

CAMPUS LIFE

NAIL-BITING PUNISHMENT:

Students speak out on lengthy academic dishonesty process

PG.4

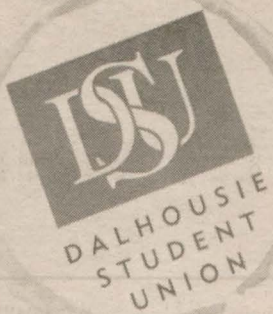


*10am meeting with
Dalhousie senate*

**The world has too many heroes:
And you might be one of them**
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Dal women's basketball team
beats Axewomen** pg. 13



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Ottawa Edition

I'm writing to you this week from Ottawa, Ontario. Tara Gault, the DSU VP Education, Yannick Tremblay, the DAGS VP External, and I are here representing the DSU at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Lobby Conference.

By the time you read this, the three of us, along with representatives from 25 other Canadian universities, will have met with MPs from every party, as well as Senators, civil servants, and political staff to discuss the issues that are most important to students. If you'd like an updated look at what we've been up to, check out the executive blog at www.dsu.ca where Tara and I will be posting regularly throughout the week.



We're each meeting with a bunch of MPs, but one of the meetings I'm most looking forward to is a sit-down with Minister Monte Solberg on Wednesday. As Minister of HRSD, he oversees the Canada Student Loans Program, the Canada Education Savings Program and other areas of student assistance including the Canada Summer Jobs Program, an area which has been of particular interest to students in Nova Scotia lately. There are obviously a ton of issues that we'd like to discuss with Solberg, perhaps the most pressing of which is the renewal of the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, which provides more than \$4.6 million to Dalhousie students every year and which will run out of money in 2008/2009.

I'm also looking forward to meeting again with Alexa McDonough, Dalhousie's Member of Parliament. We'll be discussing several initiatives she supports including a dedicated post-secondary education transfer and a national PSE accord.



I know Tara is interested in meeting again with Mike Savage this week, who is the MP for Dartmouth-Cole Harbour, as well as the Opposition Critic for Human Resources and Skills and Chair of the Liberal Caucus Committee on Post-Secondary Education. One of the things they'll be discussing is an expansion of the Canada Access Grant so that it covers the full cost of attending university and continues throughout a student's university career.

Yannick, a native of Quebec, is going to be putting his French skills to good use by spending some of his time this week meeting with Bloc Quebecois MPs. One of the things they'll be discussing is the importance of having grants programs, like Millennium, that are responsive to the needs of individual provinces.



If you'd like to get in on the lobbying yourself, head on over to www.grantsreloaded.ca to send a letter to the government supporting the renewal of the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

Mike Tipping
DSU President
dsupres@dal.ca / 494-1277



GAZETTE...STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
John Packman / editor@dalgazette.ca

COPY EDITOR
J. Mary Burnet / copy@dalgazette.ca

NEWS EDITOR
Katie May / news@dalgazette.ca

OPINIONS EDITOR
James Munson / opinions@dalgazette.ca

ARTS & CULTURE EDITORS
Aly Coy & Christie Conway
arts@dalgazette.ca

SPORTS EDITOR
Julie Sobowale / sports@dalgazette.ca

PHOTO EDITOR
Josh Boyter / photo@dalgazette.ca

PRODUCTION & DESIGN
Susan Maroun / design@dalgazette.ca

CONTRIBUTORS

- NEWS**
Bethany Horne
Ruth Mestechkin
- OPINIONS**
Catherine Holloway
Joseph Hoffman
John Hillman
Jenna Conter
- ARTS & CULTURE**
Nick Khattar
Kathryn LeBlanc
Amy Dempsey
Katie Nation
Andrew Edward Davies
Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo
- SPORTS**
Zac Resnick

CONTACT US

Room 312
6136 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4J2
www.dalgazette.ca

GENERAL INQUIRIES
(902) 494-2507
editor@dalgazette.ca

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
(902) 494-6532
advertising@dalgazette.ca

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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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A quick fix for a five-month wait

Dal's streamlined discipline procedure needs moderators

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dalhousie needs to make its discipline procedures transparent and efficient if it wants to keep its reputation strong and its enrolment up. Procedures for dealing with academic dishonesty are probably the last thing prospective students look at when they pick a university, but it would take a hell of a lot of cheesy "Discover the Unexpected" ads to hide an unfair system.

Dal already has a reputation as a party school (we're number three in Canada according to *Askmen.com*), but that's nothing compared to the reputation Dal would get if people thought its degrees were simply given away to anyone with the money to pay for tuition.

As of this year, deans or equivalent heads appointed as academic integrity officers are the first to examine cases of academic dishonesty. They were introduced to replace the sluggish Senate Discipline Commit-

tee that deals with more than 100 cases per year. In the new system, it's up to a faculty's single integrity officer to decide if there is enough evidence to support allegations of dishonesty. If there don't appear to be any, the officer can drop the case.

If there is enough evidence, the officer can propose a penalty to a student who's willing to resolve the allegations at that level.

The other option is bringing it right to the senate.

Though the senate is fairer, or at least more complex with more than 20 members including faculty and students, decisions can take over five months. Since you're ultimately waiting on your future, these five months can be excruciating. You could wait five months to find out whether you can continue your education or whether you'll be suspended, might not be able to go to grad school and will have to decide what else to do with your life.

I imagine it feels like waiting to start an exam you're not prepared

for, hyperventilating and running over what could happen in your head...for 150 days straight.

To avoid the wait, anyone might accept the decision of their academic integrity officer - even if they're unhappy with it.

The integrity officer is also responsible for ensuring students understand the charges against them. Many international students with poor English skills are charged with academic dishonesty because they can't write a good essay on their own.

Because just one person is in charge of informing students of their academic offences and deciding on their penalty, this system needs a moderator.

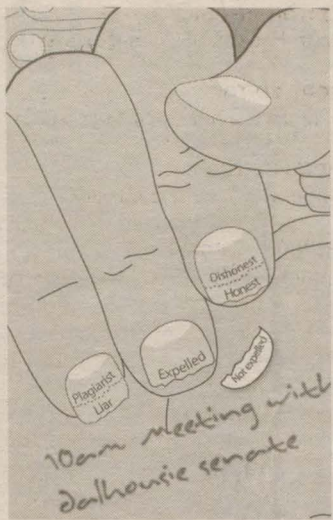
Students can seek out a moderator through Dal's Student Advocacy Service, which exists to help Dalhousie and King's students charged with academic dishonesty or wishing to appeal a grade. But since the advocacy service isn't a required resource for students facing dishonesty charges, students, particularly those

with bad English, may be unaware of this free service and could make terrible decisions that will affect their academic careers.

Dal needs to incorporate the Student Advocacy Service, both in official procedures and in practice, in every case of academic dishonesty. Some integrity officers already ensure students know about the advocacy service, but all students charged with an academic offence need to know their rights and receive the help of someone who can inform them of the process and protect them from making poor decisions.

The advocacy service is increasingly important as the process becomes more streamlined with changes to the disciplinary system.

Granted, this may take resources beyond the advocacy's current three-room office in the Student Union Building but if these services will make disciplining academic dishonesty fairer, it's money well spent.



COVER

This week's cover was co-conceptualized to highlight the stress student's face when accused of academic dishonesty. This illustration captures both the anxiety and uncertainty of having your reputation as a student on trial. This week the Gazette takes a close look at students who went through the excruciating process.

GAZETTE

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

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'Guilty until proven innocent'

Students speak out about group projects gone bad

BETHANY HORNE
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Mike Van Den Hoek and Imad Mekhail were weeks away from wrapping up their first year at Dalhousie when they got a letter that changed their lives.

When their lab instructor collected their chemistry assignments last April, the students didn't give the project another thought. They had no idea they'd later be expelled for an academic offence they deny committing.

The Dal Integrated Science Program (DISP) students, along with two other lab partners, were accused of falsifying data in a graph as part of a minor group assignment.

"We were completely shocked," Van Den Hoek says, remembering when they received the official allegations. "We had no idea what had happened."

The group asked to discuss the assignment with their professor. But she said she couldn't talk about it.

"Something about 'initialized' – something had started, and that was why she wouldn't be able to talk to us anymore," adds Mekhail.

Their academic careers were now in the hands of the university's Senate Discipline Committee (SDC).

Mekhail, Van Den Hoek and the rest of their group are just four out of more than 100 Dal students who face academic dishonesty allegations – including plagiarism, cheating and forgery of data – each year.

Many of them are in their first year and most have never been accused before.

The senate committee's most recent report shows nearly 30 per cent of the 139 students who went before the senate for academic dishonesty cases in 2005/2006 were first-year students.

The same year, 83 per cent of students convicted of academic dishonesty were first time offenders.

They often have no idea what they're in for. Or how long they'll have to wait to find out.

Before their senate hearing on June 25 last year, the DISP students contacted a student advocate, who told them failing the course is the most common outcome of the disciplinary process.

Since all courses are combined into one grade in the integrated science program, the group members wouldn't be able to enroll in second-year classes if they got a zero in the chemistry component.

The fear of failing hung over the team members' heads as they wrote their final exams last year. With the majority of their credits marked incomplete until the decision, their average grades plummeted far below university standards and the four were officially expelled for three weeks during the summer.

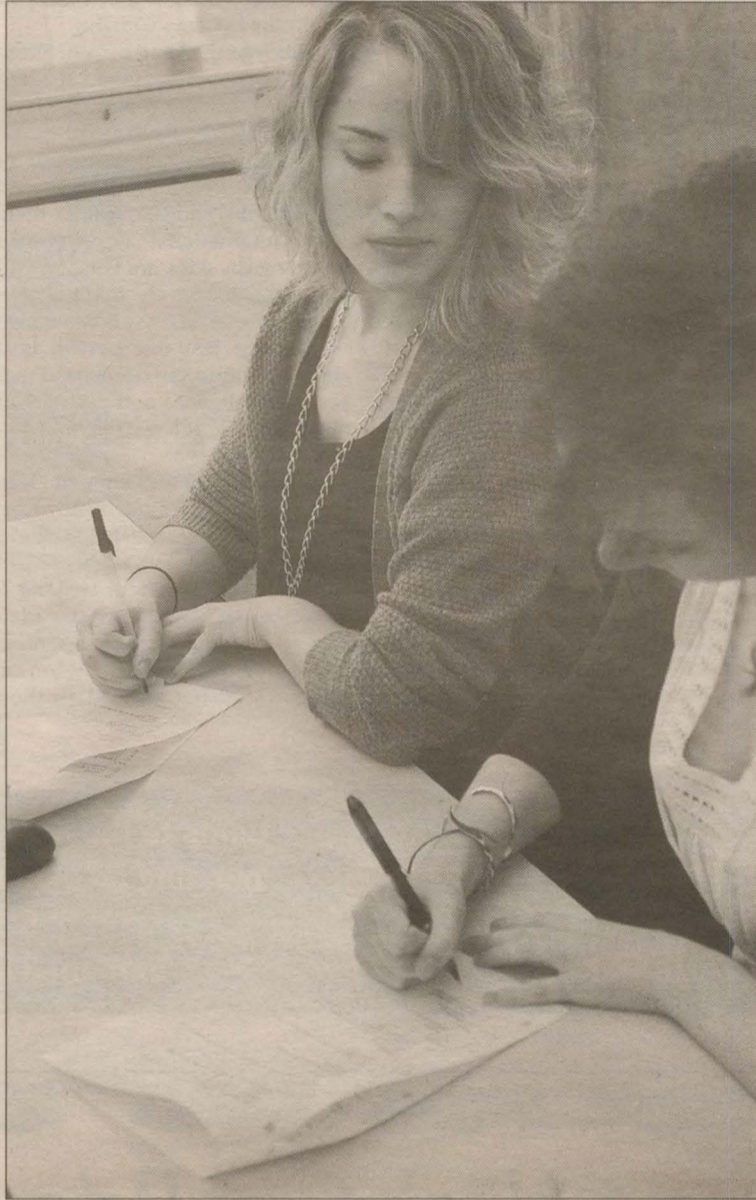
"It is like you are guilty until you are proven innocent," says Mekhail.

Three professors and two students from the discipline committee eventually decided the group's fate on July 18. Nearly a month passed before the group learned the outcome – not guilty.

MORE CONSIDERATION NEEDED FOR GROUP ACCUSATIONS

A second-year nursing student who went before the senate in early October over an improperly cited group paper says her hearing "felt extremely rushed."

"This (hearing) process is not student-friendly at all, especially for something like a group paper," says the student, who does not want her



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

In 2005/2006, 83 per cent of students convicted of academic dishonesty were first-time offenders.

name published.

Her professor informed her last April of the allegations, which stemmed from a section of the essay she did not write. She says the discipline committee needs to clearly differentiate between accidental and intentional plagiarism so other students don't have to go through the same lengthy process she did.

The senate informed her of her penalty earlier this month, but waiting nearly six months for the decision was "a bit of a nightmare." She couldn't stop thinking about the accusations and last month, she took a weeklong vacation to avoid a breakdown.

"I really do think this is ridiculous – that something like this takes so long to resolve," she says. "I'm absolutely petrified to do group work now."

NEW PROCESS AIMS TO SPEED UP DISCIPLINE DECISIONS

Lloyd Fraser, chair of senate, says the time delay is necessary to ensure the committee can consider all relevant information.

"It's certainly quite true that there's a long wait time," he says, adding it's partly because the senate is so bogged down with cases.

This year, the senate committee implemented a new step in the discipline process specifically to deal with first-time offenders and reduce the number of hearings.

An academic integrity officer, usually the dean or assistant dean of the faculty, will first discuss the allegations with the student. If students accept the penalties the dean proposes, they can avoid senate hearings.

If students disagree with their punishments at this level, they can then plead their cases themselves before the discipline committee.

Tara Gault, vice president (education) of the Dal Student Union, says so far the academic officer position hasn't caused any major conflicts.

"No problems have arisen in terms of each case (having) a different outcome, whether those have been resolved at that level or passed on to SDC," says Gault, who serves on the senate committee.

"Just because it is passed on to SDC doesn't necessarily mean that there is a problem with the first level. It is totally up to the student."

But the new procedures, meant to streamline the disciplinary process for academic dishonesty, have an "air of unfairness," the executive director of the Dal Student Advocacy Service says.

