

GAZETTE

A RUN IN THE PARK:

Tigers overtake X-Men for cross-country gold at Point Pleasant

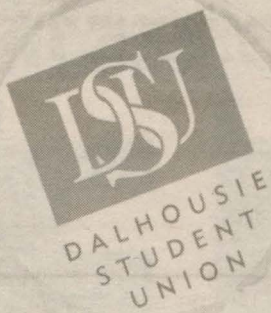
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Darude storms The Palace
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WEEKLY DISPATCH

Investing in Students

By Mike Tipping and Jen Bond

Originally Published in the Chronicle Herald

Nova Scotia's students are an incredible resource and can be the answer to many of the most difficult problems facing this province. Instead of recognizing these solutions and using this resource, however, our government currently places the highest financial burden on students of any province or state in all of North America. Our recent graduates are crippled by debt and are leaving the province in droves. It doesn't have to be that way.

Students can be the answer to the health care crisis. Costs are rising astronomically and there is a shortage of doctors and other health care workers in Nova Scotia, especially in rural areas. The first place the government has turned is to students. Plans are being made to open up more seats at Dalhousie Medical School and a new program has been implemented allowing students in health professions to delay paying back their student loans during their residencies and clinical placements. The government is beginning to acknowledge that the best way to keep doctors in rural Nova Scotia is to encourage access to education and reduce student debt and politicians are realizing that new doctor with \$100,000 in loans is not likely to choose to practice in rural Cape Breton. Allowing medical students to graduate with less debt means that fewer ERs have to close on the weekends.

Students can be the answer to the crisis of demographics facing Nova Scotia. An aging population is creating more demand for social services and young people are leaving for Toronto and Alberta. Once again, the government is beginning to turn to students, and pledging to reduce, by a small amount, the debt of students who stay in Nova Scotia so they aren't forced to head west or south. Students have also been the main focus of Nova Scotia's attempts to attract skilled immigrants, with campaigns that promote the recruitment and retention of international students. If we can keep more of our educated minds in the province, and use our world-class universities to attract bright, motivated immigrants, we can ensure that the necessary services will be there to support an aging population.

Students can be the answer, as well, to the most difficult challenge facing Nova Scotia - the transition from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy. The future of the province is not in coal mining or forestry or even natural gas. It's in silicon, services and software. The government has started to put students front and centre in its efforts to attract knowledge-based businesses. Nova Scotia Business Inc., for example, touts an educated and skilled workforce as the tool that will allow us to attract more companies like Research in Motion, which has recently located a branch in Halifax. Our universities can be the engines of our new economy.

Increasing access to education and decreasing the debt students carry is not just a moral imperative, it's the best strategy for the future of our province. So far, the government has paid lip service to this idea with the initiatives described above, but they're a drop in the bucket compared to what must be done to solve these problems. That's why the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations supports a comprehensive review of post-secondary education in this province. Let's not be content to have the highest tuitions in the country and let's not allow ourselves to be one of only three provinces without a dedicated low-income grants program. Let's stop talking about student aid as if it were a handout and start recognizing it as the investment it is.

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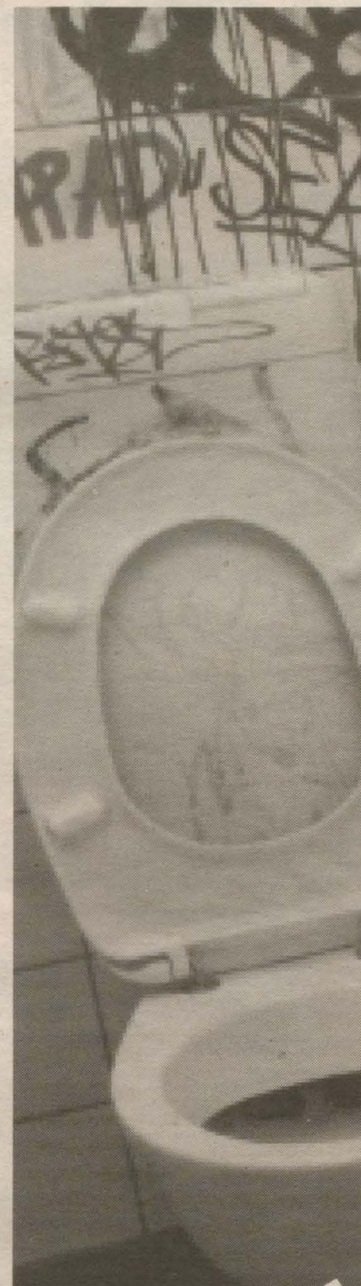
The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

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All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.



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New Brunswick's 'free' press

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Newspaper readers in New Brunswick are only getting one side of the story.

The story is that Irving-owned Brunswick News Inc. is trying to stop William Langdon, the former publisher of the Irving-owned Woodstock Bugle-Observer, from starting his own paper.

The side of the story readers are getting is, that of Brunswick News.

A month ago Brunswick News sought an injunction specifically to keep Langdon from starting his own paper because they said he had violated his contract and had private information he could use to get thier advertisers. Brunswick News used a civil search warrant to search Langdon's home for internal documents of the Bugle-Observer. Income statements, advertising rate analysis and cash-flow breakdowns were seized.

Langdon said these were old documents that he would have returned them if asked to do so.

Brunswick News has since withdrawn the injunction, but now wants to ban Langdon from doing business with any of the Bugle-Observer's readers, advertisers, employees or suppliers.

With only about 5,200 people in Woodstock, there aren't too many readers and advertisers to go around. As Langdon's lawyer put it, it's like letting someone play hockey, but not giving them skates.

Despite the obvious conflict of interest, Brunswick News is still publishing stories about the case. Unlike the coverage by CBC and Canadian Press, Brunswick News is consistently leaving out Langdon's accusation that the vice-president of Brunswick News, Victor Mlodecki, said he was prepared to spend \$1 million to drive local competitors out of business.

Because Langdon stopped talk-

ing to reporters from Brunswick News, these stories have become even more one-sided.

Through Irving's monopoly on all New Brunswick's English dailies and all but two of its weeklies, these one-sided stories are being delivered to newsstands and doorsteps across the province.

Langdon plans to put out the first Carleton Free Press this week, but if the courts rule he can't do business with any of the Bugle-Observer's advertisers or readers, he will be effectively stifled by the Irving media empire.

The situation in New Brunswick is an microcosm of what seems to be the trend in Canada. Most of the news media in Canada is owned by only five companies. This summer, Quebecor purchased Osprey Media to become the biggest of the media conglomerates.

"We're number one!" was the headline that ran over an editorial in Quebecor's Sun Media papers, telling

readers across the country that 6.4 million Canadians are now reading papers owned by the same company. But the more that media are owned by fewer corporations, the more conflicts of interest will arise.

Irving can't report on their trucking companies, oil refineries, lumber mills, gas stations, radio stations, food processing plants, shipyards or other newspapers without there being a conflict of interest. Essentially, readers in New Brunswick have to read between the lines or go somewhere else for information about most of their local industry.

And I'm almost sure that if Irving managed to buy all the daily papers in Atlantic Canada, they'd run the headline "We did it!"

While it may not be the case that huge media corporations have gone into the business to control information, it's safe to say most of them have gone into business for profit. And when negative stories threaten profits,

it's harder for them to be unbiased.

The Brunswick News' case against Langdon has luckily not only gained media attention, but has also gained political attention. Conservative leader in New Brunswick Jeannot Volpé said Brunswick News should start selling off some of its holdings. Volpé is calling for Senate to review New Brunswick's media concentration.

Similarly, politicians and their constituents should be pushing the Canadian Radio Television and Telecommunications Commission, the agency responsible for regulating broadcasting, to limit and eventually decrease existing media concentration.

These corporations clearly don't want to have to compete for advertising they've already secured, but competition pushes papers to serve their readers better. More importantly, if companies can suppress new media from starting up, Canadians' right to freedom of the press is violated.

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in room 312 of the SUB

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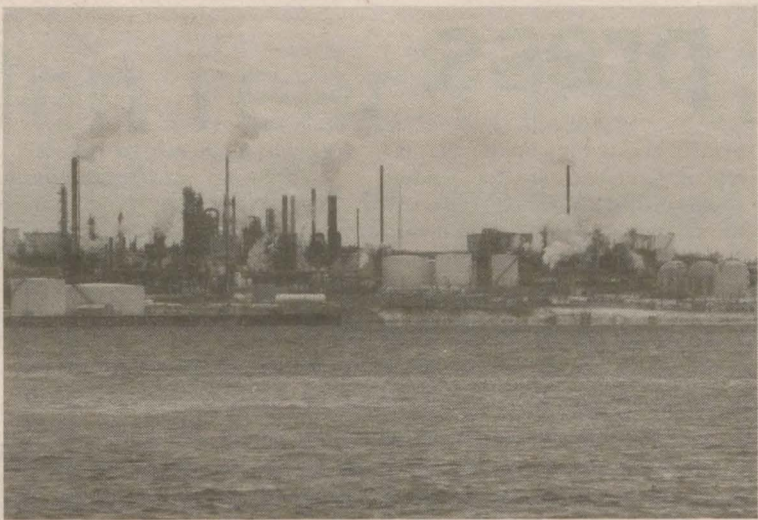
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These positions have an anticipated start date of early January, 2008. We will continue to receive resumes for future hiring throughout the year.

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JOHN PACKMAN / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The city expects three new water treatment plants to help clean harbour water by next spring.

Treatment plant could clean harbour by next year

MELISSA DI COSTANZO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

After years of dumping sewage into the Halifax harbour, the city expects to open Nova Scotia's first wastewater treatment plant by the end of the year.

The plant, to be located near Cornwallis and Lower Water Streets, is one of three opening in the province. A plant in the Dartmouth Cove/Sandy Cove area is slated to open next spring and a plant in Herring Cove will follow in fall 2008.

Halifax Regional Council approved the treatment plants under the \$315 million Harbour Solutions Project and started construction of the plants two years ago.

James Campbell, part of Harbour Solution's public relations team, says the project has gone smoothly and that it will be ready on time.

"It's been delightfully efficient," he said in a telephone interview.

Campbell says the treatment plants will clean the water in roughly two to six months once they're all up and running.

"The treatment plants will greatly improve water quality," he says. "There will be areas of harbour where people can go swimming again...and fishing will be up and running."

But Dalhousie environmental science professor Kaarin Tae says the project comes too late.

Dubbing the clean-up effort the "harbour-un-solution project," Tae says the city should have been cleaning up 20 years ago.

The project's website says 100 million litres of waste - enough dirty water to fill a 20-storey office building, is dumped into the harbour every day.

"It's an interesting example of a city trying to deal with its wastewater," Tae says. "Halifax has gotten away for so many years...with dumping raw sewage into the harbour. It's really a violation of the Fisheries Act."

Tae says she's concerned the planned clean-up won't be powerful enough.

"The (current) system is going to be advanced primary treatment, which means simply that they're going to screen out chunks (of waste) and zap it with UV radiation and then put it back into the harbour," she says.

The city needs to do more than offer minimal treatment to protect the harbour, says Tae.

"For this day and age, for 2007, it's inadequate. We're such a rich country," she says. "It's less irresponsible, but it's still irresponsible."

Cyclists unite for safer streets while city reviews bike lane promises

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

As cars zoom past the intersection of Barrington and Cornwallis Streets just after evening rush hour, Doug Denny leans against his bike and points to the street corner a few metres away.

"This is where he got hit, right here."

Minutes earlier, Denny had been riding with a group of nearly 100 cyclists as they barrelled down the pavement toward that same spot on Oct. 26, shouting and whistling, a police car bringing up the rear. At Denny's suggestion, they had planned to set up a memorial in honour of Michael Brooker, a cyclist who died in mid-October.

Brooker, a homeless 19-year-old, was struck by a car and killed the morning of Oct. 11. He was riding his bike on the sidewalk - illegal for people over age 16 under a city by-law - when he swerved out of a pedestrian's way and into traffic.

When Denny, a daily cyclist for nearly eight months, read a newspaper report about the accident, he got the idea to erect a "ghost bike" near the scene of the collision with help from a local cycling group, Critical Mass.

The 38-year-old husband and father didn't know Brooker, but he got a local store to donate a bike so he could paint it white with other community members, in memory of the teen. He says it's time now for Halifax cyclists to unite and help make the city safer for bicyclists.

"There's no way that my kids could go out and ride on the roads today. I couldn't do it as a parent," he says. "We need to change the mentality about how we view the community."

Sue Uteck, deputy mayor of Halifax Regional Municipality, says she's received several phone calls since Brooker's death from citizens concerned about the city's lack of bike lanes.

The city commissioned a bike plan in 2002 to build more bike trails, lanes, racks and signs throughout HRM, including construction on

Barrington and Robie Streets and on Bedford highway.

In 2006, the municipality agreed on a new transportation plan not specific to bikes. But most of the original goals, first expected to be finished this December, are not yet underway. Uteck says she's "frustrated" the city hasn't made much progress setting up bike infrastructure on the Peninsula, particularly in the South End where a lot of student cyclists would benefit.

Dal urban planning student Peter Rogers, a Critical Mass member who later chained the donated bike to a street post as a public symbol of remembrance, points out that the five-year-old bike blueprints recommended widening Barrington Street and constructing lanes along Cornwallis to make room for cyclists.

"If they had built it they could have saved a life."

The fourth-year student says it's important for students and fellow cyclists to rally for change in the city, but he doesn't want people to interpret Brooker's tragic death as a shallow reason for his cycling awareness cause.

"I don't want to come off as if I'm using this poor unfortunate individual," he says. "We don't want to use it for a political purpose."

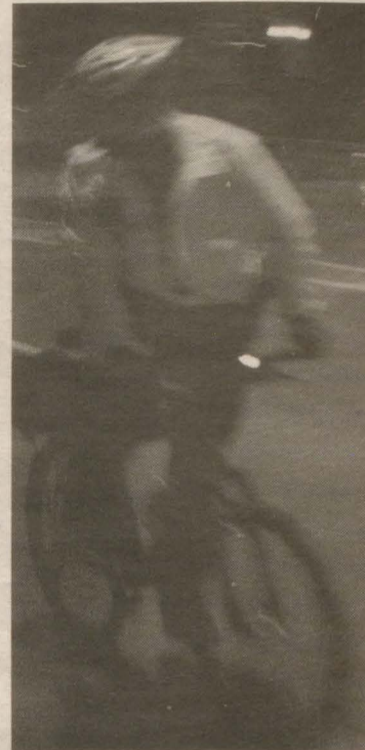
The city hasn't followed through on all of its plans to date because it needs to spend time and money revamping traffic lanes and removing parking areas to make space for more bike trails, says the manager of traffic and transportation.

"We've kind of exploited the few opportunities we do have (to build trails) and there really aren't any more around," David McCusker says. "So that's one of the biggest challenges."

McCusker says the city currently spends roughly half a million dollars each year on bike infrastructure, and given all of the other "spending pressures" on the municipality, he says, it's a reasonable amount.

He expects building each of the outlined bike trails and lanes will be a "slow and lengthy" process.

