neptune's latest production is a humorous, smart and intriguing play about a prudish Englishman's global wanderings with his newly-discovered mother — and the ensuing search for himself.

Filled with double entendres, the smoky haze of "American cigarettes" (slang for pot in the play's 1969 setting), the suspense of post-World War Two Nazi art smuggling, and the best damn human portrayal of a dog that I've

ever seen, *Travels With My Aunt* takes viewers from London through Europe and finally to South America before letting them off a wild ride.

Most surprising about the production is the small cast. Four men — Walter Borden, Jan Filips, David McClelland and Ian Deakin — combine to portray 24 characters.

Identically dressed in navy blue suits, dark v-neck sweaters and ties, each actor is forced to use vocal skills and body language to implant distinct identities into the psyche of the audience. With many productions, this often turns into a sad situation. However, the talent and skill brought to the production by the four actors made the format even more enjoyable, as the play is a showcase for their versatility.

The most challenging aspect of the production has to be the use of all four actors to portray the lead character, Henry. At first this twist

is confusing, but as the play develops it becomes one of the most subtly intelligent parts.

Filips' Henry is a stereotypical British conservative — an uptight-but-likable, sexually-repressed stuffshirt that turns red at even the mention of impropriety. While he is the most effective Henry, the 'other' Henrys prove equally important. Borden brings dignity and grace to the character when it is needed, and McClelland's naivety is perfectly suited for those scenes in which Henry receives motherly advice from his aunt Augusta. Also, Deakin's churlishness and snobbery is instrumental in showing Henry's attitude towards things that do not go his way. However, the actors never lose sight of Henry's most obvious traits — blind innocence and a love for his aunt.

Yet, as much as this play centres around Henry, it is primarily a vehicle for a host of characters —



photo by K. Kern

A MORE TRADITIONAL FORM OF LAP DANCING: Tooley (Jan Filips) finds comfort on Henry's (Ian Deakin) lap.

many of which deserve special mention. Borden is outstanding as the proud-but-jealous Wordsworth and the scummy Visconti, and Deakin plays Henry's 75-year-old aunt Augusta about as well as a middle-aged man in a blue power

suit can.

However, McClelland is a scene stealer as an over-zealous Irish Setter who takes his animal urges out on Borden's leg. It turns out some roads are better left untravelled, after all.

Love affair doomed in Silk

BY AVI LAMBERT

Alessandro Baricco's *Silk* is an exotic tale of love and devotion. It is not the kind of romantic novel you read while leaning up against the washing machine during the spin cycle, it's the kind of novel that melts in your mind and heart like a chocolate kiss. *Silk* has the mystical quality and profound simplicity of books like *the Alchemist* and *Jonathan Livingston Seagull*.

The novel, Baricco's third and

the first to reach our shores in English, has been translated from Italian into twenty-seven languages, and is more like a novella in length, so it shouldn't intimidate even the most timid of readers.

The cover and texture of the novel are beautiful. Not to be cheesy-christmas-stocking-stuffer-home-shopping-network guy, but it would make a nice gift or addition to someone's library. Though, don't give it to someone expecting a bag

of ring-dings.

The *Geisha* on the cover conjures delicate water colour pictures of the far east: samurais and maidens, waterfalls and love birds. That's barely the plot of the story, but more than the images, the cover and feel of the book are symbolic of the gentle story and writing style in *Silk*.

When you open the book and delve into the text, it's smooth, almost to the point of confusion. Short chapters paint the simple life of the main character, Hervé Joncour, a silk merchant from France.

The book traces the travels of Joncour's quest to find the finest silk worms. The quest takes him repeatedly across Europe and Russia into the heart of Japan. Joncour's Japanese counterparts include an eccentric and wealthy Japanese shogun and his beautiful and enigmatic concubine.

The story becomes more intricate as Joncour has a sensuous, if not typically submissive and mysterious, love affair with the concubine. Joncour falls in love

Silk
Alessandro Baricco
Vintage International



the concubine by a literate Japanese emigrant prostitute makes Joncour's mistakes painfully clear.

