

FREE

ISSUE 137-20 February 24th 2005 - March 3rd 2005

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# Gazette


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A photograph of a swimmer in a pool, wearing goggles and a swim cap, swimming towards the camera. The water is blue and there are lane lines visible. Another swimmer is partially visible in the foreground, out of focus.

**Dal Swimmers  
Eye Gold at CIS  
Championships**

DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



## DSU Council Meeting

The next DSU Council meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 9th at 6:30 pm in SUB Council Chambers

## Society Info

### Indemnity Form:

The Indemnity form has been replaced with the Acknowledgement Form. To access the form, go to [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) > Student Life > Info for Societies.

### Society Audits

It's Audit Time again. A reminder to all A and C level societies to get their books in to Jonathan Wilson, DSU VP (Finance and Operations).

**"View the DSU's Audited Financial Statements (Year ended March 31, 2004) at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca) > About Us > DSU Finances"**

## DSU General Elections

The DSU General Elections are slated to be held March 8-10, 2005. Nominations will open February 7 and run through the 17th.

Open positions include:

- President
- Vice-President (Internal)
- Vice-President (Student Life)
- Vice-President (Education)
- Senate (4)
- Board of Governors (1)

Dalhousie students interested in being a poll clerk should check the student employment website or pick up an application from the student employment office

For more information contact CRO Ann Berringer at [election@dal.ca](mailto:election@dal.ca).

## Tiger Patrol

The DSU, in collaboration with Dalhousie University, provides students with a free shuttle service. Check out the schedule and routes online at [www.dsu.ca](http://www.dsu.ca).

## Flu Shot Clinics

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BACARDI



ALEXANDER KEITH'S  
INDIA PALE ALE

# Editorial

Quentin Casey  
Editor-in-Chief

Last July, I was driving along the Bedford Basin on the Bedford Highway. It was a beautiful summer day—I had the AC blasting and the radio blaring. I was on my way to a sailing regatta in Bedford. Life was good.

As I was driving, I noticed a sign on the side of the road. It read: "Sadly, Our 20th Year in Business."

Huh?, I thought. This seemed like an odd advertisement for a business. As I got closer, I realized: the sign was for the Metro Food Bank. For them, being in business for two decades is not something to brag about.

This incident stuck with me, and I wondered if there was something I could do. I then realized there is something we can all do.

With this in mind, I am proud to announce the Dalhousie Challenge, to be held March 1-14.

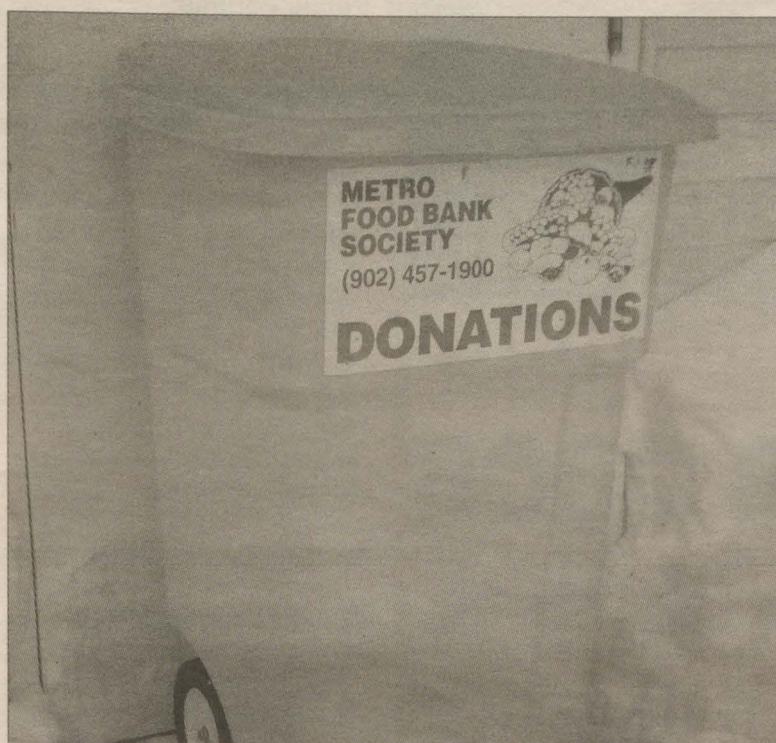
The Challenge is simple: for every Dal student, faculty member and staff member to bring in one item of non-perishable food for the Metro Food Bank.

Drop locations will be spread from one end of Dal to the other: the lobbies in the Student Union Building, the Dunn, the Tupper, the Weldon Law building and the King's A&A building, along with Alumni lounge on the Sexton campus.

The potential for the Dalhousie community to contribute to this cause is immense.

The Metro Food Bank was founded in 1984 with the goal of feeding hungry people and the intention of putting itself out of business within five years. Sadly, as the sign said, they are still going strong in their efforts to alleviate hunger. In fact, use of the food bank in Nova Scotia has increased by 46 per cent since 1997.

The food bank's goals remain the same in 2005. Their immediate goal is to feed hungry people, and their ultimate goal is to eliminate chronic hunger and alleviate poverty—and, if possible,



Let's fill the bins to the brim.

put themselves out of business.

It may not be surprising to hear that the majority of food bank users are on social assistance. But would you believe that 16 per cent of users are college graduates? Or that seven per cent of users are actually employed?

But perhaps most staggering of all: 40 per cent of food bank users are under the age of 18.

**The Challenge is simple: for every Dal student, faculty member and staff member to bring in one item of non-perishable food for the Metro Food Bank.**

Thus, the human face of hunger is far too young.

Every month, more than 20,000 people in Metro and 33,000 across the province make use of the food bank. Across Canada, more than three quarters of a million people use the service each month.

Need more evidence that demand for the food bank's services are high in our area? In 2004, Nova Scotia had a 17 per cent

increase in food bank use—the highest among the Atlantic Provinces, and the third highest in the country.

To meet this increase in demand, the food bank distributed \$15.8 million worth of donated food (1.56 million kg) in 2003-04 with an operating budget of \$1.37 million.

The Metro Food Bank can use our help.

The *Gazette* and the Dal chapter of Meal Exchange—a student society aimed at dealing with hunger problems—are organizing the Dalhousie Challenge. You likely heard about the Trick or Eat campaign Meal Exchange ran in October, for which students collected food for the food bank by going door to door on Halloween.

With very little effort we can do a great deal. I realize that the Dal campus has many worthwhile causes on the go and that, especially in light of the recent tsunami relief, many do their part to help those less fortunate. However, I hope that everyone at Dal will view this event as worthwhile and embrace it.

One item of food will go a long way.

[www.metrofoodbank.org](http://www.metrofoodbank.org)

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If you are interested in contributing to the *Gazette*, feel free to email us your article to: [gazette@dal.ca](mailto:gazette@dal.ca) or better yet come to our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 4:30 Room 312, Dal SUB.

# Gazette



## Student Employment Centre

### Jobs Spotlight

#### Off-Campus

• Would you like to work for one of Canada's largest investment management companies? **AIM Trimark** is currently seeking **Client Relationship Representatives** to work in the Toronto office. This is an excellent opportunity to work in financial services focusing on customer relationship management and client retention initiatives. (See Upcoming Events)

#### On-Campus

• **Summer Housing** positions - apply by March 6

Visit [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec) for complete details.

### Upcoming Events

#### AIM Trimark Investments

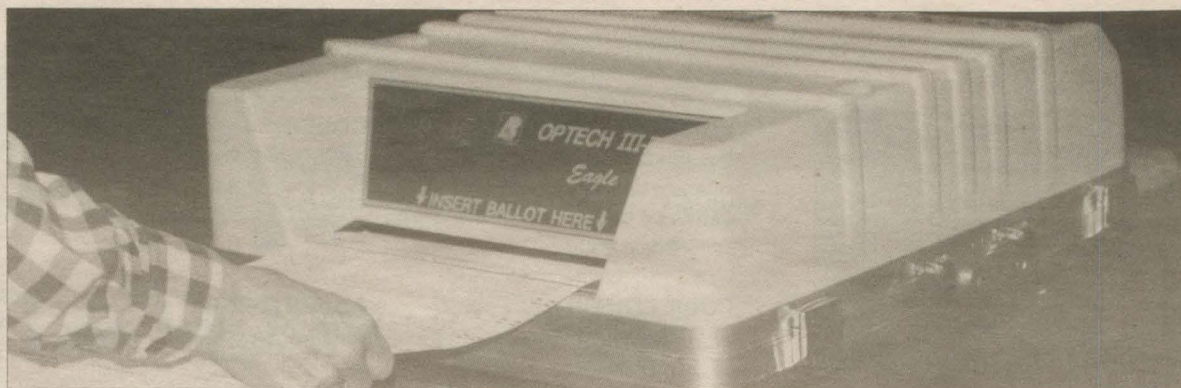
March 10, 11:30 - 1:30pm  
SUB, Council Chambers (2nd floor)

#### Nova Group (Teaching Overseas)

March 24, 9:00 - 11:00am  
SUB, Council Chambers (2nd floor)  
\*\*view job posting at [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

4th Floor • Student Union Building • 446-6136 University Avenue • Tel: (902) 494-3537  
To access job postings go to [www.dal.ca/sec](http://www.dal.ca/sec)

 DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY  
Inspiring Minds



This year's voting will be done entirely on-line. Not exactly as illustrated.

## And They're (Almost) Off DSU ELECTIONS 2005



Sarah Vanderwolf  
Reid Southwick  
Staff Contributors

A full slate of candidates for the upcoming DSU elections has been announced, and beginning in the early hours of Feb. 28, 22 contenders will be out in full force, campaigning for your vote.

The campaign, which will include six public forums where candidates will defend their platforms and answer questions, will end at 8 p.m. on March 7. Polling will run from March 8-10, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Ann Beringer, the chief returning officer and chair of the elections committee for the DSU, says the committee is aiming to boost voter turnout this year by six percentage points to roughly 4,200 students, adding that a 10-year record was broken last year when 27 per cent of the student body cast ballots.

"It is imperative that students get out and vote in this election," says Beringer, citing a list of key issues winning candidates will face over the next 12 months.

**Key issues include:**

- Implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding, the new proposal from the Nova Scotia government to create a multi-year funding agreement for the province's universities

and limit tuition fee increases for all but international and professional students to 3.7 per cent each year.

Winning candidates may address the omission of professional and international students—whose tuition is set to go up exponentially over the next year—in the agreement.

- Implementation of new senate policies regarding plagiarism and academic discipline
- Implementation of new societies policy
- Implementation of new academic and external lobby policies

**"It is imperative that students get out and vote in this election."**

— Ann Beringer, CRO

**For the president:**

- Decide to either stay with the Canadian Alliance of Students Associations (CASA) as the DSU's lobby organization, or switch to the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

In addition to answering three referendum questions, students will be able to vote for a president, vice-president of education, vice-president of student life, vice-president internal, member of the board of governors and four members of the senate.

Current DSU president Curtis McGrath will not be running for re-election this year, saying he has served in the DSU for five years and it is time to move on. He will either work full-time or pursue further graduate studies in public administration.

Voting will be done mostly electronically this year, after 600 ballots for vice-present internal were thrown out last year due to human error. Students will be able to vote from laptops located at any of the 16 polling stations spread across the Studley, Carleton and Sexton campuses, where poll clerks will help voters navigate the website.

Students will also be able to cast ballots from any computer (that has cookies) on and off campus by logging on at <http://ivoteonline.com>. The website will feature 300-word profiles written by each candidate as well as ballots for each position.

Students will have one hour to vote from the time they log on and will be alerted if they make a mistake or have not voted for a particular position.

**Public Forums:**

- Mon., Feb. 28, 7-9 p.m.  
Howe Hall Cafeteria
- Tues., March 1, 12-1:30 p.m.  
SUB, group A
- Wed., March 2, 3:30-5:30 p.m.  
Carleton Campus, Theatre A
- Thurs., March 3, 11:30-1 p.m.  
Computer Science Building, atrium
- Fri., March 4, 12-1:30 p.m.  
SUB, group B
- Mon., March 7, 12-2 p.m.  
Sexton Campus, Alumni Lounge

**Levy/Referendum Questions**

**Dental Plan**

Do you support the DSU implementing a Dental Plan at a per student annual premium of \$85.00 where individuals with comparable coverage may opt out and receive a full refund, and where yearly adjustments in premiums based on inflation and prior claims experience of the Dental Plan may be made until the academic year 2007/08?

**Yes or No**

Rep.: Jonathan Wilson

**Official Candidates List**

**President:**

- Ezra Edelstein
- Kevin Wasko

**Vice-President (Education):**

- Jenn Bond
- Andrew Murray
- Gord Simms

**Vice-President (Student Life):**

- Tara Berthier
- Chris "The Awesome Guy" McClusky
- Mark "Rippey" Szepes

**Vice-President (Internal):**

- Phil Duguay
- Jerad Gallinger
- Matt "Gov" Godwin
- Ashley O'Brien

**Board of Governors:**

- Jenny Cooper

**Senate:**

- Jamie Blasina (Undergraduate)
- Zoe Caron (Undergraduate)
- James Clifford DeWolf (Undergraduate)
- Jarod Bradley (Undergraduate)
- Meaheer Farn-Guillette (Undergraduate)
- Candace Salmon (Undergraduate)
- J.S. Weir (Undergraduate)
- Chris Jordan (Graduate)
- Yuriy Shelkovyy (Graduate)

**Health Plan**

Whereas in 2001 students voted to allow yearly Health Plan premium adjustments only until 2004/05;

Whereas future yearly increases may be necessary to stabilize the Health Plan;

Please choose one of the following:

I support stabilizing the Health Plan with yearly adjustments in premiums based on inflation and prior claims experience of the Health Plan until the academic year 2007/08.

I do not support allowing yearly inflationary premium adjustments, understanding this may result in the degradation or loss of Health Plan benefits.

Rep.: Jonathan Wilson

**Gazette**

Whereas the Gazette levy of \$4 for full-time students and \$2.50 for part-time students has been unchanged for ten (10) years and their costs have increased at the approximate rate of inflation each year;

Do you support a student levy increase of \$1 for full and part-time students for the Gazette Publishing Society?

**Yes or No**

Rep.: Quentin Casey

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Pay With Your Dalcards

# Dal Grads Working on Parliament Hill



L-R: Karen Diepeveen, David McGill, Jay Nathwani.

Jess McDiarmid  
Staff Contributor

Think new university grads can't influence the Canadian government? Think again. Several Dalhousie graduates are working in Ottawa in the Parliamentary Internship Programme—and making their mark on the country along the way.