City councillor Sheila Fougere



JOSHUA BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Local cyclists rally in remembrance of a city youth who was killed while biking.

has been a long-time advocate of the bike plan. She had a meeting with the city's traffic services department in the afternoon on Oct. 26 to put a "new focus" on bike infrastructure in downtown Halifax and set progress plans for the rest of the year.

"I know people are disappointed, I'm well aware of it," she says. "One of the major challenges we have is in highlighting to people what has been done within the municipality, because geographically it's huge."

Most of the work the city's done so far has been "invisible ground work" and planning, says Fougere, but now the plans are ready to go forward.

"It's going to require some tough decisions on the part of council and I hope that we can count on the rest of council to understand how important they are but I think that there are some great things in the works."

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CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Students strike down military ban

University of Victoria students voted to welcome military recruiters on campus.

Only 25 of 500 students who attended the student union's annual general meeting voted in favour of banning military organizations from university premises.

The Oct. 25 vote came after the student union overturned its decision to prohibit the Canadian Forces from entering the university's upcoming job fair, because of widespread student opposition to the prohibition.

The majority of students who rejected the ban did so to protect free speech on campus, reported The Martlet student newspaper. But UVic's anti-war group, Students Against War, says it will continue to protest military presence at the school.

"Obviously, this isn't going to be the end of it," chairperson Tim Fournier told the newspaper. "Our mandate is to resist militarism."

Police may track keg parties

Ontario students may have to tell police before they have a keg party, according to a proposal from police chiefs in the province.

The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police filed a motion with the provincial government in January to track beer ownership through a keg registry system.

If the registry goes forward, police may be able to prevent underage drinking at student-run parties.

The University of Ottawa's student newspaper, The Fulcrum, reports city police are already considering the idea, but some students are worried the plan would threaten students' right to privacy.

A representative from the Niagara Police Service says police aren't trying to shut down all parties.

"The issue of the keg registry has come about because of the growing problem of alcohol in post-secondary facilities...in the neighbourhoods surrounding the campuses," Damian Parrent told the paper. "It's grown to a point where these parties are a huge tax on public resources."

Student union considers newspaper takeover

McGill University's student union is considering controlling the content of one of the school's weekly newspapers.

James Loss-Wells, the union member in charge of student clubs, announced his intention to present a motion that would "suspend the editorial independence" of The McGill Tribune.

The Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) provides office space and an advertising manager for the paper, but does not currently interfere with staff publishing decisions.

Other members are at odds over whether the union should take full control of the paper or force it to become fully independent.

The union also met with Tribune staff to ask the paper to accept French articles, since the student union is officially bilingual.

But the vice-president of clubs and services says it's inappropriate

for the union to exercise that much power over the newspaper.

"SSMU wouldn't do this with any of the other services or service-organizations under SSMU," Marcelle Kosman told The McGill Daily. "It's just absurd."

Sources: *The Martlet; The Fulcrum; The McGill Daily*

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Students die in house fire

A beach house fire killed seven university students – six from the University of South Carolina and one from Clemson University – on Oct. 29.

Six other students survived the early morning fire, which gutted the house on Ocean Isle Beach during a weekend party.

The students were members of Greek student societies and a co-ed fraternity. Students from the University of North Carolina were staying at the house next door when the fire started.

The cause of the fire was still under investigation on Oct. 30.

Presidential candidate denies censorship allegations

A journalism professor at the University of North Carolina accused presidential candidate John Edwards' staff of trying to censor student media at the school.

C.A. Tuggle told The New York Times the former senator's aides threatened to block the university's access to Edwards' campaign headquarters near campus after one of his students refused to remove a video from YouTube which questioned why Edwards would station his headquarters in a rich part of the city when his campaign is focused on dealing with poverty.

The video was first posted on the web on Oct. 23 and within three days it had been viewed thousands of times.

A spokesman for Edwards, Eric Schultz, denied the allegations.

"This is silly; we love all reporters. The problem is the feeling isn't always mutual."

ACROSS THE POND

Student president bans newspaper

Some students in Scotland won't be allowed to read a university newspaper when the first issues are printed.

The Students' Associate president at the University of Edinburgh banned a new student publication from campus until he decides whether the competition will hurt the school's current newspaper.

Josh MacAlister told BBC he wanted to support the university's own publications, which include the Student, the oldest student newspaper in the United Kingdom, started in 1887.

He says he thinks "healthy competition" is necessary but he will review issues of The Journal, which will cover five local universities and publish every two weeks starting Nov. 5, to ensure the newspaper doesn't copy the Student.

MacAlister says he will reconsider the ban in January.

Sources: *The Daily Tar Heel; The New York Times; BBC News*



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stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

Honouring a senseless death with action

Michael Brooker's death on the corner of Barrington and Cornwallis Street was senseless. The 19-year-old was hit by a truck while biking in the early morning, and his death has caused people to blame city councilors for taking too much time in redesigning Halifax city streets with more bike lanes.

It's time to raise alarm bells about how poorly Halifax has accommodated the rising number of cyclists in the city.

A study done in 2000/01 by John Shimeld found that in the decade between 1989 and 1999, there were 1,929 biking accidents reported to police in Nova Scotia. Seventeen were fatal while 1,426 caused personal injury. The study also found that 93 per cent of bike accidents in HRM happened within 10 meters of an intersection.

The street with the highest number of accidents between 1989 and 1999 was Robie Street at 49, followed by Quinpool Road at 47. Barrington Street, where Brooks was hit by a truck, saw 20 deaths.

Shimeld found most bike fatalities occurred on provincial highways or secondary roads where cars travel at high speeds. In the city, most biking accidents happen during rush hour.

In 2002, the Regional Council approved funding for a bike path plan in HRM. Also in 2002, the city created the position of Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator within HRM's department of Traffic and Transportation.

Biking paths need to be built not only to avoid tragic deaths, but to accommodate a way of life on the Halifax Peninsula. The 1996 census reported that 67 per cent of workers in HRM drove to work, while only 37 per cent on the Peninsula did. According to HRM's Blueprint for a Bicycle-Friendly HRM, "the extent

of bicycle commuting on the peninsula is high by North American Standards."

The official HRM plan includes plans for a bike path in the exact area where Brooker died. A multi-use trail was proposed to run from the Macdonald Bridge into downtown along Barrington Street.

According to a progress report released a year ago this month, goals for implementing the bike plan will be established by December 2007. It looks like the most important aspects have been left to the last minute.

There are four different sets of goals to be established concerning a network of bicycle paths, support facilities, safety and education training, and institutional framework (like laws). Of the four categories, creating goals for a bicycle path network is described in the report as needing "substantial improvement."

The project to create a multi-use path along Barrington has not yet been initiated, according to the progress report. The report says the city should aim to complete the project by 2008.

Brooker's death should put implementing goals on bicycle path creation at the forefront of the city's agenda. Too much time has gone by since recommendations for more bike paths on the Peninsula have been voiced. It has been five years since council approved funding for bike paths.

Increasing the number of bike paths in the city not only makes life safer for bikers; it would also encourage more biking in a city that has its share of motor vehicle traffic problems.

Using Michael Brooker's death as motivation to get new bike paths built as soon as possible in HRM is a way to bring some meaning to this tragedy. And once the multi-use trail is built, it should be named in his honour.

Let the Opposition do their job

It's always a drag to be criticized for doing your job. But Nova Scotia's Opposition MPs shouldn't let the Tories' tough talk make them stop demanding more information on the recently acclaimed deal made between Halifax and Ottawa on the Atlantic Accord.

The Conservative's cabinet representative for Nova Scotia, Peter MacKay, sounded too high and mighty last week when he suggested Liberal Opposition MPs Rodger Cuzner (Cape Breton-Canso) and Geoff Regan (Halifax West) should quiet their demands for more information on the deal. Both MPs noted that parliamentarians have not been issued a brief outlining of the deal.

"I think what Mr. Cuzner and Mr. Regan don't like about this is that we've been able to achieve an extremely good arrangement for Nova Scotia, which I would argue surpasses what was put in place by the previous government by a substantial amount of money," MacKay told *The Chronicle Herald* last week.

Using the success of the deal to silence debate on its conditions is an undemocratic and highhanded approach. The Liberal MPs are doing their job, making sure Nova Scotians aren't getting less than they've been promised. To keep photo-ops and grand announcements from amounting to public relations fluff,

we need a strong opposition to keep the government in check.

The federal Conservatives and Premier Rodney MacDonald struck the deal in order to resolve disputes over how much of the revenue from offshore oil and gas exploration each side should get. When the federal Tories opted for a plan to rejig provincial equalization payments rather than the Atlantic Accord that had already been signed between Ottawa, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland, the provincial Tories were upset.

The new deal was announced to much fanfare in a region where Prime Minister Stephen Harper is desperately looking for votes. Conservative support in the Maritime provinces is among the lowest in the country, and the announcement came during the election suspense surrounding the throne speech two weeks ago.

It's important for the Opposition to know what the details are behind the deal. MacKay has said that the details are complex and are taking a while to put in order.

If the deal is complex and difficult to hammer out, perhaps the Tories should have had a briefing prepared before announcing it. Rushing into a photo-op should not be a priority over parliamentary preparedness.

Until Peter MacKay articulates the conditions of the deal, he should govern openly and refrain from telling the Opposition what to do.

Letters@dalgazette.ca

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Letters

The Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. This publication will only print submissions that its editorial board deems to be in good taste and void of libellous and/or defamatory material. If the editorial board determines that a letter violates this policy, The Gazette may invite the author to revise the submission.

Articles

Submissions to The Gazette opinions section must be no longer than 650 words. Please submit a list of sources along with articles. This publication only prints submissions its editorial board deems to be void of libellous and/or defamatory material. Submissions are due at noon on the Friday prior to publication.

Re: Hold your fire: Why targeting soldiers is unfair

I support the Canadian soldiers and the mission in Afghanistan. No, I am not a bloodthirsty monster; on the contrary, bloodshed disgusts me. I do, however, realize the necessity of meeting force with force. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban are going to use deadly force to ensure their sickening dominance over the Afghani people and therefore, in order to end their horrifying regime it is necessary to use deadly force against them.

Now to respond to people who say, "Oh but Steve, what about the

civilians who are dying every day due to friendly fire or suicide bombers? Can't you see that our troops are killing innocents?" Well, the answer to that is easy. Yes I do see that our troops accidentally kill innocent civilians in their quest to stabilize the region, it is a sad reality that is inevitable in combat.

However, please look at the regime in Afghanistan before NATO and other forces intervened. Innocents died every day by the hands of their own government. Women were stoned to death in the streets because they were caught outside alone. These were no accidents. The

Taliban are cold-hearted murderers who must be routed in order to give Afghanistan even a chance at having a fair government that can represent the people. Furthermore, the Taliban regime had harboured and abetted al-Qaeda.

So before you jump on the bandwagon of the Halifax Peace Coalition crying about how horrible it is that Canadian troops are in Afghanistan, please think about what they are trying to do and what it was like before.

— Stephen Sabourin, fourth-year political science

Dear Dalhousie University students and staff,

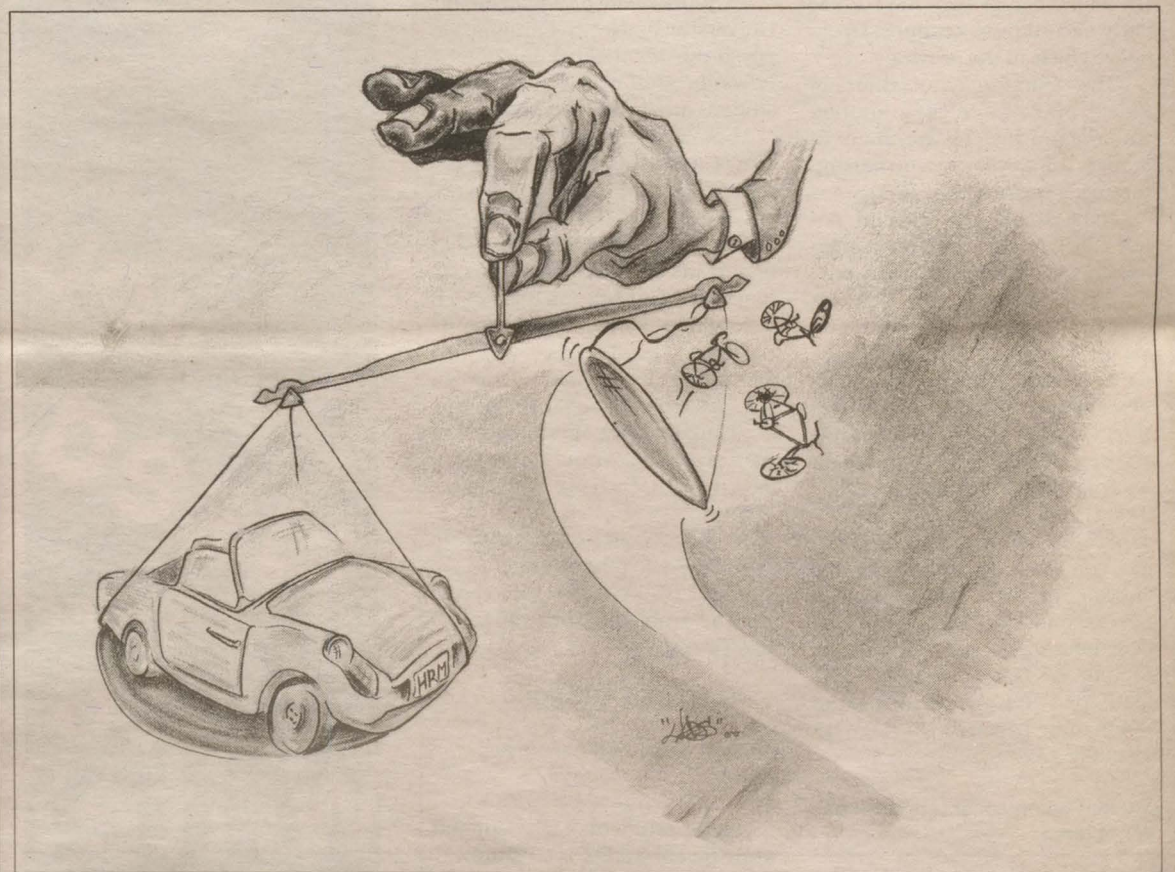
I just wanted to note that I was and am continually taken aback by the efforts of people on campus who have continually gone out of their way in minor and larger ways to

chat, enquire and to open and hold doors for a fellow on crutches — myself — who has been plodding around campus for six weeks.

It may not strike anyone as something significant, but despite expectations of courtesy, I was surprised at the amount of it displayed toward

myself. I thank those Dalhousie University members who, being at a fine university, can show things that I find encouraging for all of us. Thank you all very much.

— A student on crutches



JAMES NADEL / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

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Letter to the Editor

Re: Hold your fire: Why targeting soliders is unfair.

In Hold your fire: Why targeting soldiers is unfair, James Munson states that "dissent and insight should be directed toward the general public and the political arenas where the war is debated."

