

Gazette

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

April 1st, 2004 - 136:26

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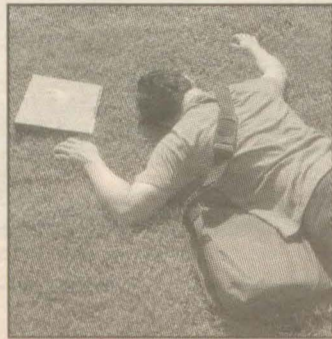
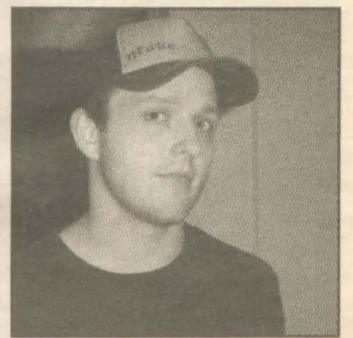
Imagine that one moment you are standing in line with a beautiful girl at the Post Office and she asks you where you got your shirt. One year later you're lying in bed with her, both of you laughing so hard you can hardly breathe at something you can't remember now, and you're thinking about how you could spend forever with her. Three years later, you get a phone call telling you she is dead and you realize that you haven't spoken to her in eight months. Life unfolds in the strangest ways.

If someone had told me four years ago that I would be writing a weekly column for this paper and graduating with a law degree, I probably would have laughed out loud. Now I'm feeling a bit weird knowing that this is my last issue of the Gazette. I promised several people that I would end with a positive message, rather than a weepy good-bye or an angry rant.

My farewell message is simple: Relax.

This month is going to bring lots of stress as exams and deadlines approach. Many of you are also dealing with the pressure of looking for a summer job and/or a new place to live. Some of you are graduating and freaking out as you leave the safety of school to hit the real world. A few of you are even dealing with personal problems and family illnesses on top of it all. As you lie in bed awake in the middle of the night, it may seem like the end of the world, but the truth is, regardless of what happens, your life will go on.

Think back to your exams in high school. Can you remember the first time you flunked a test or assignment? Can you remember your first break-up with a boyfriend or girlfriend? Can you remember an embarrassing moment that felt like you would die of shame? Even though they seemed like catastrophic



events at the time, you somehow managed to survive and make it here. Most importantly, there are people all around you on campus who are suffering from the same problems you have now. Talk to your friends, professors and classmates about your problems. You are never alone. Even at five in the morning when you think that your head is going to explode, you can always pick up the phone and tell the operator that you need someone to talk to. She will put you through to someone who gets paid just to listen and help you work things out.

I once complained to a friend of mine about the 'terrible' state of my life. He replied, "It could be worse, you could have rectal cancer." Frustrated, I asked if he would still say that if I told him that I had been

diagnosed with rectal cancer and given three months to live. He said, "No, I'd tell you to cheer the fuck up and make the most of the time you had left." I have never received better advice.

Take a deep breath. Hell, take a whole bunch. Everything will be fine. It may get worse before it gets better, but inevitably, it will get better. Now, if I can just take my own advice and make it through April...

P.S. We at the Gazette want to thank you for reading our paper every week and wish you the best with exams, the ensuing summer and the rest of your lives.

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04 News

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Tuition Hike Likely

NEAL CODY Staff Contributor

Dalhousie's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) will release its 2004-05 operating budget this week. A preliminary draft, released in December, shows that the university expects a deficit of about \$7.8 million—roughly 3.6 per cent of overall expenditures. The university plans to eliminate this deficit with budget reductions and an increase in tuition fees of between 2 -13 per cent.

This year's budget features \$13.6 million in increased spending, a 6.7 per cent rise over last year. "These are not frills; they are necessary expenditures," said Dr. Sam Scully, VP Academic at Dalhousie and chair of the BAC. He said that the university is committed to balancing the budget, but that the most substantial component of incoming revenue—the provincial grant—is still undetermined.

The provincial grant for Dalhousie is close to \$105 million, but that number fluctuates from one year to the next. Last year, the government promised a 3 per cent increase in the grant, but instead clawed back almost half a million dollars. The exact number for this year will be announced in the provincial budget, to be released late next month. In the meantime, the BAC will obtain estimates from the Department of Education to use in the operating budget.

The BAC's December draft has several projections of how it will cope with the deficit, all depending on the amount of the provincial grant. If Dal cuts its budget back, tuition hikes will only be small. If the budget is not reduced, tuition increases will have to be larger to make up the difference.

An example scenario is that the government might leave its

grant unchanged. Dal could reduce its budget by 3 per cent (and increase tuition fees by 7 per cent) or the budget could be left in its present condition and tuition fees would need to increase by 13 per cent. The numbers differ depending on the amount of provincial funding. Other scenarios are listed in the committee's report at www.dal.ca/~finserv, under "Budget Advisory Committee."

The budget also features \$159 million in "provisions for compensation." This is money the university puts away to use for new contracts with its employees. The contract for TAs and part-time faculty expired last August, and two more collective agreements are due to expire June 30 (including the contract for full-time faculty).

"Realistically, [tuition] will probably go up, and it has to be in a reasonable way," said Chris Gallant, the student representative on the BAC. "It's very probable that [the increase] will be within that range [of 2-13 per cent]."

"We're competing against health and infrastructure, said Gallant. "Nurses can cry; they have bleeding patients. That emotion gets public interest, and that means votes for politicians. At the end of the day, it's hard for education to get the value of a dollar."

According to Dr. Scully, Dalhousie is committed to releasing tuition figures before students leave for the summer. Students should keep their ears open and check the Dal website for more updates soon. After the budget is released, it will be submitted to the Board of Governors meeting for final approval next month.

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Tonnes of Coffee Cup Waste

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

Coffee may cause hyperactivity and sleepless nights, but is it really an environmental hazard? According to some students in "Biology 3601, Nature Conservation," that may just be the case. As part of a term assignment, each group in the class had to come up with a project about waste reduction. Lindsay Leighton's group focused on the waste produced by coffee cups on campus. "We collected for an hour, and we ended up with 363 cups," she said of her group's recent experiment.



After those overwhelming results, the group crunched some numbers and got even more of a shock. "We did a bunch of calculations, and in the end, we worked out...[that] Dal alone produces 7,000 tonnes of waste, just in coffee cups, each year," said Leighton.

These biology students want to use their research findings to raise awareness of consumption and waste reduction on campus. After media coverage in the *Daily News* and on CBC Radio, they want to let Dal students know how their daily routines can have a major impact on the environment. "Depending on how the project goes, if we have time at the end of the year, we'd like to write some kind of a letter or a petition of some sort...to Tim Horton's or Second Cup," said Leighton.

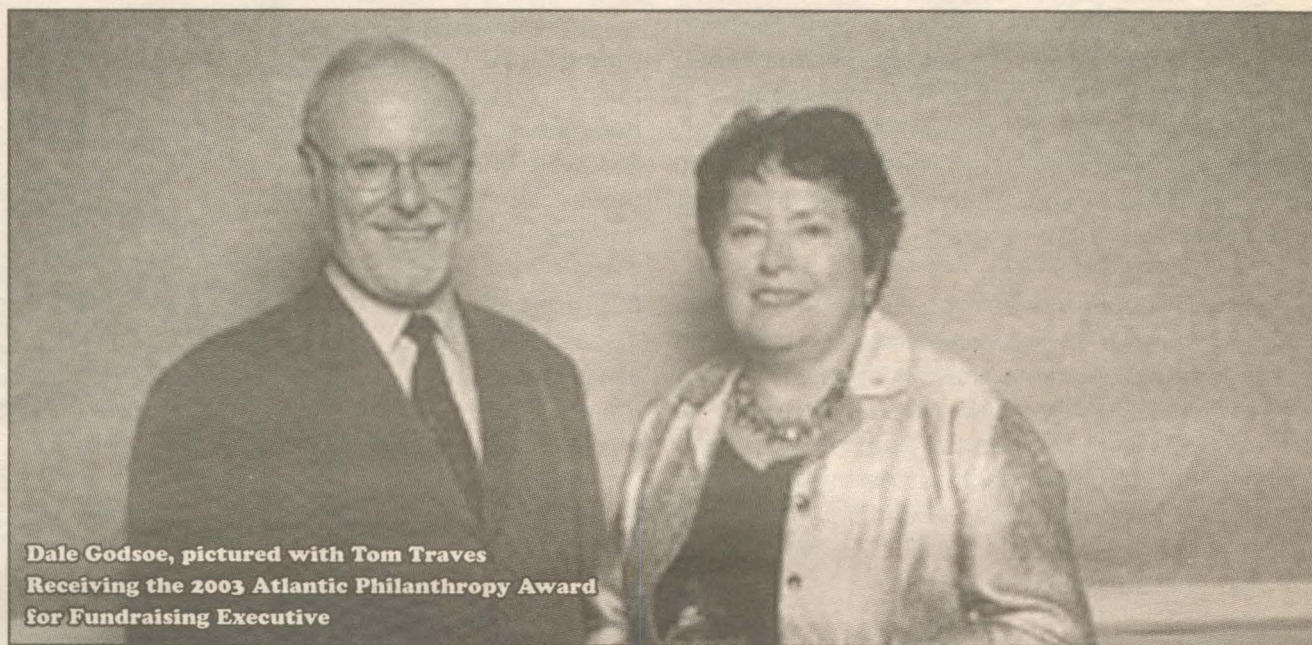
According to the main coffee outlets on campus, environmental issues are already a big concern. Colleen Baker, the Aramark manager responsible for the Killam Second Cup, said that Halifax does not recycle styrofoam, like Toronto does, but her shop still tries its best. The Second Cup encourages the use of reusable mugs by offering a 10 cent discount for those who bring their own; the store also sells mugs.

Likewise, Jennifer Marriott, the Food Service Director for Sodexo, pointed out that the Tim Horton's and Starbucks in the SUB also try to promote environmentally-friendly policies. "After customer feedback, we knew we could do a better job," Marriott said. She has put up more noticeable signs at these two locations, informing customers about the discounts if they bring their own mugs, and about the enviro-mugs on sale at each outlet. Advertising and displays will likely be improved again in September. "In September, new students want to start the year with a new mug," she said.

And if Leighton and her fellow Nature Conservation students have their way, all campus coffee-drinkers will soon be sipping from reusable mugs.

PM appoints Dal VP to Cities Committee

NEAL CODY Staff Contributor



Dale Godsoe, pictured with Tom Traves
Receiving the 2003 Atlantic Philanthropy Award
for Fundraising Executive

Prime Minister Paul Martin appointed one of Dalhousie's very own to his new cities committee last month.

VP External Dale Godsoe, along with 20 others nationwide, has been named to the new External Advisory Committee on Cities and Communities. Godsoe is national Chair of the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy, a member on the boards of Vision TV and Halterm Inc., and a member of the Order of Canada.

According to Godsoe, the committee's mandate is to create a vision of what cities should look like in 20-30 years by studying many factors, such as infrastructure, quality of life and the environment. They will meet two to three days a month all across Canada, and will listen to the concerns of citizens and community leaders. "The committee is part of a larger federal initiative," she said. "The aim is to rebalance spending to bring levels more in line with where they will do the most good for Canadians."

Despite all of this extra responsibility, Godsoe believes her work at Dalhousie will not be affected. "If anything I think it will compliment my work here. I work to promote a better relationship between the university and the community," she said. Godsoe hopes to bring some insight to the topic of interaction between cities and their post-secondary institutions, though she will not be bringing any concerns to the table about Dal specifically.

The cities committee will report to Ontario MP John Godfrey, the Prime Minister's parliamentary secretary. Godfrey was a professor of history at Dalhousie for 17 years (10 of which he was also president of King's) before entering politics. Godsoe knows Godfrey from his time at Dal, and believes that Halifax will be well represented on the committee because of the

connection.

"Halifax is very different from other Canadian cities with comparable populations," she said. "We're much less urbanized." Godsoe said she will be consulting with Premier John Hamm and municipal leaders, and has already been in touch with Don Mills, the Chair of the Greater Halifax Partnership.

Godsoe was not expecting this involvement with municipal, provincial and federal politicians. "At first I was surprised [I was chosen]," said Godsoe. "I thought, 'I'm not involved in municipal affairs.' But then I stopped and thought. I have broad community experience with media, philanthropy and not-for profit organizations, generally involving education, culture and diversity and women's issues."

Although Godsoe was surprised that the Prime Minister chose her, it is not the first time that she has been associated with Mr. Martin or the Liberal Party. During the Liberal leadership race in 1990, Godsoe was a Paul Martin supporter and worker in Nova Scotia. She was even rumored to be number three on a list of potential Senate appointees in 2000, but was passed over for a Chretien loyalist instead. She clearly states: "I am no longer an active member in the Liberal party," although she encourages everyone to participate in political affairs, to alter policies and parties.

Whatever may come, Godsoe said she is looking forward to "visioning and brainstorming" about what's in the future for Canadians and their communities. "We will work closely with cities, focusing on issue areas such as diversity, inclusion and infrastructure. What we're really aiming to do is to develop a long-term plan for smart urban growth for Canada's cities."

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Dalhousie Blazes Trails in Brain Repair

SEAN P. ROACH Science Reporter

Dalhousie's Brain Repair Centre, which officially opened its new cell restoration laboratory in early March, represents a partnership connecting many of our brightest scientists and physicians in a common interest: repairing and restoring normal function to the injured brain. The group is comprised of physicians and researchers in varied fields (such as anatomy, pharmacology, psychiatry, neurology and physics) working in both laboratories and clinical settings to better understand and treat the brain.

"The Brain Repair Centre's goals are to translate innovations and discoveries in brain repair from the laboratory bench to the clinic," said Dr. Ivar Mendez, chair of the Brain Repair Centre. "We are working on new treatments for incurable neurological conditions such as neurodegenerative diseases, stroke and spinal cord injury. As a result of this work, Nova Scotians will have world-class care at their doorsteps."

One particularly exciting area of interest for the group—and one in which Halifax has been a world centre and host to ground-breaking research—is the surgical treatment of neurological diseases such as Parkinson's (PD) and Huntington's diseases (HD). In each of these movement disorders, cell death in a specific brain area leads to debilitating and progressive motor symptoms.