Lori St. Croix is worried there's a conflict of interest in the new process. The academic integrity officer not only advises the student of his or her rights and how the procedure works, but ultimately decides the student's punishment.

Yet she admits the new procedure is faster.

"It also is more informal, and I think it reduces the stress on the student involved in the allegation quite a bit compared to the old formal hearing procedure."

St. Croix says one way to ensure fairness would be for every student to have the chance to seek advice from an advocate.

"They often get caught by rules they are unaware of," she says. "Ignorance of the law is no defense."

The academic integrity officer for the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Dean Marian Binkley, agrees the advocate's role is important. If a student comes to the meeting alone, she suggests re-scheduling until the student can seek advice.

Only a few students have settled with academic officers since the policy came into effect in September.

Fraser says it's too early to tell how the new discipline option is affecting the senate.

"It's a little hard to tell just yet what the impact will be on the workload for the Senate Discipline Committee."

Joya to the world

Afghan activist pulls for peace at Dal

BETHANY HORNE
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Hero. Teacher. Activist. Politician. Target. Malalai Joya has been many things in her life, but one thing she refuses to be is afraid.

The 29-year-old women's rights advocate and former member of Afghanistan parliament is hated by the powerful people in her country.

Two years ago, she was the youngest person elected to the Wolesi Jirga, Afghan's parliament. Since then, she survived four assassination attempts during her term and still continued to voice her people's concerns. She was eventually expelled from the Wolesi Jirga last May for insulting her fellow parliamentarians.

Before she even opens her mouth to speak at Dalhousie's Scotiabank Auditorium on Nov. 8, nearly 350 people rise in a standing ovation.

Many had to find a place to stand at the back once the rows filled up. A table near the door is covered with pamphlets and white poppies pinned to cards that read: "Remembering is not enough. Work for peace!"

Joya stands small in front of the crowd. When she speaks, she urges Canadians to focus on peace rather than war in Afghanistan.

She seems to grow in front of the audience as she speaks powerfully about the current situation in her country. She says Afghan people are "sandwiched between two enemies – the USA-loving Northern Alliance (currently in power) and the USA-hating Taliban."

As long as Canada supports the Northern Alliance, says Joya, the country is engaging in the United States' "dirty" policies.

"Canada must act independently and not follow the wrong policy of the U.S.," she says, adding democratic parties in Afghanistan need support.

They have no way to campaign and are under-represented in a parliament made up of "war lords, drug lords and criminals," she says. Joya wants war criminals to be put to trial and be disqualified from running in elections.

She cites a United Nations statistic that says 93 per cent of the world's opium comes from Afghanistan. She says many of the men who profit from the drug trade sit in parliament.

"Even Taliban are candidates."

Women's rights have not improved since the Taliban was toppled. One woman dies every 28 minutes in Afghanistan during childbirth and suicide rates have skyrocketed.

But not everyone agrees that the Canadian troops' occupation of Afghanistan, where they've been stationed since shortly after Sept. 11, 2001, is a bad plan.

A woman with short black hair takes her turn at the microphone during the question and answer session, saying she dislikes Joya's view of Canada's involvement in the country as a "dirty policy."

"After 30 years of war, I fear there is no way for Afghanistan to defend themselves," she told the crowd.

She says her name is Farida and she left Afghanistan with her husband and daughter nearly 10 years ago to be safe. She'll never go back.

Joya isn't shaken to encounter some disagreement from a crowd that otherwise supports her. She speaks directly to the woman, calling her "sister" and saying she means no disrespect to soldiers dying in Afghanistan.

"If Canada continues its involvement the way it is now, all people will stand up against foreign troops," Joya says. "We need the helping hand of democratic people around the world. We don't want occupation."


Later, Farida, who declines to give her last name, says it was an "excellent speech."

The next day, at an informal meet-and-greet at the Dal Women's Centre, someone asks Joya what she is afraid of.

Joya thinks for a few seconds.

"There is a list of people who struggle for good, and everyone wants this list to get more, not to get less," she says.

"It is important that my death affects (others). Some will die and everything will die with them. I think that those people that are afraid, everyday die."




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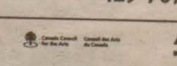
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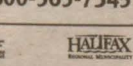
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'The mountain never came to Muhammad' Dawgfather's days at Dal numbered

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

A large rubber-gloved hand reaches for a small plastic 'TIPS' jar and gives it a slight shake. The few coins inside make almost no sound. It's an hour to closing.

Smiling, Jerry Reddick sets the jar back down beside his grill.

"I emptied this twice today already."

He shoves one hand into the ripped pocket of his leather 'Dawgfather PhD' jacket and snaps up his metal sausage tongs with the other. He'll be here serving hungry, faithful customers well past his usual 6 p.m. cut-off time.

Reddick's been selling hot dogs as 'The Dawgfather' in front of Dalhousie's Student Union Building for a decade. He's watched countless students grow from fresh-faced frosh to accomplished graduates. He's always ready to supply a quick eat on credit - no I.O.U. necessary.

Campus tour guides make special introductions as they pass his stand, though after 10 years on campus, he could lead an informative and entertaining tour of his own.

"Without him here, it wouldn't really be the Dal SUB," says fourth-year environmental engineering student Harrison Roberts, biting into one of the Dawgfather's famous 'phat boys.'

But the 49-year-old grandfather's days at Dal are numbered.

"At the end of the year, I'm not allowed to vend here no more," he says, smiling mischievously, his brown eyes shining. "But we got something in the works that will change that."

His vendor's licence expires in December. Although he asked Nova Scotia's Supreme Court early last month to let him stay until it delivers a verdict on his human rights complaint against Halifax Regional Municipality, Reddick and his lawyer, Rocky Jones, think the judicial process will take too long.

The cost of fighting for justice is getting too high, says Jones. Once Reddick's license expires, he'll have to bid against major corporations for the spot - a competition he can't afford to take part in.

"How can he continue the battle? What can he do?" asks Jones. "What we're after is for him to have that site."

Reddick is now negotiating a deal with the city: he'll drop his allegations that bylaw officials are discriminating against him because he's black if the city lets him operate his stand for another five years.

Dawn Sloane, downtown district city councillor and Reddick's neighbour on Creighton Street, says the Dawgfather with the "heart of gold" often calls her for advice about municipal rules.

"You can't knock the guy for his popularity," says Sloane, a former hot dog vendor herself in the early 1980s. "Unfortunately others don't agree with his entrepreneurship."

Reddick, an African Nova Scotian and practicing Muslim, filed the complaint in summer 2003. Since then he's waged price wars with vendor competitors and has struggled in numerous bylaw enforcement battles.

But he hasn't yet given up fighting - it's what got him here in the first place. His 20-year professional boxing career took him around the world before he came back to his roots.

Born in New Glasgow, N.S. to Baptist parents who raised him and his eight brothers with a "church once a week" mentality, Reddick spent some of his childhood in Truro before the family moved to Halifax while he was in elementary school.

"When I was a kid I used to have lots of questions, man. One of the major questions I used to have was why nobody in 'The Last Supper' (Leonardo DaVinci's painting) looked like me," he recalls, his signature headscarf wrapped around his dark hair. "But you couldn't ask your



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dawgfather Jerry Reddick is negotiating with the city to keep his spot.

mother that because your mother would say 'the devil's in you.'

So as a child, he didn't understand why his mother would always say to him, "Boy, get up! The mountain never came to Muhammad." But he would find out.

When Reddick was 10 years old, he read a biography of Muhammad Ali, and the boxer's famous conversion to Islam stuck with him. Ali, along with Malcolm X, remained an embodiment of power Reddick put on a pedestal - a heroic inspiration when his guidance counsellor at Queen Elizabeth High School was "more apt to tell me I should go get a trade than I should go to med. school."

He didn't take the advice.

"I wanted to be a businessman. When I used to look at men dressed in suits, I wanted to be like them."

In 1978, a few years after the birth of the first of his three children - Jennifer, now 32, Reddick joined the Coast Guard - a government job that took him to B.C. to fix ships. He met a woman there and together they had a son - Nolan, now 26.

Less than a year after he arrived in the province, the 5'9", 160-pound young father was winning money in a 'So You Think You're Tough' bar fight competition.

He turned professional in the middleweight division under the nickname 'Mack Truck.' For the next two decades he competed across Canada, the United States and Europe between a couple of stints in jail for assaults and robbery.

Ranked one of Canada's top middleweight contenders in the early 1980s, he fought his last round in New Westminster, B.C. knowing it wasn't where he wanted to be.

"At that point I was just hanging around, just collecting a paycheck, you know what I mean, and just wondering where, where in life now I wanted to go."

Nearly 10 years after he left the ring for the last time, Reddick

- dressed in a traditional Muslim robe and professing his love of Mark Twain - has left boxing gloves and mouth guards far behind him.

"I take pride in the fact that I still got all my ivories," he laughs with a white-toothed grin. "And that my I.Q.'s still bigger than my biceps."

He converted to Islam when he was 38 and says it's the best part of his life - that the religion makes him honest and holds him accountable for his actions.

"Anything before I became a Muslim don't count for nothing."

He's now known as Ibrahim Ali Muhammad, a name he can't use when sending money to Ghana for his wife of nearly seven years, Zakiyatu, and their three-year-old son Jerry. The name's on the terrorist watch list.

Each year he sees his family in Africa, where he has "a love affair of that continent." In a few years, once little Jerry has experienced more of the African heritage his father loves, the family plans to join Reddick in Halifax.

Until then, The Dawgfather will keep waving his hot dog tongs for as long as he can.

He returned from abroad with money in the bank and started his hot dog business in 1997, first offering pork-free weiners in the North End's Uniacke Square.

"It was very tough there because sales weren't very good," he remembers. "So I decided to push it down to The Palace one night and wow, the rest is history, man... I decided that this was going to be my livelihood."

He's ready with a friendly, "Where you from?" for all who stop by his stand, some who trust him enough to talk about their school troubles and family lives.

"Students are the best, man, because they still believe everything's possible," he says. "Everybody always pays me back - nobody ever stiff's me."

And he doesn't even keep track.

Holocaust survivor: In war the worst and best people come out

Community remembers the Night of Broken Glass

RUTH MESTECHKIN
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When David Korn was a child, most of his family disappeared.

His parents were killed when his Jewish family lived in Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust, and he was taken to an orphanage.

Now 71, Korn has lived in Halifax for more than 40 years. But he'll never forget the Nazi takeover that began the Second World War.

"By remembering, hopefully we will alert the young people of what happened, and they will be able to prevent something similar happening," he says. "In war, the worst people come out, but also the best people."

Small clusters of people, including Korn, huddled outside Halifax's Province House on Nov. 8 to keep warm. They clutched candles, the flames enclosed by small paper cups. Then they began their walk.

This was the city's yearly commemoration of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass. The event, co-ordinated by Michelle Masters and Bobbi Zahra for Holocaust Education Week, is a memorial for the night of Nov. 9, 1938 when the Nazis destroyed Jewish businesses by smashing windows and burning homes and synagogues.

Roughly 70 parents, children, students and seniors marched from Province House downtown to Grand Parade to remember those who lost their lives.

Masters, a fourth-year Dalhousie student, said the memory of that night needs to be passed on to future generations.

"[We need] to keep alive those who died, and always remember what happened," she said. "It's important to promote tolerance and acceptance, which is integral in to-

day's society."

For Masters, the event is also important because it represents the first time during the Holocaust that Jewish people collectively experienced explicit violence.

The memorial featured six dignitaries, including Councillor Sue Uteck and MLA Leonard Preyra. Each one took a turn lighting a candle in front of the Cenotaph in Grand Parade, under the words "In Honour of Those Who Served; In Memory of Those Who Fell."

Each of the candles represented one million out of the six million people who died during the Holocaust.

Cantor Ari Isenberg of the Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Halifax reminded the marchers that glass is smashed as a tradition at Jewish weddings. Even on the happiest of days, they still mourn the loss of their Temple.

"However great our suffering, others still suffer in this world," said Isenberg. "Smashing glass does not make us shatter our religion, but retain our identity."

But it's not just his religion Isenberg wanted to honour in the Kristallnacht ceremony - his grandparents were Holocaust survivors.

"Year to year, our perspective changes, and the importance of remembering certain events also change based on what's happening in the world," he said. "So if you look at something like Darfur, you see how slow escalations do lead to something catastrophic—that's why commemorating an escalation like this in 1938 is still quite relevant."

The night closed as the crowd sang slowly to Israel's national anthem, Hatikvah, which means "the hope" in Hebrew. The melody resonated through Grand Parade, among cold bodies holding warm candles.

NOTICE

As at November 12th 2007, the following is published as per S7§14 (d) of Dalhousie Student Union Constitution.

The following 'A' and 'C' level societies have submitted their Fall 2007 Audit materials and received an evaluation of either 'Satisfactory' or 'Excellent':

- Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society
- Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students
- Dalhousie Computer Science Society
- Dalhousie Graduate Planning Society
- Dalhousie Physiotherapy Students Society
- Dalhousie Science Society
- Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society
- Dalhousie Student Pharmacy Society
- Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society
- Dalhousie Women's Centre
- DalOUT
- Gerard Hall Residence Council
- School of Social Work Student Group
- Sherriff Hall Residence Council
- Society of John Risley Hall
- Student Association of Health and Human Performance

The following 'A' and 'C' level societies have submitted their Fall 2007 Audit materials and had their materials returned with a request for more information:

- Dalhousie Commerce Society
- Dalhousie Nursing Society
- Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group

The following 'A' and 'C' level societies have not submitted their Fall 2007 Audit materials:

- Architecture Students Association
- CKDU FM Radio
- Dalhousie Engineering Graduate Society
- Dalhousie Dental Hygiene Society
- Dalhousie Dental Student Society
- Dalhousie International Students Association
- Dalhousie Management Society
- Dalhousie MBA Society
- Dalhousie Medical Students' Society
- Dalhousie Occupational Therapy Student Society
- Eliza Ritchie Hall Residence Council
- Howe Hall Residence Society
- Law Students Society
- Mini Residence Council
- O'Brien Hall
- Society of Undergraduate Planners
- Students Association of Health Sciences
- The Dalhousie Gazette Publication Society
- The Sextant Publication Society
- World University Services of Canada

Any questions about this list and society audits can be directed to the undersigned.