O.K. But unless I have misinterpreted the comment, it seems to me that Munson's shots at Glynn and the Peace Coalition have hit him in the foot instead.

Is Glynn's belief that "cheerleaders for war" wave yellow ribbons not directed at the "general public"?

Is the Peace Coalition's slogan "Bring them home," not ultimately

directed at the government, the ones responsible for "when and where they fight?"

I see nothing here directed toward even one soldier, but I reiterate, if I have misinterpreted Mr. Munson, please correct me.

In addition, I think UVic had more of a moral issue with campus recruiters, because the military pays their troops in Afghanistan pretty well.

— Doug Roop

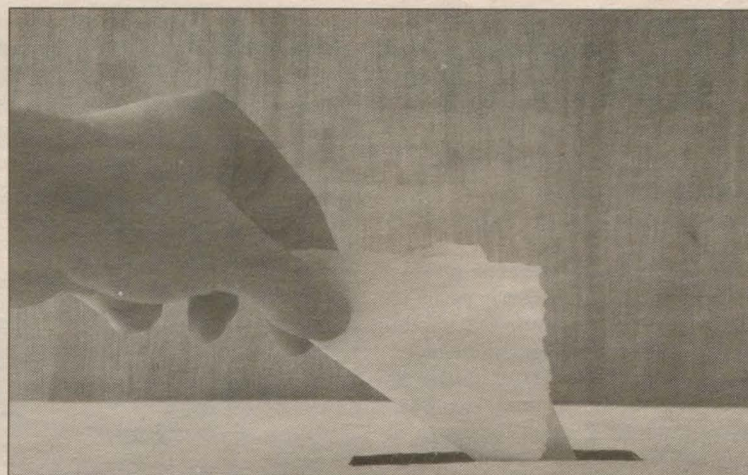
Editor's Note:

My impression of the story was that Glynn was asking the commu-

nity to stop posting the ribbons. She was targeting those who had the ribbons and I feel that's a little too invasive. It also assumes that people who are 'supporting the troops' also believe in the war in Afghanistan. This is unfair because it's putting words in the mouths of others.

You have a good point about the "Bring them home" slogan, but once again I did not like the way people who had the yellow ribbons were targeted, especially in a city with a Canadian Forces base and a lot of military families.

— James Munson
Opinions Editor



GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

Ontario's referendum on Oct. 10 was the second electoral reform vote to fail in Canada after British Columbia.

Without high voter turnout, electoral reform won't work

SCOTT MONEY
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

After Ontario's electoral reform referendum failed earlier this month, many blamed it on a lack of understanding of the issues. However, the wider crisis of declining voter turnout is a big factor as well.

Something is repelling Canadians from voting, or something is failing to drag them in. Only 65 per cent of us made it out in 2004 and only 61 per cent cast their vote in 2006.

One solution currently being debated globally is electoral reform. This has already been instituted across the pond. Many European countries have switched their old voting system to a more modern proportional representation (PR) system. Germany is one of the prominent examples of countries that endorse the PR election system.

Under the PR system, representation in the House of Commons would be proportional to the percentage of votes cast for each party contesting the election. For example, if in the next election the New Democratic Party (NDP) achieves 19 per cent of the votes, they will be awarded 19 per cent of the seats in the House of Commons.

This brings us to Ontario's electoral reform attempts on Oct. 10. As people cast their votes, they would find a referendum question on their ballot. The result of a 'yes' victory would mean that a mixed member proportional version of the PR system would be used to elect members starting in 2011.

However, Ontario's referendum on electoral reform was a disaster. The vote against the PR system was about 2 to 1. There was complete lack of interest by voters and the media, and a poor education campaign about the PR system.

The result of this referendum

does not surprise me at all. It seems almost ridiculous to propose electoral reform in a system where turnout is poor and, in my opinion, media coverage is lethargic. People were given a chance to change the system and still nothing happened. This is prime evidence of the problem of elections in Canada and in most Western democracies.

Even if the PR system had passed, would this option truly make a difference? It could probably bump up turnout a bit, but is a lack of proportional representation the reason Canadians, especially the younger generation, don't show up on election day?

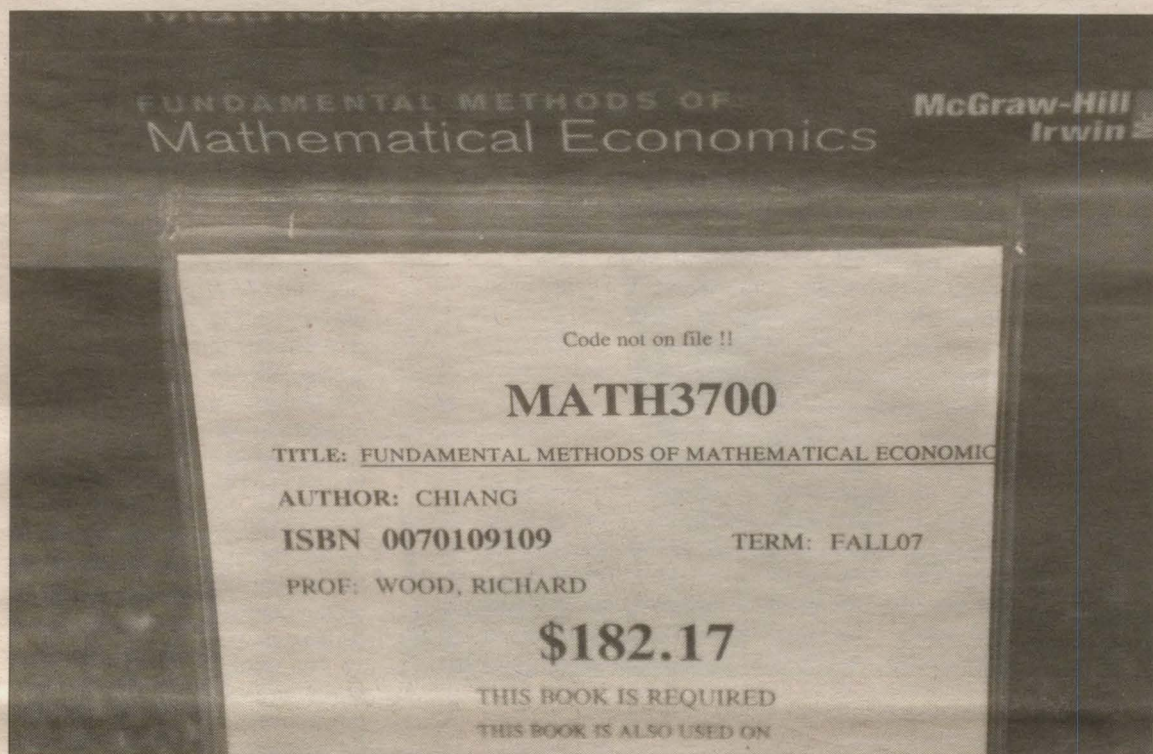
Some argue that instead of voting, young people are getting involved in politics through other organizations, such as community groups and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

According to Statistics Canada, in 2003, Canadians took out 139 million memberships in non-profit and voluntary organizations, an average of four per person. Unfortunately, less than 3 per cent of these organizations were focused directly on politics. Political lobby groups and alternative political organizations could fill that void.

Instead of getting involved politically, young Canadians are much more involved in religious non-profit organizations (19 per cent) and developmental/housing NGOs (7.6 per cent). Like the saying goes: if you can't beat 'em, join an NGO.

However, the ability to effect change through an NGO is minute compared to the power of holding public office.

Voter turnout has been dropping consistently over the last 30 to 40 years. It's a shame that such a trend is being allowed to go on for so long. Electoral reform could increase the number of people who vote by making them feel their vote counts.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Book publishers aren't trying to make students' lives any easier.

Beating back the book crooks

RAMI NASSER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

This term I spent over \$500 on books.

Why are books so expensive? Most science, engineering and business books cost well over \$100 each. Publishing companies often now add CDs to their books, sometimes with no more than few files on them. The same files could have been posted on the books' websites, cutting the cost of the textbook.

Yearly new editions of books make it hard for students to save money by buying used ones and make it hard for them to sell their old ones. This year, four of my five books were new.

Publishing companies update their best-selling books to newer editions by adding a few problems and paragraphs and changing the cover. The differences between the seventh and eighth editions of my *Investment*

Analysis and Portfolio Management books are minor updates and a few new and expanded discussions.

An excerpt from the McGraw-Hill company's 2006 annual report says, "Negatively affecting the higher education market is the purchase of used books which has grown as a percentage of total book sales from 27% in 2002 to 29% in 2005, according to Monument Information Resource."

An excerpt from Pearson's 2006 annual report reads, "Specific competitive threats we face at present include: Students seeking cheaper sources of content, e.g. online, used books or re-imported textbooks."

Professors argue that expensive books explain the material better and that new books are needed to keep up with the latest advancements. This might be true for some areas of study that experience rapid progress like biology, electronics and marketing. But that doesn't apply for subjects like calculus, electromagne-

tism and economics, where the fundamental theories have not changed in years.

Expensive and new books are attractive because they usually come with presentations, extra problems, sample exams, teaching guides, etc., making it easier for professors to prepare for lectures and exams.

After taking four years of undergraduate studies in engineering, I have over 15 expensive books I can't sell because my professors required students in subsequent years to buy new, updated editions.

Professors should consider students' interests when selecting required texts for their classes. They should look for books that don't play the multi-editions game, books we can buy on Amazon at a cheaper price, books we can find on eBay for a fraction of the North American price, and books we can sell next year to other students.



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in room 312 of the SUB

'Getting things done' has a price

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

A minority government resembles a majority-in-waiting when it constantly tries to show Canadians that it is "getting things done" and is the best candidate for the next time a vote comes around. This way, when the next election does arrive, the minority government will have a lengthy record to prove it is efficient and productive, even in a minority position.

By rushing some important legislation the Conservatives gave the federal government a hangover of problematic and poorly thought out legislation.

More and more cracks are becoming visible in legislation that has been passed in the house or is currently on the table. A forceful and rushed impetus to get things done has led to unforeseen consequences in different levels of government, whether it's at the Supreme Court or back in the House.

At the head of this train wreck was an amendment to the Elections Act that included required photo identification at the ballot box. The amendment did not consider women in hijabs, which brought on a lengthy and contentious debate on reasonable accommodation. The Tories are currently putting a motion on the table to ban voting while veiled.

Good government should not have let such a fiery issue ignite. It ended up being an alienating and wasteful debate, in which most Muslim groups like the Muslim Canadian Congress didn't even want to take part.

Another hole in the Elections Act review is the worrisome fact that, according to Elections Canada, over a million Canadians will not be able to vote in future elections. According to the amendment to the Elections



STOCK PHOTO

Justice Minister Rob Nicholson is asking for the Tory's omnibus bill to pass swiftly through the house.

Act, Canadians now require a home address in order to vote. People living in northern Canada and in rural areas often use post offices as their addresses, and according to CTV.

com, many First Nations people living on reserves simply use the name of their community.

Had these amendments been studied further, these consequences

may have been foreseen. Cramping the political agenda with its own mistakes is no way for a House to run.

The fast-paced tone of the Tories

is more apparent when it comes to the omnibus crime bill being discussed since the Throne Speech two weeks ago. The Conservatives are asking for a speedy passage, but they should take some lessons from the headache they are now causing Elections Canada

The Tackling Violent Crime act includes three of the five bills that did not pass through Parliament in the last session. If it took too much time to get the House on board last time around, this should be an indication that a rushed approach is the wrong one.

One of the bills concerns dangerous offenders.

"Under the proposed legislation those convicted of violent or sexual crimes three times or more will be required to show the court why they should not be designated as dangerous offenders," Justice Minister Rob Nicholson told the House two weeks ago.

The opposition is suggesting the legislation should be studied more carefully before being passed, and they're right. Making a criminal decision whether or not they are a dangerous offender detracts from the role of the Crown or state in proving someone's guilt.

The Tories are asking for the bill to pass in an atmosphere of election speculation. It's unfair for the Tories to push this legislation in order to prepare for an election because the burden will ultimately fall on the Supreme Court and a future session of Parliament

The Tories shouldn't use the minority government simply to compile a collection of commercial clips for when a vote is called. The same tedious and precarious rules of sound governmental strategy should be in place as they are in a majority government.

Digital solutions to paper waste

NATALIA ROQUE-CUADRA
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

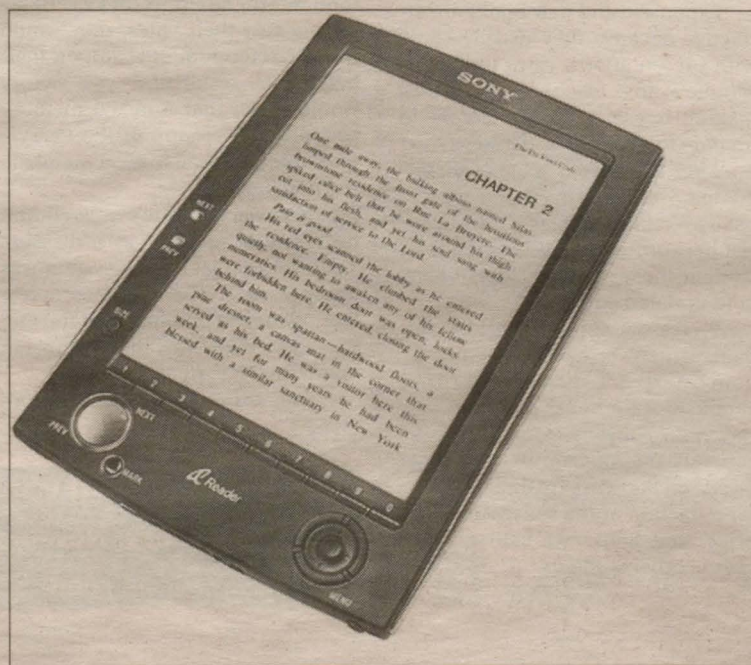
A couple of months ago, I came across one of those electronic books in an issue of *Flare* magazine for the first time. As I looked at the rare object, a little thought bubble popped into my head: university students could use these in the classroom.

This semester I had to take a science class, which was not my cup of tea. But since we are living in a decade where carbon dioxide is more famous than ever (thanks to 2007 Nobel Peace Prize winner Al Gore), a class on climate change seemed like the best choice for me.

So far I've learned a lot and the professor is great. But I have a little problem. As we learn three times a week about how global warming is a serious issue, we are downloading and printing off the PowerPoint slides before class.

It pains me because there are about 190 students in that class. I'm sure not all of them download and print off the slides, but I would argue that the great majority does. My dilemma is that, while it is useful to have the slides beforehand, it doesn't make sense to use so much paper when we are talking about global warming and its triggers (deforestation being one of them).

This is where electronic books come into play. Picture this: you are sitting in the classroom with your



STOCK PHOTO

Digital books now cost between \$300 and \$400.

little electronic book. You have your PowerPoint slides in there, and in case you need to make some notes, you can always bring a writing pad.

These devices don't currently have the ability to upload files, but I hope in the near future my idea will be realized. I know these electronic books are somewhat costly (between \$300 and \$400 Canadian, depending on the brand), but hopefully the

price will fall as they become more popular.