Love, disappointment and disgrace ensue,

where Joncour is the tragic asshole. You thought I'd say hero. The story culminates with the release of thousands of colourful birds into the sky. A metaphor for the love Joncour seeks.

I fear I have already ruined the novel, but there is much more at work.

The novel isn't too deep, and it isn't too light. The moral about patience and realizing what truth and love you have is important and pervasive.

The novel is a good, quick read, and it is, overall, a pleasure. *Silk* strikes a soft chord in my heart, and it resonates for a while.

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SPORTS

Second half surge buries Capers

Newson leads Tigers to strong second-half start

BY SUMANT KUMAR

After a week-long layoff, the Dalhousie Tigers mens' basketball team knew they'd be a little rusty. Add to this that their opposition on Sunday afternoon was the UCCB Capers, a team that on Friday night upset the defending AUAA champions, the Acadia Axemen, and the task of winning appeared more daunting even still.

However, despite a slow start, the Tigers were able to take advantage of the suspension of two Capers' players due to a curfew violation, and defeat UCCB by the score of 92-74.

Both teams got off to a slow start, and neither could gain a clear advantage, mostly due to terrible first-half shooting. However Dal was able to grab a 36-33 lead at

halftime.

The start of the second half started much the same, and 5 minutes through Dal only had a 4-point cushion. At this point, senior forward Doug Newson, on consecutive plays, lit a spark by nailing a three-pointer and then hitting a jump shot which he was fouled on. Then at the 17-minute mark Ashkan Rajae also hit a three-pointer and the Tigers were up 58-48.

Dal continued their strong play and went on a 12-0 run led by Rajae and Newson, and with seven minutes remaining the game was no longer in doubt as the Tigers were leading 70-48.

The Dalhousie coaching staff then played their bench, giving starters a rest, as the team easily

coasted to the 92-74 victory.

Newson, was named player of the game for his 20 point effort, while Rajae contributed 25 points (14 of which came from the charity stripe) and 13 rebounds. Benny Edison continued his outstanding play with 10 points, 10 assists, five steals and only three turnovers in 33 minutes of action. Dave Phillip led the Capers with 24 points while Brooke Daye netted 14.

The Tigers now have a 4-2 league record, and with every one healthy and a deep bench, they are poised to make a run at the all important first-round play-off bye. The Tigers next action comes this weekend at UPEI and UNB. The next home game is on Wednesday, Jan. 20 when they host their arch-rivals from Saint Mary's.