Such treatment has involved pioneering approaches on two fronts: the implantation of electrodes that electrically stimulate specific parts of the brain in order to restore balance in the circuitry controlling

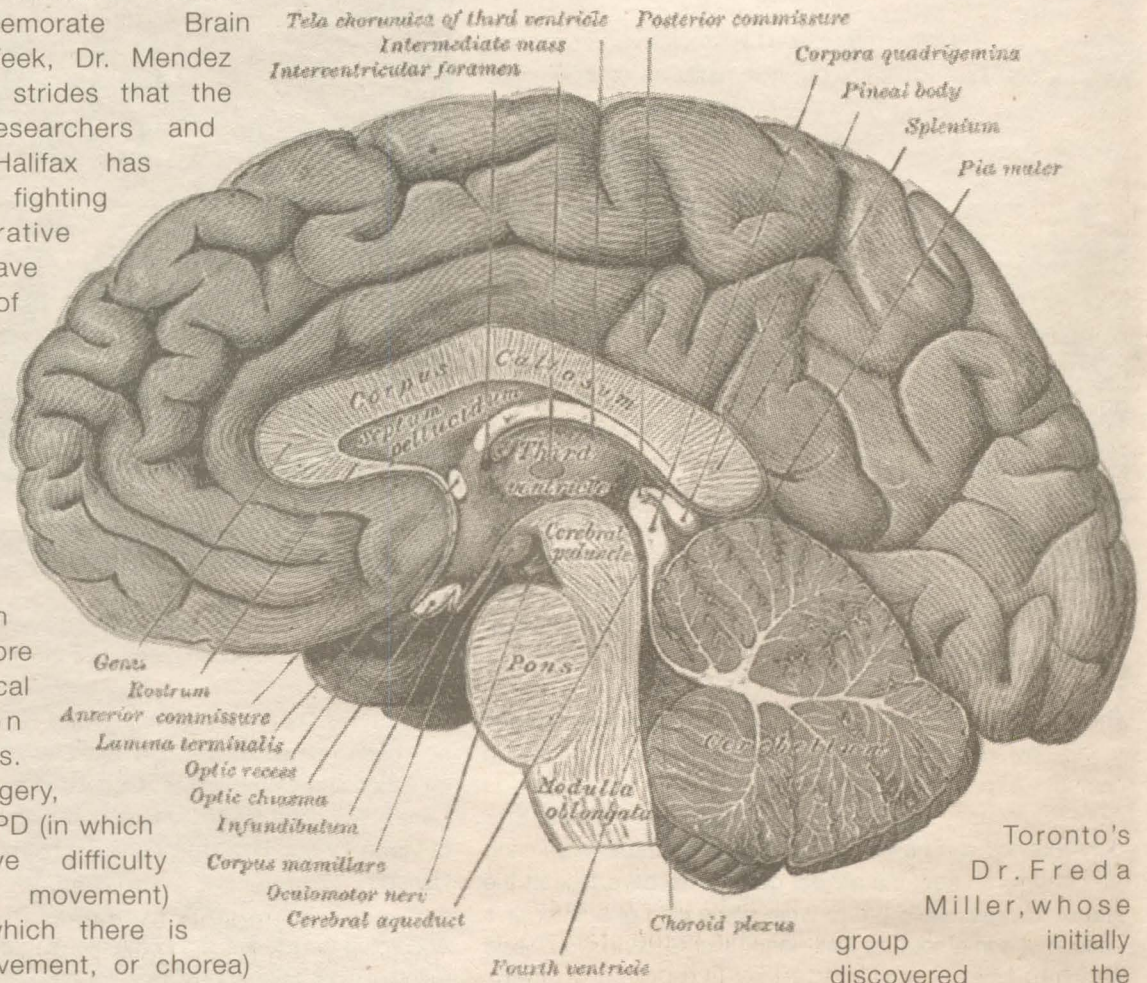
movement, and neural transplantation, where cells are transplanted into the damaged areas and, if all goes well, develop into neurons that replace those lost, thus restoring the circuitry.

During a recent seminar to commemorate Brain Awareness Week, Dr. Mendez reviewed the strides that the group of researchers and doctors in Halifax has made in fighting neurodegenerative disease and gave a glimpse of their future endeavors.

Most striking were videos showing local patients with such diseases before and after surgical implantation of electrodes. Before surgery, patients with PD (in which patients have difficulty initiating movement) or HD (in which there is excessive movement, or chorea) are overcome by the severe movement-related symptoms of their respective diseases. In each case, the "after" video shows a dramatic response to treatment: the PD patient can now walk up and down a hallway with ease; the uncontrollable shaking of the HD patient is severely reduced.

Clearly, these are relatively early days for this sort of intervention, and there is much work to do before such procedures are commonly performed. Nonetheless, seeing first-hand the effect that these measures can have for people suffering from devastating conditions makes the significance of the work being done here obvious.

One of the most exciting avenues being pursued by Dr. Mendez and coworkers is the possibility of generating stem cells for use in brain repair from a simple, abundant source – skin. Working with the University of



Toronto's Dr. Freda Miller, whose group initially discovered the unexpected qualities of skin cells, the group is working towards the goal of using these cells for neural transplantation to treat HD and PD.

Without a doubt, Dalhousie has been and intends to remain a leader in the treatment of brain injury, as well as a beacon for many of the field's finest workers. "The state of the art infrastructure and world-class researchers at the BRC provide an ideal environment for learning and innovation, attracting to Halifax graduate students and post-doctoral fellows from around the world," Dr. Mendez concludes.

For more information on the Brain Repair Centre, visit www.brainrepair.ca.

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Alternative Views

CHRIS LAROCHE News Editor

We've all heard it: today's youth are disenfranchised with today's government to the point of apathy for all things political. Young people and young minds are simply not interested in what goes on between the suits on Parliament Hill, in Province House or even at City Hall.

A man named C. Brian Mintus wants to change all this.

Mintus is a man with big ideas—so big he's having problems getting people to listen.

Mintus is the webmaster of ansviews.com, a website that promotes "alternative views for minorities." Nova Scotia's provincial and municipal governments are does not provide minorities with a voice, he says, even with new Nova Scotia African affairs portfolio. The website acts as a portal for that voice, a staging ground for accumulating the concern that minorities are going unheard in today's government. Mintus has worked various jobs all across the world—he even took part in nation-building operations in the Middle East. He says Canada and Nova Scotia, as modern, civilized societies, have no excuse for creating a status quo in which minorities have little political sway.

Mintus' definition of the status quo is this: predominantly white governments in our province aren't taking enough measures to give minorities a chance to speak their mind. This is the status quo that had Mintus surrounded by five police cruisers in North End Halifax because his car had a broken tail-light. The status quo that initiated the entire Kirk Johnson affair—and what Mintus is trying to initiate is a change in that status quo.

And the first step is awareness that things can change, he says.

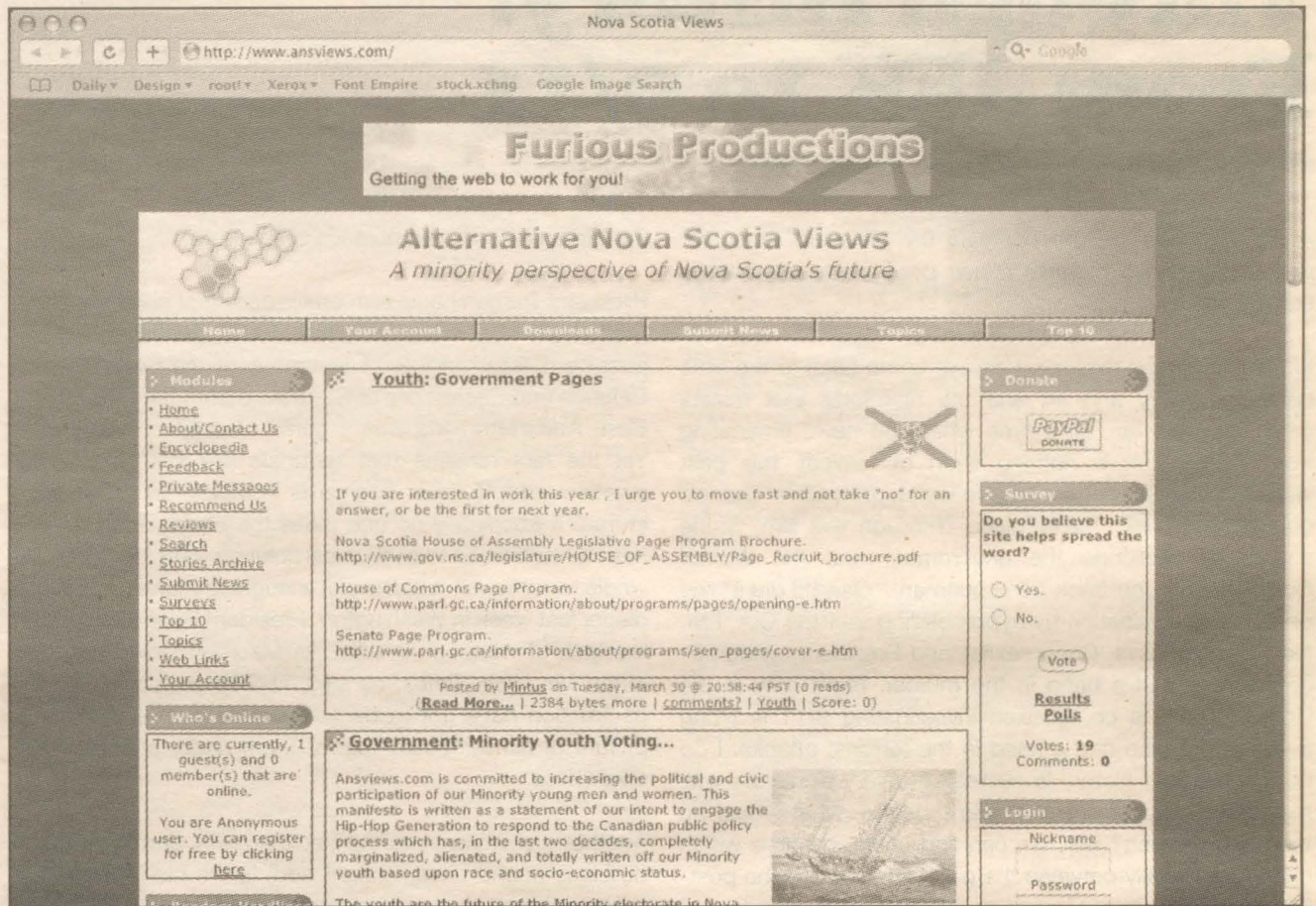
"People need to stop shying away from simply accepting what's given to them," Mintus says. He plans to spread what he calls "the good word"—making minorities aware of their power to chance government—through his website and by taking an activist role within Nova Scotia politics.

Why Mintus' beliefs should concern university students lies in his idea of minorities, an idea that includes the student body. The government isn't addressing students' needs, he says, and this means student bodies in the province are more-or-less politically dormant—a view affirmed by the fact only 25 per cent of young adult voters (18-mid 20s) voted in the last federal election.

"Minority is not just the obvious," he says. "Part of it is awareness; there's a systemic apathetic attitude [towards voting] that has developed through time. Students are a very important vote."

Mintus believes the current governments in Nova Scotia—especially the provincial government—simply aren't being held accountable for their actions, especially concerning minorities. He wants transparency and accountability of government actions. Part of the problem, he says, is that the current electoral system is setup so that minorities can't elect their own kin into office.

Mintus is currently meeting with officials from black rights organizations, all levels government and student unions—the Dalhousie Student Union and Saint Mary's student union among them—in



an attempt to have all these separate elements focusing "on the same page."

The "same page" for Mintus means student unions encouraging students to vote in elections, the re-opening of the Black Nova Scotia Affairs portfolio position (currently held by Hon. Barry Barnett, a white conservative MLA, who Mintus calls "a square peg in a round hole") and a change in the provincial system that prevents black communities from electing black MLAs because they don't hold a majority in any single riding or constituency.

Solutions to encouraging minorities to become more active in politics may be as simple as finding role models for minorities, encouraging

model parliaments in universities and making sure students are around to vote in elections—meaning they shouldn't be held in the summer.

"I'm trying to provoke thought that is alternative to the status quo," Mintus says. "It has to be controversial. It has to create dialogue. It has to be made clear that there is another way of thinking, and that the status-quo position is not always able to understand that what they have to offer is the best there is to offer."

Curious? Check out www.ansviews.com

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Through History: From JFK to 9/11

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

A warning: this column contains my perennial favourite: anti-George Bush material (albeit passionate anti-George Bush material).

In my writing and thinking, I always come back to the links between history and art and the blurriness that results when they overlap. At a time when the news emanating from Washington is nothing short of farcical, this past weekend was the perfect time to watch *JFK*, Oliver Stone's controversial 1991 masterpiece. Through this film, Stone sought to challenge the government and the Warren Commission's one-track "lone gunman"/"Oswald did it" line on JFK's assassination by hypothesizing that the CIA, FBI, New Orleans gays, Cuban exiles and President Lyndon B. Johnson all had a hand in the murder. Right now in the United States, a commission investigating 9/11 is trying to figure out who had a hand in the terrorist attacks. I do not believe that history is cyclical—if every single life was merely a repeat of one that came before, what would be the point of living? Still, we can find useful parallels within history, especially between the post-JFK era and the post-9/11 era.

First of all, we have the puppet-esque commissions. The 1964 report of the President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (the Warren Commission) effectively closed the door on any thorough analysis of alternatives to the Oswald theory. Now, the 9/11 commission, set up to be "non-partisan" (such an oxymoron in Washington these days), is becoming more political by the day and turning into a part of the presidential campaign. Former Bush Administration terrorism "czar" (for a country that spent decades hating the Soviets, they're pretty quick to adopt Russian titles) Richard Clarke is explosively questioning the Administration's entire approach to terrorism, while National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice has only agreed to testify after intense public pressure. Successive American governments have failed to realize that the mere existence of a commission does not imbue its work with truth. Like those four fateful planes, the 9/11 commission is being hijacked by pre-election mudslinging.

The case-closed attitude of the Bush Administration is as childish as that of its post-JFK counterparts. By trying to keep a clean front, these governments have ignored their dirty laundry. The very nature of the FBI and the CIA's work is shady, but if the agencies are implicated in the assassination of a President or deemed incompetent at dealing with intelligence on terrorist groups, those responsible must come out from the shadows, because the public has the

right to know some semblance of the truth.