For now though, all we can do is try to use as little paper as we can. For instance, we could ask our professors if we could submit our essays electronically and they could use the track changes function to make comments on them.

It might sound a little complicated, but we need to start somewhere.

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The Scientific Skeptic

'Scientific racism' is unscientific

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Last month, genetics pioneer James D. Watson shocked the scientific world when he said in a newspaper interview that black people are less intelligent than white people. Watson told the paper he was "inherently gloomy about the prospect of Africa" because "all our social policies are based on the fact that their intelligence is the same as ours - whereas all the testing says not really."

Watson is famous for being half of Watson and Crick, the duo who correctly pieced together the molecular structure of DNA, giving us the model of the double helix and winning them the Nobel Prize in Medicine. Now 79 years old, he still serves as an advisor to several high-profile medical research centres.

In the true spirit of the scientific method, the evidence suggests we shouldn't take Watson's accomplishments as any indication that he should be listened to.

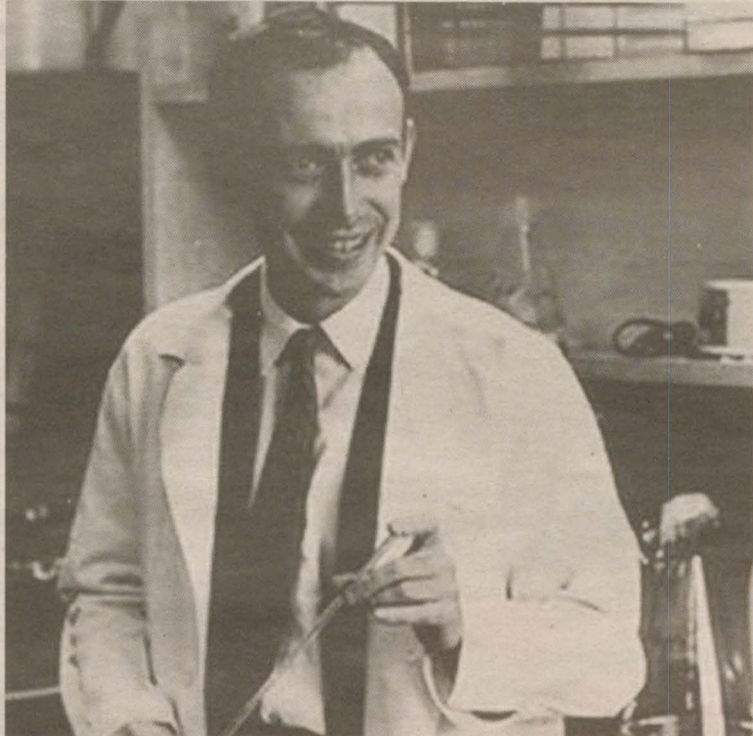
Watson is no stranger to controversy. There are accusations that he stole the work of a research associate, Rosalind Franklin, in his original paper on the structure of DNA, without offering her co-authorship or giving her credit. Franklin took the X-ray diffraction images of DNA and passed on her observation that the backbones of DNA had to be on the outside to Watson and Crick. Watson portrayed her in his autobiography as being less important and unable to interpret her own data.

In 2000, Watson gave a guest lecture at the University of California at Berkeley where he said that skin colour was linked to sex drive and that fat people have no ambitions.

We tend to romanticize groundbreaking scientists. When someone comes up with a new theory that is profound and expands human understanding, it's hard not to see that person without angel wings and an aura of wisdom.

Scientists are human and we shouldn't immediately accept all of their ideas as being true or holy. Albert Einstein may have published three revolutionary papers in his 20s, but he wasted the rest of his life searching for a grand unified theory while ignoring new evidence and theories.

On the home front, he was a lousy



STOCK PHOTO

James D. Watson is a man who craves attention, and one way he can stay in the limelight is to say shocking things.

dad and husband, ignoring his son's psychological problems in favour of his work and drawing up a 'contract' of what he expected from his wife. Isaac Newton was unfriendly and believed there were secret coded messages about the date of the end of the world in the bible.

So we should trust in the scientific method, not necessarily the scientist.

But it's not enough to dismiss Watson's comments as those of a crazy old kook, either. The scientific content of his argument needs to be analyzed.

The problem with doing this with Watson's theory is that it uses two subjective and contentious terms: 'race' and 'intelligence.' It is impossible to define race. Scientifically, it is not enough to categorize people by skin tone because it is so diverse and varies over time. Is race cultural? Geographic? Genetic?

Intelligence is also difficult to define because there are so many types of intelligence. Intelligence is not purely genetic. It can also depend on thousands of factors, from your mother's diet during pregnancy to how much time you spend watching *Flavor of Love*.

Another pitfall in experiments to relate intelligence and race is that they will be biased one way or the other no matter what. Most of the 'testing' done so far has been carried out with a political agenda or in the interest of justifying inequality.

For example, in the mid 1850s, Samuel George Morton believed he could determine the intelligence of a race by measuring the capacity of skulls. Though Morton claimed to have found significant evidence for larger brains in white people, his work cannot be taken seriously for several reasons.

Morton ignored large groups of data that did not fit his theories. He also measured in seeds that can be packed in tightly or loosely. Lastly, he did not even consider that intelligence has no basis in brain size. Bigger people have bigger brains. So why aren't WWE wrestlers winning more Nobel prizes?

Watson probably isn't as backward or as racist as Morton and his colleagues. He's a man who craves attention, and one way he can stay in the limelight is to say shocking things. Unfortunately, he's squandering his reputation and muddying the field of genetics.

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STREETER

How did you survive midterms?



“A lot of coffee and going to the library.”

Jason David, grad student political science



“Living at the library.”

Catherine McGivery, second-year mathematics



“Drinking.”

Moe Sobantu, fifth-year recreational management



“A whole lot of pharmaceutical drugs.”

Daniel Stern, fourth-year political science



“A lot of HBO specials, like *Dexter* and *Californication*.”

Devon Stephenson, fourth-year history



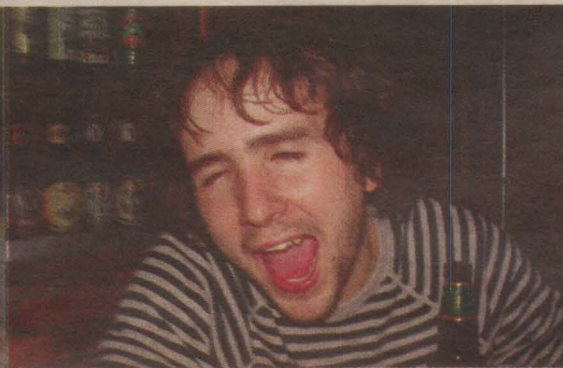
“I only had one, so it wasn't bad at all.”

Tanya Mahadeo, first-year political science



“Sleeping whenever I have the time.”

Melissa Matchett, third-year psychology



“Going to Cape Breton and seeing the tar ponds.”

James Munson, ninth-year education prevention

OVERHEARD AT DAL

In line at the Spring Garden McDonald's at 2:30 a.m.:
Security Guard: Sir, you'll have to take off your wig.
Guy: Well you're wearing a hat. You take that off.
Security Guard: I don't have to. I work here.
Guy: There's like 40 drunks in here, you can't take us all.

Spring Garden McDonald's at 3 a.m.:
McEmployee: 40 McNuggets...40 McNuggets?
Guy in line: I'll take 'em for four bucks!
Guy across room: Five bucks!
Guy in line: Six bucks!
Security Guard: What is this? A fucking auction?

Physics 2515, while introducing the origins of quantum mechanics:
Prof: It's like in the horror movies, ya know? Life seems mysterious until you find out your mother is an alien who has been storing your brothers and sisters in the basement, and then it all makes sense.

A few minutes later...
Prof: You just have to wrap your head around that. Your mother is an alien. I'm sorry.

Outside of The Dome:
Police Officer: If you don't stop crying, we will arrest you too.

Looking at new engineering T-shirt that says "Engineering is Sexy" using mathematical symbols:

Math student: What does that mean: integral e to the x gamma?

After having the t-shirt explained...

Student: That doesn't make any sense - there has to be an integrated variable!

Neuro principles and methods class:

Prof: If you try to publish a neuroanatomy article and you don't have scale bars, you will look like a total boob.

Outside the SUB:

Man (holding up container): Hey are these your bacon bits?

Dawgfather: Bacon bits! I don't have bacon bits! Those are *fakon* bits!

Stick it to the pigs, man! No no 5-0."

Man: Um, so I can use them though, right?

HOT OR NOT

↑ **HOT:** Kraft Dinner / ↓ **NOT:** Scurvy

↑ **HOT:** Lululemon / ↓ **NOT:** False advertising

↑ **HOT:** Halloween naughty nurses / ↓ **NOT:** Venereal disease

↑ **HOT:** / ↓ **NOT:** Black lung

↑ **HOT:** / ↓ **NOT:** Actually working

↑ **HOT:** Sex with Sue / ↓ **NOT:** Sex with you

↑ **HOT:** Stereotypes / ↓ **NOT:** Toronto girls

↑ **HOT:** 50¢ Pepsi / ↓ **NOT:** Freaky tasting Pepsi

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Overheard at Dal, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. The quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and are do not necessarily represent views held by James Munson himself, *The Gazette* and or its staff.

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STREETSTYLE

VICTORIA PULMAN
second-year English and sociology



United Colors of Benetton sunglasses, bought at Winners for \$20: "I buy expensive clothing for really low prices. I'm kind of a poseur in a way."

The newest craze in D.I.Y. – prescription glasses: "I bought these from Liquidation World for \$1.50. They were originally sunglasses, but I popped out the lenses and had my prescription fit to frame."

I'm wearing expensive clothing right now, I'm not going to lie."

You don't have to be the Fresh Prince to rock the neon. A pop of unexpected colour brings any outfit to life. Diamond says, "I love this shirt. I'll find any excuse to wear it."


"My favourite store is Group Seven in Calgary. It has a bunch of great stuff that people don't know about, and you can get it over the internet."

Show off a splash of colour with a rolled-up cuff.

"My only fashion rule is that I always have to match. If I'm wearing my blue shirt, I'll wear my blue shoes; my purple shirt, my purple shoes. I don't really match with lines or anything, but I have to match my colours – I think it's a good flow."

ALEX DIAMOND
first-year economics and law



Wash it down with 

Darude: after the storm

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

Darude is no longer Mr. Sandstorm. Well, he's trying not to be.

With his new album out in Finland, *Label This!*, he is desperately trying to stray from the leash "Sandstorm" has had tight around his neck.

This down-to-earth DJ is so modest about the phenomenon of "Sandstorm," it's amazing to consider he had the world's best-selling 12-inch vinyl in 2000.

"All of a sudden, one of my tracks got big," Darude says, "I don't know why. A good track at a good time."

"It's not realistic to happen all the time. If you try to do that kind of thing, it's a very slight chance you'll have success," he says. "It's all about life's happy accidents."

He seems to be at peace with "Sandstorm," a song that has overshadowed his career.

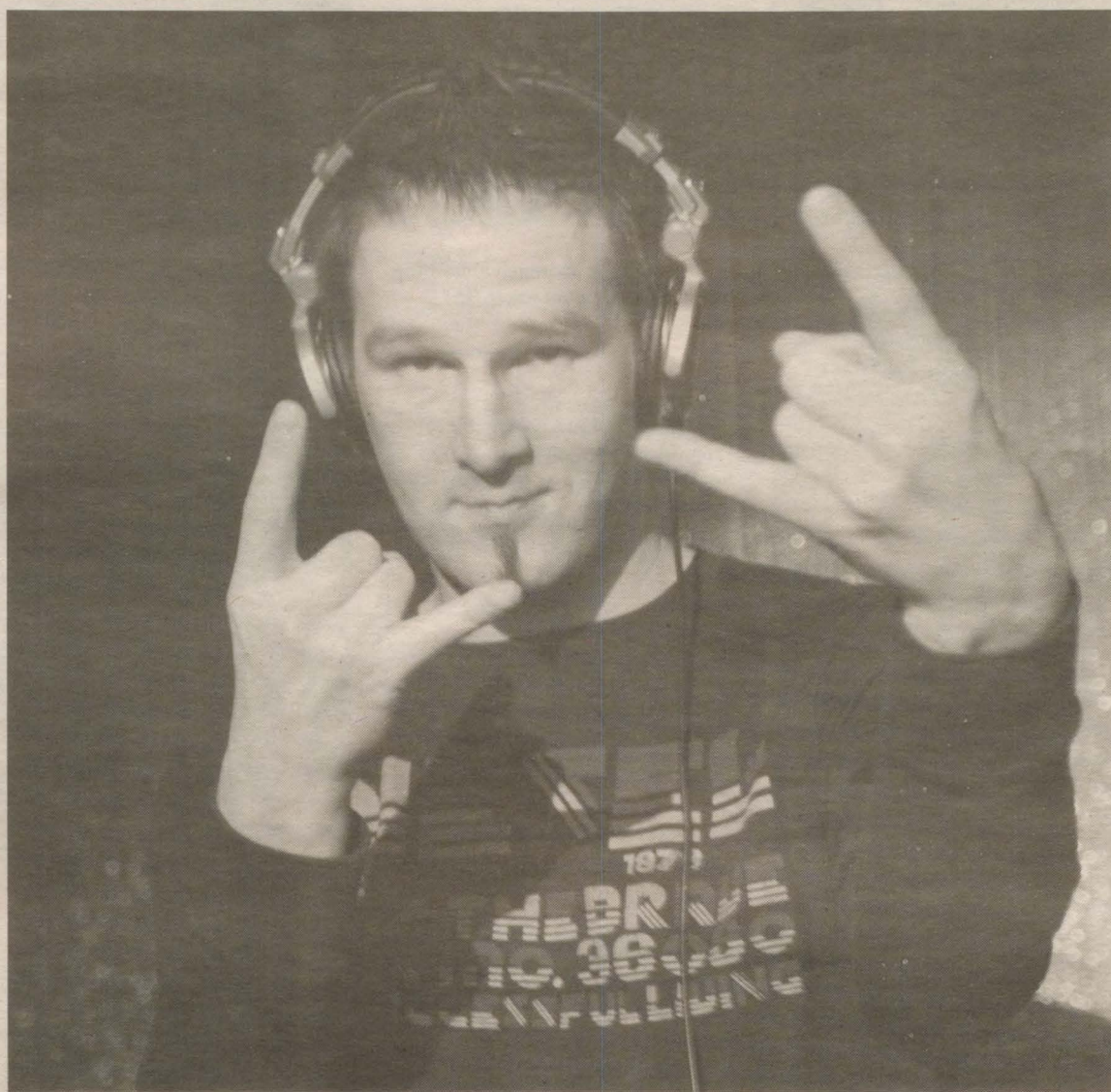
"I got a lot of shit from that - being a sell-out," he says. "A couple of tracks were played out all the time, several times a night...I didn't play that. DJs played that. Radio stations played it."

But shows like the one at The Palace on Oct. 26 allow him to showcase his repertoire. After a couple years of dealing with both the positive and negative repercussions of his fame, he decided not to worry about being labeled.

