

Gazette

DAL DIVERSE?



Cover Image by Johnathan Rotsztian



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DSU Weekly Dispatch Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

Events:

Saturday, November 21

The DSU's Presents; Tony Lee's XXX Hypnosis Show @ the Grawood

Tickets can be purchased in advance at the SUB Info Desk for \$5 or for \$7 at the door. (The UFC 106 will be shown immediately after the hypnosis show).

Wednesday, November 25

Dalhousie's Got Talent Round 2

Our second preliminary round of performances, 8 more contestants will move onto the finals in January, where YOU will get to vote and determine who Dalhousie's most talented act is and who will walk away with \$1000.00 cash.

Society News

Society Audits are now in progress. Please submit your books to DSU Vice President Doyle Bond by November 30th.

Please make sure that if you are holding a society event that you fill out a Risk Management Form at http://fm.dal.ca/event_book.php. Any questions can be directed towards your Society Coordinator @ society.coordinator@dal.ca

Have Your Voice Heard!

The DSU, ANSSA, and CASA need your feedback and input to best represent your concerns to the government. The National Education Survey is your opportunity to send a message and have your voice heard, please take the time to fill it out by visiting www.canedsurvey.org. For questions or concerns please contact Rob LeForte - Vice-President (Education) at dsuved@dal.ca

Exams are approaching, if you are studying late don't walk home alone!

Tiger Patrol offers a walk-home or drive-home service that operates 7 days a week (6:00pm – 12:30am). Visit <http://dsu.ca/services/tigerpatrol> for more details.

Job Opportunities

- Beginning Winter Semester 2010 (Must be a returning student for both Fall 2010 and Winter 2011)
- Paid Honorarium

Web & Graphic Designer – DSU Sustainability Office

This is an excellent opportunity for students interested in web and graphic design to gain experience applying their knowledge and interests to real-world challenges.

Marketing and Outreach Officer – DSU Sustainability Office

This is an excellent opportunity for students interested in marketing and advertising to gain experience applying their knowledge and interests to real-world challenges.

Anyone interested in these positions may contact Ziggy at zs@dal.ca. Please note that applications are due Friday, November 20, 2009.

Sincerely,
Your DSU Executive

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @dalstudentunion, and visit us at www.dsu.ca



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THE FINE PRINT

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

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

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

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Street feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not

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

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Editorial

HOW FAR WE HAVEN'T COME

Gazette Staff

Diversity. It's a bit of a buzzword like "sustainability" or "whazzap." In the '80s and '90s, during what one might refer to as the Politically Correct Revolution, we in Canada began, in a bigger way than ever, to celebrate differences between people that in the past had been regarded as a divisive handicap. We came to see them for what they really are: a strength.

At The Gazette, we celebrate and revel in the cultural diversity of our campus and city. It is incredibly drab to imagine a place where all the music sounds the same and none of the food tastes like ginger. Or curry. Or jerk. We revel in this appreciation year round. We've covered top immigration stories; we've reviewed amazing African art shows; we've tried to bring to light gaps in services for students

with disabilities, and students of colour. It's impossible, though, to celebrate love of diversity without having some feelings of tokenization.

The question is: How can you fairly cover diversity? Especially when you're a Caucasian university student, like eight out of nine Gazette staffers. It's a delicate issue, especially when our staff does not reflect the diversity of students at Dalhousie.

And why even make it an issue? Why make a point of drawing attention to something that maybe is better unmentioned? Why dedicate a whole issue to diversity when it has the potential of patronizing the topics we cover, making it seem like they got in print due to some sort of editorial concerted effort at affirmative action?

At university, it can be easy to forget that the people we go to class with come from different socio-economic

backgrounds, families, ethnic groups and religious persuasions than we do. It's easy to forget that many of our peers are living with disabilities, or have children or older dependents to look after. It's easy to forget how far we've come. And how far we haven't come.