President Truman had a sign on his desk that said "The Buck Stops Here." But in today's White House, there is only buck-passing. Last week's 9/11 testimony of the Secretaries of Defence and Secretaries of State from both the Clinton and Bush Administrations was a game of political hot potato. Yet the fact remains that terrorists are still blowing up innocent people, from Spaniards in Madrid to a Canadian in Iraq. If absolutely no one takes the blame, then no one has the motivation to seek a real solution. And for some, the whole terrorism situation is just a laughing matter. At a press dinner last week in Washington, President Bush joked about the lack of weapons in Iraq. As Maureen Dowd reported in the *New York Times*, he said, "Those weapons of mass destruction have got to be somewhere," while showing a picture of himself searching for them under a table in the Oval Office.

Another sickening similarity between *JFK* and 9/11 (such delicious sound bites, I might add) is the bloodthirsty lust for war shared by two unelected Presidents, Johnson and Bush. In *JFK*, Oliver Stone suggests that Kennedy was killed because he was a good, idealistic man who wanted to end the Cold War, while Johnson and his cohorts wanted to get rid of him so they could escalate American involvement in Vietnam. This eerily resembles Richard Clarke's accusations that Bush asked Clarke to implicate Iraq in 9/11, because the neoconservatives who do the President's thinking for him had been itching to get their hands on Saddam for years. I was always taught that the purpose of a state is to protect its citizens, not to launch them into brutal and unnecessary wars. But we all know that America is not your typical state, and presidents on the warpath are not your typical leaders.

The decisive movie about 9/11 has not yet been made, and if today's fear-mongering and censorship continue, it may never be. But perhaps it is only through art that we can approach the truth, if there is one. As Roger Ebert said in his review of *JFK*, the "assassination of John F. Kenney will obsess history as it has obsessed those whose lives were directly touched. The facts, such as they are, will continue to be elusive and debatable. Any factual film would be quickly dated. But *JFK* will stand indefinitely as a record of how we felt." We look at history through emotion-coloured glasses, whether it's *JFK* or 9/11—but our view of the past should not be distorted by blood-red lies.

Streeter

CELEBRITY EDITION
(end of the year = we are lazy)

What do you think of the possible 13 per cent increase in tuition next year?



It seems apparent from the level of tuition at Dalhousie that Tom Traves must be producing weapons of mass destruction. Prepare to be Shocked and Awed. **George W. Bush, US President**



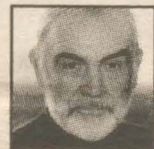
Damn you Tom Traves with your huge salary and free mansion! **Jon Stewart, Daily Show host**



That's what you get for living in a backward region with a defeatist mentality. **Stephen Harper, Conservative turd**



That sucks. Unfortunately, you can't shoplift your education. **Winona Rider**



You shtudents are shuckers. **Sean Connery, Scottish pimp**



I'll solve the problem by having a sleepover at my ranch. **Michael Jackson, one time king of pop, current king of losers**



I like rainbows and bunnies. **Farrah Fawcett, airhead**



\$7,000 for tuition each year? What are you heathens complaining about? I blow that much each week at Ralph's Place. **Chris LaRoche, Dalhousie Chaplain**



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THIS WEEK'S JOB NEWS

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- ✓ www.jobs.gc.ca
- The Public Service Commission's web site gives you access to FSWEF, the Post-Secondary Recruitment Program and much more.
- ✓ www.youth.gc.ca
- YouthPath is a great source for information on anything from jobs to the environment. Take your time while going through this web site as it is loaded with valuable information.
- ✓ youth.ednet.ns.ca
- To help you break into the job market, NS's Youth Secretariat web site will provide you with information on provincial employment programs, links to leading provincial and national job sites and much more.
- ✓ cooljobs.ca
- This web site will provide you with listings for biotech to hospitality jobs in Canada and the USA.



Saint Mary's University

Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

TALKING TO HUSKIES

The year wouldn't be complete without a trip down to see our friends at Saint Mary's University. Armed only with a pad of paper, a pen and questions from a junior high social studies lesson we made our way over to the SMU campus to see what the great minds of tomorrow are up to. [Readers beware: Some of the following answers are so devoid of intelligence, you may puke]. Enjoy.

Who is the leader of the Opposition in parliament?

Answer: Stephen Harper

Only 33 per cent knew the proper answer to this brain buster.

Who are the current leaders of Canada, the US, and Mexico?

Answer: Paul Martin, George Bush, and Vicente Fox.

Everyone knew George Bush, one-third did not know their own Prime Minister, and not a single person knew the leader of Mexico. One guy said, "El Salvador?" for the Mexican leader. Shameful!

Who won the Cold War?

Answer: Nobody, it was a Cold War. Though you could argue the US.

One person said "Nobody." The rest, more than 90 per cent, didn't know or just stared blankly with a look of "I should know this." Some memorable quotes:

- "Between who and who? Oh yeah, the Russians won."
- "Was it France?"
- "Canada."
- "Korea." [Dear god!]

What is the official language of Mexico?

Answer: Spanish

Surprisingly most got this one right, though 15 per cent did answer "Mexican."

What came first, World War I or the American Civil War?

Answer: The American Civil War

More than one-third of Huskies got this 50/50 question wrong.

Who wrote A Tale of Two Cities?

Answer: Charles Dickens

Two-thirds of the SMU students asked got this one wrong. Some stunningly educated responses:

- One girl said: "That guy whose heart thingy...the bump, bump." To this I said, "You mean Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Telltale Heart.'" "No!" was her quick reply.

- One girl turned to her friend and said: "You're the one who watches *The Simpsons*, you should know."

- "Hemmingway?"

And finally, the best question: When did Quebec rejoin Canada?

Answer: Hint, they never left.

Only one guy questioned us on the validity of this trick question. All others struggled to recall the date of this important event. Some intelligent replies:

"History is not my strong point." Obviously.

"I can't remember. There was the British North American Act...I think it was in the 1700s."

"1892."

"1890."

One glowing scholar had these astute answers:

North American leaders: "Next."

Cold War: "You're kidding me!"

What came first: "No idea."

A Tale of Two Cities: "Fuck!"

Language of Mexico: "Spanish?"

Opposition leader: "Pass."

Quebec separation: "I don't know, and I took that course too."



Saint Mary's University
Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada



DALHOUSIE University



What are your thoughts on the news that Dal and SMU plan to amalgamate in 2006? (Not one student questioned us on the truthfulness of this—they only claimed not to have heard about it yet)

"It's a bad idea. This is more of a business school, while Dal is more sciences and graduate."

"That's stupid."

"That sucks, I hate Dal. I went there."

"I don't like the idea either. I don't really care."

"It's OK if there's more class selection."

"If they reduce tuition, that would be good. Besides that, I don't see the point, really."

"I think that would be awful for SMU, because we have our own culture and own standards. It would be good money-wise...Dal's too big and Dal would overtake SMU."

"They are two different schools. Why would you?"

Key Quotes

"We are under-educated idiots."

"You mean the current leaders right now?"

"You got no sports in those questions. If you had sports I would've got something."

"Is this for like grade four?"

"Ask me about Middle East history or Jennifer Lopez."

"I'm dumb."

"Screw you guys, you're just trying to make people look stupid."

"I'm a landed immigrant...I'm from England."

"You just proved that my five years here were a waste of time."

War, What Is It Good For?

NOLAN RITCEY Staff Contributor

Around this time last year, I was sitting down to lunch with a new friend at an Ashram/Retreat in the Sierra Foothills of Northern California. He and I were discussing the prospect of war in Iraq, and our feelings on the imminent response from the liberal sector. While discussing our experience with protest and civil disobedience in North America, he offered the following anecdote.

Some years ago in Seattle, he ran into a member of the "Seattle Seven" activist group, who were responsible for shutting down a freeway to protest the Vietnam War. It turned out that they were headed in the same direction, so they walked a bit and my friend had an opportunity to ask why this somewhat famous campaigner was no longer active. His response was, "all you can really do in this world is take care of yourself."

Now, what he meant by this is that everyone needs to make certain that they are doing their best at being individuals and taking control of themselves, rather than trying to change others. Needless to say, my friend gave up his more outward activist leanings and developed a more personal approach to activism—taking care of his own demons.

This seems right to me, and I think that a lot of the more

active protest members in Halifax would agree that activism starts at home. I suppose that most people who oppose corporate domination and war for profit do their best to avoid contributing to the problem, although, it's not quite clear what this involves. It's certain that there are a few things that one can do to counter the more pernicious trends of our society, that is, by only buying local, essential, goods and by avoiding the more corporate ideologies that Canada has to offer. But, shouldn't we also focus on changing ourselves?

I think the real issue here is the inner environments of our self-proclaimed civil leaders. Adbusters—the (so-called) Journal of the Mental Environment—is a perfect example. This trendy and pricey magazine tends to have a very negative edge, a vast array of (somewhat) disturbing images designed to fire up its readers with ideas of distain and rebellion. How does this help our mental environment?

"It's necessary," (I can hear the chant now), "to counter the bombardment of corporate propaganda." But is it? Are the angry-sounding protest chants that fill the streets at a Halifax rally necessary? Is all that distain and bitterness really necessary? Or earnest? I've been present at protest meetings where activists complained about corporations

between trips outside for a smoke break. "It's their fault were addicted?" I don't think that it is.

A few weeks ago, I passed by the public library and saw a group of 12 protestors making a huge racket by silently standing behind tables of information on their cause. I think we need more of this. I think we all need to protest by not participating, and not contributing to the corporate agenda as best we can. And that includes not playing the part of the angry protestor, the part that corporate America needs to say, "Look at the alternative, a bunch of angry kids." Whether it's marching and chanting, or carefully organized dramas, without sustained, silent outrage the issues are lost in the commotion (most times).

After his meeting in Seattle, my friend became a Buddhist and has been practicing for 20 years. Not everyone must go this route. But, I do believe that we should all make it a practice to meditate as a form of protest. It's tough to support an aggressive, war-mongering and/or corporate system while meditating. And, my contention is that this is not passivism. It is an active way for all of us to change our inner environments to motivate a global change from the inside out, by cultivating ideas of stillness, love and acceptance. A global movement of this kind would make a change, but without it, there will always be people ready to pick up guns, and others to pick up placards to counter them.

Teaching Assistants and Part-Time Faculty at DAL

It's time for a decent wage increase!

Overcrowding has become an increasingly real problem in Canadian universities. Right here in Halifax, Dalhousie University has been able to dramatically increase its class sizes by relying on what it views as a "cheap labour pool" – namely its Teaching Assistants and Part-Time Faculty.

DAL has one of the highest tuitions in the country, and yet DAL TA's are among the **lowest paid** in the country. Have a look at the comparison of Canada's medical/doctoral universities.

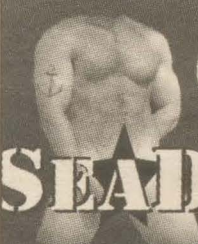
Does this sound remotely fair? The 900 TA's and Part-Time Faculty at Dalhousie have given their union a strong strike mandate. The main issues in dispute are the pay level for Teaching Assistants and language that would prevent the university from deducting any pay increases TA's receive from their scholarship funds.

University	TA's hourly rate
U. of Toronto	34.51
U. of Western Ontario	31.79
McMaster U.	31.67
McGill U.	31.67
U. of British Columbia	24.01
Queen's U.	23.50
U. of Ottawa	20.35
U. of Manitoba	17.12
Dalhousie	15.27
U. of Saskatchewan	14.63



A message from CUPE Local 3912, representing more than 900 TA's and Part-Time Faculty at Dalhousie University