"Any underground dude who calls me a sell-out, if they had the same chance they would take it in a heart-beat," he says.

Darude says he doesn't create his music for fame. He describes it as energetic, melodic dance music. For the past four years, he has been DJing and occasionally doing live shows. His new album is a continuous mix from the first track to the last one.

"It goes style-wise a little like my DJ set would," he says.



Darude makes a connection with the crowd at Halloween bash.

JOSHUA BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Label This! is a throwback to a more traditional Darude sound.

"The last two tracks are quite uplifting, traditional, trancey mix, more

like instrumental and up-tempo," he says. "There is a big breakdown and build up."

"My Game," a single from *Label*

This!, was previewed on his MySpace page. The song starts off with hard rock and turns into a rock/electronic pump-up song. "Tell Me," which was

released in September, has more rocky vocals, along with a feel-good, up-tempo beat.

Darude doesn't discriminate with the type of music he uses to mix in with his beats.

"I know it's a very much used cliché, but if music is good, it's good. Doesn't matter. For me, I need energy and I need melody."

He wrote many of the lyrics on his new album, saying he recorded demos of his own vocals to give to the singers who recorded them for the tracks.

Darude also produced *Label This!*, giving him the creative freedom he didn't have in the past. He says he had to make compromises with his earlier work that he didn't want to.

"I was not in a position to have said I would do it myself," Darude says of why he didn't produce his earlier albums, laughing. "I was not good enough or experienced enough so, I hope I am now."

Darude is extending his style by creating sounds for radio, ringtones, Nintendo and movie soundtracks.

He creates a connection with his audience that is prominent in his sets. Not many DJs hold up signs saying, "Hello again," or a picture of a heart. He reaches out to his fans.

"I play for them, and with them. I want to be physically close to the crowd so that I can look people in the eye and slap them high-five or whatever."

If Darude is moved by his own music, the audience is sure to react.

"I get goosebumps several times a night," he says.

Label This! will be out in Canada in the new year and can be sampled on MySpace. You can check out "Darude Presents Finland," his online radio DJ set every third Thursday of each month on ETN.fm.

Darude pounds The Palace

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Sweaty construction workers rubbed up against glittering fairy princesses. Costumed club-goers revelled in the ecstasy and anonymity of The Palace's Viva La Halloween party with Darude on Friday, Oct. 26.

Pulsing lights illuminated the glistening brows of dancers as opening DJs Logan Hudak and Afif Khan filled the dance floor with their energetic sets. The crowd heaved and swelled to the techno beats, pausing only to cheer as Darude made his entrance.

Darude immediately tapped the energy of the crowd. Angels and devils alike pulsed and popped to unremitting electric throbs.

Accented by the fire dancing spectacle of performer Molotov, Darude's bassy tracks reverberated in the chests of every masked and made-up member of the licentious mob in The Palace.

From the beginning of his set to the end, Darude kept the audience in a trance. Hands swirling in the air and closed eyes concealing dilated pupils created private universes for dancers amidst the wild, moving mass.

Darude mingled tracks from his new album *Label This!* into his performance, as well as a crowd pleasing techno mix of Nirvana's "Smells Like Teen Spirit." As the crowd sang along to the appropriate words, "here we are now, entertain us," Darude responded with a rib-cracking climax of beats that pounded through the speakers.

Anticipation built for "Sand-



storm," Darude's biggest hit and arguably one of the most well-known tracks in the trance music scene. When the crowd felt the first few familiar beats they erupted into deafening cheers.

The music continued well into

the night and it wasn't until a quarter to four that the club-goers poured onto the street outside The Palace. Construction workers and fairy princesses, hand in hand, gulped water, hailed taxis and heaved in the cool October air.

Come to the next Gazette
contributor meeting:
Monday, November 5th
@ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB



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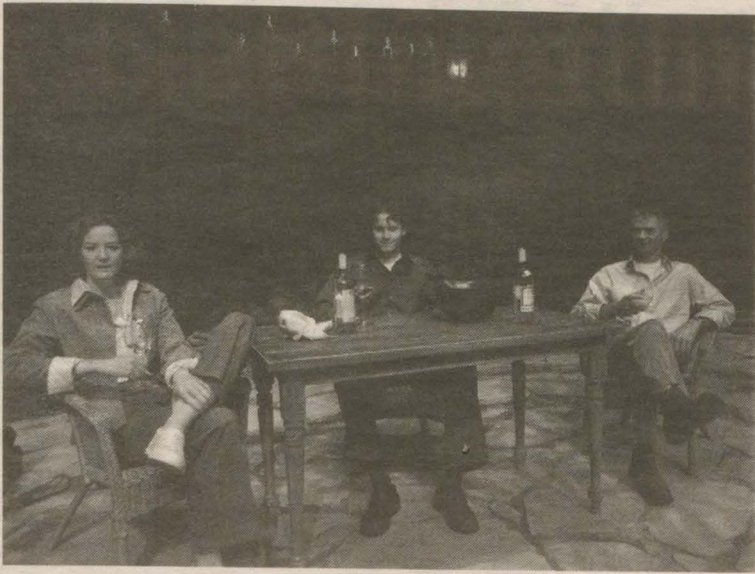
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SCOTT MUNN / NEPTUNE THEATRE

Neptune Theatre's *The Vertical Hour* is political and anticlimactic.

The Vertical Hour: Walking a fine line

PATRICK ST. AMAND
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The ambivalence of this play makes it exceptionally hard to review. Not to mention that having an opinion is seen negatively in the play itself. So, how exactly does one critique a play that is habitually critiquing itself?

The Vertical Hour, playing at Neptune Theatre is a play directed by Ron Ulrich. The set locations only consist of a professor's office, Wales for a trip, then back to the office.

The professor, played by Carmen Grant, is a political science expert and a gung-ho Iraqi supporter. When she goes to Wales to meet her boyfriend's father, played by Andrew Gillies, she finds an anti-war, womanizing doctor.

The actors did a fine job of presenting and delivering their lines. The set was believable and well-crafted.

The dialogue between the father and the professor was also a delight, constantly undercutting itself while talking about political issues the audience could relate to.

However, there are certain areas

where the play itself falls short. The mysterious past of the father being a womanizer and having been in a traumatic car accident is poorly developed. The son seems to be jealous of his father and have an unyielding resentment for him that is not really explained or resolved.

Not to say that the viewer should be foolish enough to assume all will work out, but when the opportunity for conflict arises, the resolution falters.

The opening scenes in the professor's office don't gel with the rest of the play. In the first scene, a student hits on the professor and in the second, a student writes a paper inspired by her recent break-up with her boyfriend.

The end anticlimactically finishes with the professor trying to inspire the student and then, out of nowhere, informing the student she won't be able to help her after all because she is going back to Iraq.

In taking a stance, the play shows the pros and cons of the current political mentality. Although there is room for improvement, overall the play is enjoyable and worth checking out.

Turned On

Book Review: *The Straight Girl's Guide to Sleeping with Chicks*

SHANNON PRINGLE
SEXPERT

I have a weakness for a good sex guide, regardless of its target audience. Knowledge is powerful, hot and sexy, and if your head accompanies your desire into the bedroom, you are probably going to have a good time.

So it was with sheer delight that I happened upon *The Straight Girl's Guide to Sleeping with Chicks* by Jen Sincero. Here is a book that's neither exclusively heterosexual nor lesbian, but addressed some of the grey area on the sexual spectrum.

This is a hip, frank, fun, sexy, sex-positive guide for all the curious, questioning and bisexual women out there. From the title on in, the author – a self-described straight girl who has slept with chicks – attempts to give women permission to step outside of their heterosexual experience and enthusiastically explore the world of girl-on-girl sex. It liberates them from the need to redefine or label themselves as straight, bisexual, lesbian, etc.

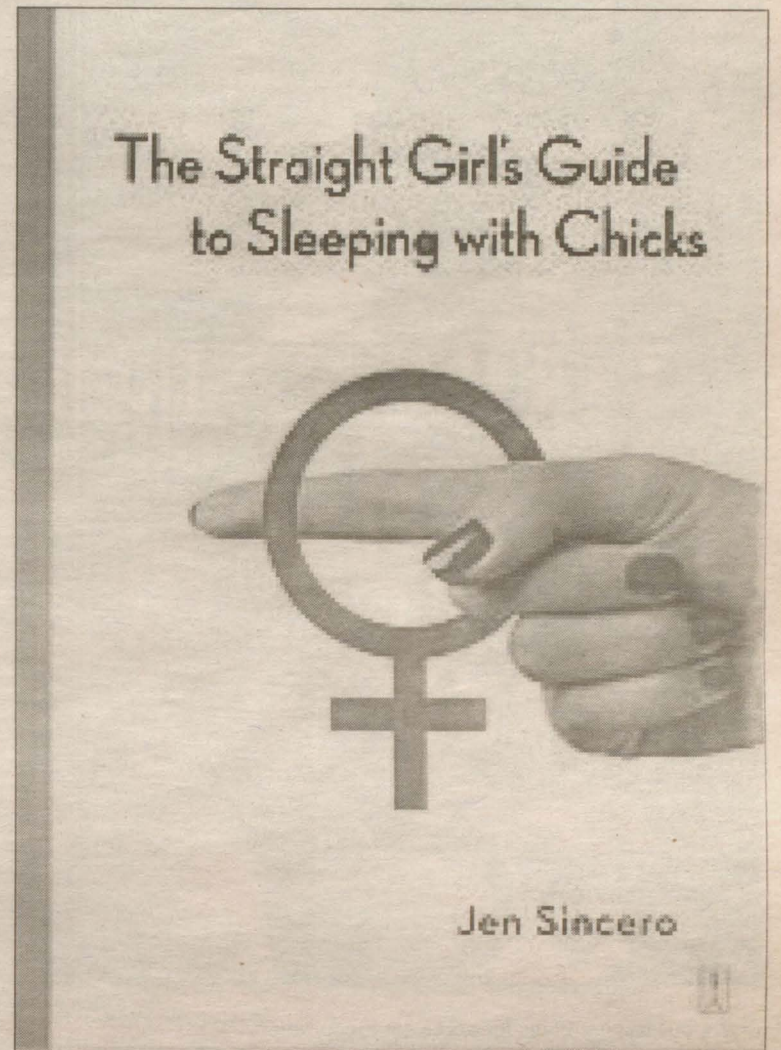
Sincero weaves her personal experiences, hundreds of interviews and research from numerous sex guides, erotica, novels, films, porn, online sex stores, good websites and high-quality sex stores into a refreshing style that is honest, humorous and punctuated with unashamed, colourful language.

It reminded me of having a good sex conversation with a close friend. Sincero's chapter on masturbation, entitled "The Super-Huge Importance of Sticking Your Hand Down Your Pants" is an empowering section for being your own best sex partner anytime, anywhere, complete with accurate anatomy and tips for getting off in public places without anyone noticing.

The information on safer sex, lube and sex toys is current, accurate and contains purchasing tips, along with frisky ideas for use while having sex with girls. Sincero enthusiastically incorporates anal play, anal sex and strap-on sex into the vast arena of female sexual pleasure.

The diagrams of sexual positions will amuse anyone who grew up playing with Barbie. The text is punctuated with highlighted tips for sleeping with chicks, vocabulary builders and old wives' tales about girl-on-girl sex.

Sincero's chapter, "Oh My God, She Wants Me to Eat Her Pussy," is as much a guide to cunnilingus as it is a call for women to get over their discomfort with their own vulvas. I love the line in the chapter that reads: "Our capacity to believe our pussies



are nasty is up there with believing we're too fat or too stupid."

Her chapter on threesomes, with whatever gender, contains some useful questions that perhaps should be pondered before making this popular fantasy a reality.

Sincero writes that education is the best way to combat performance anxiety and after that you should trust your instincts. Having sex with anyone, regardless of gender, who you aren't attracted to is not going make for a satisfying sexual experience. Having sex with a woman for the sole purpose of turning on a man should be examined more closely. Only have sex with women if you really want to, if you find them sexy, and if they make you wet.

Sincero also writes that identifying yourself as straight, bisexual or lesbian has as much to do with how you go about in the world and what is between your ears as it does with who you prefer to have sex with. Sex with girls is still sex. This is important to realize, as our heterocentric culture still largely defines 'sex' as penis-in-vagina and undervalues any other kind of female sexual experience.

I do have some issues with the book, however. I passionately disagree with Sincero's repeated encouragement for using alcohol to break the ice and dissolve one's inhibitions and first-time jitters when seeking a female sex partner.

Being drunk or high for the first time with a new sex partner leads to risky sexual behaviour. It makes people think they don't need to take responsibility for their desire and can be used as an excuse if the experience wasn't what they expected. It's important to be responsible for and own your sexual desire as an empowering part of who you are.

And although I understand Sincero's desire to avoid labels and the issues that go along with them, and I wholeheartedly support the right to self-identify, if a straight girl sleeps with a chick, discovers she enjoys sex with women, continues to enjoy sex with women and still enjoys sex with men, doesn't that make her queer and no longer a straight girl who sleeps with chicks?

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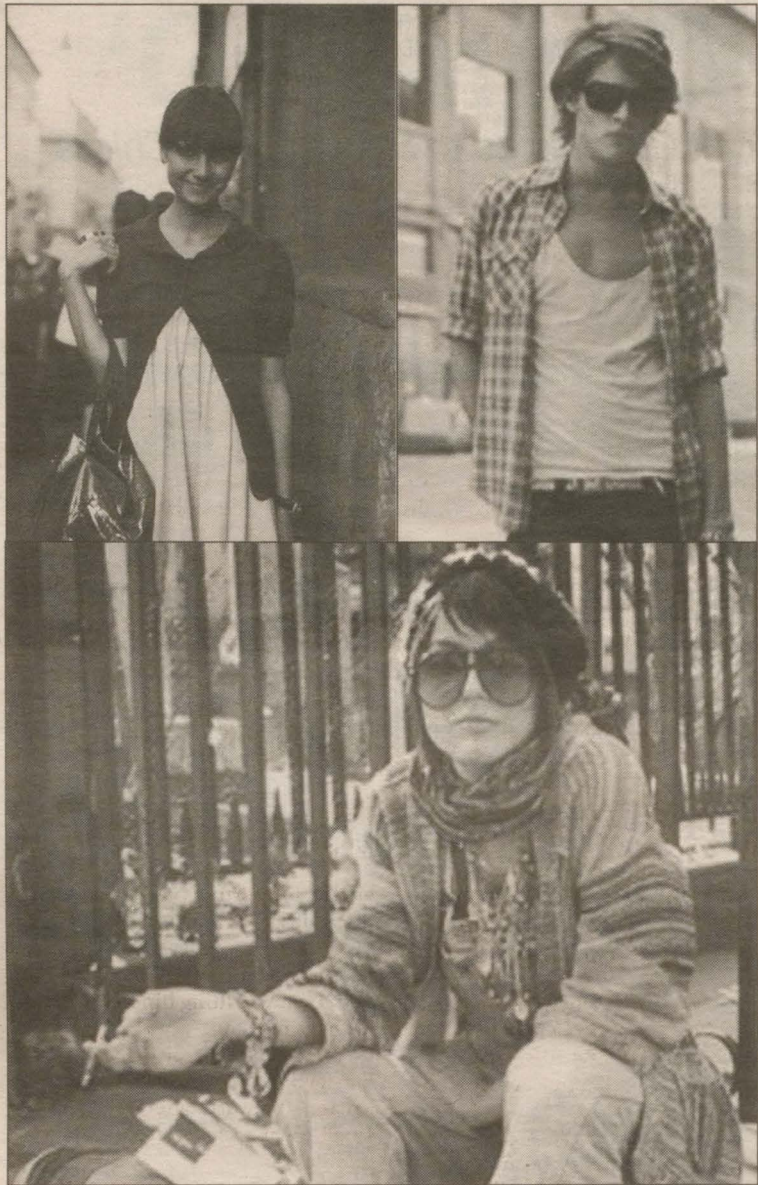
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STOCK PHOTO

Check out fashion blogs for some easy inspiration.