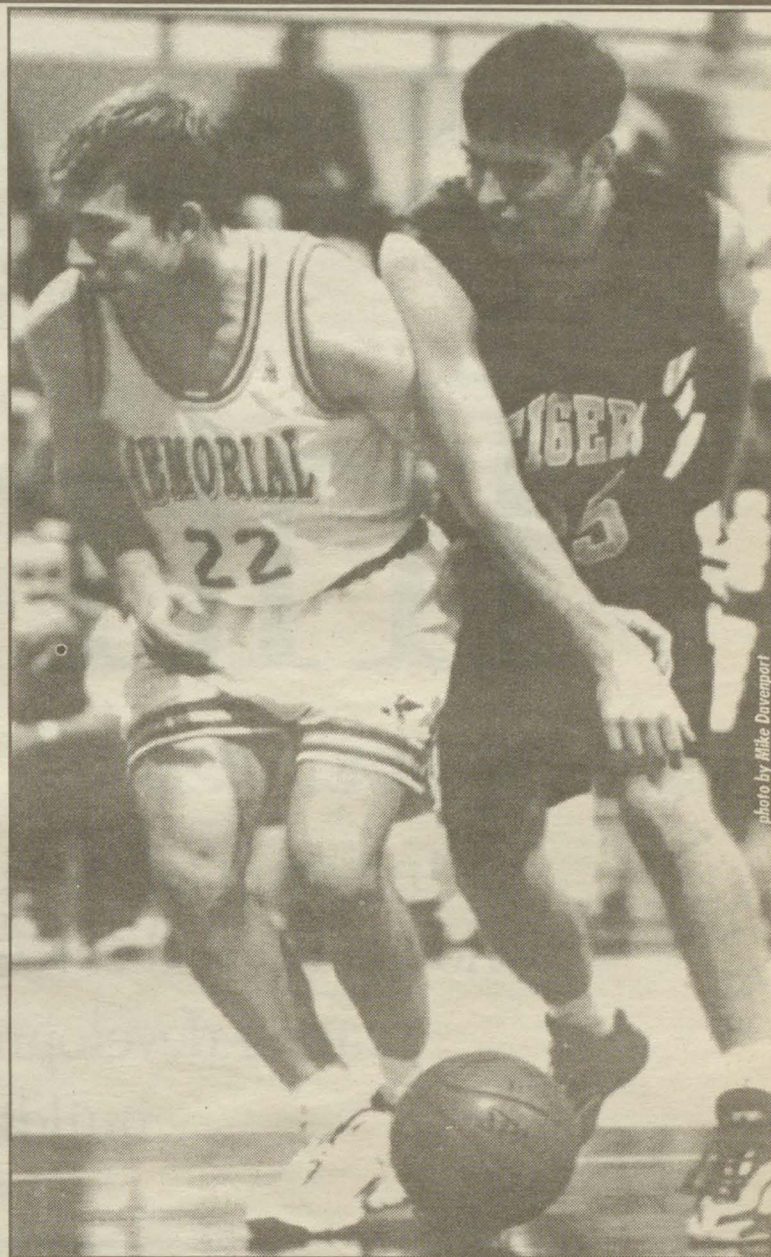


photo by Mike Davenport

SOCGER IS FUN: Tigers in basketball action earlier this season.

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Dalendar

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Thursday, January 14

Ann Dowsett Johnston, Maclean's Magazine — the editor of the controversial "Guide to Universities" speaks about Canadian education and what's coming in the future. 7pm, McInnes Rm, SUB.

Friday, January 15

Spirituality Group — Scripture readings for those with questions and doubts. 7:30pm, Room 318 SUB.

Guitar Recital — Art Gallery, Dalhousie Arts Centre. Dalhousie students face the music. 12:30pm.

Wednesday, January 20

Voice Recital — Sculpture Court, Dalhousie Arts Centre. Dal music students perform for an hour. 12:30pm.

Alternative Law Careers for Women — Speakers followed by a wine & cheese. Weldon Law Building, 7pm. Call 454-7411 for more info.

Announcements

Help a newcomer adapt to Canada. The Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association invites you to join its volunteer tutor programme. Volunteers are matched with new Canadians to provide them with language practice. Call 423-3607 for more info.

Academic dates you should know. Feb. 1 is the deadline for the following academic decisions: last day to withdraw from B classes without a "W" (except 4th year Occupational Therapy); last day to change B classes from credit to audit and vice versa; last day to withdraw from R classes.

Summer Study in China or Japan 1999. Applications are now being accepted for summer study in Xiamen, China and Hakodate, Japan, and should be submitted to Dr. Charles Beaupre, Co-ordinator, Asian Studies, St. Mary's University. Email: charles.beaupre@stmarys.ca. Contact Charlie Toth at 420-5177 for more info.

The Elizabeth Fry Society is holding its second "Rebels With a Cause" gala and will be honouring six accomplished women who have challenged society to re-think social issues. To be held on Mar. 27, 1999. Call 454-5041 for more info.

Volunteers Needed: match your skills and interest with a program that makes a difference at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. Volunteer opportunities available now. Call

573-5420 or 473-5420 to make an appointment with either Carol or Roy about openings.

ECMA's 24-hour Radio Station is looking for hosts for 4-hour slots and the "All Night Party Request Show" on Radio Free ECMA. Contact Tony Hann (709) 753-4040 or (709) 745-6641 or email meesh@roadrunner.nf.net. The deadline is Jan. 29.

The Review Committee is examining the department of German. There is an open invitation to all students who would like to comment on the curriculum or future development of the department, or their experiences as students within this department. Contact Dr. Greg Hanlon, Chair, at 494-3642.

Euphoria, the Annual Dalhousie Medical Students' variety show, will be held Jan. 30 at 7pm in the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium, Dalhousie Arts Centre. Tickets may be purchased at the Rebecca Cohn Box Office. Call 494-3820 for tickets.