The program, in which three Dalhousie graduates are taking part this year, selects 10 recent grads from across the country each year to work in the offices of Members of Parliament in Ottawa for 10 months. In most years, there are around 100 applicants for the program; this year, however, there have only been about 40, so the Jan. 30 deadline has been extended to Feb. 28.

Interns do a wide assortment of jobs, depending on the MP they work for. Tasks might include taking care of correspondence, answering phones, writing speeches and questions for Question Period and helping with critiques of government bills.

Jay Nathwani, an intern and Dal graduate, says one of the highlights of his internship has been Question Period preparation. "You hear the words that you helped create being read out in the House... After watching clips from Question Period for years on TV, there's nothing like being involved in it," he says.

Interns arrive in Ottawa in

September and spend a month in orientation and briefing sessions before interviewing all of the MPs that have applied to get an intern. They then decide who they'd like to be their boss. "You can work with MPs that share your interests, whatever they may be, from defence to women's issues to the environment," says Karen Diepeveen, another Dal grad in the program.

Interns work for two different MPs over the 10 months, one from an opposition party and one from the governing party. "We get a pretty good matching of interests between MP and intern, which makes for a better year," says Nathwani.

Diepeveen spent her first five months working for Randy White, a Conservative MP from B.C. "I spent most of my time doing research on the decriminalization of marijuana and going to various committee meetings," she says.

Dave Hugill spent his first five months working for the NDP finance critic Judy Wasylycia-Leis, MP for Winnipeg North. The experience was wonderful, he says. "Not only because she gave me a lot of responsibility and let me roll around the House with her, but also because she is a really kick-ass fighter for the people of Winnipeg North... That is what I liked best about working for her, watching her stand up for her constituents."

Interns also get the opportunity to travel on study trips. So far this year, interns have been to Toronto, London, Brussels and Belfast, attending meetings all day and drinking great beer every night, say Nathwani and Diepeveen. They also met members of Sinn Fein and people involved in conflict resolution in Northern Ireland.

"Northern Ireland, besides being incredibly beautiful and having a great pub culture, is really fascinating," says Diepeveen, who'd never been to Europe before.

Interns also meet with prominent people in Canadian politics to discuss current issues at informal lunches. This year, interns have met with US Ambassador Paul Celluci and Auditor General Sheila Fraser. Nathwani, who is working for Keith Martin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of National Defence, is also awaiting a lunch with General Rick Hillier, the new Chief of Defence Staff for the Canadian Forces.

"General Hillier will be fascinating to talk to, because he's coming in at a crucial time for the Canadian Forces," says Nathwani. "If things don't start improving, we could be looking at a long-term degradation in our military that we won't be able to reverse. So we'll be asking him about how he plans to confront those challenges."

"I still haven't really gotten over the spectacle of celebrity," says Hugill. "I get a boyish thrill out of riding in the elevator with the big kahunas." So far, Hugill has ridden in elevators with big kahunas like Ed Broadbent, Jack Layton and Scott Brison.

Interns receive a basic scholarship for the 10-month period and subsidized education travel. Generally the stipend is sufficient to cover living expenses.

To learn more, visit [http://www.pip-psp.org/eng/about\\_programme.htm](http://www.pip-psp.org/eng/about_programme.htm).

# On Another Campus

Neal Cody  
Staff Contributor

## U. St-Anne Offers Free Tuition

Université Ste.-Anne graduates who have trouble finding a job won't have to worry in the future—they can just return to their studies for free. Nova Scotia's only French-language university is offering free tuition to graduates in seven of its most successful programs. The job placement rate for its education, business administration and paramedic program graduates, among others, is so high that university officials are willing to bet a year's worth of tuition that they'll have no trouble finding a job.

## Alberta Freezes Tuition; B.C. Promises Cap

Alberta premier Ralph Klein announced on Feb. 8 that his government will pay for any tuition increases for the upcoming year, effectively freezing university tuition. The pledge is expected to cost \$43 million and will coincide with a plan to create 60,000 more post-secondary spots in the province by 2020.

The B.C. government also announced recently that post-secondary tuition would be capped by the inflation rate starting in September. The pre-election promise would probably limit an increase to 2.5 per cent, or \$100. B.C. university students currently pay \$4,137 per year, a 90 per cent increase over four years ago.

## Quebec Protest Turns Violent

About 100 students attended a protest that turned violent and ended with seven arrests in Montebello, Quebec, last Wednesday. Students used a battering ram to smash open the glass doors of a hotel where the Quebec Liberal party was meeting. TV footage showed police and security guards beating students with batons and using pepper spray. Ten students and six police officers were injured, along with several private bodyguards. Pierre-Alain Benoît, president of the Student Federation of the Université de Montréal, was led away in handcuffs, saying, "We didn't expect

to be clubbed. We didn't come here to hurt anyone." Police say students had a legitimate right to protest, but once matters turned violent, they had to intervene.

Students in Quebec have been protesting their government's cancellation of a \$103-million loan and bursary program since last March. Two days before this latest protest, six students were arrested in Jonquière for blocking the entrance to a Liberal MNA's riding office. Liberal Premier Jean Charest cancelled a Feb. 9 speech at McGill as students protested outside. Someone released 103 white mice in Charest's office, supposedly representing the amount cut from the bursary program.


## CEGEPs to Vote on Student Strike

Students at 30 of Quebec's CEGEP colleges will hold referenda this month on whether or not students should strike—indefinitely. Students are upset at their government's decision last March to cut \$103 million from a student assistance program, and some believe a student strike would convince the government to reinstate the funds. Student associations at five provincial universities, including UQAM and U de Montréal, will hold a vote on the question. The last major student strike was in 1996, when CEGEP students left classes to protest a proposed \$675 million cut in education funding; some schools' students stayed out of class for over a month.

## Textbook Prices Quadruple

An American study has shown that college textbook prices have increased at four times the rate of regular inflation over the past 11 years. An average American college student spends \$US900 per year on textbooks and pays about 72 per cent more than their counterparts in the UK, Africa and the Middle East for the same book. The study, entitled "Rip-off 101" by the USPIRG, found that publishers used "extras" like companion CDs and work-

Continued on Next Page...



## Halifax's #1 Spot To Play Video Games

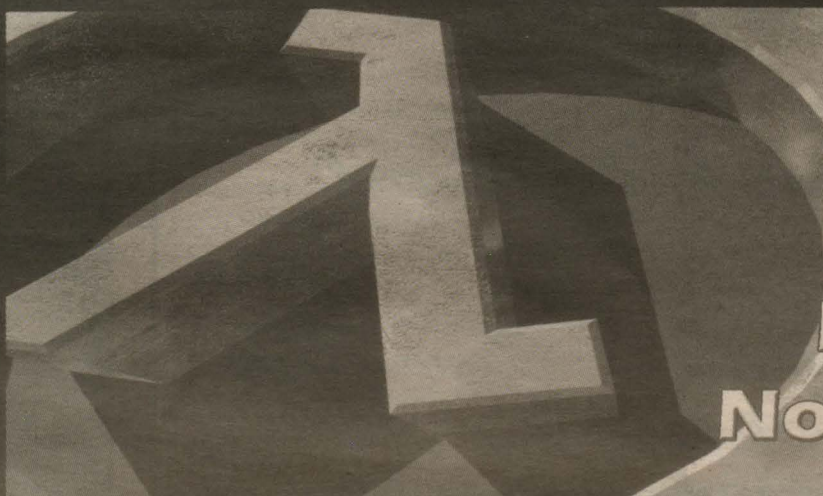
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# Canada and the United States: Friends, Enemies?

## U.S. Consul General Speaks at Dal

Reid Southwick  
Staff Contributor

Canada will continue to enjoy strong relations with its neighbour to the south as it has in the past, according to the Consul General of the United States in Halifax.

Although such contentious issues as missile defence and the softwood lumber trade dispute will be difficult to resolve, the long-standing record of cooperation between the United States and Canada is a good foundation for optimism, Leonard Hill told a group of roughly 20 people seated in a small lecture hall in the Life Sciences Centre on Feb. 16.

The US Foreign Service officer, who served with Canadian officials monitoring the 2000 national elections in Bangladesh, said common values are the root of the partnership between the two North American countries.

But Hill said the media consistently focus on issues where the US and Canada disagree. "You are never going to get a headline that Canada and the US cooperate on a million different things every day," he said.

"Bush's policies are divergent from Canadian values," Tamara Lorincz, a Dal student and activist, said in an interview. Bush's proposed cuts to Medicaid and

increased defence spending in his 2006 budget proposal to Congress do not reflect agreement on important issues, she said.

The Dal MBA-Law degree graduate asked Hill to deliver a letter she wrote to the US President that pleaded an end to his administration's "hurtful foreign and military policies."

"Your wars and weapons are killing children and their parents," Lorincz, the mother of a seven-month-old son, wrote on a large piece of brown paper featuring pictures of children killed by bombs in Iraq.

Hill said he appreciates respectful protest, citing the peaceful demonstrations in Halifax during Bush's visit as an example of Canadian credibility. He said in an interview that his office frequently receives letters like Lorincz's and always sends them to the US State Department.

There are always going to be disagreements between Canada and the US, Hill said during his speech. "There is no question about that." But the sheer number of agreements between the two states is impressive, he said.

During his last post in Ottawa in 2000, Hill and his colleagues compiled a list of secured bilateral deals from 1950 to the present and they lost count at around 2,500. To give one example, the

US and Canada have the largest bilateral economic relationship in the world. The value of trade in both directions across the border averages at more than \$1 billion per day, Hill said. "What we've done with this economic relationship ... is we have helped to create a key to prosperity for the citizens of both of our countries."

As well, the US and Canada have the only successful naval arms control agreement in the world.

Nick Wilson, a Boothbay, Maine native, said many US citizens do not realize how strong the relations are between their nation and its northern neighbour.

"People don't think too much of what goes on in Canada," said Wilson, an Honours IDS and Anthropology student who attended Hill's speech. "That's why there are such good stereotypes."

Hill knows that officials on both sides of the border need to remind people of the level of cooperation and the benefits of the relationship. But he said Frank McKenna, the new Canadian ambassador to the US, has media savvy that will help him promote Canada to Americans. "He will be a great representative of Canada in the US and a great person to get Canada's message out there."

## MIMC: A Business Competition Even Trump Would Love

Brittany Curran  
Staff Contributor

Business schools from around the world united in January for the 22nd annual Manitoba International Marketing Competition, and a team of Dal students won third place out of 18 teams. Students from universities in Canada, Germany, Spain, Iceland, Switzerland, Mexico and the United States convened at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg for a weekend experience intended to prepare the students for future business opportunities.

Carolyn Marriot and Dawn-Louise Morris were on the Dal team. They explained that each team had to do a business presentation as if they were representing a real firm in front of a panel of judges. The winner from each of the three divisions then moved onto the finals. They say the competition was fierce. "The other school's presentations were

very elaborate," Marriot says. Dalhousie's team won their division and moved onto the finals, placing third overall. Second place was awarded to the Universidad Bonaterra and the University of British Columbia won the coveted first prize.

Business faculty advisor Kent Groves coached Dal's seven-member team—but not only on their presentation.

"50 per cent of the mark was fundraising," Morris says. The team managed to raise the \$9,000 they needed, but they also benefited from an annual CanJet Airlines donation to Dal's business program.

Students will get academic credit for participating in the competition, and Marriot and Morris agree their hard work paid off. As for their trophy? It will be displayed in the new Management Building as soon as construction is finished.

## On Another Campus

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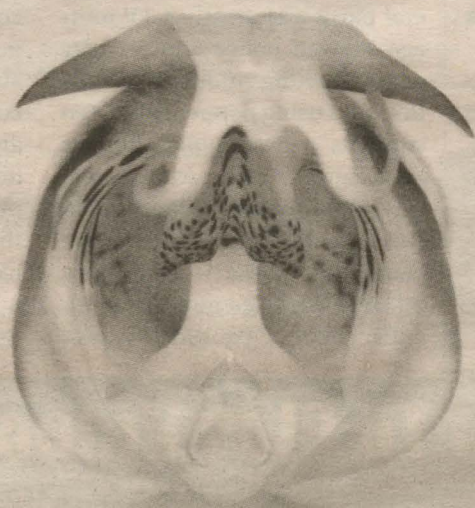
books to justify price increases. New editions cost an average of 45 per cent more than previous ones, and the republishing time is now only three years for the most commonly used books.

### Rae Review: Give \$1.3B to Universities

Former Ontario premier Bob Rae was appointed to lead a review of that province's post-secondary education system eight months ago and has now reached a conclusion: invest more money. Rae's report recommends that his province spend \$1.3 billion in new base funding for the

post-secondary system during 2007-08. Rae says the Ontario government has neglected universities to the point that per capita PSE funding is 18 per cent less than it was in 1987. Rae suggests a \$300 million overhaul of the province's student assistance program, including the creation of up-front grants. Another suggestion, which received mixed reactions from student associations, was that schools should be allowed to set their own individual tuition levels. Student groups welcome the student assistance package, but say overall the plan would do nothing to stop tuition and debt increases.

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# High-Profile Canadians Discuss Future of Universities

Kevin Wasko  
Staff Contributor

thing the Liberals did" during the 1990s was increase funding for research, even though they received little credit for doing so.

"It is all about developing minds, and research is a part of it," said Don Drummond, TD Bank Financial Group's senior vice-president and chief economist. International students are "the cheapest way to get highly skilled labour into Canada," Drummond said, calling for less strict employment rules for this group. "An international student can only work on campus. That's not very smart."

Drummond also compared

Universities in Atlantic Canada are looking for their moment in the spotlight—and they are highlighting their vital role in the economy to get there.

On Feb. 10, the Association of Atlantic Universities, in partnership with the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the TD Bank Financial Group, hosted a conference called The Changing Role of Universities in the Economy at the Casino Nova Scotia Hotel. The forum highlighted the changing role that universities

**"Post-secondary education has been a consistent loser in the battle for public funds in every corner of the country. The public must realize that post-secondary education is a ladder for social mobility and engine for economic growth."**

— Jeffrey Simpson, *Globe & Mail* columnist



Jeffrey Simpson brings his university knowledge to Halifax. Photo: Kevin Wasko

ernment funds for universities. "Post-secondary education has been a consistent loser in the battle for public funds in every corner of the country," Simpson said. "The public must realize that post-secondary education is a ladder for social mobility and engine for economic growth."

"We need a dialogue on post-secondary education the same way we currently have on health care," said Mike Savage, MP for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour and chair of the Federal Parliamentary Committee on Post-Secondary Education and Research.