Webstyle

KATIE NATION
FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

You know that feeling when someone walks by wearing a really great outfit? One that's original, put together and tons of fun? An outfit that's not conceptual like in magazines or impossible to afford like on the catwalk, but totally inspiring and totally wearable?

Imagine seeing hoards of those outfits everyday, whenever you want, from all over the world.

For those out of the know, you can find these outfits on streetstyle blogs. They're new, inspiring, and the best part of my morning routine. Streetstyle blogs are pretty self-explanatory: bloggers roam the streets, snapping pictures of and sometimes interviewing great dressers.

Unlike outfits in the world of high fashion, these are born of people with the same Average Joe responsibilities and limited incomes as the rest of us, but who still have the imagination and resourcefulness to turn out a really fierce ensemble. It's practical fashion and it's now at our fingertips.

Thanks to this documentation of creativity, we can now check out the stylings of pedestrians from all across the globe. Who knew people in Berlin were so effortlessly chic? That Stockholm is a fashion force to be reckoned with?

The Sartorialist, arguably the best streetstyle blog of the moment, comes from New York, but New York, London, Paris and Milan aren't the only places to find real fashion.

Tokyo and Hong Kong, for example, are home to some of the world's most innovative and inspiring fashionistas. Thanks to the interweb, a trip across the world or an overpriced foreign magazine is no longer necessary to see this innovation.

But enough gushing. Some blogs are obviously better than others. Beyond good, eclectic outfits, a successful streetstyle blog should also have high-quality photos, frequent

updates and a layout that's simple to navigate. For those new to the streetstyle scene, here are a few to get you started.

The first blog to come to mind is naturally the aforementioned *Sartorialist* (thesartorialist.blogspot.com).

The *Sartorialist's* internationally revered author Scott Schuman is the streetstyle photographer of choice for *Style.com* (the *Vogue* and *W* magazine website) during fashion week. But he arguably takes his best photos while roaming the streets of New York.

The Sartorialist is particularly noteworthy for guys. Schuman is a menswear aficionado, and I can honestly say he taught me everything I know about men's fashion.

My favorite overseas bloggers are the lovely Swedes from Stockholm Streetstyle (stockholmstreetstyle.feber.se/feber).

It may be hard to read (being written in Swedish, after all), but the photography rivals Schuman's and the outfits are fantastic. The best part: the time zone difference means there's a fresh batch every morning, just in time for outfit selection.

There are also plenty of Canadian blogs to choose from.

Vancouver's *The Commodified* (thecommodified.blogspot.com) gets the most press, but infrequent postings and lackluster photos are gradually pushing it down on the streetstyle scale.

Luckily, there's always Montreal's *The Pregnant Goldfish* (pregnant-goldfish.wordpress.com), which might take a minute to load but is usually worth it.

These blogs aren't competitive. Most have enormous lists of fellow streetstyle bloggers to peruse, offering you an easy way to find the blog that best fits your style.

If the internet just isn't your thing, look out for *The Gazette's* own streetstyle feature. Who knows? Maybe a little inspiration could land you in the paper!

Chris Crocker: YouTube celebrity

LAURA MACDONALD
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

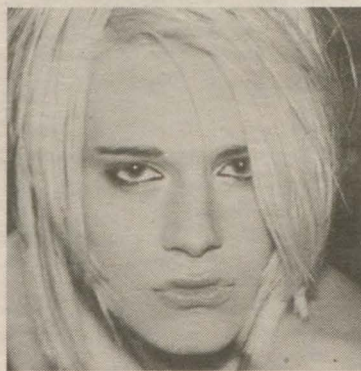
Love him or hate him, Chris Crocker has earned his 15 minutes of fame. Armed with a video camera in his grandmother's basement, he has made YouTube his conduit of choice in getting his opinions heard.

Crocker has landed a spot among the most viewed clips this month and ranks number 15 for most viewed clips of all time on YouTube.

Clad in a tank top, hair extensions and some eyeliner, he has a range of 'personalities,' from gay and proud to Queen of Ghetto to obsessed Britney Spears fan.

It is his clip "Leave Britney Alone" that has brought him much attention from television shows such as *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, *CNN* and *The View*.

The clip is a response to Britney's opening performance at the MTV



STOCK PHOTO

Chris Crocker defends controversial celebrity Britney Spears.

Video Music Awards. In tears, Crocker adamantly defends Britney.

"Leave her alone!" he cries. "You're lucky she even performed for you bastards!"

He feels a deep connection with

Britney and often cites their similarities saying, "We're both black sheep. We're both uninhibited artists. Let people draw their own conclusions."

Chris Crocker (a pseudonym) considers himself an activist in the gay community. He addresses these issues in his YouTube clips with the same Crocker flare that has been the source of his success in becoming an internet celebrity.

Crocker has also had several popular MySpace videos in addition to his claim to fame, "Leave Britney Alone," on YouTube. With the growing popularity of websites like YouTube, we may be seeing more of Crocker in the near future. In fact, the exposure Crocker has received from YouTube has brought him an offer from 44 Blue Productions to do his very own reality TV show.

So watch out. To quote the man himself: "It's Chrissy, bitch."

Dance of the seven veils

MARK BUCKLEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Entering Gypsophilia's masquerade ball the evening of Oct. 26 was like stepping into a Venetian carnival. The Marquee was filled with an array of veiled guests.

Trying to distinguish the identities of the other guests before the night drew to an end proved to be a challenge. The moment the band began to play, the venue was alive with dancing silhouettes, with only the light onstage to accent their features.

Gypsophilia is a seven-piece ensemble influenced by 1920s-era jazz, and largely inspired by the music of legendary French guitarist, Django Reinhardt.

The outfit consists of saxophone, violin, double bass, accordion, piano, melodica and guitar, facilitating a versatile, distinct sound. Their refined conviction and performance aesthetic makes you feel like you've been taken back to another time and place.

The costumes at the ball were elaborate. Most of the party-goers donned fashionable evening attire,



MARK BUCKLEY / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Gypsophilia played to a masked crowd at The Marquee Oct 26.


embracing nostalgia for a time that was never theirs.

Had you found a passage through the masses, you may have caught a glimpse of a seductive display involving a woman and a glow-in-the-dark hula hoop.

Gypsophilia's performances attract quite a following, appealing to

eclectic listeners of any age. Their music has an intoxicating quality and is performed with a professionalism that is only matched by their ingenuity.

Gypsophilia has taken a timeless sound and made it their own, and have provided a concert experience unlike any other this city has seen.



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Don't make me blush

AMY DEMPSEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Back in first year on a particularly messy night at The Split Crow, I made my way to the ladies' room, which, for those of you who aren't familiar with the pub, is located at the bottom of the most perilous set of stairs in Halifax.

Supporting myself with my right hand on the rail and holding a Keith's draft in my left, I took one step, two steps, and with a grand *woosh!* I slipped and skidded down four or five stairs on my bum, landing in the middle of the staircase.

Like the true Cape Bretoner I am, I managed to save the beer.

The creepy guys who lean against

the railing trying to peek down girls' shirts as they descend to the lower level of the bar all laughed at me.

There is a stigma associated with any kind of fall, trip, spill, or swooning motion you make when you are drinking that causes people to immediately decide that "You are hammered!"

If you commit one of these offences while a bouncer is watching, you will likely get yourself kicked out of the bar.

As luck would have it, there was a bouncer at the bottom of the stairs who witnessed the incident.

I stood up quickly, smiled nervously at him, held onto the railing for dear life and made a second attempt. I took one step, two steps

down and *woosh!* I fell down the fucking stairs again!

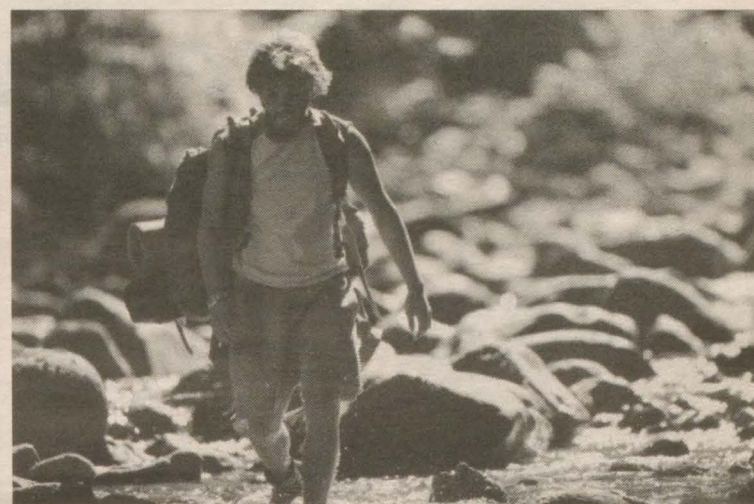
This time I spilled half the beer all over myself and twisted my ankle. And lucky me, I managed to land right at the bouncer's feet. He looked at me judgingly.

"Hey," I said. "I'm not really that drunk, those stairs are fucking slippery."

"Right..."

"They are!" I insisted. "Look!"

I pointed at the puddles for evidence and just as he skeptically glanced up the flight of stairs, some random guy began to trudge down and, in a spectacular confirmation of my assertion, he fell down the stairs from top to bottom. Spilled his whole beer, too. Amateur.



IMBD
Christopher McCandless takes a two-year journey across North America in *Into the Wild*.

Take the journey Into the Wild

BRITTANY CURRAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Into the Wild is a fascinating tale of self-discovery, presenting one man's journey into the Alaskan wilderness.

Directed by Hollywood visionary Sean Penn, *Into the Wild* is based on the true story of Christopher McCandless' two-year trek across North America.

In 1992, McCandless, played perfectly by Emile Hirsch, abandoned his post-university plans to embark on a solitary voyage to Alaska.

Water jug, rubber boots and optimism in tow, McCandless adopted the alias "Alexander Supertramp" and depended solely upon personal stamina. He was determined to survive through a minimalist existence.

The film includes many contrasting images. McCandless looks tiny against vast mountain ranges and beach backdrops. He also becomes increasingly weak, and his paleness is a stark comparison to the vibrant colours of nature.

Into the Wild captures McCandless' desperate conditions and keen disposition. In contrast to his seclu-

sion, the film emphasizes the comfort and necessity of company.

The film has an incredibly talented supporting cast, portraying the quirky strangers who framed McCandless' journey. Catherine Keener and Brian Dierker play Jan and Rainey, drifting hippies who admire his old soul.

Vince Vaughn also excels as a bar-loving farmer, and newcomer Kristen Stewart adeptly plays a small-town girl, smitten with McCandless.

His sister, Carine (Jena Malone) helps narrate the film. She provides the context of McCandless' dysfunctional childhood, especially the void between him and his father.

The most poignant moment in McCandless' journey is when he meets Ron (Hal Holbrook), who lost his wife and son in an accident. Inspired by each other's courage, Ron and McCandless develop a father-son relationship they both needed.

Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder provides the soundtrack to the film.

With its documentary-style, this groundbreaking film acknowledges McCandless' personal epiphany: "happiness is only real when shared."

Not Just For Laughs, but for side-splitting entertainment

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

Just For Laughs cracked up the Rebecca Cohn on Sunday, Oct. 28. The crowd didn't stop laughing all night.

Alonzo Bodden, star of NBC's *Last Comic Standing*, hosted the show. Bodden loosened up the crowd with his relaxed humour and relatable material.

The show was mainly based on relationships, but Bodden cracked a Canadian joke to start off the show. Coming from the United States, he talked about the progressing crime scene in Canada in a light-hearted manner.

"It's like a little brother who picked up smoking," he said.

All of the acts were controversial in their own way, but comical.

Andrew Grose played on the identity of the idiot husband, bringing up stereotypes of marriage and how his wife likes to shop. He played on conventions, but his material was a bit clichéd. The 'women who like to

go shopping for bedspreads' joke is a bit overdone.

Australian alcoholic Fiona O'Loughlin brought humour back to the stage. Everyone likes a woman who can admit she's a bad mother and wife. She talked of her Friday night routine, saying, "Mommy likes to go to Liquor-land." She also said it's great to make fun of her anorexic sister.

Canadian John Wing rocked the controversial jokes, talking of dating Catholic priests and being married for way too long. He brought up the rather clichéd joke of his father talking about 'back in the day,' but twisted it to refer to he and his own children, saying, "In my day you couldn't talk on the phone and take a shit at the same time."

The bits were mostly targeted to an older crowd. The comedians asked the audience if they had kids and how long they had been married.

Bodden returned to the stage, talking about orgasms and how guys don't listen.

"We invented instant-reply be-

cause we forgot the shit we just saw," he said.

Bodden was the funniest comedian in the show by that point.

Kevin Brennan was the figurative newlywed in the relationship-based comedy show. He started off with a joke about drivers in Halifax that was lost on the crowd. He must be used to drivers in other locations, because he said we have careless, speedy drivers in Halifax, while in fact we have very friendly, cautious drivers.

Brennan was hilarious, though. He joked about pedophiles and of having his wallet stolen while 'putting his hands up' in celebration at a 50 Cent concert.

Louis Ramey stole the show along with Bodden, making sex jokes and using the microphone as a fantastic prop. His great visuals were complemented by well-delivered punch lines and sound effects.

The Just For Laughs show was a great success, leaving the crowd with their cheeks hurting and metaphorical pee in their pants.

GAZETTE

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The Invisible

CASSANDRA WHITTY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Invisible gets a little lost at the beginning, much like the soul of its main character. However, it doesn't stay like that for long, delving into Nick Powell's (Justin Chatwin) observation of how fragile life is and how quickly it can be taken away.

The Invisible is based on the novel *Den Osynlige* by Mats Wahl and a Swedish film by the same name.

The character of Powell is an aspiring writer. He faces obstacles in reaching his dreams because his mother (Marcia Gay Harden) already has his life planned out for him.

Powell, a decent guy, sticks up for his cowardly and frequently bullied friend Pete Egan (Chris Marquette), and unintentionally makes an enemy of Annie Newton, (Margarita Levieva),

the hard-faced, tough bully who has too much attitude for her own good.