Gareth Stackhouse
Dalhousie Student Union Vice President of Finance and Operations
V.902.494.1278|dsuvpfo@dal.ca| www.dsu.ca

A convenient timing

JOSEPH HOFFMAN
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Five and a half years after leaving political office, Al Gore has established himself as a bold environmental crusader.

A member of the U.S. political aristocracy, Gore has expressed his concern for what he calls "the most serious crisis our civilization has ever faced." He has been travelling the world to present the dangers of greenhouse gases and global warming.

His documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, has been well-received in many parts of the world and has been credited for increasing awareness of world-wide environmental issues. Gore has recently won the Nobel Peace Prize, or at least half of one, in recognition of his work. He shares Alfred Nobel's bequeathment with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a United Nations association of scientists.

But it's a shame global climate change is receiving all this attention now after being around for more than 30 years. Global warming's lethargic march from backburner to hot-button issue proves politics can keep a good idea from spreading.

It's hard to ignore the fact that Gore got this urge to make an environmental impact only once he was out of office. Imagine the impact a political figurehead, at the zenith of power, could have by fighting for such a worthy cause. He could have made tremendous progress in a battle known for its lack thereof.

But the issue of the environment isn't new to Gore. According to an article in the *Concord Monitor*, "Gore was one of the first politicians to grasp the seriousness of climate change and to call for a reduction in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. He held the first congressional hearings on the subject in the late 1970s."

However, during the 2000 presidential election, political consultants highly recommended he quit talking about the environmental is-

ssue he cared so passionately about. His advisors claimed voters did not care about global warming and that it would make him look like a "kind of fuzzy-headed extremist," according to www.time.com. So Gore took the advice of his political brain trust and submerged the issue.

The term 'better late than never' might be the best expression to describe Gore's political career. But if he had begun his effort 10 years earlier, his impact on government policy might have prevailed over the climate change skepticism of those currently in power.

When President Bush was asked if he would watch Gore's film, he responded in classic Bush fashion: "Doubt it." Australian Prime Minister John Howard said he would not meet with Gore because "I don't take policy advice from films."

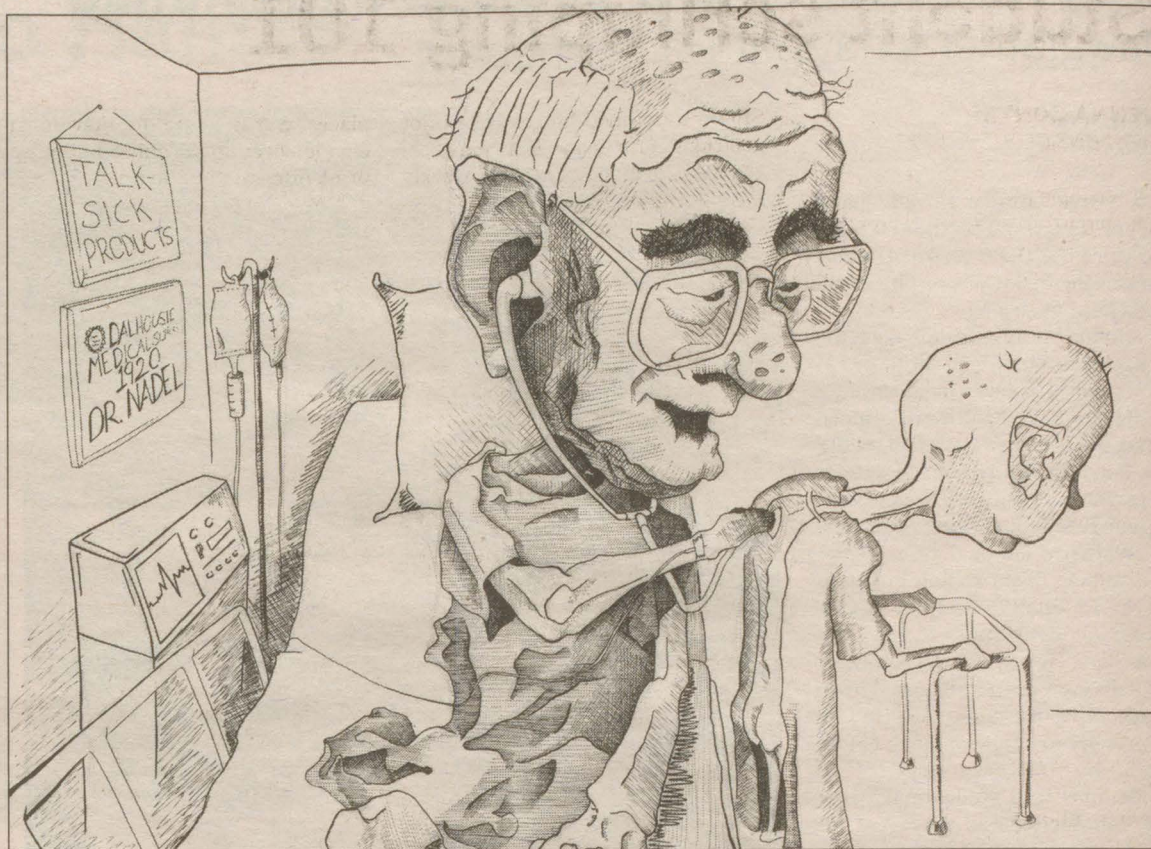
Gore has attempted to address the question of why politicians are slow to act or address environmental concerns in his documentary, saying, "There are good people who are in politics in both parties who hold this at arm's length, because if they acknowledge it and recognize it, then the moral imperative to make big changes is inescapable."

In a nutshell, Gore says the reason for inaction is the fear of taking action. I don't buy it for a second. His statement is at best a weak excuse to mend bridges he might have burned by so adamantly pursuing the environmental issue after his eight years as vice president.

I thank Gore for his contributions to humanity and congratulate him on recently receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, as well as an Oscar, two Critics Choice Awards and a Gotham for his work.

But it's too bad there isn't an award for acting on your convictions when you had the opportunity to make a large impact. If there was, maybe Gore would have acted a lot sooner.

"I've been trying to tell this story for a long time and I feel I've failed to get the message across," says Gore in his documentary. It's never too late to learn that timing is everything.



JAMES NADEL / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

"May I borrow your hearing aid for a moment?"



Gazette

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

Dalhousie should respond to aging crisis

Don't let the youthful faces on campus fool you. Canada is getting older. As the baby boomer generation hits retirement age, most people are concerned with the squeeze they will put on the labour market.

But another crisis may be looming further in the distance with even more disconcerting consequences. Universities across Canada have not responded to the aging boomer generation by training more doctors in geriatric care.

A survey of medical schools across the country carried out by Dalhousie professor Dr. Janet Gordon has found that too few students are being taught geriatric care. Gordon found most students have done between seven and 200 hours of geriatrics - not enough to prepare them for professions in which these skills are needed.

Gordon says she found that when students are given cases at Dal, only seven per cent had patients over age 65 and absolutely none had patients over age 70. This is troubling news considering the fastest growing segment of the population is 85 and older.

"Except if you are a pediatrician, the classes graduating now will spend 50 per cent of their time with people over the age of 65," Dr. Laura Diachun, associate professor of medicine and director for the Geriatric Medicine Residency Program at the University of Western Ontario, told *The Vancouver Sun*.

According to a Health Canada report, only one in eight Canadians was above age 65 in 2001. By 2026, it's predicted one in five Canadians

will have reached that age. This requires a dramatic shift in how Canada allocates its medical training and employment to respond fairly and professionally to people requiring care.

But universities aren't responding to the trends, say Gordon and other geriatricians.

"In medical school, people do close to two years or more of classroom learning and then clerkship, on the floor-clinical learning," Gordon told *The Sun*. "Only half the schools have people do geriatrics even though all have them do pediatrics."

This should raise alarm bells for medical schools everywhere. Simply increasing the contact medical students have with older patients should better prepare them for the positions in which hospitals and private practices will require them.

Gordon suggested a few reasons for the lack of initiative in getting young doctors acquainted with the special treatment and specific knowledge needed to take care of the elderly. There is an assumption that geriatrics is too complicated for students getting their first taste of practicing medicine. Many geriatricians believe geriatrics is not an attractive enough subject to the next generation of doctors.

As the population ages, however, the demand for top-notch research and high-quality elderly treatment will increase. While fields such as neurology or pathology may offer more exciting careers than geriatrics does now, the medical treatment of older people will likely develop into a promising and productive area of study.

The need for more geriatric doctors is exacerbated by the attentive home care some seniors require. As *The Sun* pointed out, if an elderly person doesn't have a specialist who can visit them at home, their health can deteriorate rapidly in hospital. Research has shown the best way to treat the elderly is with a coordinated team of specialists. In other words, a checkup at the doctor is not enough for most elderly people.

There are networks in place now to get people in the medical field thinking about how to deal with this crisis. The National Initiative for the Care of the Elderly was created two years ago to help spread research and encourage communication between those specializing in the psychological, physical and social care of elders.

The initiative is a direct response to Canada's aging population. It mentions on its website that the senior population is expected to grow to approximately 6.7 million by the year 2021, and will continue to grow to 9.2 million by 2041. At that time, the elderly are expected to account for one in four Canadians.

Universities should do more to promote the study of geriatrics. It's the responsibility of schools to consider where their students will be going after they graduate. Without putting a greater emphasis on geriatrics here at Dalhousie and across Canada now, doctors in the near future will be scrambling for knowledge they should have learned in the classroom or during their residency.

Fiddling with your wiki

RAMI NASSER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Many students use Wikipedia in their research projects. It's usually the fastest way to find information, and Google often lists the site in its top five search results.

Students forget Wikipedia is mainly written and edited by anonymous volunteers with unknown credentials. Many contributors publish copyrighted materials without proper references.

Wikipedia is the eighth most accessed website in the U.S. Some people argue it provides quality, accurate articles because it's edited by a large number of people. But according to the founder of Wikipedia, Jimmy Wales, 50 per cent of all Wikipedia edits are done by only 524 people and 73 per cent are done by 1400 people.

Editing can be driven by politics. On Feb. 8, someone using a Dalhousie University IP address edited the Wikipedia page of Rodney MacDonald. They wrote that students participated in the National Day of Action to protest against high tuition fees in front of the Nova Scotia legislature. The entry read that students asked MacDonald to talk with them and he refused. The next day, someone re-edited Wikipedia and deleted any reference to the protest.

Some of the political edits show a sense of humour. For example, the

page for Stephen Harper was edited several times to change whether he is a Toronto Maple Leafs or Calgary Flames fan. Based on the IP address, the edits were discovered to have come from federal government computers.

Many people have used Wikipedia to create hoaxes by claiming a false fact and then editing the site accordingly. One popular example is the Seigenthaler controversy. An anonymous editor changed the Wikipedia page of John Seigenthaler, an American journalist, claiming he had a role in the assassination of John F. Kennedy.

Seigenthaler was outraged and wrote an opinions piece in *USA Today*, calling Wikipedia a "flawed and irresponsible research tool." Eventually the person was identified using his IP address and resigned from his job because he made the edits from work.

Wikipedia is also edited by corporations to soften their public image. For example, the Wal-Mart page was edited by someone who works for the company. They changed the page to say the average wage at Wal-Mart is double the minimum wage, rather than 20 per cent less than wages at other retail stores.

Wikipedia is written and edited by amateur editors, not academic editors. You can use it for quick personal searches, but for academic work, use academic sources.

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:
Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

Student scrimping 101

JENNA CONTER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

A couple months of partying hard will start to take its toll on your finances. If you're lucky, your parents took care of your tuition and maybe some textbooks, but what about pub nights and movies? And how will you afford retail therapy when you really need it?

Budgeting shouldn't make you panic. Planning for the month ahead is all you need to do. In facing my own financial reality, I found the following tactics quite useful.

If you currently have a job, factor in how much you get paid on a monthly basis. Take this figure and add it to whatever money your parents have agreed to give you per month. This, my money-budgeting friends, is called an income. For most of us, it's a sad, small number, but hey, welcome to student life.

Take that number and subtract your monthly bills – rent, cable, internet, phone, cellular phone, bi-monthly power bill, etc.

Have anything left? Good, because we haven't bought groceries yet. Most students don't have access to a car, so buying a large load of groceries is quite a task. However, if you find yourself popping into the local store now and again for one or two items, you're not shopping properly.

Simply make a list complete with the groceries you need and the meals you are planning to cook. Yes, I said cook. In the long term, it costs less to buy ingredients and make individual meals than to eat out for every meal. Though it might be easy to drop a quick

\$10 on a fast-food burger, this is not good long-term financial planning.

If you're buying groceries weekly from an organized list of ingredients and meal choices, you will save money and you could also lose a few pounds by staying away from the ingredients found in fast food. Cooking might seem daunting, and you might need to live on pasta and sandwiches for a while when you first start out, but in your later university years you can graduate from that George Foreman to an actual oven.

Since we're not all Martha Stewart, we have to be realistic. We can't plan every meal until Christmas. We all fall victim to quick and easy foods from time to time, but it never hurts to cut back.

Leftovers can last for several days. Cooking chicken? Buy a whole package, cook it all and throw the leftovers in the freezer. You can leave the pre-cooked chicken out overnight to defrost, then toss it on a salad, in a sandwich or in a pita.

With midterms fading into the background and finals approaching fast, many students fall victim to library snacking. Though there are a plethora of options for a decent meal on campus, the food is so heavily over-priced you would swear chickens and turkeys were going extinct. Bringing a sandwich or other snacks to school will save you money.

After working hard all week, a night out often seems like the ticket to release some stress. The money set aside for entertainment and eating out should, however, be the smallest percentage of your budget. Most

places worth going to downtown charge cover and seem to bump up drink prices on popular nights.

Pre-drinking is the only solution. People can split the cost of the booze so that all you need to pay for at the bar is cover and a social drink or two.

You can always cut corners on entertainment costs. If you enjoy a night at the movies, conserve your funds by sneaking in a snack or two. Since movies are less costly during the week at most theatres, trying catching a flick on a weeknight.

Retail therapy can be your best friend after a long week or a bad day. You could simply avoid the shopping area entirely and go for a walk without your wallet. Window-shopping can also help to curb the craving.