The 1960s demolition of Africville, the city's oldest black neighbourhood, is one painful example. It came with a promise to end racial segregation, but African Nova Scotians were shuffled out with little money and no community. The memory still stings the minds of many Africville descendants, who are still waiting for an apology or compensation.

How does a newspaper even begin to approach issues of oppression, and systematic racism, ableism and xenophobia on campus, when, really, we're mostly white, able-bodied young people?

To start, we believe in learning from other individuals on campus – profs

and students – who are tackling these issues. Anthony Stewart, a tenured English professor at Dal, published a book last spring called *You Must Be a Basketball Player* that highlighted injustices in the university system.

"If you major in English, history or philosophy at this university, among the full-time professors, the only professor you're going to get who's a person of colour is me," Stewart told The Gazette in an interview earlier this year.

Similarly, the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) is set to launch a new publication in January called *Racism in Perspective*. The magazine will compile fiction and non-fiction submissions that bring issues of discrimination in Halifax to light.

Stewart's book and NSPIRG's ambitious project have set strong examples for The Gazette to follow. We don't believe in relegating issues of diver-

sity and oppression to one edition.

This edition of The Gazette is about approaching some issues of racism and ableism on campus, but it can't and won't be the end. The Gazette will continue to cover issues about the oppression faced by students on our campus. We'll continue to strive for balanced, but accurate coverage of issues rarely at the forefront of major media. And we'll try to make space for those on our campus who are too often silenced.

But, we also recognize that in some ways change starts at home, and if students are disenfranchised from their students' union, from the services that are supposed to offer support, and even from the paper that is supposed to speak truth to the issues that effect all students, then our staff will stay white-washed, our coverage will remain one-sided, and stories will remain untold.

CORRECTIONS

Over the last few issues, The Gazette made some mistakes. We would like to set the record straight.

In the article "SMAC want contract deals made public," we misspelled Ryan Lum's name as "Lume". In the same article, we printed that last year's DSU elections had a 20 per cent voter turn out. In fact, it was about 16 per cent.

In the article "Public only by name," we ran a caption that did not match a photo taken in

a male washroom. The caption said the washroom was in the Student Union Building. Actually, it was located in the Killam Library.

And finally, our biggest mistake by far was a misattributed cover photo. Abram Gutscher shot the cover of the copyright issue, not Pau Balite. Abram is one of our valuable photo contributors.

Thank you for one of our best covers this year!

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News

News

Gazette News covers Dalhousie and the greater Halifax community. Contributions are welcome! E-mail Bethany or Lucy at news@dalgazette.com



Bethany Horne **News Editor**
news@dalgazette.com

Whitewashed foundation

King's first-year curriculum low on diversity

Sunjay Mathuria
Staff Contributor

The morning of the lecture about the *Souls of Black Folk*, Monica Mutale knew she was going to have a weird day.

W.E.B. DuBois' book is the focus of the only lecture on an African-American text in the Foundation Year Program, the curriculum every first-year University of King's College student follows.

"I was the only black person in my tutorial, so I knew it was going to be uncomfortable," she says. And it was.

"I kept getting called out to comment," Mutale says. "I'm usually very quiet, so normally I don't contribute in tutorial."

"It's not surprising, but it does eventually get to you," admits Mutale, who is now a second-year journalism student.

The singling out of students of colour at King's, and in the Foundation Year Program (FYP) in particular, happens for a simple reason. This year, the number of minority FYP students could be counted on one hand.

FYP was introduced in 1972 and has since become nationally renowned. What sets FYP apart from any other first-year of undergraduate university in Canada is that it is a survey of Western philosophy and thought spanning from ancient civilizations to the contemporary world.

While FYP dabbles a bit in Islamic history and Confucius, many perspectives are still overlooked in the program's survey of great books.

And FYP co-ordinator Daniel Brandes realizes this can be a problem.

"We have to be attentive to the composition of the curriculum and the composition of FYP, and I think we've tried to respond to this concern over the past five to 10 years," he says.

But this attention has not produced drastic changes. The number of black writers on the reading list fluctuates each year. Last year, there was just one.