Simpson agreed, stating that the public needs to understand that this focus on health care has trade-offs. "Too many Canadians live in a Romanow world where we can spend endless amounts on health care without increasing taxes," he said, noting that in 2003, six times more money was spent on health care than on post-secondary education.

A large chunk of the responsibility to inform the public of the dire funding situation lies with university presidents, Simpson said. "Unless community leaders and politicians place the issue to society, there will be no changes," he said. "We need a new discourse about social mobility and the economic spin-offs of post-secondary institutions."

are playing in economic development.

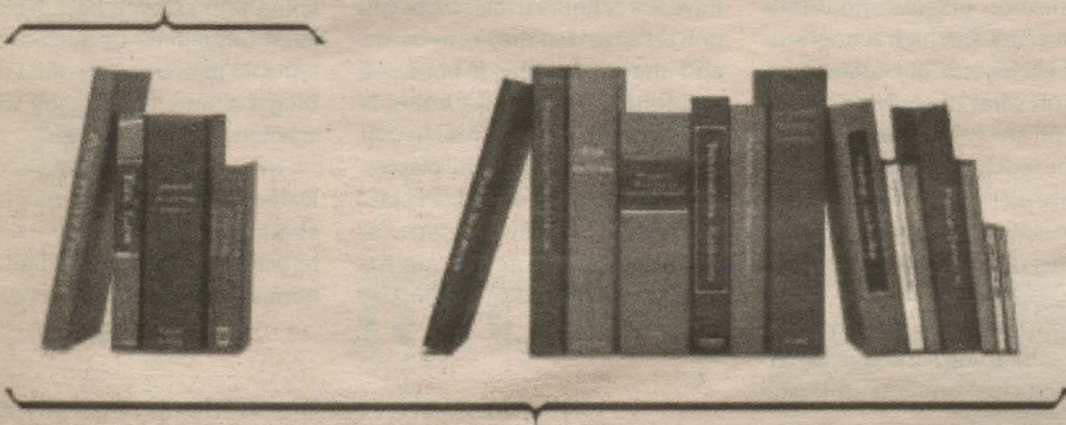
Jeffrey Simpson, national affairs columnist for the *Globe & Mail*, noted that "the single best

the Canadian and American post-secondary education systems. While the United States has increased public funding to universities by 30 per cent since

1980, Canada has decreased funding by 20 per cent, he said. "This is not a policy of which

governments should be proud." Other conference participants lamented this lack of gov-

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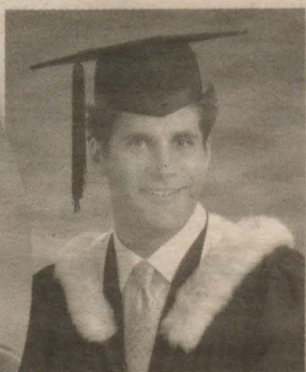
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# Dal Student Wins Sobeys Award for Business Excellence

Meaghan MacSween  
Staff Contributor

Dal student Julie Breau was recently awarded the Frank H. Sobeys Award for Excellence in Business Studies. Each year, only six candidates in the Atlantic provinces are chosen, and this year, Breau was the only winner from Dalhousie. The scholarship, worth \$8,000, is awarded to business students who illustrate academic excellence, entrepreneurial leadership and extracurricular interests.

Breau is a fourth-year commerce student, with a major in finance. This past year, she was chairperson for the 2004 Dalhousie Business Ethics Case Competition. The year before, she was part of the group who formed this competition, the first of its kind in Canada. As treasurer of Dal's chapter of the Golden Key International Honour Society, Breau also helped organize the Valentine's Day dating auction on Feb. 11 at the Grawood. The event was a huge success, raising \$1,200 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.



Julie Breau is rewarded for her excellence in business at Dal.  
Photo: Rafal Andronowski

What did Breau have to do to win the award? "I applied," she says. "They always say, you know, keep applying, and you'll get something eventually. That's what ended up happening." Like many students, Breau wondered if it was worthwhile to take the time to apply. "I contemplated not applying, because I didn't

know how successful I'd be... Finally, at the last minute, I decided to do it."

Cathy Hawker, Assistant Registrar of Awards, has experienced this kind of hesitation before. "It seems like a bit of trouble to put everything together, so many students don't take advantage of what's out there," she says. "It's not necessarily the students with the highest marks that win scholarships. Sometimes there are other factors—such as extracurricular activities—that are weighed into the decision." Hawker encourages all students to check out the recent listing of external scholarships on the Dalhousie website.

With her hard-earned scholarship, Julie Breau is off to law school this fall. After this experience, she knows that she'll keep applying for scholarships in the future.

The message is clear: when in doubt, take the time to apply. You might just be surprised.

For more information on external scholarships, check out the listings at [www.dal.ca/registrar/scholar/external.htm](http://www.dal.ca/registrar/scholar/external.htm).

# Arts vs. Sciences: Breaking Down the Stereotypes

Hazel Walling  
News Contributor

Arts or sciences? This simple question plagues thousands of university and high school students each year. But often decisions on what to study are based more on stereotypes than fact.

One such stereotype is that arts are generally "easier" than sciences. But Dr. Marian Binkley, Dalhousie's Dean of Arts, begs to differ. "It's very hard in arts to get an A+, because it's very hard to write something someone would say 'this is just brilliant' [to]," she says.

Dal biology student Christina MacDonald agrees. "Arts is actually much harder—writing essays, having to develop your own opinions. In science, at least at the undergrad level... the area, the scope that you're allowed to develop your own experiments, own opinions is very limited because you're still developing your knowledge base," she says.

Dr. Keith Taylor, Dean of Science at Dal, thinks there is a reason for the stereotype that science is more difficult. "In the Middle Ages, everybody studied everything... then as the physical sciences emerged as a true, separate discipline... they built up a large body of knowledge, so that you can't just be a casual scientist... Science has become inaccessible to non-scientists," he says.

Binkley offers an alternative

view of the origins of this stereotype—the amount of time that arts and science students spend in class. "Most arts students... have fewer hours in class, but you don't realize that they're at home, and they're reading a book... If you think of things like hours in classroom, it probably looks like we spend less hours in classes, but that doesn't mean we spend less hours in writing up notes for every class, or writing up our papers," she says. However, Binkley

life that person will have," says Dean Taylor.

Jessica McIntyre, a Halifax grade 12 student, admits she is going into science because she's been influenced by such stereotypes. "I'm better at it, and I think I'll get a better paying job with a science degree," she says.

Jessica Beckstead worked on Dalhousie's phone campaign last summer, calling students who had already accepted Dalhousie's admission offers and answering

**"I've looked at their schedules, and it looks like a kindergarten schedule compared to a... science course load because you've got labs and tutorials." — Christina MacDonald, Dal biology student, talking about her friends in arts**

says, this time difference is just the "nature of the beastie."

The Dean isn't the only one who has noticed this discrepancy in schedules. Of her arts friends, biology student MacDonald says, "I've looked at their schedules, and it looks like a kindergarten schedule compared to a... science course load because you've got labs and tutorials."

Whatever their ultimate cause, the arts vs. sciences stereotypes start early. "Grade 11 students, or younger... when they're choosing what they want to be, they do it almost completely on stereotypes of what kind of

their questions. One parent was worried because her daughter was "getting razed at school because she's going into arts." But her daughter was not alone—there is still a healthy population scrambling to enter Dalhousie's arts and humanities programs every year.

Beckstead hopes that students are starting to make their choices based more on their personal tastes and strengths instead of stereotypes, but she doesn't think they'll disappear completely: "It's still a part of the mindset in some cases," she says.



# Engineering Evolution

Neal Cody  
Staff Contributor

At a creation vs. evolution forum, you might expect to hear either a biologist or a priest, but Ragnar Oborn is neither—he's a forestry engineer.

Although Mr. Oborn may seem an unlikely lecturer on the topic, he has spent the last 10 years researching theories and reading books, all in an attempt to answer what he calls "a universal quest for what it means to be human." When he's not working for the Navigators of Canada, a national Christian organization, you can find Oborn in the auditoriums of the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University, where he lectures to graduate students on Designer/No Designer theory.

Last Wednesday's lecture in the MacMechan auditorium drew about 80 people from the campus and community, all interested in hearing a scientific critique of Darwin's theory. The Dalhousie chapter of the Navigators hosted the talk, in which Oborn described a few of his problems with evolution.

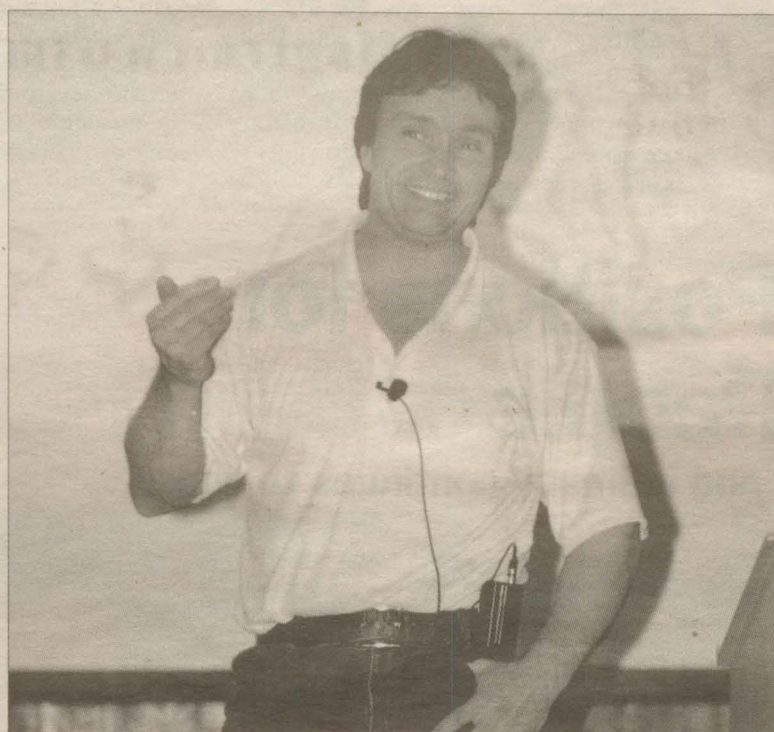
"I know some of you will find what I'm going to say very irritating," he warned early in the lecture, "but I hope we can keep things in good taste." The expres-

sive Oborn is passionate about his subject but stated that his approach would be empirical and rationalistic. Oborn urged his audience to keep an open mind, explaining that people often come to this issue with presuppositions and deep-rooted emotions.

He began by trying to define evolution, something he said is rather difficult. After consulting hundreds of textbooks and journals with varying answers, he finally settled on "an increase in complexity." But, he asked, is natural selection really an increase in complexity? If a predator eliminates all the weakest of a species, he wondered, is it increasing the genetic complexity of that species or simply decreasing the population?

Oborn provided an example to illustrate his point: a number of animal species have a similar arm structure—one upper arm bone, two forearm bones and five fingers. Does this mean they descended from a common ancestor, he asked, or does it mean that an intelligent designer stuck with a design that worked?

Most questions after the lecture were from people who disagreed with Oborn's methods or logic. One man thought Oborn had been too selective in his definition of evolution, making it absurdly narrow. Oborn



Ragnar Oborn tackles creation vs. evolution. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

responded, saying that the real problem is that evolution has become a non-falsifiable theory. He said most scientists are so certain evolution is a fact that their belief is often embedded in their premise when trying to prove it.

One woman objected to Oborn's suggestion that species were created by an intelligent designer, asking in reference to the arm bone example why a designer wouldn't have come up with a better design rather than re-use it

over and over. She also wondered why such a being couldn't have created a better world where acts such as the killing of animals wouldn't happen. "Why can't we all be good-hearted vegans?" she asked.

As the crowd dispersed, small groups formed to discuss what they had heard.

"It basically re-affirmed what I thought beforehand," said T.J. Burke, a second-year science student who believes in creation-

ism. "He seemed very informed and brought up a lot of things people don't normally think of."

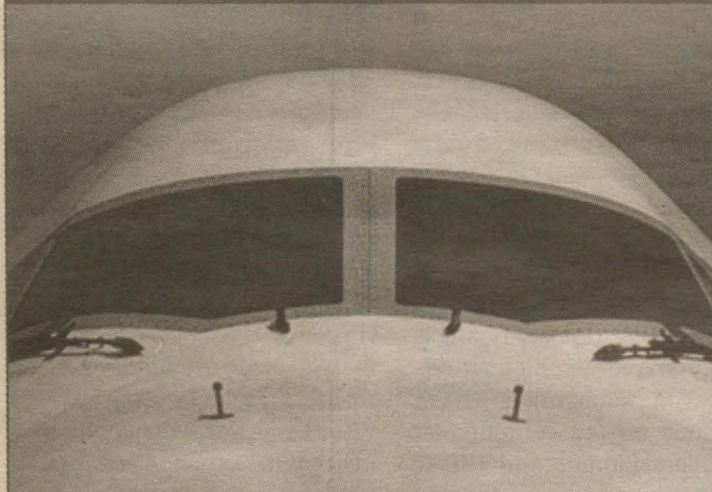
Oborn said he prefers to speak to high school science classes or give public lectures at a university. "I want a place where people will engage the issue from a scientific perspective," he explained. "I don't like speaking at churches—you're preaching to the converted."

"I grew up in a Christian home," he continued, "but in about high school I said [about my faith], 'this costs too much if it's not true. If it isn't, I should be out partying and drinking,' so I made a very serious effort to research the creation vs. evolution debate. And what ended up happening, surprisingly, was that it actually confirmed my faith."

The forestry engineer asks his audience to fill out a short survey question after each of his talks. "Half usually say it was all BS, a quarter say I had a point and another quarter say they already believed," he reported.

Kevin Jolly, the organizer of the lecture, said he was very pleased with the turnout. "It's good to have various perspectives, not just people who will say 'yeah, yeah, we agree,' said Jolly. "This impacts our world view; it's something everyone wrestles with."

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## THE CHANGING OF "WOMEN'S STUDIES" TO "GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES"

Guys, has this ever happened to you: a girl whom you may have inadvertently wronged in the past (how were you supposed to know they were sisters?) is walking towards you, and instead of acknowledging your presence, she puffs up her chest and chin, tosses her hair so violently you can smell the Herbal

Essences, and briskly marches right past you while sort of "accidentally" hitting you with her purse? She's ignoring you—yes—but it's more than that... she wants you to *know* she's ignoring you. It is an active ignorance. This is the feeling I got when I heard they were throwing the word "gender" into the "women's

studies" department. Women are now actively ignoring the male species. It is the metaphorical purse bump that says, "I know you're there, but I'm making every effort to show that you don't exist in my mental realm." It's just another extension of women's cosmic grudge extending back to when Eve saw Adam

greedily munching and she was all like, "you're blaming this shit on me? You must be f\*\*\*in' joking!" Hell, they should just change the name to "Everything but men's studies" and get it over with already.