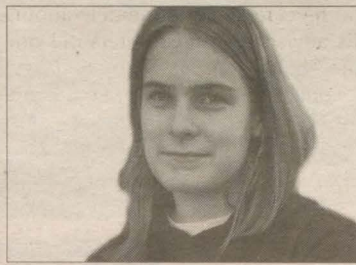
If you're really strong, try on new clothes for a confidence boost. If you can't live without a certain item, use that as a goal. Save up, and when you buy the shirt or pants you've been longing for, you'll cherish them even more.

And it's never cool to be pretentious about discount shopping. When you go shopping, go directly to the sale rack and see what's being offered. You might be pleasantly surprised.

A way to achieve some peace of mind about your budget is to be honest about it. Whether you spend too much on a shopping spree at The Gap or too little by living off lima beans to save up for booze, it's a simple matter of establishing a realistic balance. Learning to budget now with students funds will make it easier to budget later in life when, if all goes well, we'll have a little more money to play with.

The Scientific Skeptic

Take every meal with a grain of salt



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

We live in an age in which William Shatner promotes fibre and the Dairy Farmers of Ontario rap in ridiculous music video ads on channels watched by children. These days it seems like everyone, from your mom to your supermarket to Oprah, wants to tell you how to eat.

Every food item has several claims attached to it – whether it's enriched with vitamin C, calcium, omega-3 fatty acids or antioxidants. But has the basic eating advice being dished out really changed?

There are plenty of easily disputed claims. Some people believe eating expensive spirulina – supplements containing blue-green algae, a.k.a. pond scum – is better than eating ordinary food. Proponents of spirulina say it can improve memory, stamina and immunity, lead to weight loss and detoxification, and relieve hypoglycemia and allergies. However, there is no scientific evidence for any of this. Spirulina is a scam.

Other claims fall in the realm of maybes. Though food companies may tell you that you need new nutrient x in your diet, it's not certain whether that nutrient is beneficial or not.

Take calcium. It's been drilled into our heads from childhood that calcium builds strong bones and milk is a good source of calcium. It's true that if you give milk to a starving child in Africa, that kid will develop a healthy skeleton. But it's not so true for people in North America who have easy access to milk.

Populations that consume less calcium appear, in some studies, to have lower rates of osteoporosis. One explanation for this is that populations that drink a lot of milk, like we do in North America, also in-

gest a lot of sodium and phosphorus from soft drinks and pre-packaged foods. Sodium and phosphorus can make it difficult for our bodies to hang on to the calcium we take in. If you want to have strong bones, cut out the junk food first.

Then there's the increasing amount of food products containing omega-3 fatty acids. Omega-3 is linked to lower rates of heart disease, but the evidence for this link is still inconclusive. Some studies have found a positive effect, but some haven't found any at all.

The link between soda and obesity is also inconclusive. Although there are many studies that provide evidence for and against the claim, most nutritionists believe the link exists. Studies showing no link tend to be sponsored by the food industry, while independent studies are more likely to show a connection. Though most scientists try to be balanced and not play into the hands that feed them, they could be subconsciously biased.

Beef is another contentious food. Beef is very good for you; it's full of protein, vitamins and minerals. But it's only good in small doses. The amount a typical Westerner eats in a day leads to negative effects like high blood cholesterol and a higher risk of cancer. Scientists don't know exactly why the link between cancer and beef exists, but it's definitely there.

The saturated fatty acids in beef are good for you, but only if you eat 20 grams per day. Most beef eaters consume much more than this. Even the smallest burger offered by McDonald's contains close to half the recommended daily intake.

Don't be misled by new nutrition claims. The food industry likes to hide behind one favourable study to support their marketing, even when a wider range of studies are inconclusive.

The basic rules of nutrition have never changed: eat less junk food and eat more fruit, vegetables and whole grains. It doesn't matter how much calcium milkshakes contain or how many vitamins are in burgers – if you have too many, you'll get sick.

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Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

Heroism has never been so easy

JOHN HILLMAN
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Recently, NBC ran a week of themed television programming called "Green is Universal," during which they attempted to provide a solid week of environmental awareness-themed programming.

Instead of trying to tack on an environmental message to a complex script, likely written months ago for the highly popular television show *Heroes*, NBC ran a brief clip of the stars of the show participating in a publicity stunt, in which they dropped some trees into pots.

When the host of the event announced we could all be heroes if we took the time to plant a tree, it got me thinking about the current meaning of the term 'hero.'

In the past, you had to perform some amazing act of self-sacrifice to become a hero, like diving into an icy river to save a drowning child or suffering through intense persecution in a quest for civil rights. Recently, however, it seems we've witnessed a watering-down of the term, and I couldn't be happier.

I've never been so close to being a hero as I am now – one more Better Side Notebook purchased and I'll be in the same glorious company as Mother Teresa or the 9/11 first responders. Though I'm not the only one benefiting from the new definition of 'hero.' The following are some of the more prominent figures gaining attention under the new standard of heroism.

Al Gore

It's understandable why Gore is the biggest hero of the moment, given his compelling story. Who can resist the tale of a wealthy, Harvard-educated former vice president, who overcame the challenges of being a man born without a personality and made a successful documentary that has provided corporations with a whole new set of buzzwords in their efforts to exploit our collective social conscience?

So far his only rewards for this have been an Oscar, a Nobel Peace Prize and a very public campaign begging him to run for president. When you realize past winners of the Peace Prize have included such lacklustre candidates as the non-violent Burmese democracy activist Aung San Suu Kyi, who hasn't found the time to try to win an Oscar during her 17 years under house arrest, it's clear Gore is a hero in a league of his own.

Sidney Crosby

Crosby, by all accounts, is a great guy. He's personable, respectful and great with his fans. Far more importantly, he's a hell of a hockey player. It is this that makes him a true hero, in the league of Gretzky and Jordan. Sure, some might say the term 'hero' should be reserved for athletes like Terry Fox, whose Marathon of Hope inspired the world to raise money for cancer research, but let me ask you this: Did Terry Fox ever win the Hart Trophy, the Art Ross Trophy and the Lester B. Person Award in a single season?

Che Guevara


With his slick moustache, rebel-

lious hair and killer beret, there can be no doubt Guevara is a worthy hero for our generation. He was a freedom fighter, man, a real visionary. Who cares if he personally oversaw the extra-judicial executions of a few hundred political prisoners following the Cuban Revolution, or sought to destroy individualism? The point is, he looks really badass, and by wearing his picture on your shirt, you can gain some of that hardcore appeal by extension.

The Political Candidate You Currently Support

We live in perilous times, and the world needs a saviour. Though most politicians today are unprepared to step up to the challenge, there is at least one individual out there heroic enough to meet it head on: whichever candidate it is you support for political office. Whether your favourite candidate is a woman, an African-American or the guy who was mayor of New York during 9/11, one thing is for certain: he or she is a hero, and anyone who dares question that fact is misogynistic, racist or unpatriotic.

Truly, more heroes walk the earth now than at any other point in recorded history. Considering the sheer concentration of heroes among us, an era of immeasurable prosperity is surely ahead – provided society's challenges remain limited to finding appropriate documentaries to drone on about, scoring over 100 points per season and inspiring T-shirts that represent 'revolutionary' attitudes.



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WOMEN'S HOCKEY vs. OTTAWA (EXH.), 2:30PM
BASKETBALL vs. UPEI, W 6PM, M 8PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18
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BASKETBALL vs. UPEI, W 1PM, M 3PM

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STREETER

If you could throw a theme party, what would the theme be?



“A beach party because I like the beach.”

Krista Halbgewachs, fourth-year business manager



“A *Survivor* party.”

Lyndsay Cooper, third-year nursing



“*Star Trek: The Next Generation*”

Jay Nathwani, second-year law



“Superhero party.”

Hannah Griffin, first-year arts



“A James Bond party.”

Geoff Delean, fifth-year biology



“A Pre-Socratics party.”

Andrea Blackie, second-year French



“An old people theme.”

Gillian English, fourth-year acting



“What were you wearing on Wednesday, Aug. 22? Yeah, wear that.”

James Munson, ninth-year egalitarian bounty hunting

OVERHEARD AT DAL

In Bio 1010:

Young prof: We don't use our arms for locomotion after the age of one. Well, maybe when you're really drunk.

Thermodynamics prof points in the general direction of King's:

Prof: So what's the deal with that place anyway?"

Student: Oh, it's a liberal arts school.

Prof: So they go to school for four years and can't get a job afterward?

Somewhere in Halifax:

Girl1: I gave up the drinking many months back...I think before I even found out I was prego, to tell you the truth. Hahaha.

Walking on LeMarchant Street:

Girl1: Did we even go outside yesterday?

Girl2: Yeah, we went out for a smoke.

Girl1: O.K., good. It's important to get fresh air everyday

Two girls outside Risley by the bus stop:

Girl: Wait, I thought it was YOUR boyfriend who had the weird-shaped penis, not mine.

Howe Hall cafeteria:

Guy: HE SHIT ON THE CURTAINS!!!! How in the FUCK does that happen!?!?

Two girls talking about troll dolls:

Girl1: I used to play with a cheerleader, fisherman, astronaut and a cowboy.

Girl2: Sounds like a porn gone wrong!

Girl1: I might have made troll porn.

Girl2: WHAT?!?

Two strangers in Philosophy:

Guy, upon noticing a chemistry test next to a girl: So you're taking organic chem are ya?

Girl: Umm...yeah.

Guy: Would you help me make some meth?

Girl: ...

HOT OR NOT

HOT: Guitar Hero III	NOT: Actual musical skill
HOT: Puppy love	NOT: Bestiality
HOT: Masturbating	NOT: Dating
HOT: First snow	NOT: First frostbite
HOT: SMU football	NOT: SMU
HOT: Calculated manipulation	NOT: Healthy relationships
HOT: Heckling	NOT: Constructive criticism
HOT: Warm bed	NOT: Rain
HOT: Hell	NOT: Hell week
HOT: The Gradhouse	NOT: Graduating

DISCLAIMER

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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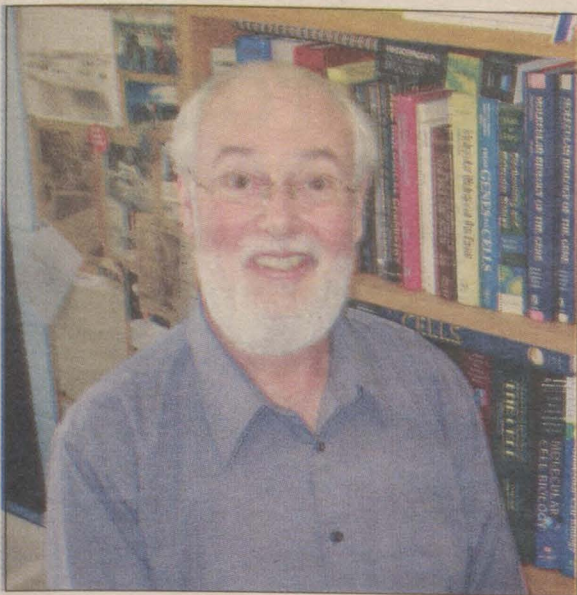


THE SPLIT CROW PUB

THE CROW

CORNER OF DUKE AND GRANVILLE

PROF TALK



Professor Tom MacRae was born here in Halifax and spent his youth in the fishing village of Bayfield, New Brunswick. He has been teaching at Dalhousie in the Department of Biology since 1980.

Q: When did you first realize you were going to be a prof?
A: Two years into grad school. I was coming to the end of my Master's and I decided, with my wife's permission, of course, to do the PhD thing and to go on down that road.

Q: What might you have done if you hadn't become a prof?
A: I'd have been a photographer. Fine art photography. I did a lot of photography as a young man and I am a member of the Photographic Guild of Nova Scotia. Other than that, I might have been a high school or elementary school teacher.

Q: What are your research interests?
A: Lately my lab has been doing some human-oriented research with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, and it's good to work to help people. Really, though, basic research makes me the happiest.

Q: Have you had any memorable lecture moments?
A: I once threw a cell phone out of a lecture hall. Someone had turned in a phone from the prior class. It rang twice so I opened the door and tossed it out onto the lawn. The class sat in stunned silence. Oh, and once a group burst in to the classroom and sang a song before turning and running out.

Q: Is there any class you'd love to teach?
A: Second-year cell biology. I taught it for 27 years but I had to drop it this year, having become the chair of the department. Big class teaching is my specialty and by second year the students have solidified as a group and they are all very good.

Q: Is there anything you wish every student knew?
A: How to write a sentence. How to express themselves on paper. Writing skills could be better overall. After that, I wish every student could have the realization that it's up to them, and not the prof, to get through their classes. We can help and guide you, but we can't do it for you.

Q: What do you like about Halifax?
A: Everything. Except that the Canadians aren't the home team.

Q: What kind of music do you listen to?
A: Blues. I like hardcore blues – the older black blues from the south, with one person and one guitar. Simple stuff. I even like the more sanitized stuff like B.B. King. Other than that, I like AC/DC, Aerosmith and the like. I listen to bluegrass, down-east fiddle music, classical... I don't like opera or rap, but I can stand 20 minutes of country music.

Q: How can a student suck up to you?
A: By working hard. If they have a genuine interest in what we're thinking about at the time and give their all. A B+ student can be a great student if they're really giving it their best.

Q: What's one thing you would change about Dal?
A: We need more money. Granted, it doesn't solve every problem. We also need lower tuition and more student assistance so that we don't exclude people who could turn out to be credits to the institution. What I'd like to see is free tuition with a certain level of academic performance, subsidized by the tuition coming from the lower-achievers.

Q: What's your favourite Halifax pub?
A: I like Bearly's. Your Father's Moustache is nice on a Saturday afternoon, as is The Split Crow. It needs to be somewhere with live entertainment, not just drinking. I can do that on my back porch.