After a series of escalating events, Newton and her crew track Powell down. When their beating goes too far, they leave him for dead, dumping his body in the woods. But Powell isn't dead – he is walking invisibly among his friends and family trying to tell them he's still alive.

Powell soon realizes that the girl who nearly killed him may be the only one who can save him.

Some of the DVD deleted scenes were good and should have been included in the movie, as they aided in the understanding and flow of the movie. Not every detail in the movie is as self-explanatory as the director seems to think.

While Chatwin is convincing in his role, the outstanding acting has to be credited to Levieva as Newton.



Her character is a realistic portrayal of a girl who has made mistakes in her life, is overcome with hate and anger, and finally finds redemption.

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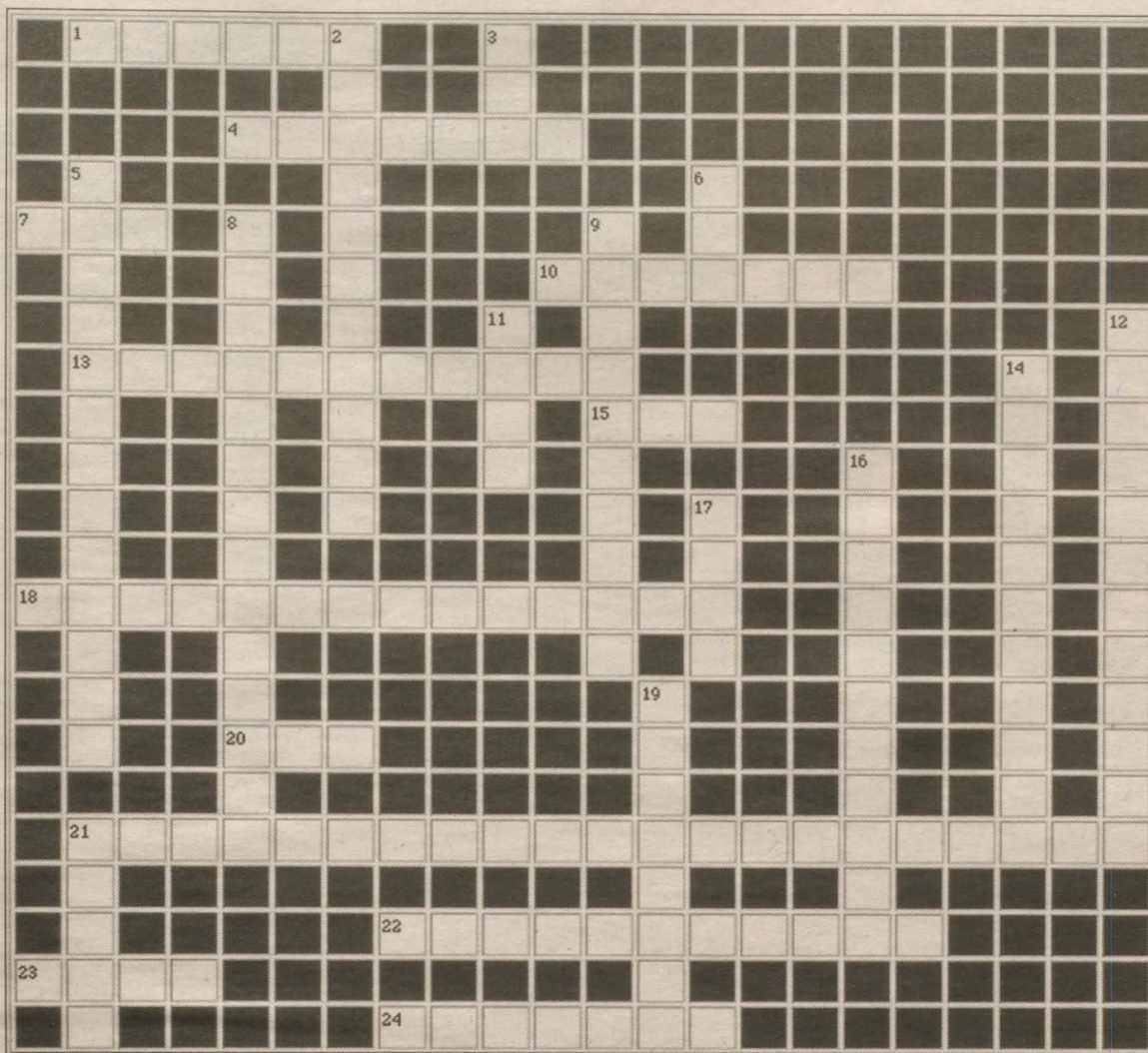
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CROSSWORD

Simpsons Trivia



Across

1. "There's nothing like beer to give you that inflated sense of self-esteem"
4. Mr. Burns' first name
7. Colour of Maggie's soother
10. Marge's maiden name
13. What Gilbert and Sullivan song does Side Show Bob perform on a houseboat? (2wds)
15. "Each jump brings us closer to God!"
18. Principal's name (2 wds)
20. Lisa's musical instrument
21. Bart and Lisa's school (2 wds)
22. What is the name of the airplane Mr. Burns tries to get Smithers into (2 wds)
23. "Everybody makes mistakes. That's why they put erasers on pencils"
24. Doctor who laughs inappropriately

Down

2. Subliminal song title that makes Bart a star
3. Homer's dad
5. "Hi-dilly, ho-dilly, _"
6. Where Selma and Patty work
8. Restaurant where Homer almost dies from blowfish (3 wds)
9. Homer's workplace (2wds)
11. Flanders kid who got tricked into eating a Pixie Stick by Bart
12. "You fold it, you bought it" (3wds)
14. Cause of Mr. Burns' Kleenex-box shoes
16. Homer's biggest fear (2 wds)
17. Sold out licence plates at Itchie and Scratchy land
19. What movie are they satirizing when they go into witness protection? (2 wds)
21. You don't make friends with _

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HOROSCOPES



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Have you purchased a travel mug yet? Because you're being wasteful toward the environment and toward your friends. Recognize that the people around you love you and only want what is best. So look, listen and feel. Your perceptions are not always truthful but your intuition can be your best friend. Whatever you do, do not say Beetlejuice thrice times over.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

The lobster you are dipping in butter is sad you are eating it. Perhaps it is time to find better hobbies to occupy your time, because commercial fishing is a dangerous job. Try relaxing for a change. Scuba diving is a little less intense and there is always the possibility that you'll find the yellow submarine.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

You can't turn back time. What's done is done, but that does not mean you can't change the future. It is under your command. Stop worrying. The Boogey Man is not out to get you, nor is Dr. Evil. So if you want something this week, just do it.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

You have been someone's guardian angel, but now it is time to protect yourself. You can see the shark's fin in the water swimming close to you, but you are not swimming away. You are in for trouble and it seems that you want it. You are going to eat too many breakfast sausages and it will make you feel ill.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

You are being a big meany and people are starting to notice. You can't fool them. Oil your rusty gears and start being nice to people, especially those who deserve it. Paramount Pictures wants you, but it does not want Oscar the Grouch. It is time to get out of the garbage can and live the dream.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

You are like a puppy that has lost its pack. Wear your fanny pack extra tight and make sure it is carrying everything you need. Sherlock Holmes is investigating you. Be sure you have nothing incriminating behind that he can find. The tree of life's leaves are changing, so make sure to gather a big pile and jump in.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Love lifts us up to where we belong. You have been travelling across the universe in search of lust when all you needed was love. If you think that skiing on snow was fun, you should try it on gravel. It just may be the excitement you're looking for. Be sure to wear your brain protector.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

You are the answer to your creative block. Open your mind and only the universe can stop you. If you fart in front of The Grand House, it means you need a change in your diet. Someone is going to have to scrub the floor and it is going to be you. Cinderella did not make all her money in one night.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Buy some crayons - it's time to get messy. Your stick people are starting to look good, and with enough care they could turn into real people. If you do not get this reference it is because you are not paying enough attention. The writing on the chalkboard is clear and it is telling you to rock your body chime.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

It is time to pull up the curtain. It's show time, baby, and the people are waiting. Put some Vaseline on your choppers and smile large. Everyone is there for you and they have each brought you a stein full of apple juice. Hope you're thirsty. You need to be patient. You are going to have to start enjoying the waiting game. You will find that the coffee you drink will no longer burn your mouth when you first sip it.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

It was just Halloween, but the Wicked Witch of the West has been trapped underneath the house for a while now, so there is no need to still be scared. You can open your closet door without holding your breath for once. If you play Jenga, you will succeed. Every piece you place on the top will only lead you closer to victory.



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

You have always believed in the saying "one night in the name of love," but I hope that by now you know better. You should start each day with a healthy breakfast that involves a Pop-Tart for a little fun. You have been asking yourself what would Marilyn Monroe do, but instead, you should be thinking in terms of Mother Teresa.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

- Across**
- 1) Barney
 - 4) Charles
 - 7) Red
 - 10) Bouvier
 - 13) HMS Pinafore
 - 15) Rod
 - 18) Seymour Skinner
 - 20) Sax
 - 21) Springfield Elementary
 - 22) Spruce Moose
 - 23) Carl
 - 24) Hibbert
- Down**
- 2) Yanehrtiof (join the navy backwards)
 - 3) Abe
 - 5) Neighboreenos
 - 6) DMV
 - 8) Happy Sumo Sush
 - 9) Power plant
 - 11) Todd
 - 12) Comic book guy
 - 14) Germaphobia
 - 16) Sock Puppets
 - 17) Bort
 - 19) Cape Fear
 - 21) Salad

Men reach for the top while women settle for second

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

After two long years, the Dalhousie Tigers men's team struck back in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) cross-country championship to win the title. The Tigers women placed second overall.

Last year, the Tigers lost the title by only one point to the St. Francis Xavier X-Men after winning the 2005 championship. Unlike last year's results, this year the Tigers men topped the competition with 28 points, nine points ahead of the X-Men.

With the championship held in the familiar territory of Point Pleasant Park this year, the Tigers were ready for a fight.

"In our last competition against St. Francis, we won by only one point so we knew it would be tough," says Dan Hennigar, the Tigers' head coach. "Running at home was a great advantage because we had our training group and fans there. Plus we knew the course well."

The Tigers men lead the pack throughout most of the 10 km run. Russell Christie tried to keep up with David Gerych of the X-Men for the lead but fell back toward the end of the race. Christie went into the competition as the defending champion while Gerych remains undefeated this season.

Gerych won the individual men's title with a time of 31:49.96 minutes and Christie finished second with a time of 32:19.82 minutes.

"[Gerych's] times are so much faster than mine," says Christie. "I was going to stick with him. Whenever he made a move I would try to just stick with him, but he broke me halfway through so I just ran it in for second. I knew the team title was more important than the individual one so I didn't want to surge with Gerych and eventually die out in the end."

While Gerych and Christie were jockeying for first place, Tigers rookie Peter Corrigan pulled away from the rest of the competition to win his first AUS medal. Corrigan finished third in 32:27.03 minutes. His teammates John Corbit and Chris Alger finished in fifth and sixth place in 33:30.63 minutes and 33:40.20 min-



David Gerych and Russell Christie (right) fight for first place at the AUS championships.

utes, respectively.

"I've had a pretty good season given my little slip-up with an injury," says Corrigan. "We all got our assignments. We just needed to follow the plan and we did."

The Tigers women competed before the men in their 6 km run. Caroline McInnis was the Tigers' top finisher for the women in fifth place with a time of 18:23.63 minutes. Similar to Christie, McInnis was running close behind the leader but fell be-

hind toward the end of the race. Her teammate Ellen Vessie also finished in the top 10, placing eighth overall with 18:41.05 minutes.

"I felt really good in the first two-thirds of the race and we had a good start," says McInnis. "I felt really strong in the middle and I wanted to make a strong move because I thought it's now or never. Then we were going into the downhill part and I knew then I wouldn't be able to maintain it. I'm not disappointed



Ellen Vessie finished eighth overall.

but it kind of sucks to lose it in the end."

The AUS championships are a warm-up for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships on Nov. 10 in Victoria, B.C. The Tigers have a good chance to make an impact. The men are currently ranked ninth in Canada and the women won the team bronze last year.

"I think it was good as a stepping stone for the CIS championships," says McInnis. "As a team we stuck

to the plan and tried to stay together in the race as much as we could. We thought if we all had good races, we would have a chance if we had a good day.

"Last year, we were in the same position. We were not the favorites last year and then we lost by one point. We all thought that if we ran on top of our game we could get close. Obviously, it would've been fun to win here, but I think it'll make us hungrier for the CIS finals."

GAZETTE

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, November 5 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE

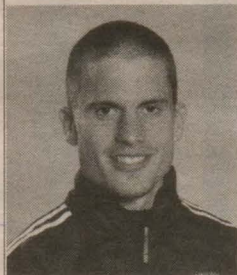


CAROLINE MCINNES
CROSS-COUNTRY

McInnes had her strongest finish of the year at the AUS championships on Saturday, leading the Tigers to a second-place finish. She stayed in the lead group, challenging for first throughout much of the mid-part of the race, before eventually finishing in fifth. McInnes was named to the AUS All-Star team and will lead the Tiger squad at the CIS championships in Victoria, B.C. on Nov. 10. McInnes is a law student from Toronto.

Other nominees: Maria Zacharuk (volleyball)

MALE ATHLETE



RUSSELL CHRISTIE
CROSS-COUNTRY

Christie led the Dalhousie men's cross-country team to their fifth AUS banner in six years on Saturday, earning a second-place finish and AUS All-Star status in the process. He matched the eventual AUS champion and Czech national team member David Gerych stride for stride through the first 6 km of the 10 km race, before eventually conceding second and finishing strong, ensuring the Tigers' win. Christie has led the Tigers all season and is expected to be among the top finishers at the CIS championships on Nov. 10 in Victoria, B.C. He is a pharmacy student from Petrolia, Ont.

Other nominees: Drew Stratton (basketball), Jimmy Cuddihy (hockey)

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Tigers claw their way to respectability

ZAC RESNICK
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

After a successful road trip, the Dalhousie Tigers men's hockey team returned home looking for a repeat performance and came out with a win and a loss against the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers and the St. Thomas University Tommies, respectively.

The Tigers came out on top with a 7-4 victory over the Panthers Oct. 26, led by James Cuddihy, Jordan Morrison and Jeff Larch. The trio scored 10 points in the game, continuously kept the pressure in the opposition's zone and buried all of the opponent's opportunities. Cuddihy finished the game with three goals and one assist, including a breakaway goal setup by Morrison and Larch early in the second period.

"It's a privilege to be playing with them," Larch says. "They're great players. Their work ethic is what makes them so good."

Led by the physical play of team captain Neil Smith and stellar, timely goaltending of Josh Disher, the Tigers continued to put pressure on the Panthers. They were especially effective on the power play, going 3 for 9 with the man advantage.

The team received a bit of a scare early in the third period when Disher left the game with an injury to be replaced by Chris Wall, who shut the door for the rest of the game.

Their Oct. 27 game at the Dal Memorial Arena was a different story, as the Tigers fell 8-5 to the Tommies. The Tigers got off to a slow start and were down 5-1 heading into the first intermission.