Vent (Li Dong)

## Different Positions for Different People

The gap between sex and intimacy continues to widen

Lauren Davie  
Staff Contributor

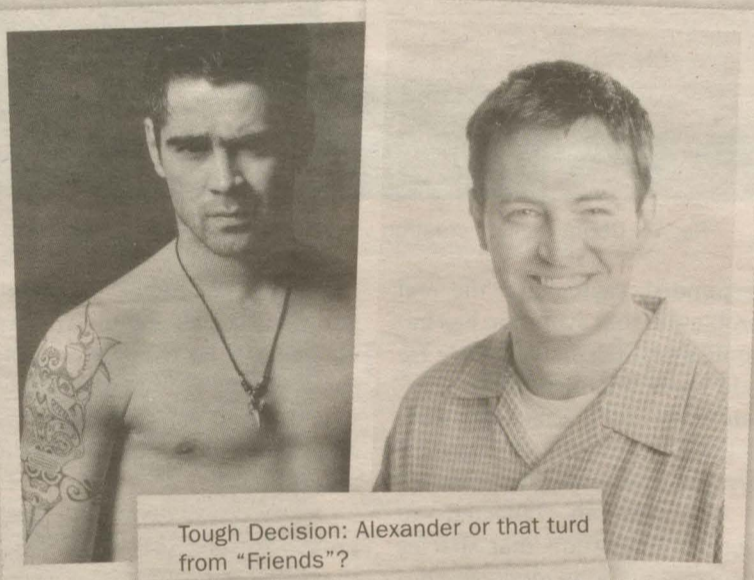
We live in such a mixed up society in many respects, especially when it comes to sex and dating. The two do not necessarily go together, which I personally find unfortunate. The whole sex part seems much more casual than the actual dating part, or the "getting to know you" part. Is it perhaps the case that when you are "dating" someone, more emotions become involved and you are therefore at greater risk of getting hurt?

There isn't anything necessarily wrong with being casual when dating someone or sleeping with someone, but why are the two not always linked, especially at university. Furthermore, we all know it is possible, or even likely in many situations, to have great sex with someone you really don't connect with outside of the bedroom (or kitchen, or shower or stairwell) and have not-so-great sex with someone you really connect with.

But could it be possible to satisfy both one's emotional needs and physical needs with two different people?

What if everyone had a sexual partner and a dating partner? It would be considered "normal" to have someone you were sleeping with or fooling around with and then another person you were actually dating, i.e., going to the movies or out for dinner with but was not sleeping with.

What if having two people know you in entirely separate ways was what everyone did?



Both partners would know you in completely different ways—physically and emotionally—and this would satisfy a variety of "needs." This would also not be considered "cheating" in the broader sense of the term, due to the fact that both partners would be aware that there was another person in the picture for another reason.

The tricky part would be deciding who gets what time and when, and what happens if you develop serious feelings for the person you're dating? What would happen to the person you were sleeping with? I'm not sure which of the two people I would rather be or if I would even be OK with the fact that the guy I was "seeing" was openly having sex with another girl, but at least I would be aware and I would be entitled to the same situation.

This would probably never really happen, but it is interesting to explore the concept. There is

something extremely comforting and gratifying in finding emotional and physical satisfaction with one and only one person, but in actual fact this can be quite rare, especially in university.

Do sex and dating go hand in hand? Or are they completely different and separate things? Having sex with someone that you have been dating for a while for the first time usually makes things more serious and commitment-oriented.

Having sex with someone you have not been dating does not necessarily make things more serious or commitment-oriented. It's an odd double standard. But perhaps having two people instead of one would make things less complicated rather than more so... except which one would you want to bring with you on vacation? OK, so maybe things will just be complicated and layered no matter how you separate things.

## A Different Perspective on First Year

Carrie Gilbert  
Opinions Contributor

The first year at university is always a big adjustment. You move away from home, leaving behind family and friends and familiar routines. After the initial week of meeting and greeting and getting yourself settled in, classes suddenly begin. The reading, the essays, the quizzes and mid-terms seem overwhelming in itself. Add the factor of being a student with a disability, and you certainly have quite the challenge to face.

I am 19 years old and in the Foundation Year Programme and Foundations of Journalism at the University of King's College. I grew up in the small town of Springhill, Nova Scotia, and I have cerebral palsy. This is a physical disability that affects things such as speech, coordination and balance. I am fortunate enough not to have to use a wheelchair, but when it comes to walking long distances or climbing the stairs, I encounter problems.

I live in Alexandra Hall, and on a daily basis I have to ask the nearest person to assist me in both leaving and entering the building. King's campus is relatively small, so once I'm outside of residence I can go from class to class without many problems, as there are elevators in the buildings. I have a scribe for all of my classes, because my typing is slower than most, and I have difficulty with handwriting. I write my exams on the computer at the Killiam Library, and I have a laptop on which to work on all of my assignments. I receive both a Student Loan and a Can-

ada Study Grant. You're probably thinking that most of these things are privileges, and they are. However, the extra preparation and setbacks can bring about a mild frustration.

Imagine not being able to get into residence when it's freezing outside because no one is walking by at that particular time, and you end up standing out there for five to ten minutes feeling like an idiot. Or not being able to get to meal hall, because there's been a snow storm, and you can't walk through that stuff by yourself. Oh, and last but not least, being confined to your campus unless

**So the next time you encounter a student with a disability, take the chance and don't look away.**

someone is willing to accompany you on a walk through the city. Before I came here, there were things I never anticipated that perhaps I should have. This is why I suggest that you make sure you know all of your options if you or anyone you know will be entering their first year of university in the fall and has a disability. I know from my own experience that it can be hard to speak up, but in a case such as this, it truly is your best bet.

University students may not realize how lucky they are, but what I want to articulate here is not that my situation is drastically different. Some people don't

Continued on Next Page...

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# Notes on the Election

## Iraq's problem is the occupation, not the insurgency

John Diamond-Gibson  
Staff Contributor

The Canadian media coverage of the Iraqi elections was a regrettable misrepresentation of the situation on the ground in that benighted country.

"Iraqis defy Insurgents" screamed a headline in the Jan. 31 *Globe and Mail*. The underlining narrative is that the US military is intent on bringing democracy to the countries it conquers, and those who fight back do so not because they are opposed to foreign military occupation but because they hate democracy.

This is particularly the case, we are told, within the much-maligned Sunni community, widely presented by our media to be boycotting the elections and fighting the Americans because they are resentful of losing their privileged place in a democratic Iraq. The truth, of course, is much more complicated.

We have to remember that these elections were not an American initiative. America's lead man in Iraq, Paul Bremer, had originally planned to have hand-picked "caucuses" select the government. This plan was derailed last January when Iraq's most influential Shiite leader Grand Ayatollah Ali Al-Sistani called a huge demonstration that marched through the streets of Baghdad to chants of "Yes, yes to election; No, no to selection."

The reasons for the Sunni

boycott also deserve attention. The Muslim Association of Scholars (MAS)—possibly the most influential Sunni group—originally threatened a boycott of the election if Fallujah was attacked. Immediately after the Bush election in November, the Americans bombed and invaded the city, turning its Halifax-sized population into refugees, and declared the city a "free-fire zone."

The MAS followed through on its promise and began a campaign to boycott the election. When the possibility that the election and the boycott could split the country along ethnic lines became clear, the MAS said that they would support the elections if there was a firm timetable for the withdrawal of occupation forces.

It was only the followers of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi who said they were going to attack people for voting. While the Western media gives a lot of play to Zarqawi because he fits their idea of what a bad guy should look like, his organization accounts for less than 1 per cent of attacks against occupying forces and is extremely marginal politically.

In their desire for the removal of foreign troops, the MAS are joined by most of the political parties that ran in the election, almost all of whom—with the exception of the Kurdish parties and America's hand-picked candidate, Iyad Allawi—said they would ask the "Coalition

Forces" to set up a timetable for withdrawal. This is simply good politics, since a recent poll found that majorities of both Sunni Arabs (82 per cent) and Shiites (69 per cent) favour US-forces withdrawing either immediately or after an elected government is in place.

In contrast to the wishes of the people who voted on Jan 30, the Pentagon is building and maintaining as many as 14 "enduring" bases, indicating a desire to maintain a military presence in the country for far longer than they are willing to admit to publicly.

Meanwhile American convoys continue to rattle down the highways of Iraq with signs reading "Keep 50m or deadly force will be applied," while followers of Muqtada al-Sadr staged a three-day sit-in at the Oil Ministry demanding to know why American tanks have all the gas they need while Iraqis wait in line-ups for hours, even days, to get fuel for their cars.

The American Government will leave Iraq only when forced to do so by the Iraqi people and the power of the global anti-war movement. We can do our part by participating in the next global day of action on March 19, the second anniversary of the occupation of Iraq.

For more details visit [www.halifaxpeacecoalition.ca](http://www.halifaxpeacecoalition.ca).

## First Year Perspectives

Continued from Previous Page...

realize that just because someone is physically different from them doesn't mean that they don't share the same mental capacity or deal with similar problems or emotions. I only want to

make you more aware of what you may or may not understand, because, as they say, you cannot acknowledge what you do not understand. So the next time you encounter a student with a disability, take the chance, think of this article, and don't look away.



DSU President Curtis McGrath gets ready to initiate the new student union.

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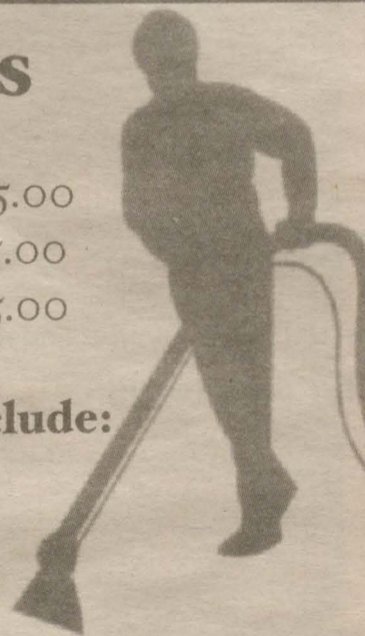
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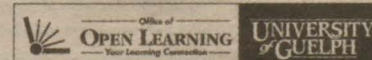
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The *Gazette* will be holding its annual staff elections for the 2005/06 academic year. The elections will take place on Friday, March 18th at 4:00 p.m. To run for one of the positions (Editor-in-Chief, Sports editor, News editor, Arts editor, Opinions editor, Photo editor) you must have contributed to three issues in the past academic year. If interested, drop off a cover letter, resume and three clippings to: room 312, Dalhousie SUB by March 17th.

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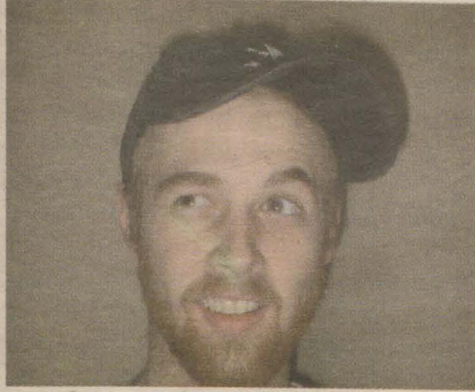
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# Streeter

If you were the president of Dalhousie, what's the first thing you would change?



Abolish all exams. You're never tested like that in the real world.  
- Graham Reed, third-year arts



I'd make a Dal poker team and make it so that a part of everyone's tuition would go to bankrolling me.  
- Simon Walker, third-year history



I would like to see baseball go varsity.  
- Ryan Jacks, second-year computer science



I would find a way to fire the DSU president... he's useless.  
- Curtis McGrath, DSU President



Get Signal Hill to play at the Greenwood every night!  
- Marley Bassett, third-year statistics



I would scratch the international differential fee.  
- Chukwudi Chinye, second-year economics



Install a girl's washroom on the physics floor of the Dunn! There are girls in physics. And maybe there'd be more if they could actually go to the bathroom!  
- Rosalie Hanlon, second-year engineering



How many times do I have to remind you ignorant ignoramus?! Change the Grawood to the Palace... cause of the sluts!  
- Chris LaRoche, fifth-year Pilates choreographer

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Eric Bednarski's film, *Postcard from Auschwitz*, was recently featured at the Worldwide Short Film Festival in Toronto and the Detroit Docs Festival in Michigan.

Fashion industry entrepreneur Tanya Shaw Weeks will soon open a New York showroom of her Dartmouth company, *Unique Solutions Design Ltd.*

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# Grave Decisions

## How does it feel to be governed from the grave?

Liam O'Brien  
Opinions Contributor

Thanks to decisions made more than a decade ago, the Dalhousie Student Union takes tens of thousands of dollars from students in the form of levies for C-level societies. These societies include CKDU, *Gazette*, *Sextant*, and NSPIRG. Some of us support some of these societies. Some might support all of them—that's great. (The irony of writing a letter to the *Gazette* on this subject is not lost on me). Unlike the other fees that we pay (which are reviewed and amendable year-to-year), these levies are locked-in. It's out of your pocket and into their bank accounts.

Students can opt-out, but few know about this. Advertising of these opt-out periods is largely left up to the societies who receive your cash. In order to opt-out, you have to approach the society itself to get your refund. The opt-out period is limited to a short time at the beginning of each term. Why is the onus on us to say "no" to another hand in our pocket?

This is a bit like having the

Salvation Army Store clerk break into your room, steal your clothes and then give you a week to reclaim what you need. As much as we might appreciate C-level societies, why give them locked-in eternal funding? Why can't they apply annually to the elected Student Union? If they were supported by the students, they would still receive enough funding.

It's insane. For students, every dollar counts. The DSU still sees fit to continue with a system that entrenches decisions for funding specific societies—decisions made by students who were here when Brian Mulroney was Prime Minister and the word "email" was a typo.

Lets put the onus back on every society to apply for funding. They should not be automatically entitled to extra levies. Even if such levies are to exist, the onus should be on the societies to renew them by referenda annually. Of course, the DSU probably won't change its ways. For a university with a scent-free policy, there sure is a lot of BS piling up on campus.