Want to hear what your prof has to say?
Email proftalk@dalgazette.ca

TOP 10

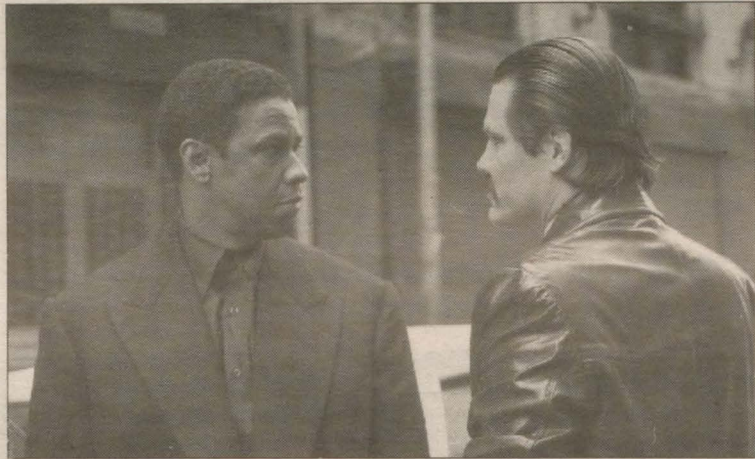
...REASONS TO BRING A BOTTLE TO CLASS

1. See how badly you can slur the phrase, "Aristotelian aesthetics."
2. Take a shot every time your prof says WebCT instead of BLS.
3. Every prof is a stand-up comic.
4. Always feel sharper in the evening? Time to trick the senses, baby.
5. Profs love to see your practical application of that chapter on psychopharmacology.
6. Nothing strengthens a class' convivial atmosphere like a stirring rendition of "Farewell to Nova Scotia."
7. Grey Goose is cheaper than Red Bull.
8. Raising your hand was never so easy and comprehensive knowledge on the topic at hand never so implicitly available.
9. One whiff of your breath and everyone's in a social mood.
10. No more lines for Tim Hortons.

GAZETTE

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

Wash it down with 



Shoot-'em-up with heart

ANDREW EDWARD DAVIES
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

American Gangster means business. The film grabs hold of you from the shocking opening scene, setting a gritty, intense tone that doesn't let up until the end credits roll.

The movie is based on the real life story of Frank Lucas (Denzel Washington), a 1970s drug lord who smuggled heroin into the United States in the coffins of American soldiers during the Vietnam War.

The film follows Lucas's story as it intertwines with that of Richie Roberts (Russell Crowe), a police detective who eventually becomes part of a task force on Lucas's trail.

The film is directed by Ridley Scott, one of the most versatile directors working today. Scott isn't flashy with this movie, allowing the story to speak for itself. The drug bust scene at the end is mandatory viewing for

any aspiring director, and Scott's camera work has a realistic quality that puts the viewer in the movie.

Washington is charming as Lucas, yet has a ferocious intensity that makes the character all the more chilling. Crowe delivers as Roberts, making him into a realistic cop — just a guy trying to do the right thing.

The director's choice to separate the two men's storylines means Washington and Crowe don't share much screen time. However, the film is able to remain fluid while still allowing the two actors their obligatory 'star power' scenes. While this might disappoint some viewers, the separation of the stories makes the two men's eventual meeting all the more climactic.

American Gangster's smart storylines and cinematography complement the great acting of Washington and Crowe. It's a shoot-'em-up film with heart.

Chromeo electro-rock Hali

MARTINA JAKUBCHIK-PALOHEIMO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The crowd asked for more cowbell, and that's exactly what they got.

Chromeo performed an electrifying show of fused sound for a crowd of eager fans on Saturday, Nov. 10, combining keyboard, guitar, synthesized sounds, a talkbox and a cowbell.

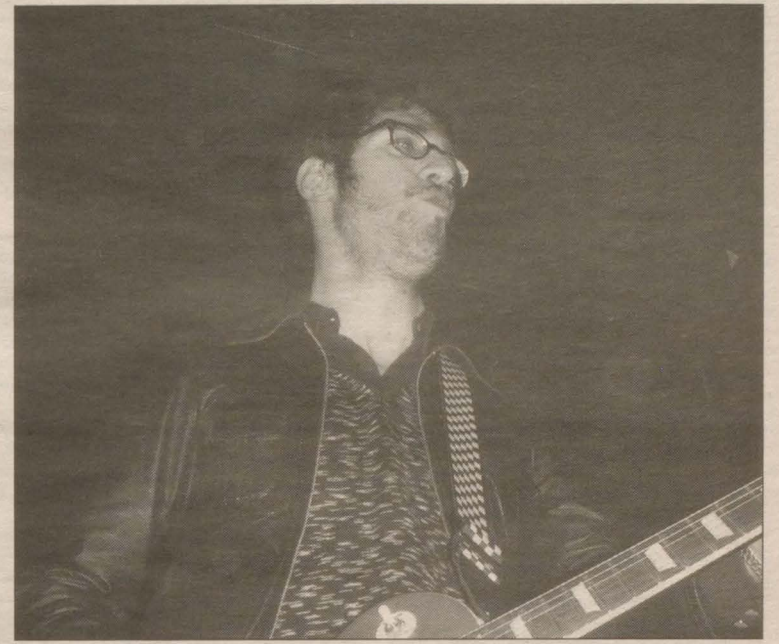
Chromeo is the dynamic duo of Dave 1 and P-Thugg, who rose out of the Montreal music scene and stopped through Halifax to do a fantastic show. They combine instruments and technology to create a heartfelt, old-school, stimulating sound.

Chromeo has exploded in the underground scene over the past two years. They're most famous for their addictive hit "Needy Girl," which they dedicated at the show to fans who've stuck by them from the start.

The place was abuzz with anticipation. Inside the The Marquee, underground hipsters and loyal fans were ecstatic.

As well as performing all of their released songs, including "Fancy Footwork" and "Bonafied Lovin'," they did a tantalizing spin of the song "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey.

Chromeo's retro beats and funky, 80s vibe scratched the crowd right



ALY COY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dave 1 and P-thugg can be tenderonies any day of the week.

where they itched. They finished with "Mamma's Boy," which has the potential to emerge as another beloved single.

Following their appearance in Halifax, they will be hitting the road to Europe and then to the land down under — Australia.

Their show was short and sweet, lasting only about 45 minutes, and the crowd seemed disappointed.

However, all was forgiven when P-Thugg invited the crowd onto the stage. A spectacular finale followed, as fans swarmed the stage to party with Chromeo.

Clothed in culture

CHRISTIE CONWAY
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

The quilts, sweaters and other textiles featured in the Dalhousie Art Gallery's *Close to You: Contemporary Textiles, Intimacy and Popular Culture* exhibit are not your grandmother's needlepoint or patchwork — unless your grandma takes the occasional acid trip.

The exhibit, curated by Sarah Quinton, the Senior Curator at the Textile Museum of Canada, explores pop culture sayings and images through contemporary textiles.

The artists featured include Ai Kijima, Scott Kildall, Allyson Mitchell, Mark Newport and Michèle Provost.

The first thing visitors are likely to notice when entering the exhibit is a voluptuous, 10-foot tall naked woman constructed from fun fur and shag, called "Big Trubs," created by Mitchell. She looks a bit like an anatomically correct muppet.

Provost's "It's Only Rock 'n' Roll" features 44 framed embroideries of quotes from popular music. The pieces are accompanied by almost inaudible rock music, perhaps to remind the viewer that, even if we're not always aware of it, we are always immersed in popular culture.

Some of the framed pieces read, "Excuse me while I kiss the sky," embroidered in pink and orange over pink and purple damask, and, "Heaven ain't close in a place like this," over an antique black and white peasant print. There is a good 15 minutes of fun to be had mulling over the 44 quotes and attempting to match each to its original song.

The real highlights of the exhibit are Kijima's quilted pieces, one of which inspired the exhibit's name. Kijima uses fused and machine-quilted fabrics, including recycled bed sheets, curtains, pillowcases and clothes to create chaotic textile collages.

Kijima's most impressive piece,

which emphasises the unconscious intimacy between textiles and popular culture is "Burn it Up." The piece incorporates images of Lamb Chops and Thomas the Tank Engine juxtaposed with images of a Misfits frontman, a decapitated, lingerie-clad woman, and fire in a sea of psychedelic colors.

Kijima uses pop culture iconography in ambiguous but nonetheless beautiful and poetic ways. "Erehwon," ('nowhere' backwards) another piece by Kijima, depicts the contradictions the artist sees in the natural world.

Close to You is a provocative look at the deeply intimate relationship we have with things we often take for granted, or simply no longer notice of. Shake up your afternoon routine and swing by the Dalhousie Art Gallery. You might never look at your sweater or quilt the same way again.

Close to You runs until Nov. 25 at the Dalhousie Art Gallery in the Rebecca Cohn Building. Admission is free.

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Don't make me blush:

Caught with my pants down

KATHRYN LEBLANC
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

I went through a healthy-living phase that involved drinking copious amounts of water. Obviously, this entailed many necessary trips to the washroom.

One late night, I had just left my friend's house after partaking in numerous unmentionable teenage antics. I was driving home through the suburban streets and could not have been more than five minutes away from my home, but a recent water-binge session had made my bladder unwelcome to the idea of waiting until home to relieve myself.

It came to the point where I had to

choose between peeing in the car or starting my stream outside, while in the infamous pop-a-squat position.

I made the decision to stop the car, leave the door open and run into the middle of the street. I took my washroom break on the front lawn of a residential home with no coverage whatsoever.

I tore my pants down around my ankles, formed the position and let flow.

I was in the middle of the most relieving pee of my life to this day when I saw a man with a dog walking in my direction. I have yet to master the pinch-and-hold move, so there was no way of avoiding this incredibly awkward situation.

The anonymous man approached me and asked, "Can I help you?"

I returned with, "Uhhh...I lost my earring."

Genius! So I started to look for my 'lost' earring while still in a bare-butt squat.

The creeper was still there when I finished relieving myself.

"I found it!" I said, and sprinted back to the car while pulling up my pants.

I drove home, permanently tainted by the embarrassing moment, and wondering if the man thought it was weird that my earring somehow flew out of the closed window of my car. I never even got to drip dry.

Tips for student living:

Make a kitchen table and bed frame from garbage

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I have recently started living alone. For the first time, I don't have any roommates to mooch living equipment off of. So being the cheap ass I am, I have figured out some innovative, if raffish, ways of sprucing up the ol' homestead.

For those of you who are anti-social, procrastinated way too long to get roommates or are just plain cheap, these tips will help turn your cave into a humble abode.

The easiest way to make a kitchen table is with a 3 x 6 piece of plywood, some rope, and four hooks strong enough to hang the plank from the ceiling.

A bed frame is another necessity. If you're from one of the bigger, more central Canadian cities, you probably aren't comfortable sleeping on the floor with the servants, so this is particularly important for you.

Metal bed frames can be expensive,



SXC.COM

so if you can make one out of garbage, you're better off. The cheapest and most secure way to do this is to raid a construction site for a discarded piece of plywood. Aim for something close to your bed size, but don't be picky.

Once you have the plywood, the easy part is done. Now you need four leatherback sea turtles, alive or dead...Oh wait, wrong article. Sorry. You need four milk crates.

These cost money so your best bet is to gank them, either from a milk delivery person (watch out - they usually carry bear spray) or an unsuspecting restaurant. They have thousands of them. All you have to do is start lurking in back alleys.

So once you have your milk crates (grab a few extra for future projects) you're good to go. Throw the milk crates under the four corners of your plywood, throw your box spring and mattress on top, and catch some Zs. Hopefully the plywood is thick and heavy enough to support your body weight. You can also flip the milk crates on their side to create little storage spaces.

So there you go. Now you have a kitchen table and a bed frame, and still have enough money left over for a Colt 45.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

90's apparel is the new vintage.

Young and sweet

AMY DEMPSEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

If the pretty, blond owner sitting behind the counter at Sweet Pea Boutique looks young, it's because she is. Johanna Galipeau - Joey to customers and friends - was only 19 when she opened for business in May of this year.

Her shop is a new addition to Queen Street and Halifax's fashion market. Simplicity and originality is what Sweet Pea is all about. The women's clothing store is a little treasure chest full of unique and carefully selected dresses, tops and accessories.

After graduating from high school, Galipeau considered studying fashion and design, but instead decided to jump right into what she saw as the beginning of a fashion boom in Halifax.

After Galipeau presented a business proposal to her financial institution, they deemed her a sound investment and gave her the loan she needed to support her business plan.

"Right now is the time to get into the Halifax fashion industry," she says.

Galipeau loves the freedom of being her own boss, but says the most troubling thing about starting your own business is the possibility it won't work out.

"It's all on you if it fails," she says.

She was also distressed to discover that getting the clothing lines she wanted in her store wasn't as easy as she thought it would be. Suppliers place restrictions on who they will supply to, based on factors such as location, store size and proximity to other stores that carry their clothing.

But Galipeau happily says that despite minor disappointments, her business is thriving.

In addition to having a busy summer, Sweet Pea has been receiving lots of local and national press. The boutique has been featured in Halifax's *Daily News*, *The Globe and Mail* and Canadian fashion magazine *Loulou*.

Framed magazine covers featuring Sarah Jessica Parker and Gwen Stefani adorn the walls in Sweet Pea's fitting rooms. These women are Galipeau's fashion inspirations.

"It's not necessarily what they wear, but their attitudes toward fashion that I like," she says.



AMY DEMPSEY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sweet Pea is a great new addition to the Halifax fashion scene.

ion that I like," she says.

Galipeau believes it's important to create your own unique look rather than try to imitate what's in style. Her favourite everyday items for this season are sweater dresses, tall boots, navy legwarmers and scarves.

"I'm all about layering and mixing and matching. I like anything really fun and funky."

For downtown, Galipeau says "anything goes," but short dresses are still popular, as well as sequins and metallics.

And what's the one thing Galipeau thinks both men and women should have in their closet?

"A really good black shoe," she says. "[Shoes are] definitely one of the most important things to spend a little bit more money on."

Regular customer Beth McDougall, 21, enjoys Sweet Pea because it's "affordable and unique." She appreciates that Galipeau is friendly and doesn't push for a sale.

"She lets you do your own thing," says McDougall.

Galipeau expects things to slow down in the winter and plans to take a correspondence course in fashion to keep herself busy.

She doesn't plan to expand Sweet Pea because she says it would go against what the small, independent boutique represents. Eventually she hopes to open another business in the fashion industry, and pays close attention to customer feedback for ideas for the future.

Galipeau says she believes Halifax is slowly making a name for itself in the fashion world, and hopes to see a continuing trend toward a more daring and creative sense of style in Halifax. With Sweet Pea, she's helping to bring her fresh style and outlook to the city.