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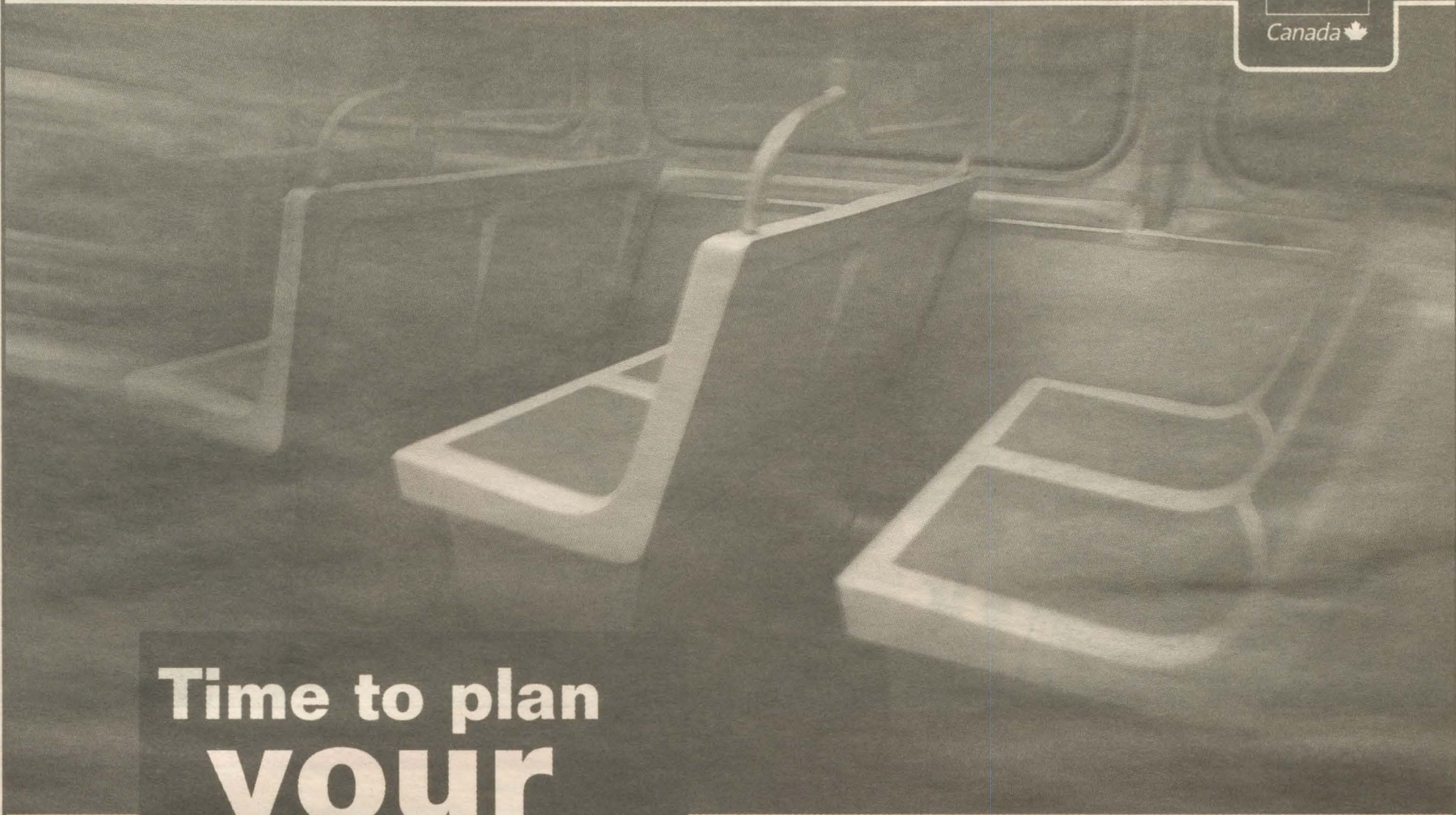
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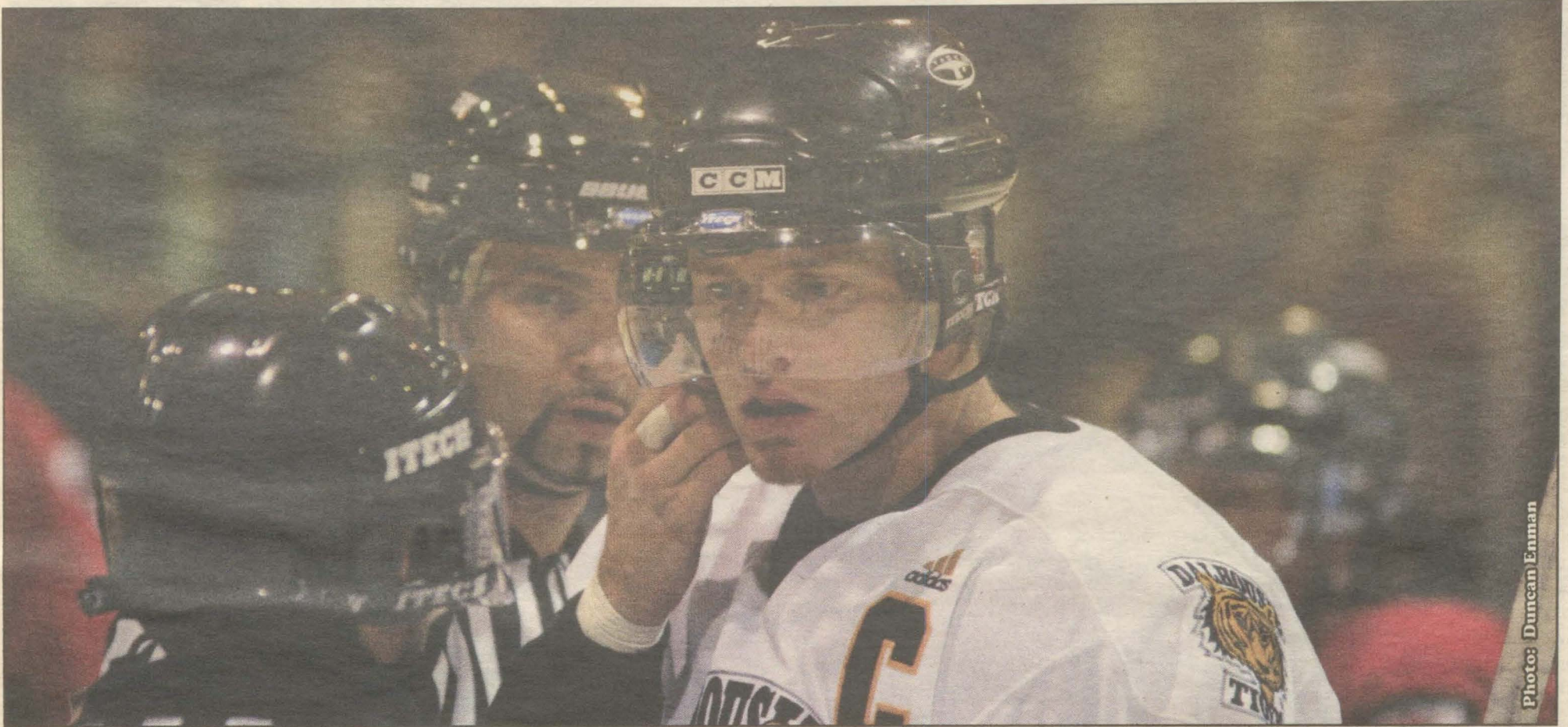


Photo: Duncan Enman

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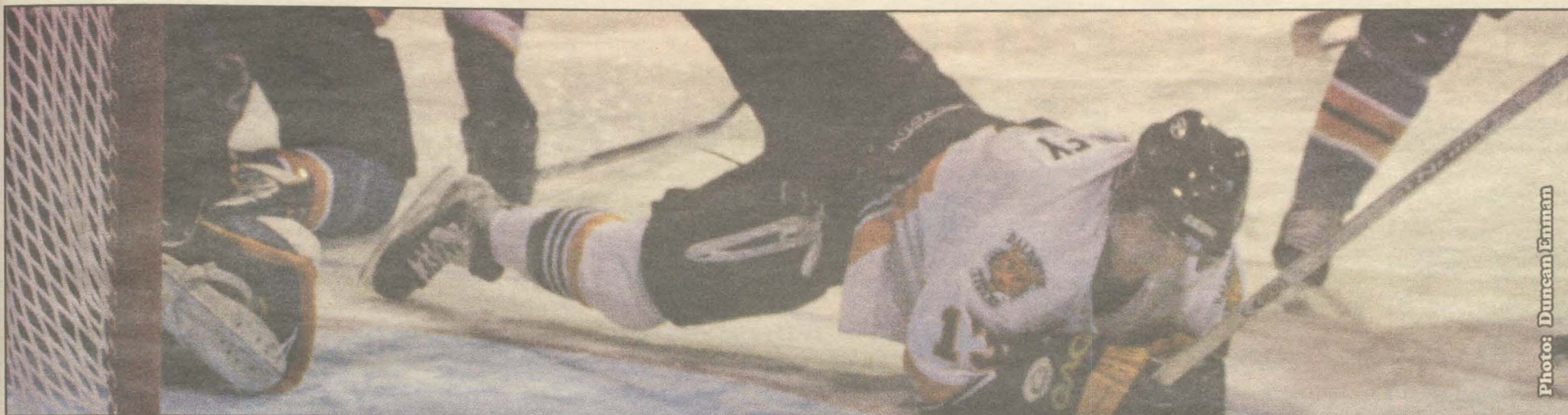


Photo: Duncan Enman

Tiger of the Year

CHRIS McCLUSKY Staff Contributor

Although he has yet to achieve the coveted hockey award with which he shares a name, Dalhousie Tigers captain Chris Stanley has certainly garnered his fair share of personal honors throughout his hockey career. He was an all-star in major-junior, a fourth-round draft choice of the Vancouver Canucks in 1997, a two-time AUS Most Valuable Player, Dal's first ever CIS Player of the Year, and now he can add captain of a national bronze medal winning team to his list of accolades. At the C.I.S. finals held in Fredericton, New Brunswick, this past weekend the six-foot-one 210 lb. center led the Tigers with a hat trick in a 4-1 upset over the top-ranked Alberta Golden Bears to earn third place finish against a club that posted a perfect 26-0-2 record in the regular season.

Stanley says overcoming all odds has been an enduring theme for the Tigers all season. "This year was especially sweet because I don't think we had as much talent as we've had in previous years, and the team still succeeded and persisted through all the controversy of losing players at the last minute", said Stanley in an interview at the Killam Library, "I think this year was special because we did come through so much and we were able to make it beyond anyone's imagination."

Following up on his success of last year, including leading the league in assists, he went on this year to lead the entire country in points with 48 points in only 28 games. In the final game along with his hat trick he also assisted on Darrell Jerrett's goal and contributed defensively.

In coming away with a third place finish, Stanley and the Tigers did their part to bring instant credibility to the most eastern division of the CIS. All three participants that went to the nationals from the Atlantic region finished in the medals, with the arch-rival, St. FX, X-Men, coming away with gold in an exciting 3-2 double overtime victory over the home crowd favorite University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds. Stanley was a key for the Tigers, providing leadership and offensive production when it counted.

Speaking from the perspective of someone who has participated in several NHL training camps, Stanley says hockey in the AUS doesn't get the respect it deserves especially as compared to major junior. "I think it's so much faster, we don't get the credit we deserve," said the Parry Sound, Ontario, native. "With the amount of practice time we have and the amount of ice time the guys get, it helps them to become better players. It's the individual skill things you work on here and it just translates into a team game. I've always said I wasn't a guy that liked to practice but it has definitely helped me out a lot."

Stanley, who was named a First Team All-Canadian after the

tournament ended, was going to finish the season trying his luck with the East Coast Hockey League's Las Vegas Wranglers. However, due to problems attaining a work visa, that plan didn't work out. One of the most decorated athletes in recent Dalhousie history will have to wait till next year to attempt to join the ranks of Jody Shelley, P.J. Stock, or Randy Gregg as players from the CIS who have gone onto successful careers in the pros.

"I asked Fabian [Head coach Fabian Joseph] to do a little bit to help me out, just let teams know I was going to be available at the end of this year," he said of how his decision to turn pro came about, "I haven't decided how long the window is going to be... two years, three years."

Stanley will be sorely missed by the hockey team, as well as by the Dal community, for which he has been such a great ambassador. Stanley is not only a great hockey player, he is also a three time Academic All-Canadian, proving sports and school can mix nicely. Stanley will be in hockey for many years to come, and that is just fine with him.

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10 Questions

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QUESTIONS BY THERESA ANNE SALAH

- 1) On a scale from 1 to 10, how boring is your hometown? Why?
Freddy Beach, N.B. doesn't qualify for the boring category.
- 2) What are you taking at Dal?
Good question, I'll let you know when/if I graduate.
- 3) Who's your favorite athlete and/or sports team?
Scalpy & Scalpez.
- 4) What's the last thing you do before a game?
"Turn on the switch"
- 5) What's the worst thing you've ever done to a player on the other team?
Nothing, I'm innocent on and off the court...
- 6) Who's the hottest person in the world? (girlfriends don't count)
Woan Petrie.
- 7) What's your pet peeve?
Deflated balls, haha.
- 8) What do you think of the sports editor?
The who? Joking! Cool Guy!
- 9) If you could invent one useless holiday, what and when would it be?
Red Head Day... everyday!
- 10) What's the sexiest animal in the world?
Bunnies, obviously.

The Family that Plays Together Stays Together

MICHAEL GORMAN Assistant Arts Editor



Over the last two seasons, only one team at Dal has won every game it's played. If you're having trouble figuring out what team it is, you aren't alone. That's because the impressive feat, accomplished by Bunky's All-Stars, happened in the Dal co-ed A intramural basketball league—a league that draws even fewer fans than the swim or cross country teams. What is the secret to over 20 wins, no losses and two league titles? The entire team, with only one exception, is related.

Bunky's All-Stars came to light at the beginning of last year, when then first-year medical student Sean Barry, along with five of his family members, came to Dal, where two other Barry family members were already studying. Sean thought it would be a good way for everyone to keep in touch despite hectic school schedules, and so Sean, his brother Connor, and their cousins Rick and Tom Adams, Pete and Liz Zed, Amelia Barry, and Bridget Mallory got together along with family friend Marci Katz to form Bunky's All-Stars.

The team was named affectionately after their late grandfather, Judge John Paul Barry. Every player other than Katz is a direct descendant of the judge, and thus all first cousins. The number on each jersey corresponds to what grandchild each person is. And while Katz may not be related by blood, Sean is adamant that she is now an official member of the family.

Sean welcomed to chance to be able to see his cousins once a week and have some fun at the same time. "Rick and Tommy's mom funded the jerseys, and we all get together once a week to shoot hoops and kick everybody's ass," he said.

The cousins aren't the only ones who get to stay in touch as a result of the team. Amelia says Bunky fever has extended throughout the Barry family, with everyone's parents calling to get game results and following the team's progress. "It spreads through the grapevine so quickly, and all the parents love it," she said.

The co-ed A league features teams from all of the residences as well various societies like law and pharmacy. And while the closest they've come to losing in their two year history was in this year's final where they pulled out a three-point victory, Rick admits that they aren't all actually all stars. "Some of us are hacks," he said. Hacks aside, Rick thinks the real reason for the team's success is that while most co-ed teams have girls on the team only because the rules require it, the girls on Bunky's All-Stars got game. "Our girls are way better than the girls we play," he said.

This competitive fire is nothing new for the Barry family. Every year the whole Barry clan gathers for the annual family feast and golf tournament. Rick says that even at family gatherings, everyone wants to win. "The family itself is competitive," he said. "All of our parents—even though they may deny it—they want to beat their brothers and sisters. It filters down [to the kids]."

Next year will be more of the same for Bunky's All-Stars, as more cousins (there are 38 in total) are on the way to join the team. Amelia jokes that at this point, the cousins are forced to come to Dal so the team will be able to keep winning.

The only foreseeable difference next year is a possible name change to Grammy and Bunky's All-Stars. Last year's season was dedicated to Grammy Barry, who spent much of the year sick in the hospital. Like the rest of the family, she was keen to know the team's progress, so after every game a phone call was put in to the hospital to give Grammy the latest results.

Amelia remembers one visit with Grammy in particular that perhaps sums up the spirit of the team. "We were going home to see her because she was sick," she said. "So we were going home on weekends at one point during a month-long period, and when I was visiting she would say 'you've got to go back on Sunday, you've got your game.'" Grammy wouldn't hear of them staying to miss a single game, even while she was in the hospital. And so with the support and spirit of their family behind them, Bunky's All-Stars grind the competition into the ground and have a blast the whole time.

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The Eye of the Tiger

JOEY RYBA Staff Contributor

It's been a long journey for the 2003-2004 edition of the Dalhousie Tigers Men's Hockey team. This past weekend, the Tigers competed at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Mens Hockey University Cup in Fredericton, N.B. The troops had a solid showing and were rewarded with the bronze medal.