# Freedom of the Press

## Canada should deal with its own threat to democracy

Jess McDiarmid  
Staff Contributor

Independence of the press has been a cornerstone of democracy for centuries. One hundred and seventy years ago, in a courtroom in downtown Halifax, a publisher in the name of Joseph Howe delivered a six-hour-long speech defending himself against charges of libel that were laid due to his exposing corruption within the government. He defended the freedom of the press from governmental shackles, and he won his battle, for that day.

We are now facing another battle for the freedom of the press. But today, it is not government that is strangling the freedom of the press. It is the corporations that own the means of realizing that freedom.

This is not a new problem. However, it has reached new proportions in Canada in the past half-decade, as the reins of media have been transferred into fewer and fewer hands.

In 2000, Winnipeg-based CanWest Global, already the second largest broadcaster in Canada, bought the majority of the country's newspapers from Conrad Black's Hollinger Corp. Can West now controls Global Television, the *National Post*, 14 major dailies across the country, 22 smaller papers and Canada.com, a news website.

Following Can West's deal with Black and Hollinger Corp., Bell Globemedia, a division of the phone company, purchased the largest TV network in Canada—CTV. They also picked up the *Globe and Mail* and *Sympatico*. Most news media in Canada is now in the hands of CanWest or Bell Globemedia.

In 1949, Canada boasted 138 publishers. Now we have a whop-

ping total of five major news providers: CanWest Global, Bell Globemedia, Quebecor, Shaw and Rogers. There are 102 daily newspapers across Canada, 69.6 per cent of which are owned by only six companies.

Halifax is unique. The city still has two competing dailies with different owners. In Vancouver, all three dailies are owned by CanWest. In New Brunswick, all the English language papers are owned by Irving, save for one weekly. This is not the constitution of a media that is going to provide diversity of opinion or cover events and issues without bias. This is a media industry

**There are 102 daily newspapers across Canada, 69.6 per cent of which are owned by only 6 companies.**

that exists to serve a corporate agenda, not democracy.

Corporations can control content, and they do. In December of 2001, CanWest issued a directive to editors that three editorials per week were to be run reflecting the position of the owners. The *Montreal Gazette* responded with a by-line strike, and newspaper guild investigations found that work by columnists and cartoonists had been spiked for conflicting with opinion in the central Winnipeg office.

Russell Mills, the publisher of the CanWest-owned *Ottawa Citizen*, was fired for writing an edi-

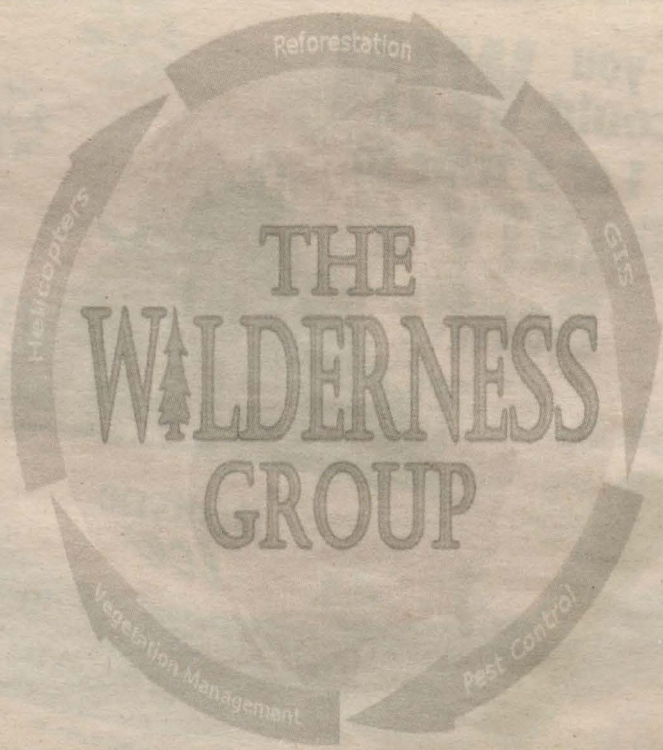
torial criticizing Jean Chretien, a close friend of Israel Asper, the chairman of CanWest. Closer to home, columnist Stephen Kimber resigned from the *Daily News*, then owned by CanWest, after a column he wrote was cut for criticizing the Liberal government.

In New Brunswick, a proposed 30 per cent wage cut at an Irving-owned sawmill led to a strike in October 2003. Two of Irving's dailies didn't cover the strike at all. The Fredericton paper that did cover the strike did so under the headline of "Mill Workers Walk Out," and didn't mention the cause of the strike: a 30 per cent cut in wages.

If you can't write in a newspaper column that the Prime Minister is a liar without losing your job, are you enjoying freedom of speech? If editors cannot decide what content they will put in their papers but rather have it dictated from the office of a corporation, is that an independent and unshackled press? If news stories neglect to cover the basics because the information reflects badly on the corporate owners, is that a press that is going to hold the powerful accountable? I think not. And if not, is that a free press that serves to maintain democracy?

Canada is supposed to be a democracy. Our conviction that democracy is worthwhile and right is strong enough that we are now actively encouraging democratic traditions abroad in faraway places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Perhaps we should look inward more often, and with the courage of our convictions question just how well we're doing at home. In the days of Joseph Howe, the press did that.

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## FRIDAY I

Toronto group The Quatertones are bringing their funk-jazz-hip-hop fusion sound to the stage at Reflections Cabaret this Friday, February 25. Local talent DJ Serious is also on the bill. Tickets are \$12, and the show starts at 10 p.m.

## Hot Spots

## FRIDAY II

Who wants to see the Porcelain Gods perform live on CBC's publicized ECMA show when you can see them in the flesh at Club 5171 (formerly known at Merrill's) at 5171 George Street. The band is playing this Friday, Feb. 25 at 10:30p.m. Cover is \$5.

## WEDNESDAY

He was once a Grammy nominee. He is now a guitarist/singer/songwriter who is on his way to The North Street Church (5657 North Street) Wednesday, March 2. Alvin Youngblood Hart is the rock, blues and soul love child of Howlin' Wolf and Link Wray. Show starts at 8p.m. and tickets are \$10 for students.

## SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

NSCAD University is hosting a barrage of artists' displays, exhibitions, and creations. Gallery 2 is featuring MaxKenzie Frere's "Immaterial Beauty" for his MFA Thesis Exhibition. Frere describes his art as "the embodiment of mindful gesture and explorations of the liminal spaces of perception and the material presence of cloth." The exhibit goes from Feb. 21 through to March 12

# Les Ballets Jazz: "The Stolen Show"

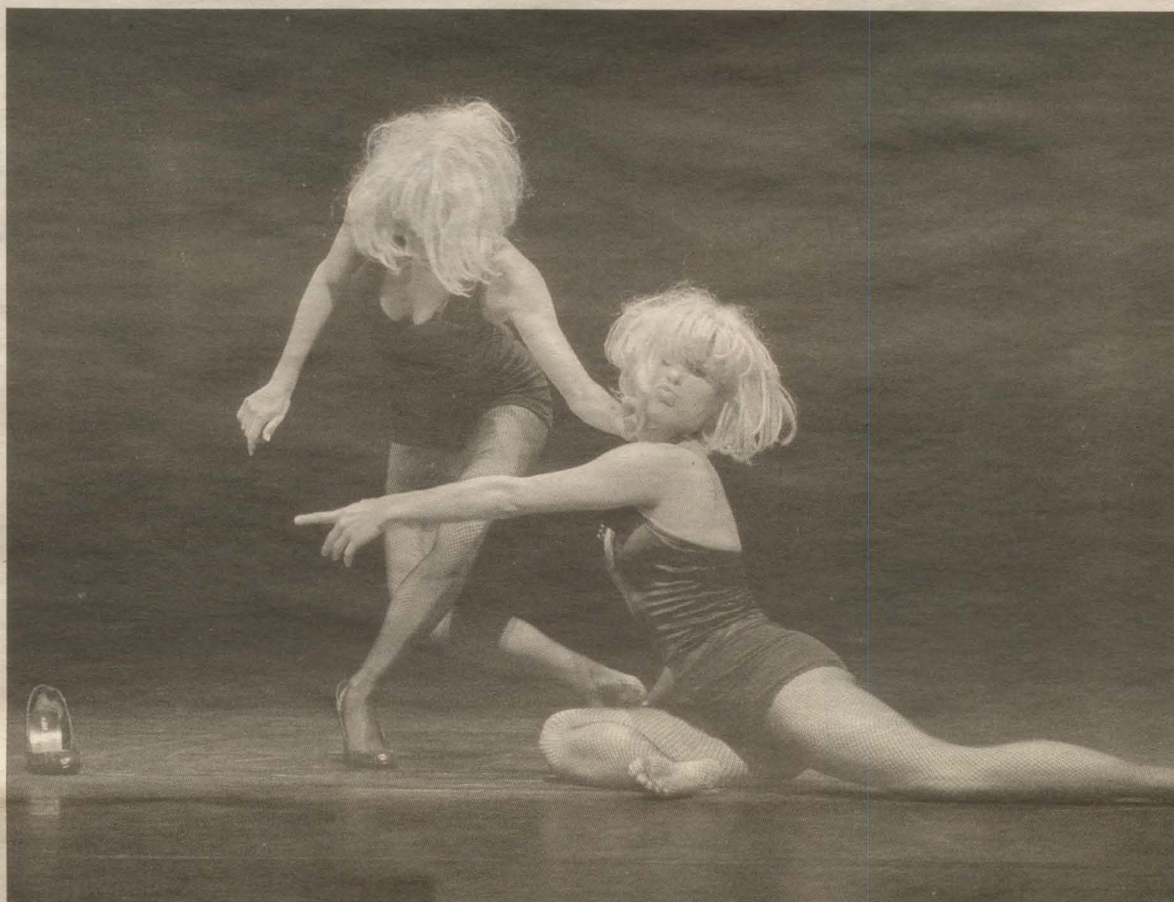
Anneke Foster  
 Arts contributor

Upon entering the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on February 15 to see Les Ballets Jazz perform "The Stolen Show," the audience was greeted with a strange sense of intrusion. Dancers in leg warmers and sweatshirts—some even clad with Ipods, stretched, chatted and improvised across the stage. It felt as if we had accidentally entered a warm-up session prior to what we could only imagine would be a rigorous rehearsal. I reveled in this pleasure, wondering if those around me felt like secret observers as well.

The entire "Stolen Show" was indeed an experience fluctuating between participant and observer, reality and the alluring surreal, rehearsal and performance. The show, choreographed by Crystal Pite, consists of three sections: "Short Works: 24," "Xpectalce" and "The Stolen Show." The show was completed during Pite's three-year term as residence choreographer for Les Ballet Jazz Montreal. One piece was created per year, and they have been touring the show as a trilogy throughout Canada and are scheduled to tour worldwide.

The show is built entirely on comprehension. It thrives on creativity, self-expression and risk, but it is firmly rooted in Pite's masterful skill and exceptional knowledge of movement. Modern art has often been criticized for its lack of difficulty or skill. However, Crystal Pite proves that modern art can be expressive, instructional and beautiful if it is first derived from the basics of dance.

Each dancer moves with extreme control and composure. Even in the most demanding sequences, their stability and execution is remarkable. Instead of attempting an entirely new



Les Ballets Jazz prove that modern art can be expressive, instructional and beautiful. Photo: Chris Randle

genre of dance (though there are elements of this) Pite seeks to stylistically incorporate various meters by which we, as the audience, can detect different art forms: the pointed toe, the rhythmic stomping, the expressive acrobatics. This is especially powerful because it provides stunning contrasts. In one moment, the pointed toe and the poised spin are beautiful, and in the next, the arched foot and the talking on-stage are breathtaking and equally as notable.

Pite describes "Short Works: 24" as "a study of movement." There is no better explanation. "Short Works: 24" demonstrates the beauty of motion and the dramatic differences therein. The most impressive aspect was the interwoven thread of reliance. Though the works were simple

segments (one minute in duration), they wove together—especially when there were duets in which each movement led into the next in a series of give and take exchanges.

Owen Belton, creator of the

were jovial and quick, while others concentrated completely on balance and strength. Although each was immensely different from the last, each demonstrated an aspect of expression and simplistic power of motion.

**"I draw inspiration from the Broadway musical, the Hollywood movie, the circus, I have a very nostalgic feeling towards them."**  
 —Crystal Pite, Dance choreographer.

original score, helped this flow by putting each piece to music using simple sounds to define the particular feeling of the dance. The various degrees of emotion and expression were complimented wonderfully by Belton's compositions. Some of the works

Pite says that she wanted the audience to view the dancers as she did and she wanted "Xpectacle" to appear "natural-looking and unrehearsed." She achieves this, but not in a careless way. Some sections are intentionally left open for improvisation to

promote individualism and newness. "There is risk involved, but it's exciting. Sometimes it does fail, but that's the beauty of it."

Pite created the last piece and the ballet's namesake, "The Stolen Show," with reminiscence and personal memories of her past. "I draw inspiration from the Broadway musical, the Hollywood movie, the circus—I have a very nostalgic feeling towards them," she says.

This leads her to explain her fascination with the question of art vs. entertainment—a question that she explores throughout the entirety of the third "act." The lighting continuously shifts between house lights on and dimmed, and the thrilling dimensions of a mock-circus. She executes this seemingly impossible task with ease and humour.


This comic-relief portion forces the audience to question whether entertainment can be art. Pite defines this through a series of "acts" using such unconventional means as a bear, a rubber-chicken kick line, an overzealous fan and a one-shoed back-up singer. Pite's uncommon elements revive our memories of childhood glamour and poke fun at our misinterpretations of entertainment, all the while thrilling us with the beauty and majesty of movement.

Crystal Pite's "The Stolen Show" is a remarkable gem of spirit and originality evoked by the mind of a learned master committed to eliminating the rivalry between conventional and contemporary and embracing the pure pleasure of dance.

Live Art is presenting their final show of the season, "Reel Dance on the Road" March 7 and 8, 2005 at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia, Windsor Foundation Lecture Theatre. For tickets and reservations, log on to <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Culture/Liveart>

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Universal Soul: A once regular act at the now closed Marquee.

## Hip Hop Artists Feel the Burn

### The Marquee's closing affects local performers

Christina Stefanski  
Staff Contributor

On February 10, Sofa King Raw presented "Buying Out the Bar," also known as "The Last Hip Hop Show at the Marquee Club." This show included a huge variety of rappers—Eternia, Universal Soul, Taichichi, J Bru, Alpha Flight, Parker Lewis, Jessie Dangerously, Phakt, Mic Jones, Cess, Jo Fo, Second Front, Jay Bizzy and Apt—and DJ's Kuttin' Kracker, Cosmo, Jo Run, Gordski, IV, Plaebai, Androc and Y-Rush.