"Anytime you're down by four or five goals in this league, it's hard to battle back," says head coach Brad Crossley. "We just got outworked in the first period."

Wall got the start as goalie for the Tigers as Disher sat out due to a mild concussion.

"[Disher] is fine," says Crossley. "He wanted to go today, but we left him out to be precautionary. He's a key guy for our club and our guys gain confidence when he's playing."

Wall was not to blame, as turnovers and breakdowns in the defensive zone allowed the Tommies to take a 6-2 lead heading into the third period. However, the Tigers continued to battle back, getting to within two goals of a tie late in the third period.

All four Tigers lines continued to apply the pressure as they tried to mount a comeback. A slashing penalty to Jordan Morrison with less than three minutes left sealed the Tigers' fate for the game.

There were many positives the Tigers could take away from both games. Cuddihy, Larch and Morrison combined for 15 points in two games. A win on October 26 coupled with great tenacity for the latter part of the game against the Tommies allows for optimism heading into a tough road trip next week.

"I'm pleased with the effort level of our so-called third and fourth lines," says Crossley. "They created some good opportunities. We put ourselves in a position to get close in the game. We know what it feels like to win now. We just have to find the winning feeling consistently."

After winning three of their last four games, the Tigers look to build on their past successes. Next up for the Tigers are the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds and the Université de Moncton Aigles Bleus. Both squads are ranked in the top 10 nationally, which makes for a great opportunity for the Tigers to show they belong with the elite teams.

"We need to play simple, hard hockey," says Crossley. "The way Tiger hockey is meant to be played."

The Tigers return home Nov. 9 and 10 for a rematch against the Varsity Reds and Aigles Bleus. Games are at the Dalhousie Memorial Arena and start at 7 p.m.



JOSHUA BOYTER / THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Tigers competed in the inaugural Atlantic University Rowing championships.

Rowing team pushed out of top spot by one point

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

The Dalhousie Tigers rowing club competed in the Really Chili Rowing Regatta (RCRR) and the Atlantic University Rowing Championship (AURC) on Oct. 27. Despite solid performances, the Tigers lost the team championship to the Memorial University Sea-Hawks by one point.

The Tigers won every event they entered, but the Sea-Hawks competed in five of the six AURC events while the Tigers competed in only three. The University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds/the St. Thomas University Tommies came in third with seven points and St. Francis Xavier University came in fourth with five points. The Sea-Hawks finished with 32 points and the Tigers with 31 points.

The battle for the overall championship title was clearly between the Tigers and the Sea-Hawks. All major AURC events were won by either team.

The Tigers won the novice women's four-plus (4:35 minutes), the senior women's four (4:23 minutes) and the senior women's doubles (4:25 minutes). Another Tigers senior women's doubles team finished second, ahead of the Sea-Hawks

(4:40 minutes).

Emily Duann rowed with each of the Tigers' winning teams. Her mother also competed in the regatta, which isn't unusual in the Duann family.

"My mom and I compete at the same regattas all the time," says Duann. "I don't know who is more competitive. My mom's pretty tough."

This was the inaugural year of the AURC and the fourth year the Nova Scotia Rowing Association hosted the RCRR. Over 150 athletes participated in the event, nearly double the number of rowers from last year. The AURC is a part of a nationwide effort to make rowing a varsity sport under Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS). Saint Mary's University, the University of New Brunswick and St. Thomas University also competed in the event.

This week Rowing Canada hosts two of the major rowing events of the year: the National Rowing Championships (NRC) and the Canadian University Rowing Championships (CURC). Duann and Dan Murray are the two Tigers qualifiers who will compete in women's and men's singles at the CURC. This will be Duann's first trip to the finals.

"This is my first year rowing with

Dal, so I don't know what to expect. I rowed in a similar regatta in the summer in St. Catherines, but that was in doubles," says Duann. "I've been rowing for a long time, since Grade 8, but I never rowed singles until this year ... When you're in singles, you know you're working for it."

Murray is the only Tiger to compete in the NRC for the second straight year. The fourth-year history major began rowing in high school but only started to compete a few years ago.

"My dad took my brother and me out for rowing when I was 14," says Murray. "I was chunky back then so I guess my dad wanted to trim down. I decided to compete in 2004 when we still had a big team. I started training twice a day last summer and since then I've been getting better."

Last year Murray placed 14th against Olympians and world champions. This year, pressure is even higher since the NRC results will determine who will be on the 2008 Olympic team. But Murray isn't worried.

"I'm the second calmest rower that I know," says Murray. "I don't get nervous until I get to the starting line. After I get going, then I'm good."

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The

SEXTANT

E O L A S A G U S O B A I R

Common Room gets a facelift

SCOTT BLAKE

Due to very limited study space on campus, myself and other members of the engineering society approached the Dean of Engineering to open up space in classrooms or find an area where students could study in a relaxed and interactive environment.

The nature of such an open discussion is often required to work through problems. It was decided that the only study space on campus, the library, which could not hold more than 80 people, is not conducive to this type of learning. As a result, the Dean agreed to give us common room space with the hope of turning it into a student space in the future.

At that point, the DSEUS invited all students to a round-table discussion to determine what they really needed in the space. From the discussions, the students at discussion found that a student space similar to design and feel of the learning commons in the Killam Library was desired. The students expressed a need for an open space with large tables to spread out books, large-scale drawings, and a break out room for private meetings.

Certain steps had to be taken prior to any remodeling. For example,

with renovations to the L-Building, the DSU office needed to be relocated. DSEUS agreed to allow the DSU to move into their current office if a new office for the DSEUS could be accommodated in the new student space. This would allow the DSEUS to interact more with the students to better serve their needs.

With all this information in mind Matthew Antolin, a current Dal engineering student, was kind enough to develop a floor plan and architectural 3D CAD files to present to the Dean of engineering.

Finally, the new student space construction was approved by the Dean in August of this year. Facilities management was contacted to review floor plans and input their knowledge of the development of the learning commons. Minor changes were made by facilities to optimize lighting, sound, and construction cost.

Furniture and colors were chosen by students in consultation with Facility Management. Facility Management interaction and consultations with students in the design is greatly appreciated! This ensured that student concerns and desires were addressed. We greatly appreciate all help and work that went into this project, and we hope to have new space finished for the new semester.

Einstein's God

MOUSTAFA YOUSSEF

Einstein and other world renowned scientists like Stephen Hawking have often been exploited by religious individuals as proof of the coexistence, or even the mutual necessity of science and religion.

Einstein famously spoke about god in the sense that "God does not play dice" or Hawking's, "God created the integers" are phrases that find their way on book covers, college posters and caused religious apologists to ignorantly consider Einstein, Hawking and many other scientists with absolutely no theistic beliefs, as one of their own.

Worse still is how such phrases are often perverted to explain beliefs that are totally irrelevant of what these authors actually meant. Of course, Einstein's personal religious views shouldn't have the least effect on anyone, yet I believe it unconsciously strengthens someone's faith in God. This typically occurs if they haven't the slightest idea of what these great physicists really meant.

Einstein also said, "I am a deeply religious non-believer. This is a somewhat new kind of religion." Einstein's religious views have often been described as pantheism (Spinoza's God), which, as opposed to theism (organized religion), the dominant

belief system on Earth, doesn't entail any supernatural entities.

Pantheism is the belief that God and Nature are equivalent, not a creative deity. Einstein made it very clear that he did not believe in a personal god, one that listens to prayers and forgives sins. He did not believe in anything beyond the natural and physical world, or give credence to a creative intelligence or any form of celestial totalitarianism that is in control of natural phenomena.

"I have never imputed to Nature as a purpose or a goal, or anything that could be understood as anthropomorphic. What I see in Nature is a magnificent structure that we can comprehend only very imperfectly, and that must fill a thinking person with a feeling of humility. This is a genuinely religious feeling that has nothing to do with mysticism"

- Einstein

Religion for Einstein was only and simply one's attitude towards nature at large. I find it extremely difficult to fundamentally differentiate between Pantheism and Atheism, or as Richard Dawkins neatly describes it in *The God Delusion*, "Pantheism is sexed-up atheism."

The late Carl Sagan adds, "If by God one means the set of physical laws that govern the universe, then clearly there is such a God. This God

is emotionally unsatisfying...it does not make much sense to pray to the law of gravity."

Aside from being one of the greatest physicists of all time, Einstein was a philosopher of science and a beautiful poet. Einstein was using the word 'god' as a metaphor for that which we don't know, and religion as our pursuit of the unknown within the universe and nature.

Replace this very definition with any of Einstein's quotes and his poetic account will be clear. "Did God have a choice in creating the Universe?" simply asks if the universe could have begun in any other way. Translation of "God does not play dice" by a theist would sound something like: God is conscious and has intended a purposed universe, when Einstein was actually referring to the strangeness of quantum theory and his own deterministic philosophical opinion about the universe.

"Science without religion is lame," means that science without feeling a sense of hunger for answers about the universe is lame. In other words, asking questions about the universe is religion. "Religion without science is blind" must therefore be true as science is our only means of discovering truths about our universe. This has nothing whatsoever to do with what we call religion today.

Letter to the editor

Re: Ludicrous Sextant, Gazette 140-08, Oct. 25

JACQUELINE POUSSHAY

As an engineering student on Sexton Campus for the last three and a half years, a contributor to the Sextant for the last two and a half years and someone who was specifically targeted by a recent letter to the Editor of the Gazette last week, I feel as though I should respond to some of the comments made.

I understand that everyone has the right to express their opinions, and that one's sense of humour is subjective, but I would like to clarify some of the statements made.

Firstly, I would like to address the point of the Sextant not having socially relevant articles. I'm surprised that the almost weekly articles written by various members of EWB have been so blatantly overlooked.

I'm also surprised that the author missed the numerous articles written about the 100 Years of Engineering and the history of engineering in Nova Scotia by both staff and students of Sexton Campus over the last year.

From the letter, I'm gathering that there is a demand for coverage of "intellectual achievements" and student "involvement in society". I think these types of articles have been regularly published could certainly be described by both of those terms.

Engineering students on Sexton Campus have been regular contributors to society. Last year I organized and wrote about a ceremony dedicated to the 14 women killed at École Polytechnique. Another group

of engineering students organized and wrote about the Pulling for the Kids event that raised over \$6,000 for Christmas Daddies.

There have also been articles written regularly about community events during National Engineering Week. I'm just curious as to why such articles were overlooked and instead a generalization was made as to "cloudy sexual recollections", because it is severely unfair to those engineering students who took the time to participate in these events and then write about them.

Secondly, I would like to address the statements made degrading the content that has appeared so far this year. I understand that not everyone seeks to learn the intricacies of smiling, but many people thought it was a cute and refreshing article. Sometimes students are interested in reading something light and funny, something totally different from the textbooks and journal articles we're forced to read for our classes.

Finally, if anyone has issues with content, I invite you to submit articles on any subject of your choice to be published in the Sextant! It's really quite simple: open a word document, type, and then email it to sextant@dal.ca. It's a more proactive and effective method of changing the content of the Sextant than writing letters to the editor of the Gazette.

The Sextant is always interested in articles published by anyone, as long as it pertains to life on Sexton Campus. I don't have any hard feelings, but I hope this letter clears up some misconceptions about the Sextant that may have arisen from the letter last week.

EWB Water Walk

NICHOLAS GOODINE

Engineers Without Borders Dalhousie members took to the streets during their annual Water Walk in support of the international day for the irradiation of poverty Oct. 17. The walk took place over the lunch hour and wound from the steps of the Student Union Building down Spring Garden road and finally to the Nova Scotia Legislature.

The combination of a loud speaker, colorful posters, a nine foot wide banner and a group of people all carrying buckets of water seemed to command people's attention.

Pedestrians paused to read the slogans, cars honked in support, and men and women with squeegees and coffee cups asking for spare change stopped and raised a hand in recognition.

EWB Dal felt they successfully reached their goal to promote awareness of the 1.1 billion people around the world who do not have access to clean drinking water and to acknowledge the struggle of people living in extreme poverty both here at home and overseas.

The date for EWB's water walk was chosen to coincide with the international day for the eradication

of poverty. Created in 1993 by resolution 47/196 of the United Nations General assembly the international day for the eradication of poverty is a chance for people around the globe to unite in the common goal of eliminating poverty and destitution in every country.

The day has grown from a resolution recognizing contributions of 100,000 people who stood up for the victims of poverty in 1987 to a record setting day of engagement this year when 27 million people physically stood up against poverty and in support of the Millennium Development Goals.

Open letter to Sextant reader

C. D. BOLAND

STUDENT, SEXTANT CONTRIBUTOR AND TARGET AUDIENCE.

The Sextant has recently come under fire for its "ludicrous content." I would like to take a moment and defend...no, promote the Sextant, the one-page Dalhousie Engineering newspaper.

In fact variety, including editorials, are what make both the Sextant and Gazette fun to read. The point is, the Sextant and its roughly four articles a week, will never appeal to each individual student on campus.

The editorial staff is doing the best they can with what they receive on a weekly basis. Granted, some recent articles have followed a similar theme, it does not condone suggesting our paper be dismissed. Up to as recently as last year, not only was the Sextant struggling for contribution, it was in desperate need of a student willing to put time into editing the page. There is so much going on around campus, we should be doing

our best to get the word out. A recent edition of the Gazette even heralded our very own engineering "bad ass" in a leather jacket on the cover.

Nor do I blame the Sextant for publishing what it does. Up to last year, not only was the Sextant struggling for contributions, it was in desperate need of a student willing to put time into editing the page.

Now I don't claim to have the most sophisticated sense of humour, or to know what the people want to read, but I know if there was something I wanted to see in my newspaper, I would take the time to contribute.

Even a three-line blurb on a charity event, an editorial on recent technological developments or, god forbid, a review of the best donairs in Halifax would all be interesting reads. But since there are no such articles in production, the students who do wish to explore their creative and/or journalistic side have chosen to go to the lighter side, and I can't blame them.

The Gazette is full of great stories,

pop culture, education etc, but in a Family Guy (South Park etc...) generation, it is clear some kind of humour is, appropriate or not, desired. To borrow from the aforementioned, it grinds my gears that this one lasting piece of what used to be a fully fledged paper is a target of destructive and not constructive attention.

Simply contribute. If you want to see something covered, you are probably not alone. But it is all too easy to dismiss the finer points of smiling, hoping that next week someone else will take it upon themselves to send in a review of the new Denzel Washington movie, or a commentary on the war in Iraq, for example.

Contribute. It does not go in there unless someone puts it there. From alternative fuel sources to open letters to Commerce, that is obviously what people wanted to see and therefore contribute to student life, which for most (and respectively not all) of us includes the occasional trip to the T-Room to go along with our studies.

November at the T-Room

Nov. 1 - Kev Corbet

Nov. 8 - Anew Airship & Civil Engineering Olympics

Nov. 15 - The Contact & "Sustain Dal" Night

Nov. 22 - Sleep to Dream

Nov. 24 - Alumni/Varsity Soccer

Any articles you wish to submit,
please submit them to
sextant@dal.ca by Sunday night.