The Tigers opened the tournament against their number one nemesis, the St. F.X. X-Men. The X-Men rolled over the Tigers 5-0. The X-Men eventually won the tournament. In the following two games, the Tigers rebounded nicely, defeating the York Lions 4-2 and the University of Alberta Golden Bears 4-1. In the game against York, the Tigers exploded for three goals in 41 seconds late in the second period. Jonah LeRoux, Mark Lynk and Brent Theobald lit the lamp in the short span. Chris Stanley added an insurance marker in the third period. In the bronze medal game against U of A, Chris Stanley showed why he is the CIS player of the year. Stanley capped off an incredible year with a hat trick. The energizer, Darrell Jerrett, also put one home for the Tigers, who won their first medal since 1979.

"The tournament was great experience," said Fabian Joseph. "We didn't play our best hockey against St. F.X. We got stronger as the tournament went on. We played well against York, and we played our best game of the year against U of A. The win against U of A was a tremendous accomplishment because they were the favourites to win the tournament."

The bronze medal was an awesome way to finish a year of adversity. The season was an uphill battle for the Tigers right from training camp to the medal podium. The Tigers proved that it's teamwork, discipline and dedication that are the keys to success. Training camp started on a bit of a low note, as the Tigers lost sniper Carl Mallette and rugged defenceman Gary Zinck to the minor pros.

"To say I'm happy with the year is a huge understatement," said Joseph. "We weren't sure what our expectations were at the beginning of the season. We really battled hard and things worked out in the end."

The Tigers started the season strong and flirted with first place for a few weeks; unfortunately, they went into a decline in November, and it continued into the second half. The Tigers were without Darrell Jerrett, Pat Vincent and Chris Tellum for most of this stretch. In addition, many guys were not 100 per cent during this time.

The turning point in the season was a mid-January match at Dal against the UNB Varsity Reds. The game was one of the most adrenaline-filled battles in AUHC history. The game had a storybook ending, as Dal won with eight seconds left in overtime. From that point, the Tigers played their best hockey of the season en route to a fourth-place finish. Chris Stanley won the scoring title with 48 points. Stanley was named AUHC MVP and first team all-star for the second consecutive year. At the University Cup, Stanley was named CIS player of the year.

"Chris Stanley was one of the top players in the conference over the past four seasons," said Joseph. "He was an impact player from his arrival. He had a bit of an off year in his second season but excelled in his final two years. He was committed to the program on and off the ice and was rewarded with the all-academic awards and the MVP honours."

Freddy Belanger and goaltending sensation J.F. Perras were honoured with second team all-star selections. Joseph also commented on Belanger and Perras: "Freddy was one of the most highly recruited defencemen in the conference. He was our top d-man over the past two seasons. He really blossomed in his third season and took on a big leadership role this year. J.F. Perras is definitely one of the top goalies in the league. He won us many games this year. He works hard and certainly deserves everything he has achieved."

In the playoffs, Dal hooked up with the UPEI Panthers in the first round. The series was a tight affair, with all three games being decided by one goal. The Tigers defeated the Panthers two games to one. In the semi-final, the Tigers did battle with the UNB Varsity Reds. Regulation time was not good enough for this series. In game one, Dal won in single OT and in the series clincher, double OT was needed for the Tigers to

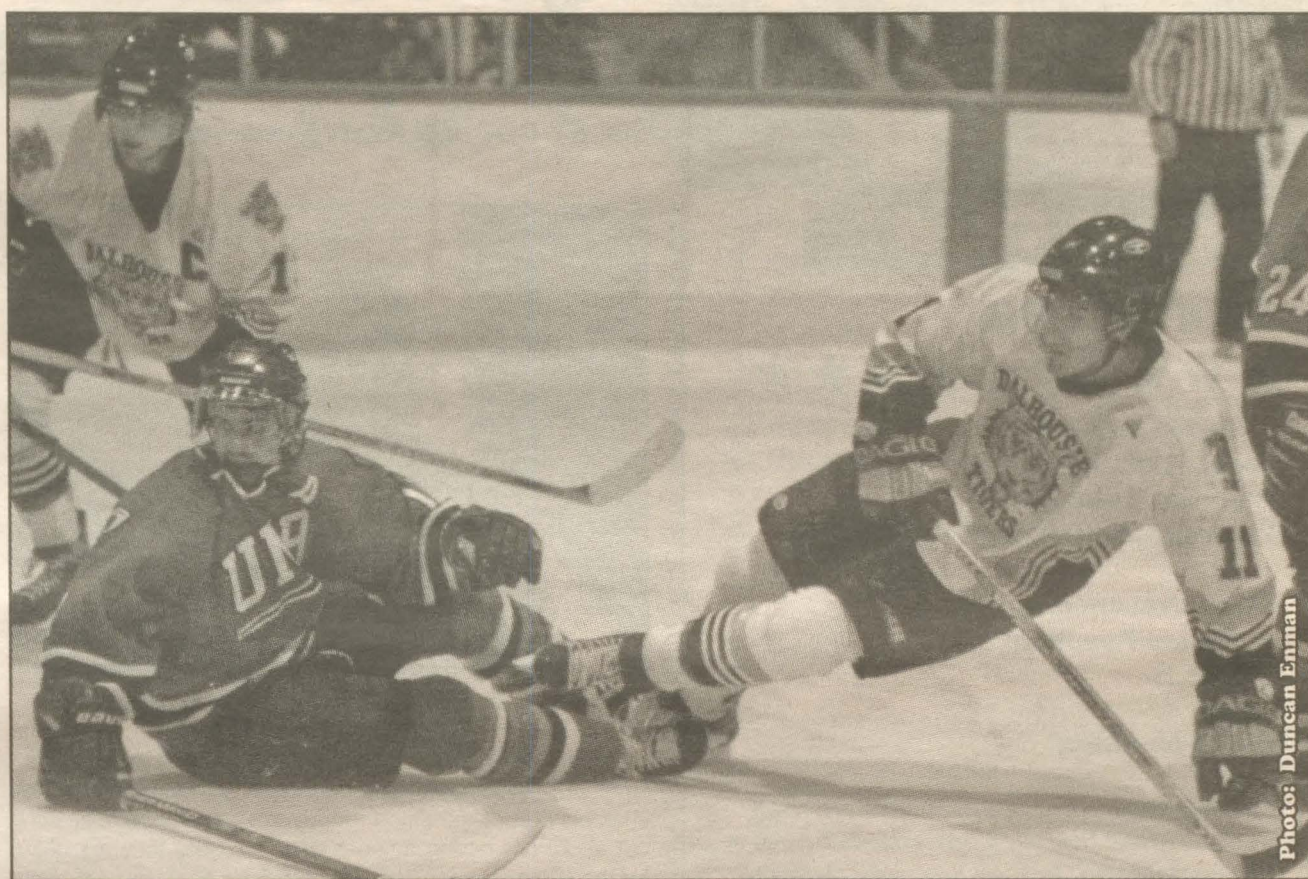


Photo: Duncan Enman

knock off the Varsity Reds. The win set the stage for the battle of all battles as the Tigers squared off against their old buddies the St. F.X. X-Men. Although the X-Men won the best of five series 3-0, the series could have gone either way. Game two went to OT and game three was a 2-1 game.

Besides Stanley, Belanger and Perras, there were some other Tigers who really stepped it up this year. Dominic Noel was fourth in league scoring with 37 points. Dave Walker had a career best 20 points on the blue-line.

"Dave Walker is our most improved player over the past four seasons," said Joseph. "Four years ago, Walker was a sixth or seventh defenceman on our team. He was committed to the program and really developed into one of the top blue-liners in the conference."

The summer is going to be a busy time for head coach Fabian Joseph. Joseph will have his hockey schools and will be doing some major recruiting to fill some huge holes. This season

marks the end of the university careers of Chris Stanley, Freddy Belanger and Mark Lynk. The status of Pat Vincent, Dave Walker and Chris Tellum will become clearer in the weeks ahead.

"I'm working on recruiting guys as we speak," said Joseph. "There'll be seven or eight new guys on our team next year. I'm looking for three high production forwards, a steady defenceman, a quarterback-style defenceman for the power-play and some depth players."

The Tigers will have a number of key players returning for the 2004-2005 season. J.F. Perras, Jonah LeRoux, Dominic Noel, Darrell Jerrett, Billy Browne, Brad Pierce, Andre Robichaud and Ross McCain are all expected back. The 2004-2005 should be another promising season for the Tigers. So come out next season to cheer on the black and gold. See you at the Dal Arena in October!

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Report Card

Contrived



Date: March 20, 2004
Venue: Hell's Kitchen
Reporter: Heather Milne
Photographer: Jenine Dowden

Stage Presence: B
Audience Reaction: B+
Sound: B-
Effort: A
Get-it-on-ability: C

Contrived played their first show in three and a half months this past Saturday in Hell. Legions showed up to support the band and hear their newest addition, Jon Samuel, who joined the band in February. Samuel is the band's new guitar player, and he and the rest of the guys played well. Though this isn't the kind of music I usually listen to, I can totally understand why people like them. They have mastered their instruments, and if I could understand all the words, I'm sure they'd be good too. I genuinely enjoyed some of the songs, and others left me having to catch my breath when the music stopped...literally. The music is pretty hard and intense, but if you're looking to have a good time with a band that likes to as well, Contrived is definitely a band that you'll want to check out.

**Ryan Horne:
Dal Theatre God**

JENNY COOPER Staff Contributor



Photo: Jenny Cooper

Ryan Horne has restored my faith in the student body. This time of year, everyone is walking around with their heads to the ground, grumbling and cursing about school, dreaming of the summer that is rapidly approaching. Or, for the more mentally unstable part of the student body (myself included), freaking out about not having any set plans for what they are doing for the summer and where they are living next year. Oh yeah, and finals don't add much icing to the cake either. So when some of the first words out of Horne's mouth were, "I love my program so much and I couldn't ask for a better field of study," it made me realize that yes, Dalhousie, you really can love what you do here eight months of the year.

Hailing from the thriving metropolis of Elmsdale, Nova Scotia, Horne, part of Dalhousie's prestigious fourth-year acting program, got bitten by the acting bug in high school, when he participated in a few musicals. Not knowing what he wanted to do with his time at school when he stepped through Dal's doors four years ago, he was encouraged by his family to audition for the acting program. "This field of work definitely has its challenges," says Horne. "It really makes you look at who you are. You also really have to face yourself, because you're constantly playing new roles." Recently playing one of the principal roles of the Emperor in Dal Theatre's production of the very successful, *The Europeans*, Horne's talent is quite obvious the moment he steps on stage.

With Dal theater's 2003/2004 season drawing to a close last

week, the company went out with a bang with *Commedia Tonight*, a variation on the Italian art of stage comedy called *Commedia Dell'Arte*, dating back to the 18th century. The show included everything from singing, dancing and a touch of toilet humor.

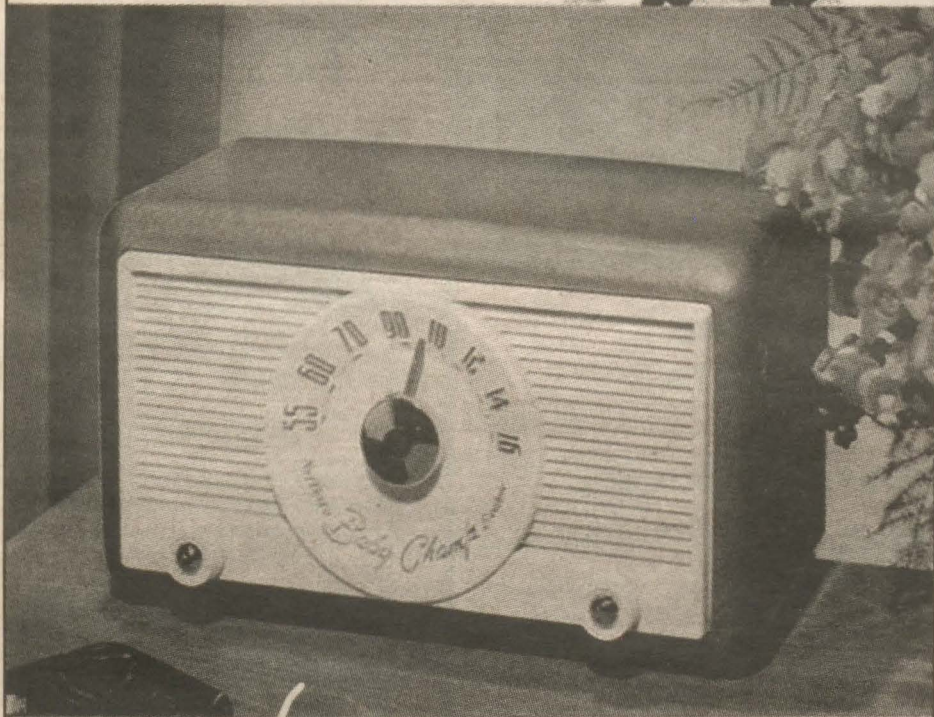
The one thing that made the show extra exciting is that there was no script. Under the direction of Patrick Christopher, *Commedia* was based on various jokes and scenarios and was completely improvised, so every night was be different. "The show is just so funny and (was) so much fun to do. I am sure that everyone who (saw) it will be entertained, and the cast should be very proud of what they have accomplished," says Horne. With the extra twist of no one knowing who will be playing who prior to the show until their names are drawn from a hat, each night was just as exciting for the cast as well. "The best part for all of [the performers] is that we all had a starring role, and this production gave everyone a chance to shine." And for their last show of the season, *Commedia* did just that.

The fourth-years have worked very hard this year, with only one day off a week from classes. "I am so blessed to be involved in a class like this," says Horne.

Most of the students, including Horne, spend seven days a week rehearsing in the Arts Centre, which makes any outside job next to impossible. "I do get to work as a guide one day a week at Alexander Keith's Brewery, which is great because I still get to act and it's lots of fun."

And what does Ryan plan for the future? "Well, of course, I will continue acting. I plan to be in Nova Scotia next year and explore the theatrical world here a little more. I am really excited to get involved in some underground and indie theatre companies, too." Very open-minded for the time ahead of him, he also hopes to make it out to Toronto, Vancouver and anywhere else the stage will take him. I also just had to ask what would happen if he say, ended up stranded on a desert island with only three items with him, and what they would be. "Well, my guitar of course, so I can play all day long, *All The Lord of The Rings* [books], and a journal, because I will have a whole lot of time for inner reflection since I will be spending all this time on this desert island."