The Marquee Club has been in business since 1998, and it is known as one of the best live music venues in Atlantic Canada. The space has a 650-person capacity. Hell's Kitchen is a small, intimate room in the basement of The Marquee Club that holds 200 people and is ideal for aspiring local artists. On Saturday, February 12, 2005, the Marquee Club changed its status from "live music venue" to "special events venue hall."

Eclectic Halifax rap group Universal Soul has gained much of its fan base from live shows. Emcee Dave Adekayode, also known as "VooDoo," believes that the closing of the Marquee Club "is a tragedy, [as it] was one of the few venues that would allow hip hop acts in it."

Local rapper Apt thinks of the Marquee as "a culturally rich crowd that provided immediate contacts with other hip-hop artists."

Ghettosocks, who is part of Halifax's hip-hop group Alpha Flight, says that the Marquee

gave hip-hop artists a "networking ground" between one another and musicians in other genres of music.

What will happen to the Halifax hip-hop scene once the Marquee Club becomes a special events venue hall?

Local hip-hop artists gained some live experience in the Marquee's basement, Hell's Kitchen. In Apt's opinion it will be difficult to reproduce the set-up that the Marquee has in other places because it provides a split-level space where there can be two dif-

ferent

ferent genres of music going on at once on two separate floors. In VooDoo's opinion, the change of status of the Marquee is a positive thing for developing local artists because it will teach them "how to perform in [smaller venues among] diverse groups of people." VooDoo is optimistic about the progress of local hip-hop in the city: "Halifax is the type of city and culture where people will come and support local artists and raise them right up."

Ghettosocks says that what made the Marquee a popular concert venue was cabaret licensing, which permitted the club to be open until 3:30 a.m. from Tuesdays to Saturdays. He adds: "I don't think there is a [hip-hop] community associated with the Marquee. I think there are definitely circles of people that frequent it, and they are just going to have to go wherever they find their hip-hop fix."

Some may wonder which venue will attract former Marquee-goers. "The Attic is probably going to get the torch after The Marquee closes," says VooDoo. "It's the only one that is getting a diverse amount of bands." One might argue that there are some "stigmas" attached to particular bars and clubs in Halifax, in terms of not being favourable live venues for hip hop artists. "Artists need to realize that no matter who comes to their shows, they need an audience," says Apt. "Regardless of any type of view that already exists towards a location, [expansion into other venues] will definitely happen."

Ghettosocks believes that "it's not the venue that makes the place, it's the people that go to the venue that make the place."

Can these sorts of ideas alter feelings towards certain live music venues in Halifax?

For Apt, "The closing of the Marquee makes it something greater to strive for. It raises the Marquee's status even higher... networking [with other hip-hop artists] is even more important." Apt thinks that "it's time to check out other venues, like the Attic or Tribeca, and re-establish connections."

Hip-hop artists and audiences will definitely be affected by the fact that the The Marquee Club is now a special events hall and no longer a live music venue.

Hopefully there will be a new openness to experimentation among different venues within the Halifax hip-hop community now that the Marquee Club is less accessible.

**"I don't think there is a [hip-hop] community associated with the Marquee. I think there are definitely circles of people that frequent it, and they are just going to have to go wherever they find their hip-hop fix."**

—Ghettosocks, Halifax hip-hop artist

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Lucky is fortunate to have made it in this harsh world. / Illustration: Eggnog

## Grassroots Zine *Lucky* Spreading Like Wildfire

Laura Trethewey  
Arts Contributor

A Jesse Jacobs' drawing of a flying head is pasted on the glass doors of the Khyber entrance. It hits me just as I reach for the door handle—a small sign that I'm in the right place. The creators of *Lucky*, a new zine on the Halifax scene, are celebrating the release of a third issue. *Lucky* collaborators Peter Diamond, Rob Jabbaz, Jesse Jacobs and Chris Lockerbie are all are NASCAD graduates who have come together to produce the glossy-covered, eye-catching zine.

An established zine scene is hard to come by in any city, but in Halifax it is almost impossible. The potential zine consumer/creator is typically found in the transient population: the students. So like most things in Halifax, the zine scene is seasonal.

The creators of *Lucky* tell me that there simply is no reason behind the name. Jacobs offers a hopeful, "it brings good luck if you buy it."

Whatever the reasons behind *Lucky*, the team behind it know they're fortunate to have come this far. Jacobs and Jabbaz agree that in Halifax, the second edition of any zine is usually the last. Problems with distribution, lack of payback, or just the amount of energy that it takes to produce a zine are the common factors behind a zine's demise.

Dave Howlett, an employee at Strange Adventures on Sackville St., has even created his own zine, *Scenester*, to document the effort and frustration behind producing a zine.

But despite these obstacles and difficulties, *Lucky* is bursting with potential, and their eagerness for a fourth issue is apparent. Jacobs says that the forthcoming issue will be their best yet.

Everyone who contributes to

*Lucky* has a distinct look, feel and flow, which offers a tiny glimpse into each artist's headspace. *Lucky* is filled with personality and autobiographical elements, classifying it as a zine rather than a comic book. There is compelling mix of opinions, fears, wishes, dreams, ideas and experiences held in the stories.

Each contributor produces a comic in a slightly different vein. Diamond and Lockerbie alternate between biographical and zany strips. Jacobs' comics are gritty and satirical, addressing issues like poverty and paranoia. For example, Jacobs' "Homecoming Blues" in the second issue introduces a bugged-eyed and placid character who shows the reader his beloved house only to find that a million other people call the same house home. By the end of the story, the character weeps as he lights the house

on fire and the rest of the dwellers brawl amongst themselves in the house. It is a zine that has no fear of slapping a reader with a surprising ending or gruesome imagery, but don't let that scare you.

The creators of the zine are also not afraid to explode with spontaneous images like the centerfold of the second issue, drawn by a contributor called Eggnog. This picture has little relation to the rest of the zine, but the pure intensity of action and excitement in this black and white frame invites the eye to trace the pictures as they jump from lurid to cute to bizarre, all co-existing peacefully on one page. This is a central idea behind *Lucky*. It is a collaborative work, but it still manages to streamline itself into an enjoyable and socially relevant piece of art.

For more information on *Lucky*, please contact the editors at [luckycomics@hotmail.com](mailto:luckycomics@hotmail.com). Both *Lucky* and *Scenester*, among other zines, can be found at *Strange Adventures*, 5262 Sackville Street.

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# SuperSex in the SuperCity

## Solo Flyers

Dave Moriné-Wentworth  
Sexpert

**Q.** Can a girl wear out a sex toy? I bought a dildo and it used to get me really hot, and now it doesn't. I don't feel anything; it is without sensation of any kind. Do I need a new toy or have I worn out the nerves down there?

**A.** Sex toys are a lot of fun for couples and singles, and can definitely add a new element to masturbatory amusement. There are a number of toys out there, from vibrators to dildos, along with other gadgets like shower toys that can help take self-pleasure to the next level.

However, I first want to tackle your issue with lack of sensitivity to sex toys. One common piece of misinformation out there is that you can wear out certain areas by using them too much. This is not true; what does happen is that we outgrow or become bored with routine touching and stimulation. We know what that touch, or that dildo feels like. There is a way to fix this—after all, there is a saying about the longer one lives, the more one realizes that nothing is a dish for every day. I suggest spicing up your play with a new dildo, and sampling a wide range of sex toys so you know exactly what you like. It is also important to experience the difference between motionless dildos and buzzing vibrators.

If sex toys become boring altogether, I would suggest trying something altogether different and exploring genital contact with different textures. Perhaps you can use a soft pillow for stimulation. Many women report that

letting warm water run over their genitals in the bathtub is highly erotic and satisfying.

**Q.** What is edging? How many guys do it?

**A.** Edging is a masturbation technique for guys, and it does a number of things for a guy's sex life. It delays ejaculation, allowing for longer continuous play. The process of delaying orgasm also allows for a deeper, more satisfying feeling during climax. For many, it makes the process of masturbation or sex more enjoyable.

To put edging into terms that everybody can understand, it is the progression to climax by getting close to orgasm, letting off, building back up again, letting off again, and repeating the cycle as long as can be sustained.

Some guys experience very little pleasure from edging, whereas others highly enjoy it and find it useful for putting them in sync with their partners' sexual urges. As well, some guys find they can "edge" a short period of time and others can take breaks and go days between ejaculations. This comes down to a preference that varies for each individual.

In an online poll of 5,235 men, 59 per cent indicated that their longest solo-continuous masturbating session was less than one hour from start to finish ([www.misterpoll.com](http://www.misterpoll.com)).

If you are interested in further exploring edging, you may also find it useful to focus on all erogenous zones of the body and not just the genitals. Don't forget, part of enjoying your body is exploring it.



The City Market, Saint John: Paintings are sold here, but they are only watercolours of sail boats and historic buildings mirroring the tourism industry's image of Saint John, not what it really is.

## Wanderlust Roots and Routes

Lindsay Dobbin  
Assistant Arts Editor

**W**orldly is a peculiar word. If someone uses this word to describe another person, it's usually in reference to their experience in terms of travel—how much knowledge they've acquired as a result of visiting other parts of the globe.

But, what does this knowledge constitute? Is it an understanding of other cultures and other people's way of life, or is it an understanding of one's place within the world?

I would argue that it is both.

For the average person, the intrigue of traveling to another place is its dissimilarity from their homeland. One may travel to Cuba because of its warm climate or travel to China to see the architectural wonder that is the Great Wall of China. And these are understandable reasons to travel—to see what you cannot see on a daily basis. However, people should also explore be-

yond the differences. And one method of doing so is avoiding the so-called "tourist traps."

The tourism industry is successful because it grasps onto what is unique about a certain place and overly emphasizes it through marketing so that it becomes representative of that place to the outsider's eye. And people who visit and stay within the confines of the coherent marketing strategy (i.e. the tourists traps) will leave with their preconceived notions confirmed.

Growing up near port city Saint John, New Brunswick, I was exposed to the constant docking of cruise ships throughout the summer. The cruise ships docked in the historical part of Saint John, where old buildings, the New Brunswick Museum and the City Market—filled with crafts that hearkened to Saint John's heritage—could be found. The cruise ship goes only had a peek at what Saint John, once was, and they hardly had any look at what

Saint John is.

We Saint Johners know about the North End and its high crime rate, we know about the East end commercial trap, we know where they sell the best baked goods, and we know about the deceiving tourism trap that is downtown Saint John. The thing is that if you get drawn into the tourist traps of any place, you will not see the diversity that makes up that place—you will only see the prepackaged, preplanned, marketed identity that is usually very dissimilar from where you are from.

How does one get beyond all this? How is one able to see a place for what it really is: a conglomeration of cultural differences and social similarities? One word: explore. Plan, but don't plan by the book. Speak to locals. Try to live like a local to some extent. Don't be afraid to be surprised. Through exploration, the similarities and differences of a certain place will be revealed to the traveler from a grounded perspective—not the removed one found within the tourism industry.

And I believe that these differences and similarities will be fully revealed if one understands where they personally are from. By having a true sense of your own history, another place is revealed like a building reveals itself over time after it's been weathered down to the supporting structures. It conjures up a feeling of interconnectedness and a sense of one's place within the world knowing that one's life is not singular.

To truly be able to absorb a place, one must explore and work within the groundwork of where one is from—you need to know where you are from to truly know where you are going.



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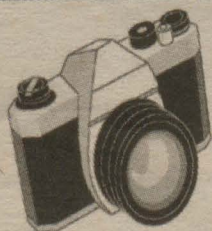
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# Arts Hole

## Stripe Gripe

Natalie Pendergast  
Arts Editor

My mother always says, "Wear vertical stripes for a thinning effect, and wear horizontal stripes never."

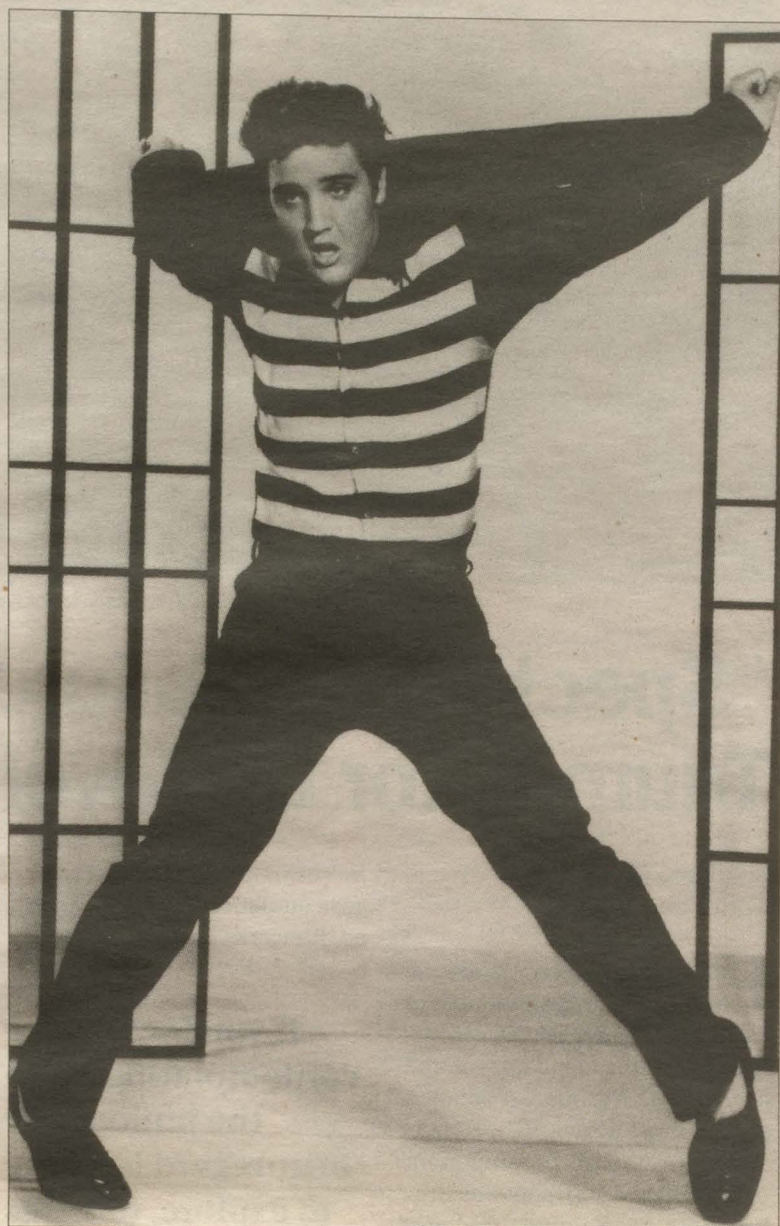
But I didn't pay much attention to this advice until one fateful day last month, when I attended an "Indie Dance Night" at the Seahorse. Minding my own business, sipping my beer with two friends and assessing the scene, I noticed there was something weird about the crowd around us. It took me about an hour to put my finger on just what it was.