Sweet Pea Boutique is open Monday to Wednesday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and photos of the store's latest items, check out the Sweet Pea Boutique profile on Facebook.

Retrospectacular

KATIE NATION
FASHION CONTRIBUTOR

High-waisted pencil skirts, worn bomber jackets and raspberry berets! When you walk around campus these days, it's not exactly clear which decade Dalhousie students are living in. It seems students trying to spice up their look are jumping through time to draw inspiration from the generations of yore, and they're pulling it off seamlessly.

It's not surprising that students are working it old-school, given that anything retro has been the look du jour for quite some time now. The exact moment designers and trendsetters began looking to the past for inspiration is debatable, but sometime within the past five to 10 years, something clicked in fashionistas everywhere.

All of a sudden everything 'old-fashioned' became 'vintage' and everything discarded was anxiously re-sought. Thrifting drifted to the mainstream and suddenly it was okay to admit your outfit was lifted from your parents' closets.

This season, however, fashion forecasters predicted a change of scene. For fall 2007, designers (possibly in an attempt to draw consumers back to modern-day merchandise) abandoned retrospection for the large part and moved into futurism, with shiny veneers, strong angles and block shapes.

Halifax consumers have yet to start following suit, and instead continue reliving days of old. Shopping at thrift stores is now the norm for fashion-conscious shoppers of all incomes and vintage stores are being favoured over malls by some.

It's hard to tell why so many shoppers continue looking to the past. Maybe we're running away from the current world we live in; maybe designers are just getting lazy. Who knows? What matters is that old is the new new, and it doesn't look like that's going to change any day soon.

We're seeing a new face of retrospection, though. 'Vintage' usually means anything coming from at least 25 years ago, but now we're looking to the late 80's and 90's - leggings, neon colours, bitchin' sneakers, frames on prescription glasses and anything else you probably wore in elementary school.

Just look at leggings. Though I'm not personally a fan, there's something to be said about their undeniable popularity. This is a look that, within our lifetime, has been born, run its course, died, and is now being fished out from the backs of our closets and worn in a completely new and versatile way.

Call it nostalgia, call it unoriginal, call it what you will - there's something beautiful about remembering the styles of old and giving them a modern spin.



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Springfield comes to Halifax

AMY DEMPSEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

"Hello, my name is Homer," reads the tag on Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo's stained white shirt.

Jakubchik-Paloheimo, a fourth-year Dalhousie philosophy student, is also wearing a yellow bathing cap, a drawn-on five o'clock shadow and a pair of men's briefs.

"I'm wearing two pairs of underwear, if that makes a difference," she tells a friend who is cracking up at her pantslessness.

Jakubchik-Paloheimo is the one behind A Simpsons Party Extravaganza, a keg party hosted on Walnut Street last Friday, Nov. 9. Over one hundred Dalhousie students dressed up as characters from the ever-popular animated TV show *The Simpsons*.

It all started when a group of friends pointed out a few similarities between Jakubchik-Paloheimo and a Homer Simpson doll that resides in her house. She thought it was funny, and they began comparing friends to other characters from *The Simpsons*. It began as a joke, but Jakubchik-Paloheimo took it a step further by turning it into a party.

Their goal was to get enough attention to appear on *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*, as O'Brien worked as a writer and producer for *The Simpsons*.

She created a Facebook event and together, with a few friends, matched the people on the guest list to characters they felt were most appropriate.

"Most people were cool with it, but some might have been a little insulted by our choices," she says.

Paul Menard knows why he was chosen to be Duffman, and it doesn't seem to bother him at all.

"I'm loud, obnoxious, and always in the spotlight – annoyingly," he says.

Menard is wearing blue tights, red briefs, a cape, and has several cans of Duff beer strapped around a belt on his waist. He says the Simpsons party is the kind of event that "defines Martina."

"We all came up with it together, but without Martina it wouldn't have happened," says Alli Fear, dressed as Bart Simpson.



AMY DEMPSEY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

In recreating *The Simpsons*' cast poster, the Dalhousie crew all yell "Hi Conan" in an attempt to get on late Night With Conan O'Brien.

"Selma has jaundice!" Bart adds, as a guy in a purple dress with a mop on his head passes by. Like many of the partygoers, he is covered in yellow paint to give his skin the signature Simpsons hue.

The best characters are the ones who truly embrace their Simpsons' persona.

Brittany Smith remains in character as Cletus Spuckler's redneck wife Brandine all night long. She is wearing a bright red wig, has a few blacked-out teeth and an exposed belly, and carries a beer and a gun at all times.

Brandine proclaims what she likes most about her character in a loud Southern drawl.

"I loves mah hair, I loves mah accent, and I loves mah shotgun!"

Marge Simpson's famous blue tower of hair is made out of 25 feet of chicken wire, covered in spray-painted papier-mâché.

In an upstairs bedroom, Maude

Flanders does a 31-second keg stand out of a Jacuzzi. In more ways than one, this is not a typical house party.

Lisa Simpson is next, and as her legs are lifted into the air, her tube dress shifts and Lisa inadvertently gives everyone in the room a free peepshow.

By midnight, it looks like all of Springfield threw up on the South End house. As the kegs empty, costumes come undone and pieces of various characters lay scattered on the floor, along with empty beer cups.

Selma rearranges her stuffed chest, perhaps hoping for a last-minute hookup.

Baby Gerald sits by the dryer, waiting for his beer-soaked pants to air out.

Principal Skinner suavely chats up a few ladies.

"I made out with Edna earlier tonight," Skinner brags. "And later I will again... It's Principal Skinner's night off."

Turned on...

Book Review: *Threeways: Fulfill Your Ultimate Fantasy*

SHANNON PRINGLE
SEXPERT

With the mountain of sex guides out on the market, I look for books that have something new to say – not so much in terms of sexual positions and sexual techniques, but books that challenge your sexual biases.

Diana Cage is one of a handful of sex writers who challenge and change the way readers think about sex. Cage's latest contribution, *Threeways: Fulfill Your Ultimate Fantasy*, takes the reader on a sexy, diverse and intelligent romp through the world of the threeway, or multiple partner sex.

Cage lives and writes in the North American Mecca of sex-positive, queer culture – San Francisco. Though she regards herself as "primarily a lesbian," there is nothing exclusive about her approach to sex. *Threeways* is written for everyone, regardless of sex, gender presentation, orientation or identity. It encourages great sex in whatever combination of partners you find appealing.

Threeway sex, or sex with more than one partner at a time, is a popular fantasy in our sexual culture. But how do you go about making this fantasy into a reality?

Is a threeway something that will enhance your sex life, or should it remain a fantasy? What are some of the pitfalls? Are there different things to consider if you're single or in a couple? Where do you find willing partners? What are your boundaries? What are some things you can do when you have another body to play with? If you find yourself having sex with a person of a gender you aren't accustomed to, does this affect your identity?

These are some of the topics Cage tackles with such infectious enthusiasm that it's hard not to see the erotic potential in challenging the conventions of what she describes as our "very heterocentric, couple-centric and monogamy-centric society."

Cage infuses *Threeways* with aspects of her own diverse sexual experiences and includes snippets from the many people she has interviewed. Her honesty and delightfully randy sensibility makes this one of the most intimate sex guides I have ever encountered. It is in this unabashed way that Cage challenges us all, queer or straight, to examine our notions of labels, identity, queerness, gender, sexual fluidity, to stop policing the "boundaries of each other's queerness or straightness or anythingness," and to "let go of some of our sexual rigidity."

After all, as she says, "threeways have a way of obliterating gender roles and sexual preferences, and opening up our views of ourselves as sexual creatures." She revisits these ideas throughout the book.

A number of great quotations from this book should be printed on buttons and T-shirts so they can infiltrate our culture. My favourite quote comes from a small section entitled, "Your Anatomy is Not Your Destiny," where Cage touches on gender as a social construction – how it influences our lives and the kinds of sex we think are appropriate to engage in.

She wraps up with these words: "Some of the hottest boys I've ever had sex with have the same parts as I do. And here's a little known secret: I've turned more than one straight boy into a screaming girl."

Successful threeway sexual experiences, in which everyone involved has a good time physically

and emotionally, take thought, good communication, some planning, the observation of people's boundaries and good sexual etiquette.

Cage's love of good threeway sex is evident on every page of this information-packed guide, but her enthusiasm for it does not distract her from pointing out some of the hazards and the importance of continually checking in with yourself as you go through the process, from finding willing partners to actually having sex with them.

She advises you not to let your partners, or anyone else, talk you into a threeway unless it really interests you. If you are part of a couple and you want to remain part of a couple, don't engage in a threeway unless your relationship is strong. Don't engage in a threeway unless your self-esteem is intact. She says to examine and know your boundaries and practice good dating skills.

Once you have established your desires and considered their implications, Cage provides lots of tips for finding willing partners and cruising as a couple or a single. She covers places to meet people, searching online, the swingers' scene and hiring a sex worker. She devotes a whole chapter on the dos and don'ts of attending sex parties.

Her writing on sex workers and sex parties is valuable, as sex work is highly marginalized and reviled in our culture, and there is more to sex parties than just showing up and having sex.

Cage's anatomical review of the vulva, penis and butt splices anatomical terms with her hip, casual style so it's never dull. Who knew the clitoris had 18 parts?

Her chapter "Brush Up Your Sex Skills" is a great review for everyone, and a good place to start if you're going to be having sex with someone of a gender you aren't accustomed to.

Her recap of basic techniques in "How To Go Down On A Woman" is so succinct that it could be read while waiting in traffic. If you like what she has to say as much as I do, follow *Threeways* up with her last book, *Box Lunch: The Layperson's Guide to Cannilinus*.

Cage also reviews how to kiss seductively (a sorely neglected activity in our genitally focused culture), the genderbending fun of using a strap-on for vaginal or anal intercourse or a silicone blow job, and how to fist.

In the following chapters, she gives an overview of using sex toys to enhance threeway play, a brief introduction to BDSM, how to give a good spanking, role playing, the importance of safer sex, plus the numerous sexual positions three bodies can explore.

I have read a lot of Diana Cage's work and have only questioned her once, and that is in this book. In the section on "Power Play," she is describing some possible scenes to enact in a threeway, and she finishes by writing, "...or you can tie someone up and leave them there while the other two of you get Chinese food."

I think she's joking, but just to clarify: you should never, ever leave someone bound and unattended. If being tied up and abandoned for a bit is a big turn-on for one of your lovers, you can always blindfold them, walk to the door, open it and shut it again and stand there very quietly watching them squirm. They never have to know you're in the room and aren't left in any kind of danger.

*Reprinted with permission from www.venusenvy.ca.

Never had I ever:

Had my jaw bone cyborg-erized

NICK KHATTAR
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I have had a lot of work done on my mouth, jaw and teeth. My family is plagued with dental issues and it is a curse I cannot escape. Recently, I have reached a new pinnacle in my orthodontic achievement, because never before had I ever had a titanium plate and thread bolted and imbedded in my jaw.

I had to get a fake tooth but my jaw, from previous abuses to it, wasn't solid enough for the titanium thread. So it needed a plate. Due to the dental work that has been performed on me, I am much closer to fulfilling my lifelong dream of becoming a cyborg.

My aunt works in the field of dentistry and has been my dental Moses through all of my procedures. I was pretty nervous about this one, but she assured me it was "completely routine and casual, like having a filling done." I wasn't even going to be knocked out for it – just frozen up.

"Oh," I thought. "That's not too bad. They must have some new space-age way of doing things with lasers and such."

I am not really all that fond of needles, or of them being jabbed into my mouth. I asked my aunt just before the appointment what the needle situation was going to be and she said it would be seven or eight small ones.

"Excuse me," I said "Seven, or

eight?" Pause. "SMALL needles?" I thought she said it was casual, like getting a filling. I have had a few fillings done in my time, and I do not remember getting seven or eight casual needles. In fact, I remember I used to forgo needles completely when getting anything done to my teeth, short of getting them pulled.

My aunt assured me it was casual – that the needles were just for comfort. Seven or eight needles for comfort? That makes about as much sense as sleeping with a snapping turtle because you don't want to put him in the bathtub.

I asked her if I could forgo the needles or if she thought the intensity of the procedure required them. She said if I was 'tough,' I could do without.

Now, the periodontist performing the 'casual surgery' did seem a little astounded at my insistence on forgoing the freezing. I figured it was because people rarely forgo anesthetic. He told me to moan or grunt if it hurt and he would hit me immediately with Novocain.

It really isn't that bad getting cut with a scalpel; it's so sharp that you feel little more than a scrape – in my case, against the front part of my jaw bone. In fact, because I keep my eyes closed during all procedures done to my mouth, I didn't even realize he had cut me until I tasted the blood. That's when the adrenaline slowed down and I felt the increasingly hot-

ter, pulsating pain my jaw, like a red-hot ninja star had brushed across my upper lip.

Before I could react, he began scraping something that must have been my jawbone, probably clearing the way for his jackhammer. It sounded like a kid pulling a wooden rack across the pavement. It rattled my eyes and my temple.

Out of nowhere, the drill hit. It felt like an earthquake and a tsunami inside my brain at once. The pain was quick and direct – it travelled right up my jawbone, through my nasal passage, over my eye and into my temporal lobe.

I nearly had a white-out, but managed remain conscious as I heard what sounded like the muffled groan of a man hitting the bottom of a deep well.

The doctor heard me and his assistant noticed my breathing pattern was, to say, a bit inconsistent. They blasted me with the Novocain. I was too delirious from pain to notice how many needles they gave me.

After that, the 'casual' surgery was more casual, but still incredibly uncomfortable. My face swelled up to beastly proportions afterward and I had a badass black eye. I couldn't eat hard food up until a few days ago and just recently got the stitches taken out of the gaping hole in my mouth.

Next time I'll bring my own pain-killers.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Tamara Mijatovic passes by Acadia's Emma Duinker so fast that she looks like a blur.

Tigers cut through competition to open season

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

There's no better way to start a season than with a winning record. Despite a few early injuries, the Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball team are right where they want to be - currently 2-0 after defeating the St. Francis Xavier X-Women and the Acadia Axewomen.

So far, the team is coping well with the loss of two crucial players. Team captain Kathleen McNeil and point guard Rachael Harrison won't be on the court until next year.