Part of the explanation for the racial make-up of FYP students is their shared backgrounds.

"Students come here by word of mouth. We have a lot of students from Toronto who come from privileged backgrounds, from private schools," says Dorota Glowacka, a contemporary studies professor at King's.

But she says there have been recent efforts to make King's more attractive to students of different backgrounds.

"We really advertise it far and wide," she says. "Despite these efforts, I'm not sure we have made great strides."

Glowacka also says the King's Racial Equity Committee used to be active, but over the years, has become immobile.

"Somehow issues of racial equity have always been put on the backburner. I don't think we're equipped at the moment to deal with these issues," she says.



Monica Mutale says university should prepare you to experience the whole world.

Photo by Pau Balite

But Glowacka thinks that revisions to the FYP curriculum would be a part of the solution. She says this might even encourage more students of different backgrounds to take FYP.

lum could help broaden everyone's understandings of other cultures.

"By this point, you should be able to deal with people of all cultures. University should prepare you for the

"I don't think I belong here and I don't think you really want me here."

"I don't think you can separate the curriculum from issues of equity and how our students fare on an everyday basis, so it has to be really a part of the curriculum and a part of what people talk about in regards to academic texts," she says.

Glowacka herself will be doing a lecture series at King's next year on the Conception of Race in Philosophy, Literature, and Art.

Eluned Jones, the only black FYP instructor at King's, has also pointed out curriculum deficiencies in area of race in the past and has tried to initiate some change.

But she soon realized she could not do it alone.

"It's not my burden to carry. I can't work on diversity by myself," she says.

Mutale thinks changes to the FYP curriculum could benefit all King's students.

She says representing different perspectives in the curricu-



Emmanuel Nfonoyim, Imhotep's Legacy Academy project manager, says the virtual program will diminish the education barriers students face at home or in the community.

Photo by Peter de Vries

Virtual tutoring

Imhotep's Legacy aids rural, black Nova Scotian students

Peter de Vries
News Contributor

Junior high and high school students won't have to stay long hours at school for extra help. They won't even have to step outside their homes. Or meet their tutors.

The virtual school project at Imhotep's Legacy Academy uses an online videoconferencing program to help high school students with their math and science homework. Students and tutors communicate with each other by writing on a virtual white board, sending personal messages, and talking face to face via webcam while using the program.

Emmanuel Nfonoyim, the academy's project manager at Dalhousie University, says the project is designed specifically to help black Nova Scotian students achieve their full potential in math and science regardless of barriers they face at home or in the community.

"The parents and teachers are very, very dedicated, but they cannot move mountains," he says. "They need help to make those mountains shift, and that's what we're trying to do."

The project is currently in its pilot phase, and will become available to six more high schools in Nova Scotia by the end of November.

"The rationale is that there is a need for support programs to be in place to facilitate access for African Nova Scotian students," says Nfonoyim.

Students enrolled in the project can sign out headsets, webcams and video conferencing software from their school's office for free and get help with homework at home. Students also have access to a live tutor for more than six hours a day, Monday to Saturday, during and after school hours with the project.

Nfonoyim says these extra resources can help compensate for after-school programs that are unavailable to students.

"Students in rural areas don't always have access to support (for math and science) at home or after school, since the bus schedule is not (convenient) for them," he says. "This is something that will help facilitate their learning after school."

The project currently has seven online tutors, and the academy will hire three more by February 2010. The project's pilot phase will end in June 2010, and the completed version of the project will launch in September 2010.

Nfonoyim says the completed project can support up to 80 students. He says the academy is trying to expand the project to rural areas like Antigonish, Amherst, Shelburne and Digby.