I realized that four out of five people there—be they dancing, mingling or alooing—were sporting some garment of a striped nature. There were striped shirts, turtlenecks, pants, scarves and even striped stockings.

When did stripes become such a trend? And why is it a trend for the "indie folk"?

According to my sources, stripes have been cool for a long time now, to varying degrees along the stripe time-line, and in many different countries. In the States, for example, many patriots take pride in wearing stripes in homage to their beloved flag. But I bet they don't know that they are in fact paying homage to the patchwork appearance of segments of cultivated land, from which George Washington got the idea for the striped part of the U.S. emblem.

In India and Africa, stripes have been just plain cool for eons—especially brightly colored ones. Eastern cultures believe in the geometric image of stripes as a balancing and soulful therapy. They also think that, like my mother, stripes can make a woman's figure look more svelt. Take, for example this excerpt



Stripes are cool because Elvis made them cool.

from online fashion 'zine *The Hindu*: "Stripes of varied thickness when juxtaposed at angles create interesting solutions for different body types. The line game could effortlessly add a few inches to your height or successfully give you a pinched waist."

Whether stripes are cool to people because of their patriotic charm or because of their therapeutic effect, I have to take a different opinion. Isn't it obvious that stripes are the rebel's

uniform? Jailbirds have always typically been adorned in stripes in the movies. And our beloved king, Elvis, who in the 50s was so bad he could make hound dogs cry, absolutely loved stripes. In his "Jailhouse Rock" days, he wore nothing but.

So, the truth is, stripes are cool because Elvis made them cool. There's just one more thing he did for today's popular culture.

## In Memory

The *Dalhousie Gazette* would like to send condolences to the family and friends of Jason Walsh, who recently died at the young age of 20. As a valued contributing student journalist, the staff will remember him for his informed opinion regarding all music, local hip-hop in particular. As a writer he was always keen, and brought his unique charm to the written word. He will be missed.

-Gazette staff

## Creative Featurette

Alicia Jauregui  
Arts Contributor

### Thoughts-

Let's go back to when we all hung out. There was no time for anything. Always a full schedule. From here to there. Early mornings and late nights. From Bible studies, to lunch, to fighting on the snow. Watching that show with the CIA girl and dancing in front of the bus stop; meeting strangers and sharing with them the meaning in our lives. When you lived close by and when I could bring you free bread from the market to work. When we talked just like this writing: simple, short and in incomplete sentences; and it was okay, we all understood. When you asked me

to dye your hair and I knew there was a possibility we wouldn't be friends by the end of the day. When we knew we wouldn't turn into our parents. When days were all but dull and life almost full with every second more eager for the next and every hour impatient for what life would bring. When it really didn't matter what we did because we were truly living. When the beans, the tea and the ping pong. When I was starting to belong. When I recited Outkast and you smiled; when at sea; when you said you wouldn't give up. Even when I burned the corn. When I belonged.

And I'm afraid it's not a matter of growing older, but Usher's playing on the radio and I must go turn it off, of course.

## HISTORY REVIEW COMMITTEE

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies conduct periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2005, a Review Committee is examining History. Students (undergraduate or graduate, current or former, majoring in this field or studying it as an elective) and other interested members of the University community who would like to comment on the undergraduate or graduate programs, their experience as students with these programs, or any other aspect of the department, are cordially invited to meet with the Review committee on Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, between 1:45 - 3:00. Please contact Ms. Tina Jones (494-3347). If you prefer, you could write to the Review Committee at the address listed below.

**Professor David Cameron,**

David.Cameron@dal.ca, Chair (History Unit Review Committee)  
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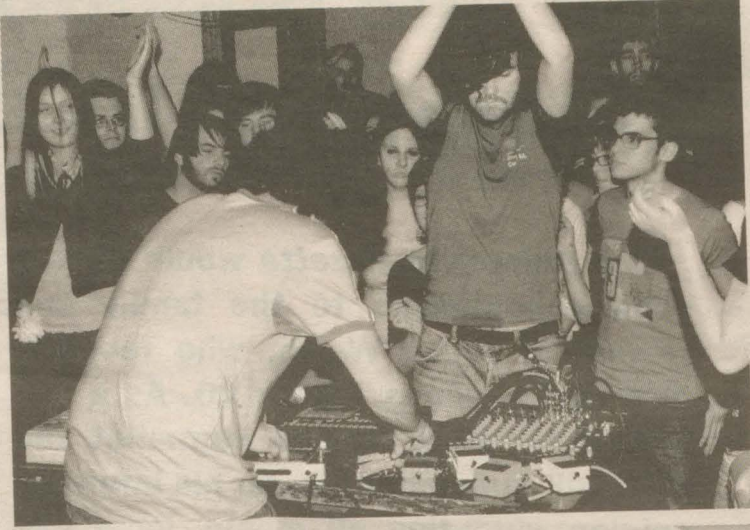
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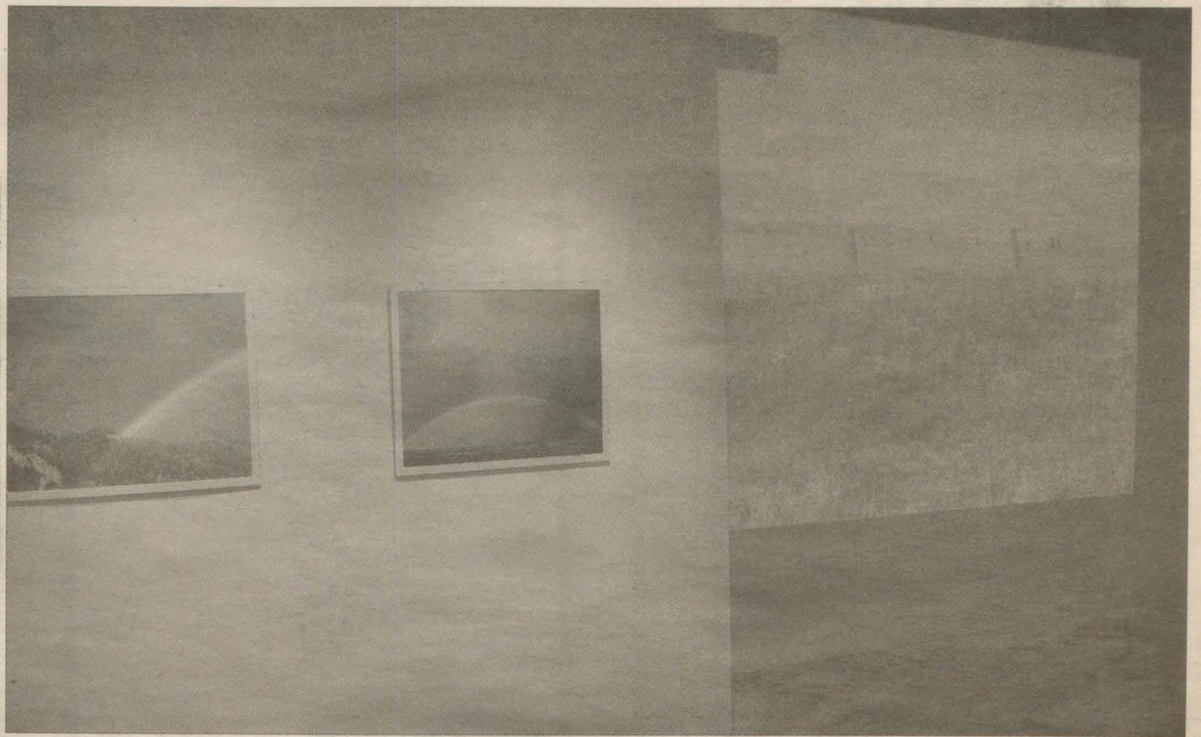
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## Report Card Books On Tape

**Venue:** The Seahorse  
**Date:** Friday, February 4th  
**Reporter:** Lindsay Dobbin  
**Photographer:** Megan Best  
**Stage Presence:** B+  
**Audience Reaction:** A-  
**Sound:** B  
**Effort:** A  
**Get-It-On-Ability:** A

By the time Books on Tape (aka Todd Drootin) made his way to the Seahorse stage, both Windom Earle and A/V already had the crowd warmed up with their unique brands of electronic music that you cannot help but dance to. From the first conglomeration of eviscerate beats, Drootin moved around his equipment quickly, twisting and turning with intention. However, the restless energy found within Drootin's beat-punk compositions coupled with his energetic stage presence felt extremely spontaneous. And this spontaneity clearly informed the crowd's reaction. People on the stage, people in front of the stage—they were all focusing on Drootin who looked like a mad scientist perfecting his craft with every moment that went by.



Martin Beauregard's "Spectacular Failure" / Photo: Jennifer Dornier

# "Spectacular Failure" Another Triumph for Eyelevel Gallery

Chantelle MacGee  
Staff Contributor

**F**ireworks. Nearly everyone has had the experience of watching the night sky in colourful flame—the elements of the event come together to create a powerful memory.

However, if each component of the fireworks display was broken down, reassembled, and presented in a manner that is disjointed and separated from your senses by at least one degree of technological media, what would happen to the experience of the display?

This dubious way of presenting fireworks was presented by artist Martin Beauregard at the opening reception of "Spectacular Failure," his show at the EyeLevel Gallery. His use of low lighting, photographs, slide projection and his own person (hiding behind the projection screen making popping and whistling

noises in imitation of fireworks), gave audiences a cold, fragmented, fireworks display.

**If you feeling like contemplating upon the philosophy Beauregard is trying to explore, then his pieces are worth a view.**

The real experience can never be replaced by its representation through media, and the show only reinforces the ephemeral quality of live events.

Apart from the slide show of fireworks, there is a series of video segments. Each segment forces you to focus on specific moments in a surreal life. There are mundane elements combined with theatrics and special

effects. For example, in "Daddy's Dead," saying goodbye to a loved one is punctuated by shouts of "cut" and "action" until the act becomes an absurdity. In "I Got a Headache" you stare at pot of boiling-over Alphagetti until you perceive the formation of words. Other video segments include a take on cowboys and on the flight of birds.

Are Beauregard's pieces spectacular? Are they failures? I guess it depends on how much effort you are willing to expend to understand what has been accomplished. If you expect art only to relate pretty pictures, then perhaps this exhibit is not for you. If you feeling like contemplating upon the philosophy Beauregard is trying to explore, then his pieces are worth a view.

Québec/French artist Martin Beauregard's "Spectacular Failure" is on exhibit at the EyeLevel Gallery, 2128 Gottingen Street, from February 2 until March 5, 2005

## NSPIRG - Dal Opt-Out Period

Full-time Dalhousie students are all members of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group at Dalhousie (NSPIRG-Dal).

The NSPIRG-Dal is a non-profit, non-partisan, human and environmental rights group. We engage in public education about human and environmental rights and are interested in being of service to a wide variety of students.

Students voted through referendum to create the organization, in an effort to provide resources and opportunities for students to get involved in human and environmental rights work, and also in recognition of the fact that balance in academia requires the understanding of alternative perspectives.

If you are not familiar with the NSPIRG-Dal we encourage you to talk to staff about current trends and events at the organization. We strive for inclusiveness and approach issues of human and environmental rights as objectively as possible and consider all sides.

All full-time Dalhousie Students who paid full DSU fees are entitled to receive \$2 per term if they wish to "opt-out" of funding the NSPIRG-Dal.

Drop by the NSPIRG-Dal office Rm. 314 in the Student Union Building February 14th - 14th March, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. If no one is here when you drop in you may contact staff: via phone: 494 6662 or email: nspirg@dal.ca

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# SEXTANT

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## Geeks Gone Wild

Peter White  
*Sextant Contributor*

So how was your spring break? Did you go somewhere and have an amazing time? If so, did you happen to do any of the following? Sextant contributor Peter White has come up with what he considers some of the best kept spring break secrets and activities tailored for the engineering folk.

- Constructing some form of robotic rooster. Use it to dominate the late-night cockfight scene and hustle enough pesos to pay for your entire spring break.

- Meeting people by going to the beach with very little clothing on. You may not have the ideal beach body, but they will be drawn to you by the intense reflection of sunlight off skin that hasn't seen natural light in seven months.

- Designing and implementing an overcomplicated computer algorithm that will standardize the judging of wet T-shirt contests by measuring things such as temperature, humidity, wind speed and nipple erectness. This will ensure that when drunken college girls embarrass themselves for cheap prizes, the contest won't be rigged.

- Putting your engineering vocabulary to work and picking someone up at the bar by passing yourself off as a free-spirited dot-com millionaire. When you get back to your hotel room, pretend you know what you are doing.

- Don't tell anyone what you actually did in Mexico. Instead, find the most tired, satisfied looking jock on the flight home and ask him about his week. When you get home, impress your friends by passing off his stories as your own.

## Hockey Deprived?

DORC will fill Don Cherry's shoes

Joseph Healey  
*Sextant Contributor*

There is a place where Iron and cold come together in harmony—on the ice surface of a rink. Dalhousie Outdoor Rink Committee, or DORC (yes pronounced dork), is now breaking a sweat in this cold weather moving snow and building a large rink on the Sexton field for winter carnival and the enjoyment of all Dalhousie members. The NHL is a dismal loss this year, but the World Hockey League a farce, and the CHL, minor hockey, and NBA are seeing record attendance. It is the perfect time to unleash the Dalhousie Outdoor Hockey League on the world.

Since last Thursday, a dedicated group of O'Brien hall residents, engineers and two DSU Executives, Jonathan Wilson and Marc Szepes, have moved 20,000 cubic feet of snow to construct a 160ft by 80ft properly engineered rink. Chris Davis and Scott Blake have organized and led this



marvel of modern engineering, surveying the field to get a level surface, placing a perimeter of 2 by 10 boards, and laying down a massive plastic liner. The hope is that this rink will have seen a game by the time you are reading this article.

Imagine the chance to hip check Tom Traves at center ice or fire a slap shot at your favourite prof in goal. For all my fans on DSU council, this is a prime op-

portunity to slam me into a snow bank. Faculty vs. Student, Engineering vs. Fine Arts—these are just a few of the match ups we hope to see on the lighted rink.