Speak Easy Program. Learn how to feel more comfortable about speaking to a class, giving a seminar, or taking part in a class discussion. Program will be offered on the following dates: Jan. 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16 from 5:30pm to 7pm. A \$20 deposit, refunded on attendance, is requested. Pre-registration is required at Counselling and Psychological Services, 4th Floor, SUB.

Anger Management Program,

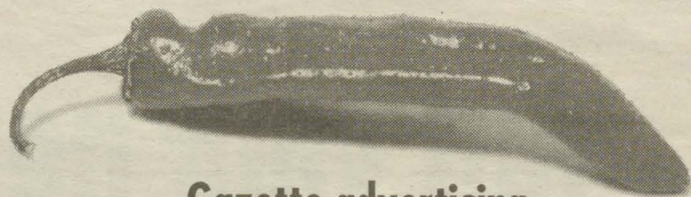
consists of four sessions. The program will be offered on Jan. 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16 from 3:30pm to 5pm. A \$20 deposit, refunded on attendance, is requested. Pre-registration is required at Counselling and Psychological Services, 4th Floor, SUB.

Solutions For Men: A Relationship Loss Group, Learn how to move beyond a romantic relationship. The group consists of four sessions on Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18 from 11:30am to 1pm. Pre-registration is required at Counselling and Psychological Services, 4th Floor, SUB.

Parents Without Custody. New openings for new members. Are you having problems with custody or access? No one will listen? Had false accusations made against you in relation to your children? For more information, call Nancy C. Lipman at 454-2229.

Halifax Regional Municipality — Recreation and leisure services in the Sackville area are offering many winter programs which start on the week of Jan. 18. Call 869-4200 for more info.

Basketball staff needed. Halifax Regional Municipality recreation and leisure services, Sackville office, is looking for volunteers and paid staff for a local basketball league for young people. If interested, call 869-4200 or drop by and fill out an application. Training Provided. Starts January 1999 and ends April 1999.



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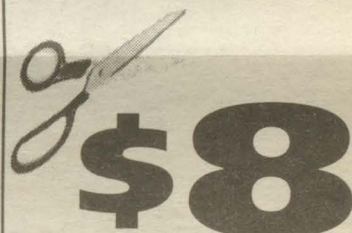
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Information Session ~ Sales & Marketing Group ~ Monday, Jan. 25th
In the Student Union Building, 2nd Floor, Room 224/226.

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BC Hydro is looking for electrical engineering graduates to join their Engineer-in-Training program. This is a full time position in which you will be exposed to challenging assignments and be trained to the highest standards as you work towards your P.Eng. **Deadline: 1:00 pm, January 21, 1999.**

Apply for Summer Employment with Tourism Nova Scotia
Tourism Nova Scotia is now accepting applications for summer positions in the Nova Scotia Visitor Information Centres and the Provincial Resorts. Application form and details available in Employment Centre. Application deadline: **January 29, 1999.**

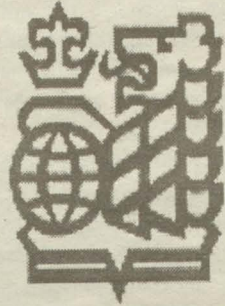
New Brunswick JET Program - Summer Employment Opportunities
This program offers students an opportunity to gain valuable work experience with New Brunswick government departments and agencies, municipalities, as well as within the voluntary non-profit sector. JET applications available in Employment Centre.

Summer Mentorship Program for Female Students
This program formally pairs female students with civil servants working in non-traditional or senior level jobs. Through the N.B. Department of Labour's Job Experience for Tomorrow (JET Stream) program, female students will gain 14 weeks of valuable employment experience in various areas of the province. To apply, use the JET Stream Program Application form (filling in the appropriate box - Side A, Letter N).

Dalhousie U., Housing and Conference Services - Summer Jobs
Work on campus this summer. Several positions to be filled. View job descriptions and obtain application forms at the Student Employment Centre. **Deadline: January 29, 1999.**

If you are a Dalhousie, Daltech, Kings student or recent Alumni, please visit the Dalhousie Student Employment Centre.
Website at <http://is.dal.ca/~sec/>

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