Here's to Ryan Horne and all the rest of the fantastic fourth-year acting majors who make up the Dal Theater Company—you guys deserve a pat on the back. Thanks for such an entertaining season, and maybe one day when one of you is on stage accepting your Oscar/Tony or any other cool award, we can say we saw you on stage before you made it big.



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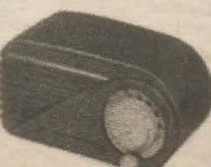
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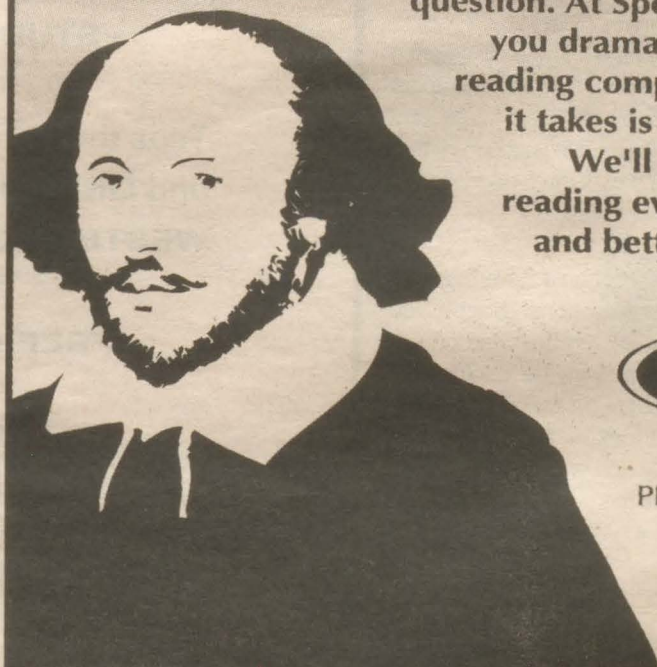
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Super Sex in the Super City: She's a Cougar

DAVE MORINÉ **Sexpert**



Until I was 18 years of age, I had a very naïve view of what a cougar was. For me, a cougar was a feral and savage animal living in the Canadian hinterland. Then I watched *American Pie*, and found out that a cougar can also be a term for a woman who enjoys sleeping with younger men. As many of you probably already know, this movie coined the term MILF (Mother I'd Like to Fuck). Specifically, the character of Stiffler's mom, played by actress Jennifer Coolidge, was a cougar.

Men who enjoy younger women have always been known as tomcats, but not just any woman can become a cougar. The first prerequisite is that you like to seek out younger guys. In addition, only a woman in her 40 or older can be a true cougar. A woman in her 20s who enjoys younger men is known as a mountain lion, and a woman in her 30s is known affectionately as a puma. The world of cougars is a deeply rooted social hierarchy, and is worthy of an anthropological study.

In order to help those mountain lions, pumas and cougars who want to know more about the scene, Torontonian Valerie

Gibson penned the book *Cougar: A Guide For Older Women Dating Younger Men* (Key Porter Books). A cougar herself, Gibson wrote the book after her fifth marriage, to a man 14 years her junior, ended. Not only does Gibson try to dispel common stereotypes about cougars, but she also furbishes tips for novice cougars that are looking to pounce for the first time. Gibson is also a relationship columnist for the *Toronto Sun*.

When I reviewed one of Gibson's websites in preparation for this article, I notice a picture of a woman with a towering blond beehive hairstyle wearing a skintight red Armani power suit. The real cherry on the cake was that she was blissfully perched on the hood of a red convertible. It is clear that in order to be a cougar, it is important that a woman maintain a certain level of vivaciousness. If there is anybody who can prepare the most timid 40-something for being a sex cat, then this is the woman.

One of the first pieces of advice that Gibson offers is keeping up a sexy look. "If your idea of frequent sex is once a week, and if you haven't been to the hair stylist in the last couple of days, forget younger men," she says. "If you like to plan ahead or set a regular time and place, give up your whiskers and become a stud mare." However, it is important for a cougar not to spend all of her time grooming. A cougar must never neglect her daily responsibilities of work, family and personal engagements.

Being a huntress can be an overwhelming task. To help pounce with confidence, Gibson suggests having a cocktail. "Hunting cats know their skills are honed to perfection by a few straight-up martinis," she said. Gibson's advice continues beyond the bar, and she offers tips for how to seduce your younger mate. "Begin your romantic evening by serving a meal, because, as Gibson puts it, "there's no pleasure in landing starving prey."

Younger men may find the idea of being with an older woman daunting. Most cougars, and cougar admirers, suggest that the turn on is the fact that a cougar knows what she wants and has a very energetic libido. Still, it can be hard for younger men to make the connection—in other words, to break the ice. "Most young men will be visibly relieved that you're taking the lead," Gibson says. "If your latest prey isn't, you're hunting in the wrong part of the jungle. Unlock the cage and send him home."

In a few weeks, thousands of parents will be flooding campus for convocation, to pick up their children up from residence, etc. With the mix of young university guys and the visiting mothers and aunts with cougar and den mother tendencies, combined with the warm spring air, the campus will certainly be a hunting ground for young tigers looking for that certain den mother and vice versa. Welcome to the jungle. The hunt is on.

The Beginning of the End

NATALIE PENDERGAST **Arts Editor**, ISAAC STEIN **Staff Contributor**

Foghorn Theatre is a little-known, highly talented group of actors looking to hit it big in Halifax with their version of Samuel Beckett's existential classic, *Endgame*. These aspiring thespians have spent five years in Yarmouth learning the dramatic game before just recently making the jump to Nova Scotia's capital.

Directed by Trevor Pierce, a Dal Theatre graduate, the play explores the dynamics between the last four people alive on earth, trapped inside the flimsy confines of a cardboard box. The mysterious cataclysm that wiped out the world has left these survivors with severe physical disabilities; as a result, physical movement and bodily expression are kept to a minimum. This creates a sort of paradox for the *Endgame* actors. Typically what sets film apart from theatre is the fact that there is more over-acting and melodrama in a play. Movies, as they have the power of cinematography to enhance expression, are able to still effectively entice viewers, but in a more subtle way.

In *Endgame*, a play in which there isn't very much physical expression, Beckett instead uses the art of interesting conversation as a tool to capture the audience. Furthermore, this style of entertainment through dialogue is becoming a new trend in today's theatre scene. "Most people's lives are more and more sedentary, more based on dialogue or talking and communicating through words," said Pierce. "So I think that's probably why there's more plays based on dialogue now than action-type plays."

These eloquent characters—Hamm (played by Allison Amirault), Nagg (Drew O'Hara), Clov (Mike Mcleod), and Nell (Lee-anne Poole)—spend their last hours discussing the oncoming end and getting more and more antagonistic toward each other as the minutes tick by. Their conversations are devoid of positive emotion or energy as they are thinking from a perspective that is now detached from how they previously existed: they know what their miserable fate is, and they can do nothing to prevent it. "They are not searching for meaning because there is no meaning left. They're just playing it out, stretching out their existence," said Pierce.

One can almost hear Beckett asking himself in response to his play, "Does it really take a planetary disaster to make

people realize their ultimate doom?" Everyone is going to die eventually. Being one of the last four people on earth only makes it more obvious. And although these last few representations of life are only "stuck" in a fragile cardboard encasing, they make no effort to free themselves because they simply don't think they can.

"There's not much hope left. There's nothing left afterwards. What they have is all they know," said Pierce. Although Beckett's view of existence is seemingly dark, he doesn't claim to know the answers to existentialist questions, and neither do the people at Foghorn Theatre. "There's one line where a character says something about God, 'He doesn't exist,' and then the other one says, 'not yet . . .'" said Pierce, "and we could spend a lot of time on that but, if we do, the audience is going to start thinking about that and forget the next line."

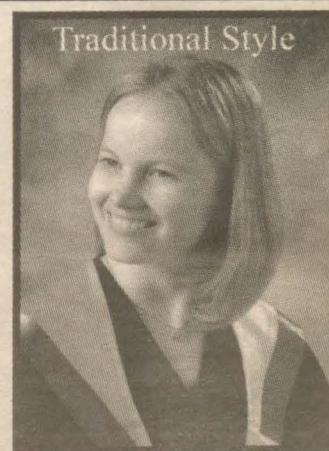
For such heavy subject matter, Pierce and his actors are taking the expression of Beckett's words pretty lightly. "We just give it to the audience straight and hopefully after the show they'll walk out and scratch their head and wonder, 'what did that mean?'" he said. "We let the audience do their own work. We don't do anything for them."

Except, of course, the three months of intense rehearsal it takes to stage the production. One of the problems Foghorn Theatre faces is a real difficulty in securing any kind of funding to help support their dedication to the performing arts. Having graduated from Dal means that the members of Foghorn can no longer receive funding from the university, and other opportunities for financial support are scarce. Even the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, which is supposedly designed to help fund ventures like Foghorn, turned down Pierce's requests. The fact that such a committed group of actors has to scrape by from production to production with no funding and no home working space is a sad commentary on the current level of support our provincial government is giving to the arts. Nova Scotia Tourism and Culture Minister Rodney

MacDonald would not return repeated phone calls.

So come on out and see Foghorn Theatre's version of *Endgame*, a promising production put on by a hard-working group of actors who deserve our support. *Endgame* will play from Thursday, April 1, to Saturday, April 3, in the MacAloney Room, on the fourth floor of the Dalhousie Arts Centre. The show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

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Dorfman and Ward Play Orson Welles

GRAHAM KAEY Arts Contributor

These days, when people think of radio plays, most have images of a family living in the 1940's huddled around a large wooden radio. You think to yourself, "thank God I grew up in the age of television. Those people were so pathetic." Or maybe that's just me. But the simple fact remains that there is an overwhelming consensus today that radio plays are a thing of the past. However, Jack Ward and Andrew Dorfman wish to change this stigma.

CKDU's *Shadowlands* radio theatre was born out the minds of long time friends Jack Ward and Andrew Dorfman. When I spoke to them, they were in the midst of production on one of their 26 plays due to air this season. As I sat Jack Ward down for this interview, his enthusiasm was barely contained. After a few minuets, it became apparent to me that Ward and Dorfman were not fooling around. When asked about his prior writing experience, Ward said, "Have you seen my book?"

"Book?" I replied.

Ward rushed back inside the theatre department and returned holding a freshly minted paperback. The title read, *The Deadly Sins Scripts* by Jack Ward. The book, published by Crystal Dreams, is available at Chapters and online at Amazon.com. It contains six plays with a fresh new take on sin. For their radio productions, Ward and Dorfman call upon contacts in London, Ont., and Vancouver B.C., who create original music specifically for *Shadowlands* productions. Added to their resources is a group of 36 actors in the Halifax area. This by no means is a small production.

Ward's interest in writing can be traced back to his accomplishments at Guelph University over 15 years ago. There the English and Drama major hosted a literary radio show on the campus station, won the Sci-Fi award for creative



Photos: Graham Kaey

writing and had a lead role in a cabaret production. He would later also get a teaching degree in theatre from Western University. However, it would not be until a decade later that Ward would get the radio bug.

While performing a one-act play at Halifax's Universalist Unitarian church, Ward had an epiphany. After his performance ended, no one said a word. Later, people explained that they didn't know what to say except that the piece had moved them. "Beholding the moment. If you can get an audience to do that, then you've really touched somebody." It was after this performance that Ward realized he was drawn to spoken drama. It was at this juncture that Dorfman came in.

Not only did Dorfman and Ward grow up together in southern Ontario, they also both have an affinity for radio drama. Says Dorfman: "we both grew up with the radio constantly tuned to CBC shows like *Vanishing Point*." For Dorfman, who is responsible for all aspects of post production, *Shadowlands* provides an opportunity to create something that will provide people with an entertainment outlet other than television. "TV steals your imagination.

It takes away your ability to conceive," said Dorfman.

At this point, Ward jumped in, saying, "nothing is scarier than your imagination. As people, we always fear the unknown, and television shows us everything."

The two partners want to make an impact on their new community. Dorfman says "we want to make something sustainable to the community." Besides choosing our very own campus radio station, CKDU, as its vessel, *Shadowlands* theatre is more than willing to involve new dedicated people. Recently, they have promoted local product Pasha Ebrahimi to the role of co-director. Adds Dorfman, "we are hoping to give projects to people we can trust."

These two partners' enthusiasm is infectious. I leave with no doubt that they will affect people the way that they themselves were affected in their youth. "Today we have urban yuppies listening to crap on the radio and youth with no time to read. Why not tell them all stories?" says Ward. Although there may still be a stigma about radio drama, something tells me that if Dorfman and Ward get their way, this will all change.

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- ☞ Working on Tuesdays
- ☞ First Week of Exams
- ☞ True Love

Soulmates

Grawood Hosts Battle of the Bands

DANNY CONRAD Staff Contributor



Photo: Krista Dwyer

There's a ringing reminder in the ear of everyone in attendance at the Battle of the Bands held at Dal last Wednesday. That is the true certificate of authenticity for the religion of noise.

The evening began with 76am, a mellow-sounding rock band with driving drums. The best part of their set was the drums, which spread, filled and raised the band's momentum. The shortcomings of 76am are the lack of texture in their guitars and their uninventive song writing. Although not exceptional at any given moment, 76am is incredibly consistent and easily passable.

Anyone not satisfied by 76am was promptly relieved by Contact. Contact is a band that easily (and often) created an unnerving atmosphere. The texture and sound of the band is enough to recommend them, but in addition to this, Contact also has exceptional writing. Chords naturally flow and move from one another, making Contact easily one of the better bands.

Once Contact left the stage, Never rose to the mike. Never proved to be lacking in a few areas. Most fans were excited by the appearance of a fiddle player, but not for a single moment

in the entire set did the fiddle genuinely add to the band's sound. The guitar was well played but poorly mixed. There is one great redeeming value to Never and that is a vocal sound with immense personality. This does much to add to the band, but is not enough to carry their sound.

The highlight of the evening came next when Mass Destruction came up to play. Every instrument played its part in this moving reggae jam. Each of the players danced and moved as they played along. The sound is a mix of a driving beat, a schizophrenic guitar euphoria intermittently infused with horns to amplify the groove. Their only fault was that they were an obscure choice for performing within this Battle of the Bands—they were the one group that didn't belong with the others (a knock that probably caused them to lose the contest). In my opinion, they were the best band of the evening.