So grab your skates from underneath the pile of textbooks and head to the Sexton Field for a skate or hockey game, then relax at the renowned T-Room, watching the minutes slip by on the Iron ring countdown clock.

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times and ticket info

## Volleyball

Congratulations to the men's and  
women's volleyball teams on winning  
their respective AUS titles last weekend  
at Dalplex. Good luck at CIs.

## Track and Field

Good luck to the track team as they  
travel to Moncton for AUs.

### Sports Briefs

## The Water Cooler

Mike Tweedale  
Staff Contributor

In its own right, Atlantic University Sport (AUS) deserves fan participation. But, considering the pitiful state of professional sports, including hockey, basketball and baseball, the AUS has become particularly attractive.

The pro situation is desperate. Failed negotiations between the NHL and its players' association have resulted in the definitive cancellation of the season. Record setting fines and suspensions levied after a brawl during a basketball game and a legal affair involving a prominent player are the biggest news items from the NBA. Major League Baseball's spring-training will be hopelessly mired by juiced-up steroid allegations that have already jeopardized public perception of the game. No doubt, it's challenging to be a fan of all that business. Fortunately for students, finding a reprieve is easy.

There are university athletes who can do things on the court, ice, field or track that are really great. We don't have to limit ourselves to watching professional sports to see inspiring athletic performance.

Sports are most entertaining when the action generates a memorable moment from which spectators feel a sense of good

fortune for just having been there to see it. Further benefiting fans of university sports is the assurance that the dedication of varsity athletes is essentially free from what is hamstringing professional sports.

This past weekend, the Dalhousie men's volleyball team successfully defended its AUS title by defeating the UNB Varsity Reds in a best 2-out-of-3 match tournament played at Dalplex. Certainly the competitiveness of the games provided great entertainment, but one particular moment of sheer brilliance reminded spectators why they were there.

Late in Saturday's clinching game, a sequence of exchanges nearly ended with the ball careening off a scrum of Dalhousie players and into a distant zone beyond the court's perimeter.

But from the beleaguered group of Tigers emerged Jeff Weiler, who dug down a little deeper and with a desperate effort saved the unreachable ball and, maintaining a full sprint, with his back to net, managed to send it arching back over the net and into the opponents court where the UNB players, standing frozen in disbelief, could only watch it bounce from the floor. Madness, it was—genuine madness.

University sport: its worth watching—honest.

## Hockey Tigers Pumped For AUs



"We're legitimate contenders this year," says Lesley Jordan, women's hockey coach / Photo: Nick Pearce

Joe Ryba  
Staff Contributor

This coming weekend at the Dal Arena, the women's hockey team hosts the Atlantic University Sport Hockey Championship Tournament.

At the start of the season, the Tigers were picked to finish third and to give St. FX. and St. Mary's a run for their money. The troops struggled out of the gate but quickly got things in gear in November and have been strong since.

The Tigers have yet to beat the X-Women and Huskies but have played them tough. Dal has iced a solid line-up this season with top veterans and talented youngsters.

In goal, the tandem of Jennifer Smith and Kristen LaDouceur has been phenomenal. Smith is in her final year with the squad, so coach Lesley Jordan has de-

cidated to give her the nod. Katy Zimmerman, Sarah Beckman and Lindsey White will hold the defensive core intact and up front the Tigers will look to Leah Kutcher, Rachael deVries, Heather MacDonald and Leah Merkley to lead them to the national playoffs.

Not to be outdone by some of the older players, the comical duo of rookie forward Kim Carcary and sophomore defensive sensation Katy Zimmerman, better known as "Kimbo" and "Zimbo" have come to the frontline for Dal. Both have been key assets and have shown their teammates the lighter side of life.

"Zimbo is a solid defender," says Kimbo. "She has a great shot and wears lacy underclothes. Teams hate playing against her because it's impossible to get around her. She's definitely the fashion police on our team, and her hot pink shoes bring us

luck."

"What's not to like about my shoes?" says Zimbo. "They're pretty stylish, which reflects their owner. The atmosphere around our team is very positive. Everyone is contributing, and it's a total team effort. We just have to stay on this page."

Jordan praised the partners in crime. "Kim has explosive speed," she said. "She is by far the fastest in the league, but she just has to work on her hands a little. Katy has really stepped up this year too. She has a good shot and has given us some production, which is what we need."

The most skilled Tiger, according to Jordan, is Leah Merkley, a second year forward. Merkley leads her team in scoring with 15 points in only 14 games. The Ontario native combines her skills with an intense, in-your-face brand of hockey that the Tigers will need in order to advance to CIs. "She can dance around the opposition with her stick-handling ability," Jordan says.

Fifth year, forward Heather MacDonald is excited about the AUs and likes her team's chances. "Things are going well right now," says MacDonald. "The chemistry is great. Leah [Merkley] and Rachael [deVries] are playing well, and the goaltending has been solid. Our team is really pumped and we're ready."

Jordan summed up her team's chances. "We're legitimate contenders this year. I'm not too concerned about the two recent losses to St. FX. and SMU. In our last two games we wanted to try a few different things against the two best teams. This is best team I've had in my three years at Dal. It's time to put our best game together and show what we can do."

The action starts this Friday, Feb. 25 with quarterfinal play. The tournament is a six-team, single-elimination event with the top two seeds receiving byes to the semi-finals.

The top two teams in this year's battle are St. FX. and St. Mary's. The first quarterfinal goes at 4 p.m., when St. Thomas clashes with Mt. A. The host Tigers hook up with UNB at 7 p.m.

Atlantic University Sport  
Sport universitaire de l'Atlantique

# WOMEN'S HOCKEY CHAMPIONSHIP

Friday, February 25	4pm	Dalhousie vs UNB
	7pm	Mount Allison vs St. Thomas
Saturday, February 26	4pm	StFX (1) vs lowest remaining seed
	7pm	SMU (2) vs highest remaining seed
Sunday, February 27	2pm	Championship Final

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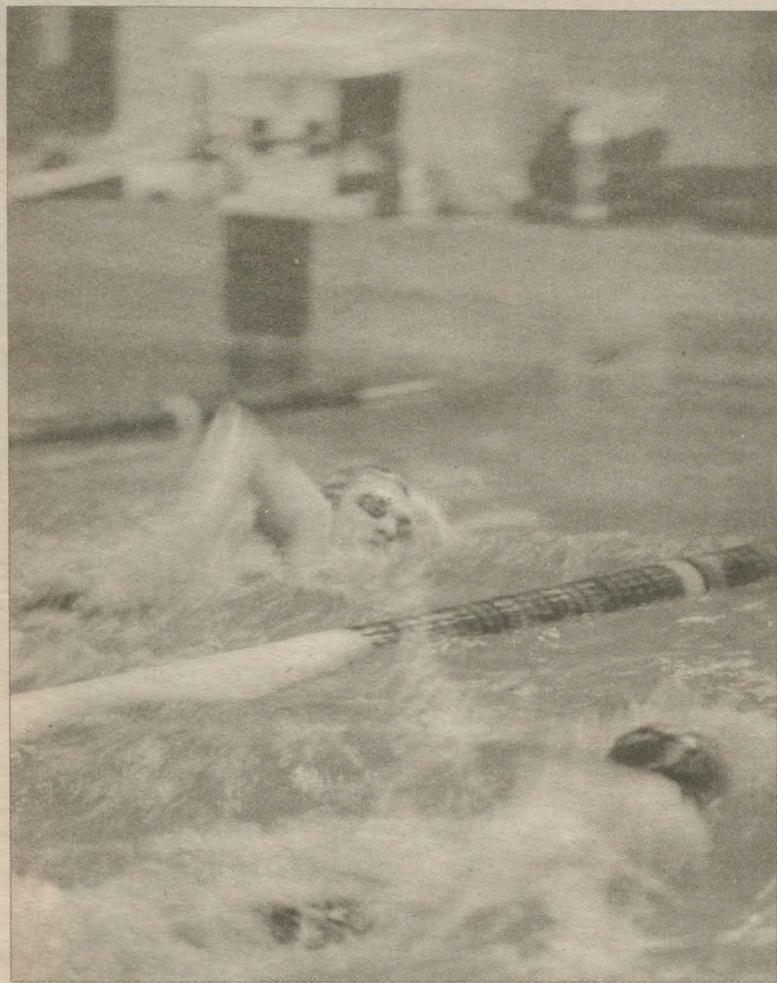
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# Great Expectations for Dal Swimmers



The men's and women's swim teams hope to post big results at CIs. Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Michael Gorman  
Sports Editor

When Matthew Terauds races this weekend at the CIS swim championships, it will be his first major meet without his brother by his side.

"It will be strange not having my brother around," says the fourth-year engineering student. "He's been a major part of my swimming. We've been swimming partners essentially our entire swimming career, and not having him on the team this year has been a big change."

Terauds' older brother Mike completed his eligibility with Dal last year.

But other than the absence of his long-time training partner, it's been business as usual for Terauds this year.

At the AUS championships two weeks ago, Terauds came away with four golds and three silvers, solidifying his reputation as the team's MVP and perhaps the best swimmer in the conference.

Heading into this season, there were high expectations hanging on Terauds. He has steadily improved every season, and last year that culminated in a silver medal at CIs as well as two conference records.

Terauds says that while this success might have raised expecta-

tations, it's also enhanced his desire to get better.

"I feel the pressure from everywhere," he says, "not necessarily directly from others on the team or the coaches, but I know the expectations are there. More importantly, I expect more from myself and want more from myself."

Terauds says this year's version of the men's team is a lot different than the previous three he's been a part of. The Tigers are sending seven men to nationals this year, down three from last year's total.

"I don't think we have as much speed depth as years past, but I think the speed that we do have is comparable to any team before. I think we have a few key guys stepping up to take on some of the load left by last year's strong graduating class, so it will be interesting to see what this team can do at the national level."

Going into the meet, the men are ranked sixth in the nation.

Meanwhile the women's team continues to roll. After hovering around the nation's tenth ranking all season, a strong performance at AUs raised them to eighth—and well within striking distance of the top five—going into the meet.

As usual, the women will be lead by Kiera Aitken, who enters the meet ranked second in two events. But after AUs, it is clear she will have help.

Melissa Spencer had the meet of her life at AUs, posting best times in all three of the breaststroke events, and she seems to be clicking at just the right time. Her swims rank her in the top 10 of all three breaststroke events and set the stage for what could be a very successful weekend for both her and her team.

# Dal Judo Club Takes on All Comers

Jenn Casey  
Staff Contributor

When Lynn MacDonald lived in residence during her first year, a judo black belt lived on her floor. And when that belt would drag MacDonald to Dal's Judo club, there wasn't any arguing. You just don't argue with a black belt.

A couple of years have passed—and now the fourth-year history major, is the president of the Judo Club.

"I just fell in love with it," says MacDonald in the Dalplex fieldhouse. "It's a great stress reliever, especially during exam time."

The club consists of everyone from beginners to black belts—and even a Dalhousie psychology professor. Anyone can join at any point of the year, and there is no fitness level required.

"But you'll definitely start noticing your fitness level go up," she says laughing. "I got some nice tummy lines."

MacDonald, who intends to head to Thailand to teach English next year, says that instruction is aimed towards each person's level.

Each meeting after the warm-up, the newer members get the opportunity of one-on-one instruction from the black belts.

Jenn Thompson is currently the newest member of the club. She is petite in stature and her black hair is tied back. Jimmie Warren, one of the club's two black belts, grabs her at the shoulder and explains how to break a fall.

"I am smaller but it doesn't stop me," says Thompson, a first-year NASCAD student. "It actually makes it easier for me to get a hold and throw them!"

Warren agrees, adding that anyone can learn judo.

"Everyone learns at different

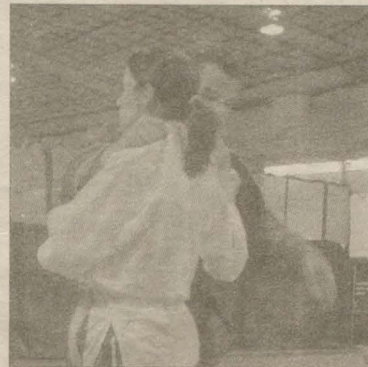


Photo: Rafal Andronowski

rates, but as long as you stick with it, you will learn. I've seen blind people do judo. It's for everyone, at any age group."

He also says that fears of getting hurt are for the most part not an issue with this club.

"At recreational level, getting hurt doesn't happen that much. We teach you how to break falls," says the 25-year-old nursing student. "People are taught to throw with control. We see [an injury] every once and a while, but it's usually not serious."

The club facilitates both competitive hopefuls and those who are just out for some fun. But Warren says that the group is very laid back.

"If you come in here and call me 'sir' I'll get very confused," he says, laughing. "It's a good atmosphere, everyone comes to learn ... and we even try to party together every once and a while."

As for Thompson, she has decided that competition is something she would like to pursue.

"There's a contest at the end of February and I'm going to go and watch and see how they do it," she says. "And hopefully after that I would like to get into competitions myself."

"Eventually I'd like to be good!"

Judo club meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:45 p.m. and Sundays at 8 p.m. in the Dalplex fieldhouse.

## Athletes of the Week



Stacey Power  
Volleyball

Stacey Power is this week's Dalhousie University Female Athlete of the Week. Power led the women's volleyball Tigers to the Atlantic University Sport title over the Saint Mary's Huskies this past weekend. After securing a first-round bye, the Tigers met the UCCB Capers in semifinal action. Dalhousie swept UCCB in three straight sets and Power counted nine kills. Facing cross-town rivals, Saint Mary's in the championship final, the Tigers gave up the first set by a close 27-25 margin only to rebound by winning the next three sets to claim the AUS banner. Power was strong again with 11 kills, two aces and two stuff blocks. Her efforts were rewarded by being named the 2005 AUS Tournament MVP. Power is a fourth-year economics and history student from Cole Harbour, N.S.



Scott Townsend  
Volleyball

Scott Townsend is this week's Dalhousie University Male Athlete of the Week. Townsend led the men's volleyball Tigers to their 19th consecutive Atlantic University Sport title. In the two-game, six-set sweep of the UNB Varsity Reds, the Tigers dominated from start to finish. In game one, Townsend recorded 31 assists, four service aces, and five digs for an easy three-set victory. The Tigers came out firing in the second game, eager to earn the AUS banner in two games. And they did just that. Townsend, a first team all-star, was stellar yet again with 36 assists, three service aces and six digs. He was named the 2005 AUS Tournament MVP. Townsend is a third-year management student from Halifax, N.S.

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