"Now it's the time for everyone else to step up and show what they can do," says Tigers head coach Carol Savoy. "We'll be deeper for it in the long run."

In their season opener, the Tigers crushed the X-Women with their quick scoring and fluid offensive plays. They won their first game of the season 72-64.

In their Oct. 14 game, the Tigers never trailed against the Axewomen. They quickly jumped to an 8-0 lead in the first minutes of the game. The Axewomen came out swinging in the second quarter, coming within four points of the lead, but the Tigers quickly battled back. Third-year for-

ward Leah Girdwood led the Tigers' offensive push with 16 points in the first half.

"[The Axewomen] came out really hard today," says Girdwood. "We kept a serious mentality so that they wouldn't get too close. Alex (Legge) is playing really well. Tamara (Mijatovic) really stepped it up today. We're all really coming together very well."

Defensive efforts from the Axewomen helped the team stay close to the Tigers. The first half ended with a slim 36-32 lead for the Tigers.

"Leah Girdwood played just outstanding," says Savoy. "We just gutted it out. It was definitely a team effect. We just kept pushing and pushing. Acadia shot a lot of three-pointers, and we tried to just stick to our game plan of decreasing their three-point shooting. We wanted to stop Acadia in their transition. We were sporadic at times, but we got the job done."

The Tigers controlled most of the second half as they solidified their sharp offensive moves. Fourth-year transfer student Brianna Orr pulled out a superb performance toward the end of the fourth quarter with 16 points. Matched with poor play execution from the Axewomen, the Tigers easily held on in the end for a 74-61

win. Girdwood was the Tigers' Player of the Game, scoring 23 points.

"We actually started running our offense and it really seemed to work," Girdwood says. "Our offense was really flowing well. Alex had so many assists. She was looking for me on the court a lot. I guess Acadia underestimated my ability to hit shots. I know they put a lot of pressure on Alex and Brianna because they're good players, so that leaves someone like me open."

Heavy expectations weigh on the Tigers after last year's standout season. The Tigers finished fourth in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships last year and were the top-ranked team in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league. They enjoyed a 4-2 preseason record this year and look to improve from last year's strong performance.

The Tigers face the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers on Oct. 17 and 18, a team that had a successful showing at the McGill University Tournament last month.

"They've been really tough to beat this year," Orr says. "They beat McGill this year so we know we need to be prepared. We need to keep our serious mindset and work really hard in practice."

Disappointing turnout against top tier teams

ZAC RESNICK
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

It's back to the drawing board for the Dalhousie varsity men's hockey team. In what could have been a large stepping stone and confidence-booster, the club only managed one out of a possible four points on their latest homestand.

To the Tigers' credit, both losses came at the hands of two top-ranked Canadian teams from l'Université de Moncton Aigles Bleues and the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds. The Tigers currently sit at 3 wins, 5 losses and 2 overtime losses, but are within four points of fourth place in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league.

The Tigers played the Aigles Bleues on Friday, Nov. 9, losing 2-1 in overtime.

But the Tigers still managed to pick up a point heading into their Nov. 10 game against the top-ranked team in Canada - the University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds. In this game, they appeared to be out-matched and were outplayed in all facets of the game en route to an 8-1 loss.

With the Varsity Reds leading 1-0 after the first period, the game was not out of reach.

With the man advantage as Tiger Jimmy Cuddihy scored his eighth goal of the season from a low feed from Devrin Stonehouse and Tyler Dyck. The Varsity Reds took control

from that point on, scoring five unanswered goals.

Hoping to spark some momentum, head coach Brad Crossley replaced Josh Disher with Matt Anthony at the start of the third period.

It was a tough loss for the team and may be somewhat of a reality check.

"We showed a little bit of frustration, I think that hurt us," says Crossley. "If we're at our best, we can be right there with them."

The Tigers' challenge now is to learn from their mistakes as they go forward.

"We went through a couple of weeks with very tough games," says team captain Neil Smith. "We are going to pick up the intensity in practice and work on the little things that will make us successful."

While the Tigers managed to score 12 goals in two games on their previous homestand, they have managed only six goals in their past four games.

"We definitely need to score more goals," says forward Zanoski. "If there is a positive it's that we were playing the top two teams. But we have to improve."

The Acadia Axemen come to town on Nov. 16, when the Tigers will need to make a better all-around effort in order to win.

"It's a long process to building a championship team," says Smith. "This is one of the hurdles we are just going to have to hop over."

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting:
Monday, November 19th @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

Opening minute goal kills chances for championship title

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

It took only one goal from the Cape Breton Capers to defeat the Tigers in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) women's soccer championship.

After a brief delay due to weather, the Sunday, Nov. 4 match was underway. Thirty seconds after the opening kick, Kiley Snow of the Capers brushed by the Tigers' defence for the game's lone goal. For the next 89 minutes the Tigers played one goal behind, fighting for possession and good shots.

They had a few good chances in the middle of the second half with a near-goal made by Katie Hollinshead, but their efforts weren't enough against a stellar Caper defence. During the regular season, only seven goals were scored against the Capers.

The Tigers finished their regular season with an impressive 10-2-1 season record and are currently ranked seventh in Canada.

"Soccer can be a very cruel game or very sweet," says the Tigers' head coach, Jack Hutchison. "It can be very unforgiving. It's not like baseball or hockey with a best-of-five series."

The Tigers win mirrors how the team ended the 2006 season. Last year the Tigers had an early exit in the playoffs when they lost 2-1 in double overtime against the St. Francis Xavier X-Women. That disappointing loss motivated a few of the older players to play a fifth year with the Tigers.

"I just decided last summer to

come back because of unfinished business," Hollinshead said. "It's my first season without being injured, so everything is going well. We need to have confidence in ourselves."

Hollinshead is the Tigers' leading scorer with nine goals, and is also a first team AUS all-star. Fellow fifth-year teammate Leanne Huck was also named a first team AUS all-star and her sister Jeanette Huck was named a second team AUS all-star.

After their tough loss, the Tigers headed to Cape Breton University for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national championships from Nov. 7 to 11. This was the first time in six years the Tigers had a chance to win a national title.

"We have the tools and the players to beat anyone," Hutchison said before the championship. "We just need a couple of good bounces the right way."

Unfortunately the Tigers didn't get any good bounces. They lost their CIS quarterfinal game against the York University Lions 2-1. At one point, the Tigers were well in control. After a scoreless first half, Hollinshead scored to give the Tigers the edge. Fifteen minutes later, the Lions roared back with two quick goals to advance to the semi-finals.

The Tigers then faced the Université Laval Rouge-et-Or in their consolation game, but the result was the same as their Lions match-up. The Rouge-et-Or defeated the Tigers 2-0.

Though the Tigers were 0-2 at this year's CIS championships, their overall efforts throughout the season are an improvement from last year's early exit from playoff action.

Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE

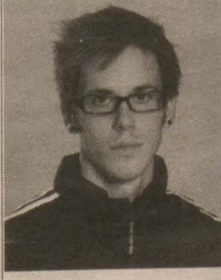


CAROLINE MCINNES
CROSS COUNTRY

McInnes led the Tigers to a ninth place finish at the CIS Championship hosted by the University of Victoria on Saturday. She was the lead Tiger throughout the race. McInnes also received national honours at the event, winning the CIS women's Student-Athlete Community Service Award. This is only the second time this award has been given out, with Dalhousie's Janice Ashworth receiving it last year. McInnes is in her fourth year of eligibility and is studying law. She is originally from Toronto.

Other nominees: Robyn West (volleyball), Leah Girdwood (basketball)

MALE ATHLETE



PETER CORRIGAN
CROSS-COUNTRY

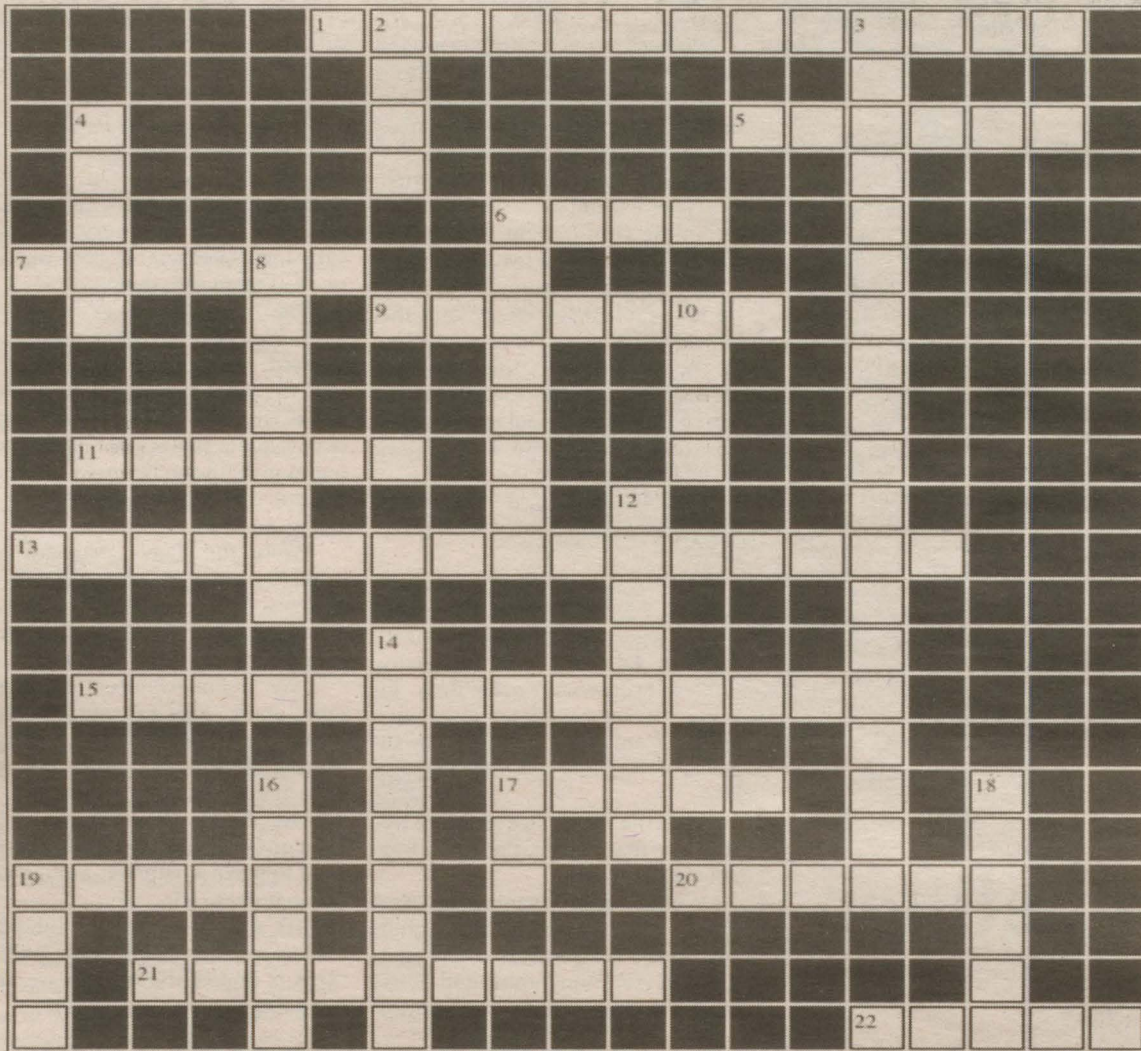
Corrigan delivered his best race of the season at the CIS Championship on Saturday. He led the Dalhousie Tigers to an eighth place finish at the CIS Championship in Victoria. Corrigan finished in 11th place, earning second team all-Canadian honours and emerging as Canada's number one cross-country rookie. He started conservatively and moved steadily through the field throughout the 10 km course, finishing with a time of 32:31.25. Corrigan was honoured as the CIS Rookie of the Year at the awards banquet. He is a first-year arts student from Calgary.

Other nominees: Nik Rademacher (volleyball), Simon Farine (basketball)



CROSSWORD

How well do you know your *Friends*?



Across

1. Joey's character in *Days of Our Lives*
5. Phoebe's twin sister
6. "I wasn't supposed to put _____ in the trifle!"
7. "Hurricane Gloria didn't break the porch swing, _____ did!"
9. "Yeah you can melt art" (2 words)
11. "_____ BABY!"
13. Rachel's actual favourite movie (3 words)
15. Who lived in the apartment before Monica? (2 words)
17. The amount of times Ross was married throughout the show
19. They flipped for it. Chandler got the moustache, and Joey got the _____
20. Joey's nickname at Alessandro's
21. What are they feeding you? (2 words)
22. "We were on a _____!"

Down

2. Who did Phoebe mug?
3. Who is the TV guide addressed to that goes to the boys apartment? (3 words)
4. Ross' first wife
6. The guest star who was in the "I Hate Rachel Club" (2 words)
8. The Dutch girl picked who?
10. The restaurant where Monica works last
12. What instrument does Ross play?
14. The game show Joey auditions for
16. Chandler's middle name
17. Rachel's assistant
18. "OH MY GOD"
19. Rachel's prom date

Crossword by Alice Bradstreet

HOROSCOPES

SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

Pimp harder this week. Bite your lip and you will find yourself playing hide-the-salami in your shower. The Hulk is stronger, but that's not going to stop you. Gravity will be working against you this week, so flying is not an option. You're just going to have to walk like us regular folk.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

The crayons you are using are running low. All the good colours are missing. But the question is, who's the culprit? It is definitely not the spider sitting in the corner of your room that you've been afraid of. But it could be the person who has been treating you like a toilet bowl lately. Flush twice and make sure the smell's gone.

CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Do not judge people. They aren't judging you, so why do you find it necessary to call names? If you have never really understood the meaning of sarcasm, you will this week. *Jaws* is back with a vengeance. Someone is doing more than they appear to be. People respect you. Show them why.

AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Don't yack down someone's crack for being uptight or neurotic. You will be a sight to behold this week, so make sure your eyes sparkle. You are a lion that has transformed from being the king of the beasts to the king of the books.

PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

The thunder from down under is speaking up. It has become a do-or-drink situation. The best choice is usually the wiser one. Drinking is the easiest and most fun thing to do, but getting work done is more important. Long live the printed word and the art of conservation.

ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

You are not being very polite. What would Miss Manners do? She would definitely say please and have her fork to the left of the plate. Whoever you are blabbing to has stopped listening. Twister is a risky game for those who aren't nimble.

TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

You will see firecrackers this week when birds suddenly appear. Lighten up - you've been pounding too hard on a punching bag. You are mentally heavy but writing a letter is not the answer. Sing like no one is listening, even if someone is. Belt it and it will melt someone unexpected.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

If you feel chemistry this week, your love will have the ability to float a hot air balloon. But if the chemicals are all wrong, it just means you're wearing the wrong perfume. Either way, it's nothing a little pit stop at Shoppers Drug Mart won't fix. And if you get it just right, you may even round 'em up like sheep.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Pogs are back, so make sure your slammer's ready. You don't want to get lost in the dust and you especially don't want to lose your best pog. Remember that legs are good for exercise and playing games, not just for sitting on. So start using what you got.

LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Overalls are cool if the weather is appropriate. Green is not a good colour on you, nor is envy. Backward reason is backward for a reason. Shower and think about it for a while. They tried to make you go to the bar and you said yes, yes, yes.

VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Start a caravan of something. If you walk, they will follow. Someone smashed your pumpkin and you are not happy about it. A protest will inevitably lead to a revolution. Do not be a tease because nobody likes that. Whatever you do, be sure it involves a fruit cup.

LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

You have been stuck in your ways lately. What is it that scares you about doing something new? Life is waiting for you with its arms open, so giddy up and grab your lasso - things are about to get fun. A mechanical bull is waiting with your name on it. Kick off whatever's been holding you back.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

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Teach English in Japan

Interac is accepting applications for teaching positions commencing in April 2008.

Qualified candidates must:

- Possess a university degree
- Be native/fluent English speakers
- Have teaching experience and Japanese language ability (preferred, but not required)

Visit www.interac.ca.jp/recruit for more information or to apply online.



- Down
1. Dr. Drake Ramore
 2. Ross
 3. Miss Chanandelor Bong
 4. Carol
 5. Ursula
 6. Beef
 7. Monica
 8. Chandler
 9. Frank Jr.
 10. Javu
 11. London
 12. Keyboard
 13. Weekend at Bernie's
 14. Bamboozle
 15. Her Grandmother
 16. Muriel
 17. Three
 18. Jamice
 19. Cigar
 20. Dragon
 21. Smelly Cat
 22. Break

Crossword Answers:



The

S E O L A S A G U S O B A I R
S E X T A N T

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Corporate social responsibility

A step in the right direction

NICHOLAS GOODINE

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has made the transition recently from backburner idealism to a strategic initiative for more and more multinational corporations.

Why then has this business practice that has its roots in 19th century become a hot topic as of late and how it is changing the way the world does business?

Corporate Social responsibility is a very broad topic that has led to a plethora of definition debates. One definition is: "Corporate Social Responsibility is undertaking the role of 'cooperate citizenship' and ensuring that business values and behaviors are aligned to a balance between improving and developing the wealth of the business, within the intention to improve, society, people and the planet." (CSR network)

Due to its broad definition CSR practices can be interpreted and implemented in a seemingly infinite number of ways. In all cases however CSR strategies are founded on transparently evaluating the company's effect on society including goals and progress.

In some cases this may mean including CSR standards in the reporting of a company's bottom line, known as a triple bottom line, a practice required by the FTSE London stock exchange. A company may follow a model such as ISO 14001 that dictates environmental management standards.

A company may choose to practice fair trade and offer workers at production facilities a competitive wage. CSR may take the form of a financial contribution to a socially minded organization or program. Or a company may work towards bettering their employees and their employee's communities through education programs and community initiatives.

Many companies are reluctant

to implement CSR initiatives for fear of negative publicity, or the possible need for costly changes. For example a company reviewing their environmental standards may find that to meet ISO 14001 standards the company's production facilities would need a complete overhaul, the cost of which could equal or be greater than a years revenue.

That finding would have to be reported to stakeholders, and would ultimately drive down the value of the company. As reported by Freshfield Bruckhouse Derringer, a UK based law firm, many businesses hold the belief that CSR, in particular environmental social governance in capital allowance decisions, is in conflict with established fiduciary duties.

In others words, many companies believe that they would be putting stockholders at undo risk by investing in socially responsible initiatives. This is not true. CSR evaluation is mandatory if deemed to be material to investors. Depending on the industry the cost of implementing socially responsible practices can be high.

In industries such as agriculture where margins are typically lower, paying farmers a fair wage translates into a higher sale price or even smaller margins and a lower rate of return. While such changes may mean long-term sustainability, it is hard for managers to justify a short term loss to stakeholders who are primarily interested in poor earnings.

Not every opportunity to implement CSR comes at a financial loss; there are many examples of companies that save money with very little up front investment through CSR practices. Take for instance hotels, most now offer guests the option of washing the linen once a day, every second day or once a week.

Not only does this prevent excess detergent and energy being spent

washing linens, it saves the hotel money because they don't incur the cost associated with the extra laundry.

Some suggest that CSR practices should be adopted only when they are favorable economically, that responsibility is fundamentally a human characteristic and not one that can be imposed on an entity such as a company.

The counter position is that since humans are the creators and controllers of companies those companies should reflect humanistic values. Whatever the case consumer opinion dictates a company's actions, so, what do you value?

Some companies argue that their stockholders are more interested in the return on their retirement savings than whether their grandchildren will have fresh air to breathe and clean water to drink. Others companies such as The Body Shop and Just Us market fair trade and sustainable practices in an effort to capture a growing niche.

Highly publicized events such as the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska and the Mattel lead paint recall have highlighted the need for CSR and have helped promote awareness on the subject. The fact is, ethical consumerism is on the rise and people are selecting companies that are socially responsible.

Those choices put pressure on other consumers, companies, and government to fall in line.

Sustaining economic prosperity in a world with increasing population and decreasing natural resources is going to take planning and ingenuity. Corporate social responsibility provides the initial foundation for companies to become competitive in the fight to create a sustainable future.

As a consumer your choices will dictate the future development and refining of CSR practices, so shop wisely!

made in the shade: great jobs, great income, and great respect. But come on people, let's keep our feet on the ground and let the balloons have the hot air.

The Iron Ring ceremony is about humbly accepting commitment to public service and the moral and professional principals that it entails. When I look at the older generation of engineers, industry professionals, professors, and retirees, there is no sign of our generation's mutant braggarts, just honest men and women who unassumingly perform their duties.

Today, we ride on the coattails of an outstanding reputation without warranting it, and some of us just abuse this silver spoon. Most circles render the pinkie finger practically useless, so it's painfully obvious what's unfolding when you scratch your nose, point at that bird, or order your drinks with the little one.

Boasting about being "an Engineer" is equally as criminal. Perhaps efforts could be made to stay within the confines of the topic at hand? We are emerging young professionals, and there is no need to be bombastic or contemptuous.

The Canon of Ethics is our adopted sacrosanct guide as Engineers, providing clear direction of actions condoned by our Professional asso-

ciations to avoid these exact behaviors. For those unsure of its clauses or guilty of the aforementioned please to refer to your CPST notes for some enlightening.

I'm not saying I don't understand how intoxicating it can be to be in such an advantageous position having barely even started my career, because I do. Our opportunities are endless right now and we are all sitting on bright, prosperous futures. We have a right to be proud people, but with a lot to be grateful for.

Savor the opportunities that have been presented, but understand the stipulations of being part of such a privileged profession. Conduct your behavior so that it is in line with our prestigious Canon of Ethics, and quite frankly just take a second to understand what is at stake with the work that you do and digest what it means to be fully trusted by society. The ability is yours to either improve or hurt peoples' lives.

If you can appreciate and understand these points, then there is no need to make any sort of effort to ground yourself. Your humility will be restored with vanishing pretentiousness. So the moment is now, get off your high horse and mingle with us commonplace engineers on the ground. And for god's sake, put the pinkie down.

NFL midseason review

JB & RAZOR

With 9 weeks of the season gone, the NFL is shaping up to be a good season as teams make their way towards the playoffs. There have been a few surprises this season, a few teams living up to expectations and a few teams being major disappointments.

In the AFC, the two powerhouse teams, the Colts (7-1) and the Patriots (9-0) have been

living up to expectations, and until week 9 both teams were undefeated. It appears that both of these teams will win their respective divisions and secure byes for the first week of the playoffs.

The Steelers (6-2) look as though they may win the AFC North but they could face a challenge from the Browns (5-3). As for the AFC West, it looks like it could be a toss up between the Chargers (4-4), Chiefs (4-4), and the Broncos (3-5). The wildcard in the AFC should also be a good race.

The Titans (6-2), Jaguars (5-3) and the Browns all have a good shot at taking one of the two wildcard spots with the chance of a challenge from one of those teams in the AFC West.

In the NFC, the Cowboys (7-1) and the Packers (7-1) are both at the top of their divisions and the Packers have been a pleasant surprise this year. The Packers could face a challenge from the Lions (6-2), who have been a huge surprise this year after a terrible year last year, in the NFC North.

The Cowboys could also face some stiff competition from the Giants (6-2)

in the NFC East. The NFC South appears to be a toss up at the moment between the Buccaneers (5-4), Panthers (4-4) and the Saints (4-4), who are back in the race for the division after a 4 game winning streak.

The NFC West is also a toss up between the Seahawks (4-4) and the Cardinals (3-5) with neither of the teams playing very well this season. As far as the wildcard goes, it looks like the 2 teams from the NFC North and East that don't win the division will get the wildcard spots with a challenge from the Redskins (5-3).

There have been a few teams this year that have been a big disappointment. The Jets (1-8) have really struggled this year after making the playoffs last year. The Bengals (2-6) have also struggled this year. They did not make the playoffs last year, but they were in the race until the last game of the season.

The Eagles (3-5) won their division last year, but there is a slim chance of that or even making the playoffs this year as they are having a few problems. Finally the Bears (3-5) have been the biggest disappointment thus far. After a commanding 13-3 lead last year and going all the way to the Super Bowl, they have really struggled this year.

So we would encourage everyone to watch some football each Sunday as it is shaping up to be a good finish to an already good season of football, and a couple divisions may even come down to the wire. Stay tuned as we may make another appearance before the playoffs to recap the season and preview the playoffs.

How a scientist changed the way we think

MOUSTAFA YOUSSEF

The subject of my article is in response to a book review published in last week's gazette on "The Dawkins Delusion - Atheist Fundamentalism and the Denial of the Divine" by Alistair McGrath which is another book review of the mega-selling "The God Delusion" by Richard Dawkins.

I have to confess that I've never read 'The Dawkins Delusion', although I've watched Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens debate with McGrath, which removed all motive to do so. I will limit my article to what is actually summarized about the book, its author, and its rather vague criticism of Richard Dawkins.

Richard Dawkins holds the Charles Simonyi Chair for the Public Understanding of Science at the University of Oxford, is an evolutionary biologist, ethologist, rated the number one British intellectual, as well as the author of several best selling books.

What drew my attention and triggered any intention to write this article is the reviewer's dishonest and misguided use of the phrase "Dawkins calls God..." which sounds as if the professor had a choice in his description of god.

Of course Dawkins, like any other theist or atheist person, is incapable of simply describing god. Our best understanding of 'god' is available in every holy book that declares it is the ultimate and unalterable word of god.

Dawkins's own description of god being "a petty, unjust, unforgiving control freak; a vindictive, bloodthirsty ethnic cleanser; a misogynistic, homophobic, racist, infanticidal, genocidal, filicidal, pestilential, megalomaniacal, sadomasochistic, capriciously malevolent bully" was concluded from reading The Old Testament, which by any fundamentalist account are entirely accurate words.

If god dislikes homosexuals, then he logically suffers from homophobia. If god orders that anyone working on the Sabbath be killed, then he is petty, unjust and genocidal. There is nothing remotely harsh about this critique. Richard is not hard-nosed, he's hardcore and honest.

The second point I'd like to address regards McGrath's pessimistic approach to science. The article gave me the impression that McGrath has the luxury of something that is more mysterious and knowledgeable than science. How many facts do we know were not originally the subject of scientific inquiry?

Science has explained everything we know, and will explain everything we will ever know. That does not mean that we will eventually understand our universe in all its complexity, but it is to the best of our evolving ability. Science is the mani-

festation and application of reason and good evidence.

With all due undeserved respect, anything beyond these two principals of scientific inquiry is in definition: superstitious. Faith is nothing more than the deliberate suspension of disbelief; without evidence there is no reason to believe apart from one's willingness to believe.

This goes for astrology, tooth fairies, Santa Claus, zombies, angels, flying spaghetti monsters, china tea pots in orbit around our planet, and god. 'Denying the divine' is analogous to denying the existence of any fictional derivative of the human imagination. No one wants to read a book that defends the flying spaghetti monster.

Religion has allowed perfectly sane and intelligent people to believe in ideas that only idiots and lunatics would believe in isolation. Questions on the mind of religious folks, such questions of heaven and hell, sin, afterlife and the nature of god, are analogous to my own curiosity of the coming episodes of Heroes, only that I know that Heroes is indeed, fictional.

It should be noted that that Richard Dawkins, or indeed any scientist, has the confidence in science for explaining everything. For example, it is very possible that science may never be able to explain where the laws of physics and its constants come from. However it will be wholly illogical to say that religion can provide these answers.

The Holy Books did not hint answers of our origin, evolution, germ theory, relativity, subatomic or atomic particles. It was science. If there are truths in religion, then they would have been revealed thousands of years ago. If the answers to modern physics were treasured in our holy books, we would be about two millennia ahead of ourselves.

As a closing remark, I would like to suggest a few books: The God Delusion and The Selfish Gene by Richard Dawkins. It is unfair to call The God Delusion bad science (if that even exists), as an example of bad science would be intelligent design which doesn't earn the respect of our science textbooks.

Dawkins is of a gentle personality, and his lectures and books are a tremendous contribution to our understanding of science. End of Faith by Sam Harris is my personal favourite on the subject, and I strongly recommend it to anyone who still feels that there are still two sides of what remains of an intellectual debate.

I also recommend Richard Dawkins' "Root of All Evil?" which contains an uncut interview with Alistair McGrath where, needless to say, McGrath appears to belong to an intellectual league previously encountered by Dawkins.

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