The competition ended with Mantra. Mantra is a different kind of band than the others, which makes comparison difficult. Ultimately, though, they proved to be the weakest of the five bands. The music groaned heavily and the lead singer limped across the stage. Somewhere in the noise there was a void—an empty space that leaves you unengaged. Guitar and vocals were both good, but neither had a diversifying trait. By the end of the set they remained undistinguished.

Contact was deemed the winner. I disagreed with this, choosing Mass Distraction as the champion. By no means, however, is Contact undeserving.

Those interested in seeing Contact perform should attend the final round of Battle of the Bands at the Grawood on April 2.

A Halifax Reality Show

PATRICK MacDONALD Arts Contributor

Michael Aube's first experience with video art was in high school, where he made a half-hour rendition of Hamlet, entitled "Big Trouble in Little Denmark." Since that first comic step, Aube has seen many strange and interesting things flash past his lens.

Aube is the director, producer and cameraman of a series of shorts called The Anthony Lord Show, named after a generally meek, though boisterously drunk friend. Imagine a cross between your own drunken videos or photos (which you alone find inexplicably hilarious) and that staple on the local film scene, Trailer Park Boys, and you've just pictured The Anthony Lord Show.

"The Anthony Lord Show is a real reality show," says Aube. "It's typical university stuff, but also very East Coast."

"Stereotypes and all!" says Steve Edwards, one of a dozen or more recurring cast members.

This home-grown reality show, produced through Aube's company, Talking Goat Productions, combines a group of Nova Scotian university students, alcohol, some local hotspots and Jackass-esque ideas to create some ridiculous scenes—from testing a potato gun in Fenwick and philosophizing about life after death, to "cougar" hunting in rural taverns and on New Year's at the Grand Parade.

Aube says that reactions to the videos have generally been favourable. "Everyone I've asked loves them," he says. "It's a home-made TV show for Halifax, you know, just fuckin' givin' 'er." Existential monologues, slapstick comedy, and hardcore Maritime culture seem to be the backbone of this cult success. Oh, yeah, and drinking too.

But Aube has a serious reason for producing this comic series: "I'd like to see some returns on this just because I've put so much time and effort into the show. I'm looking to speak with some TV people, see if there's anything that can develop, but there are a lot of details still to work out."

Aube has had several conversations with the CBC and the Centre for Art Tapes, and even considered approaching Cable Access for a TV spot, but has now settled on a different plan. "I'd like to make a compilation tape and enter it into the Atlantic Film Festival," he says. In the meantime, he hopes to edit his backlog of 60-70 tapes, and have some new episodes released for this summer. His philosophy for the show is this: "If you take the boring, everyday details out of someone's existence, anyone's life can seem amazing." More info on the show can be found on their website at www.theanthonylordshow.com

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One Man's Cutting Edge Tale of Circumcision

STAN JENKINS Arts Contributor



Photo: stock.xchng

As a kid, you always wonder why you look different than the next guy. By the time I hit puberty, I didn't just look different, I even peed differently. Peeing then was like peeing with an erection now—you never knew quite where it was going to go. I often sat. Intimate relations weren't so intimate. There was discomfort. The problem was the excessive skin causing tightness around the tip. Pulling the top down for "convertible cruising," was very painful. I had one really bad experience (with a girl) in grade nine. After that, I didn't date much. Eventually I saw a urologist. The urologist's examination led to the conclusion that change was needed. The doctor informed me that if I had intercourse it would tear. I didn't need much

convincing.

Four months later, I was sitting in the waiting room, really nervous and sweaty. There is a lot of trust involved in the doctor-patient relationship. Sitting in the urologist's waiting room wasn't great either. I wondered about the people around me: what was going through their heads? When I was younger, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to go to camp and on canoe trips during my summers. Having "excess" was always a point of apprehension, both in terms of hygiene and aesthetics, but I'd assume that the same apprehension affects many men. It was a co-ed camp, and a

lot of skinny-dipping went on. Swimming naked was liberating, but cleaning underneath the sheath was awkward. I wasn't a strong enough swimmer to tread water and cleanse at the same time. Cleansing can easily be confused with other stuff.

So, back at the urologist's office, a half hour later the general anesthetic took effect and I blacked out in a euphoric state. When I woke up, I felt quite dizzy and nauseous. Everyone else in the observation room looked normal. None of them had bandages around their junk. Have you ever heard the myth that men have 11 erections a night? It's true. Initially the pain was pretty bad, but I had relief from my old friends Demerol and Codeine.

That March break, I watched over two thousand minutes in movies, including the Godfather trilogy and every gangster and car-chase movie ever written, as I tried to revive my masculinity. My parents went away and left me with the house for a week. They seemed confident I wouldn't throw any kickers. At first I wandered around the house in socks and a muumuu (a really long shirt). Later in the week, I started experimenting with fabrics. Contact with anything other than silk was horrible. Getting used to wind was difficult. Even a gentle breeze would mess me up (not in a good way). The sensitivity was overwhelming. Some people probably questioned the tear-away material or light plastic pant revival, but denim wasn't really doing.

Several people asked me how my March break went. For most, I said I was really sick. But a dependable few found out the truth. Reactions varied. One person was intrigued. He told me that he had difficulties with duration. His curiosity helped me feel less alienated about the whole ordeal. A few friends were shocked, and one was offended.

I'm glad my parents didn't have me cut at birth. I had the opportunity of knowing the best of both worlds. This knowledge I will share: Having foreskin was top drawer. I received more pleasure up until the point of climax (when I was by myself). The climax is exactly the same as before. But like any trip, half the fun is just getting there. I'm not saying I don't have fun now. Stuff's great, but I don't have the same level of sensitivity and the journey takes a little longer (which is sometimes a good thing).

Rinsing underneath the sheath was a hassle. Furthermore, it caused discomfort. I don't think others experienced the same level of discomfort because they were endowed with wider tips. Camping is better now than before since there is less apprehension about cleansing. When you don't have foreskin, swimming does the trick.

Had I not been so self-conscious in my teenage years, the anxiety and apprehension could, perhaps, have been avoided. However, communicating information of this nature to peers might not have been well received. In hindsight, the operation wasn't as painful as anticipated. Coming down off the general anesthetic was, by far, the roughest part.

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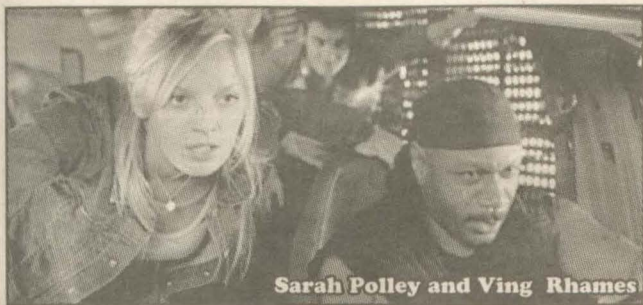
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Dawn of the Dead: A Review

SAM WORTHINGTON Senior Zombie Correspondent



Sarah Polley and Ving Rhames

Now is the hour of my most sincere confession—I am an unapologetic zombie geek. I've seen Return of the Living Dead around 27 times, and I could probably reenact large portions of the dialogue in a dark room full of ambient noise.

That said, I've been waiting a long time for my first big-screen zombie event. With the exception of a few minor qualms, first time director Zack Snyder's remake of George Romero's classic Dawn of the Dead (1978) was no disappointment.

Dawn of the Dead is the second movie in Romero's original zombie trilogy, following the worldwide spread of a zombie epidemic. In the classic, black and white Night of the Living Dead, a plague of zombies has just begun due to radiation from the voyager probe recently returned from Venus. Dawn shows the plague steadily moving across America, focusing on a ragtag group of survivors who fortify themselves in a suburban shopping mall.

With contemporizing references to American Idol, soy-milk lattes and not-so-subtle Nike product placement, Dawn offers a slicker looking mall and, much to my dismay, skipped out on the whimsy of having zombies try to stumble up a down escalator.

The creatures themselves seem like a combination of the

more predatory, viral zombies of 28 Days Later, and the brain-seeking speed freaks of Dan O'Banon's Return of the Living Dead (1984).

Personally, I find that the menace of the zombie is not in its ability to run me down (easily), tackle me, and feed on my sweet, sweet flesh. Rather, Romero's original zombie is slow, lumbering and, most importantly, relentless. A 13-year-old kid with an aluminum slugger could take out one of Romero's zombies without much hassle. The subtle creepiness is that it doesn't matter if you can stop one or two of them, because you can't stop all of them. Period. They just keep coming. You aren't hounded down by a feral predator so much as you succumb to the tide of dead and rise up as one of them.

Call me old-fashioned, but making the undead sprint and growl seems to take away from the subtlety of the hopelessness of the zombie menace. They're just as fecund, but they instill more panic than fear. The new Dawn is more of a thriller than most zombie flicks before it.

One moment in which Snyder pays homage to the original is when the survivors are watching the emergency broadcast system on the TV security wall and a sullen-eyed televangelist spouts the original Dawn movie tagline: "When there's no more room in hell, the dead will walk the earth."

Lots of high-rise camera work makes the eventual escape attempt from the mall seem like a flashback to Woodstock '99, as a sea of zombies bogs down the escape trucks and begins to rock them back and forth.

During one of the movie's lighter moments, the mall-rats climb up on top of the mall and play a sniper

game with fellow survivor Andy who's perched on a roof across the street. They single out celebrity look-a-like zombies (like Jay Leno and Burt Reynolds) and write them on poster board for Andy to pick off with his rifle. I half expected Fred Durst to pop up and crowd surf over the throngs of walking dead on a piece of plywood.

Also, seeing Sarah Polley busting some zombie heads took a few minutes to adjust to. She's a long way from Avonlea.


All in all, Dawn of the Dead pays enough tribute to the original while remaining a strong movie in its own right. I have to admit, though, it was hard to suppress chatting through the movie ala Mystery Science Theatre 3000. As a genre that's fortified its ranks with hokey 80's B-flicks, the zombie moviemakers will have to offer up a few more "serious" films, like the new Dawn, before I can shake this mindset.

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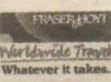

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Parker Street Food & Furniture Bank

LYNN CULLEN Staff Contributor

The Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank, located in the North End, is not only a food and furniture bank, but also a place for people to learn new skills and attend courses and for kids to come and simply hang out.

Established in Halifax in 1983, it was initially designed to provide food to low-income families. It is a non-profit organization that began as a food bank operating out of a single car garage and is now providing food, furniture and services to an average of 250 families per week.

The food bank, now located on 2415 Maynard Street, made its move about five years ago after obtaining a larger building. A year was spent fixing it up with donated materials and many hard working volunteers, but after it had been open a mere three months, a tragic fire burnt through the halls.

They were assured by professionals that the structure was still sound and that they could salvage it, which was fortunate for them and all the families that they provide for.

It did mean that they were again "out of business" for a while, but something good did in fact arise from that fire—an idea. While they were re-building, it was suggested that they build the upstairs differently than they had the first time around. They thought building several more separate rooms and making them into classrooms would be a good idea. Then they could offer classes to people who wanted to develop their skills and enter or re-enter the workforce.

Harvey Day, who has a history of working in the corporate world, read an ad in the paper regarding a position teaching people the basic computer skills they may need to know in order to work in an office. He applied and got the job and has been there ever since. Although the centre offers all types of training, Harvey informed me that there is a focus on computer skills.

The classes begin from base one and work their way slowly through the steps. Harvey made the point that for many people in the classes it's a big step for them to even be there, and the last thing that he wants to do is intimidate them. What he does is to "walk down the path and hold their hand, that's what we do." It sounds like a pretty accurate description judging by the gentle demeanor of Harvey and his co-workers.

There is a very "friendly and relaxed" atmosphere in the classroom, he says. Each class has an average of about 10 students, so each one gets individual attention and Harvey tutors and provides extra one-on-one help if needed. The

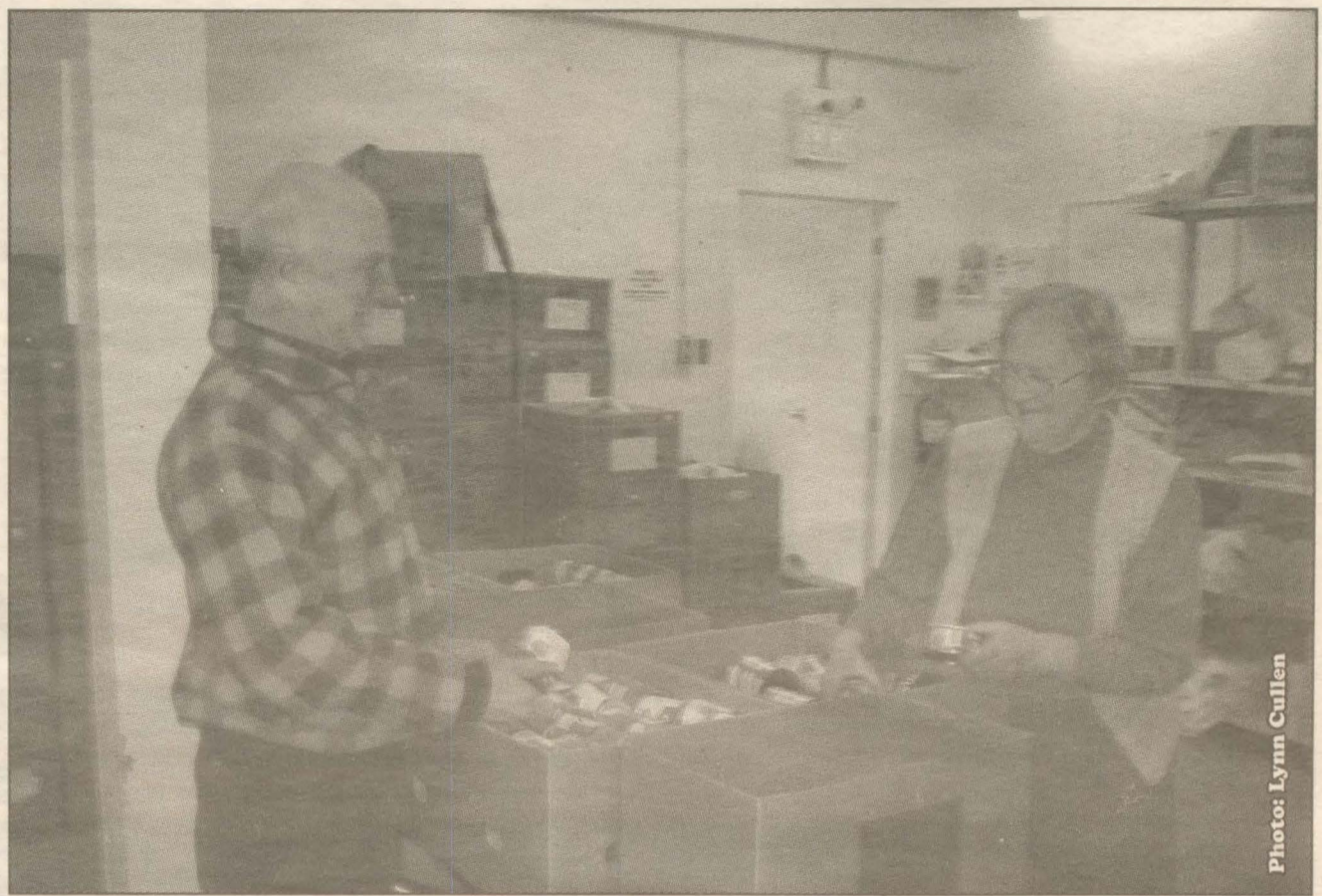


Photo: Lynn Cullen

classes are offered from 9-12, Monday to Friday, so that those with children can make it home in time to have lunch with their kids.

Another thing that is so special about Harvey's classes is that all of the students get to keep their computers. They are given a computer at the beginning of the session so that they have something to go home and practice on. They are all donated computers, of course, but Harvey hooks them all up and gets them into working order for the students. "There are 127 of them out back, ready to go," he said. The Parker Street Bank is the only training facility in the HRM that offers this. He spoke of one woman who came in and when she heard that she actually got to keep the computer, she burst into tears. Who wouldn't?

Although there is a large focus on computer skills, there are other courses offered that provide the students with the skills they need to work in the trade industry. For example, a flooring and carpeting course just finished a week ago, and of the 10 that graduated, five already have full-time jobs. The other five are expected to have jobs by the end of next week.

The bank helps people find jobs and offer courses in areas that are looking for workers. The next course offered will be an automotive based one. In 14 weeks, students will learn everything they need to know about first aid, fork lift operating and inventory control, and they will receive extensive customer service skills training. In fact, the bank even offers a course on customer service alone.

In terms of food, the bank serves over 250 families per week. Monday, Wednesday and Friday are the days that people can come in to pick up food, so those are of course their busy days. They have everything from birthday cakes to canned food to diapers to dog food and kitty litter.

Every two weeks, they receive two truckloads full of dented cans that can't be sold in stores and plenty of donations. Volunteers work in the back sorting food throughout the week, and a lovely woman named Ruby who is one of their longest working volunteers (she has been there for over 10 years) was kind enough to show me her work and what needs to be done. There are shelves for all the canned food, freezers for the cakes, bread and meat and a huge fridge for veggies and fruit. They are the also the only establishment in the HRM that delivers food to people who are unable to make the trek alone.

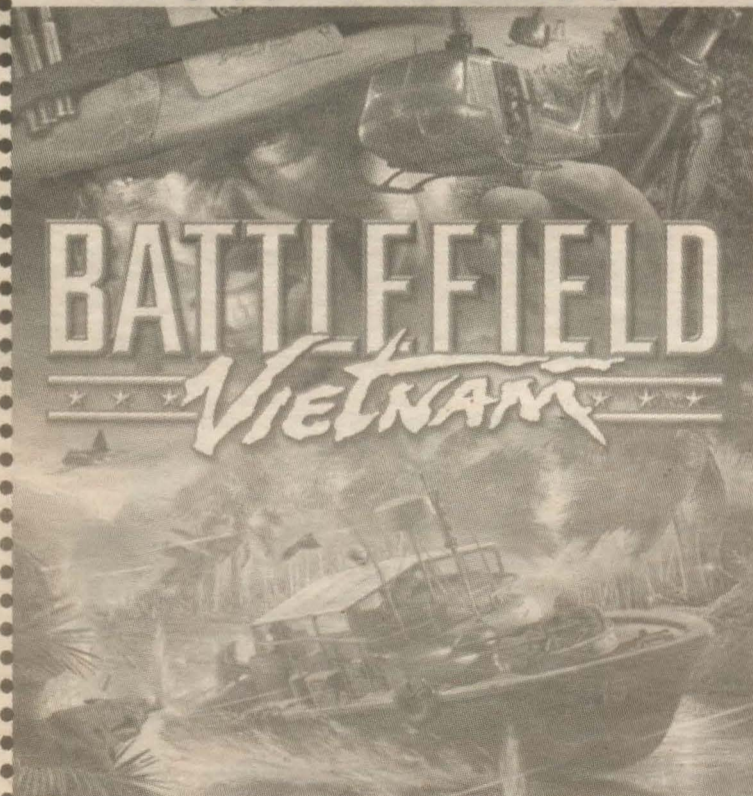
As I walked through the two rooms packed with food, I came across a room absolutely packed with furniture. Volunteers work hard at fixing the furniture back up into good shape, and they can, again, pick up or deliver any furniture.

Volunteers are always needed. Since Monday, Wednesday and Friday are the days that food gets picked up, those are often the best days to be there, but if that doesn't suit you, just call and see what they have available. The friendly Deborah Brown, the public relations director, will be happy to talk to you about what kind of volunteer opportunities there are.

This establishment is constantly hustling and bustling with activity and constantly providing change within the HRM for families and individuals who need and seek help. Even as I was leaving, the downstairs was packed with kids coming in for a free after school "healthy snack." The woman handing out the granola bars told me about her program for kids that takes place on the last Saturday of every month. Obviously, the Parker Street Food and Furniture Bank is working at not just getting food on tables and tables in homes, but also getting people back to work and back on track.

For volunteer information, contact Deborah Brown at 446-3993 or email publicrelations@hfx.eastlink.ca.

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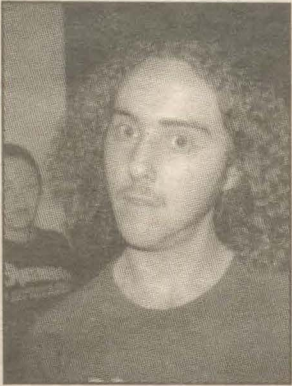
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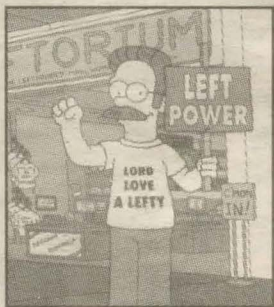
Jeff Burke, Third Year Moustache Bearer



Since the beginning of time, facial hair has made ugly men look acceptable and handsome men look ugly. But no one style has so completely dominated popular culture as that of the moustache; Donned by celebrities, leaders and common white trash for millennia past and centuries to come. One might ask "why is the moustache so special, and why am I so oddly drawn to its strangely symmetrical yet

obscure location above the upper lip?" There are no answers, only more questions. One might turn to such greats as Ravishing Rick Rude or Albert Einstein for answers, but to no avail. Even brilliant minds in history such as these have no explanation for the beautiful Nose Broom.

I myself have pondered the moustache phenomenon for some time now, as I have been preparing my lip fur via a "respectable" goatee. I have been fighting through the stubble phase, dirty face phase and the worst phase of all, the itchy phase. Deep down, I know that all



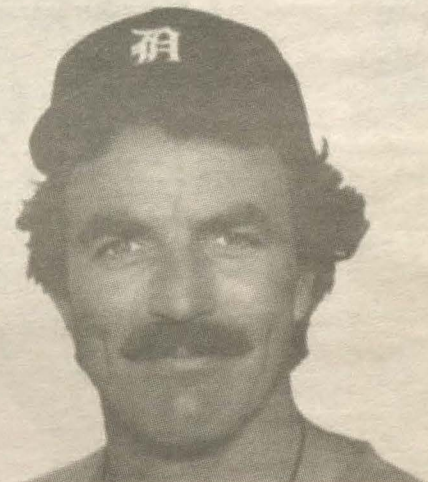
of this sacrifice will pay off when I unveil my moustachery to this unprepared city of Halifax on April 8, 2004. In my twisted mind, women will swoon, men will turn green with envy and a shootout may even breakout at high noon on Spring Garden Road. I believe I may even be invited to participate in a remake of a classic 70's porn flick with Stephen Segal. Even if

my 'stache proves lackluster and I don't need a stick to beat off middle aged women, I can rely on the fact that having a moustache allows you to act in any way you see fit, essentially presenting me with the ultimate freedom I have chased for so many years.

So I ask you, men of men from Halifax, put down that razor and exude your true manliness. After all, what is two weeks without shaving but a small sacrifice? It allows you to peek 10 years into your future, a time you may, or may not, wish to visit, but at least this way you give yourself the choice. On, April 8 we will revel in our own beauty at an undisclosed location before unleashing



ourselves into the city night. The T-Room seems an appropriate



choice for poor moustache bearers—with few or no women, it will allow virgin moustachers to build confidence before relocating to The Attic. The entertainment at this venue (as if by some intangible act of God) is DJ Jazzy Jeff. Last time I checked, he had a stache, and yes he was on the Fresh Prince. It appears that the stars have aligned for this glorious day, and I hope to see a gorgeous display on the town that night. For more details, feel free to email me at burkeja@dal.ca and for your own sake, stop shaving.

PS—prizes will be awarded to best/worst stache, so start yours today.

I had no Business Interviewing Weeman

Graeme Bryden

So it's Tuesday at 5 p.m. The phone rings. It's Chris Fedora, saying, "do you want to interview weeman at six o'clock?" I gladly agree to phone interview Jason "weeman" Acuña of MTV's Jackass fame. Fedora knew I was a big fan of Jackass and the like, so the interview was passed to me. Since Jason is promoting the Steve-O show at The Palace on March 31 (when you're reading this, that was last night) he was willing to do an interview with the likes of me. The following is what happened after 5p.m.

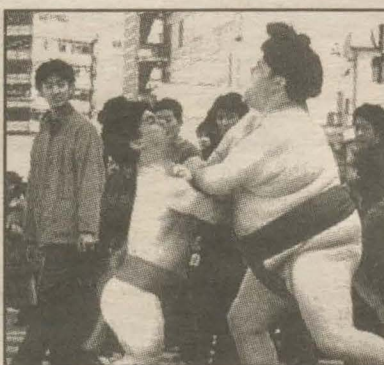
Something important must now be stated: I've never interviewed anyone before. I had about an hour to do research and come up with some questions that didn't make me look like a complete dink. The Internet will save me, I thought. So I searched for stuff that would give me more intelligent questions than "so...how did you like working for MTV?"

When I do research for school, I go over to the library and hammer into books for a couple hours and pick out stuff. I then either read the stuff or sign it out. When all your research consists of stuff from fan websites, which you are rushed to read, you just know your interview is going to suck, and it's going to be your fault.

It's now six and my research has been about as effective as Christopher Reeve trying to get an erection while watching the Golden Girls. But I can't keep the Wee waiting. I call his California number, and he answers in a surprisingly good mood (very surprising, considering he has to talk to me).

When he answers, I say "Hello, Is this Jason?" What a stupid thing to say. He's 31 years old, he's a stuntman, an actor and a pro skater for like six years. Who the hell else would answer his phone, in his voice, when he's expecting my call?

During Jackass' run on MTV, despite many, many warnings that were aired telling people not to perform these stunts at home, some kids tried doing stunts allegedly inspired by Jackass.



the censorship chainsaw. As opposed to having the show get censored to the point where it no longer resembles a revolutionary show and seems more like an episode of Emeril Live, the boys pulled the plug. They pulled a Seinfeld in order keep their artistic integrity.

Now the boys must occupy their time. Weeman has hosted an extreme sports show with Leann Tweeden (beautiful...now my wallpaper) on Fox Sports Net. The show, called 54321, was dropped for reasons unknown to the Wee, but now gets better ratings after the plug was pulled. For those in TV out there, this is a sign a show was stopped too early...and your judgement sucks...and everyone knows...and you will soon be fired.

Weeman said some interesting things about the Steve-O Don't Try This at Home Tour. The guys appearing on the tour change by the location. It's always a surprise to the audience who's actually going to appear onstage. I was assured it's always Steve-O and a bunch of friends doing stunts for the enjoyment of all those in attendance. These stunts are taped and made into videos for the Don't Try This at Home series. The videos are very entertaining (if you have the stomach).

Since he is a pro-skater, he rides a board. I had read he rides a miniature board and when other skaters ask him to borrow it they aren't used to its size and fall face-first. Upon asking him about this rumor, he told me he didn't know what I was talking

Downside: Some kids who won't win a Nobel Prize got hurt.

Upside: This stuff was caught on tape. Some of it made it onto the Internet.

After some amateurs got hurt, MTV started cutting the show with

about. Friggin Internet sources. Friggin' garbage research. I Suck!

At this point, my notes are a mess. I can't find the questions I was trying to ask him. Although I was giving him a lot of "Awwwwwww, damn, my notes are a mess" he was very patient with my disorganization. While frantically looking for my next question, I remembered seeing somewhere that he was a big fan of Jack Nicholson. That information was correct. I told him there was a poster of Jack in my apartment. What possessed me to tell him this is outside the realm of rational thought. It seemed like a good idea at the time to ask if he had seen Jack's new movie. It doesn't matter if he had seen it or not, I merely tell you this so you can understand how bad I am at interviewing and maybe take pity on me.

Speaking of movies, though, Weeman has starred in a short film called The Same alongside Josh Hartnett. Shortly after the movie was filmed, Josh and Weeman both gained huge fame from Pearl Harbour (sucked) and Jackass respectively. For some reason, the filmmaker decided to not release the film because they were famous. I'm lost here.

His hobby is playing drums in a band called the Less than Tall Ones. He has also finished editing (and I presume starring in) a video for Xbox on a day in the life of Weeman.

So my questions have run out. I could try to hold him on the line and test what could be done to make him lose his seemingly infinite patience with me. I decided this would be a weak move for someone who just spent the last 10 minutes putting up with my worthlessness. I gave him one more question:

What do you want to be remembered as, stuntman, actor or performance artist? He responded "Ummm rockstar. Just rockstar." I can't believe that was the best question I could come up with.

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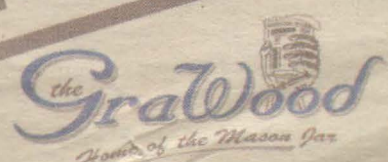


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April 2, 2004



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