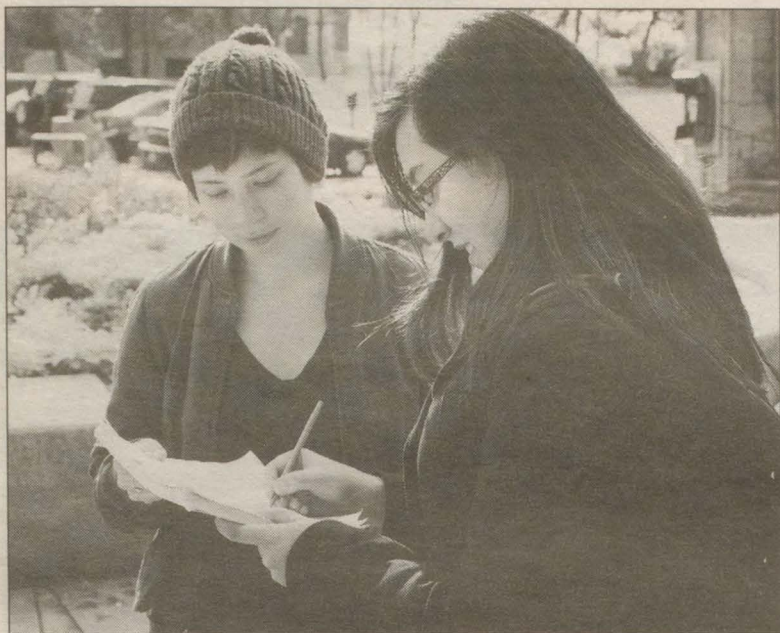
"We're always working with our stakeholders and different communities in Nova Scotia to see how we can access resources that would enable us to establish a program," says Nfonoyim. "It always comes down to personnel and financial resources."

The project's long-term goal is to help students make the transition from high school to college or university math, computer science and engineering programs. Nfonoyim says many students in Nova Scotia who aspire to work in these programs are taking applied math in high school when they should be studying university-level math.

"They're basing their choices on what their perceived ability is and the type of support they think they will have," he says. "Our program comes in to help students realize that there is support they can get in addition to what they already have."

Nfonoyim wants black high school students in Nova Scotia to know that if they have the potential and the drive to succeed, the academy is there to help.

"What we do may not be sufficient to solve all the issues, but it adds to what others are doing, because that much more is needed for those mountains to be moved."



SMACers have been collecting signatures in front of the Killam, the SUB, and in classes for the past month. | Photo by Bethany Horne

Secret contracts petition headed to DSU

Groups aims to have 1,500 signatures

Samantha Durnford
Staff Contributor

The "No Secret Contracts" petition from Students Mobilize for Action on Campus (SMAC) will be brought to the attention of the Dalhousie Student Union at their meeting on Nov. 18, says a member.

SMAC's petition takes aim at the secret contracts the student union signs. Now the group has decided to do something about it. The petition calls on the DSU to make contracts open to students before signing them.

Dave Bush of SMAC says he feels the DSU did not allow any discussion from students when it came to the contract decisions. "The DSU does not seek to involve students in discussion," he says. "They have effectively shut down all debate."

The petition asks the DSU not to sign any more secret contracts, says Bush, and asks for "accountability and transparency" within the DSU.

The petition will be put to council this week and then, in two weeks, says Bush, it will be open for a vote.

In regards to the vote, Bush simply asks the DSU, "Are you going to be on the side of democratic openness or not?"

Shannon Zimmerman, DSU president, says this is the first she heard of the petition aside from hearsay, and that she had no idea it was coming to the attention of council this week.

"I have never been approached by SMAC," says Zimmerman. "I have at least sent them two or three e-mails asking to sit down with them and have a conversation about this."

But according to SMAC, Zimmerman first contacted them last Friday, after her interview with The Gazette.

Zimmerman says that in her five years of being on council, no petition has ever made it to the attention of council.

"I know that there was a petition floating around last year but it was never given to anyone," she says.

Whether the petition can make an im-

pact or not, Zimmerman says she doesn't know. A petition needs signatures from 10 per cent of the student body – that's at least 1,500 people – to be binding.

"The reasoning ... from Pepsi's standpoint is that they wanted something for a competition basis," says Zimmerman. "Without having read the petition it's hard to say what impact the petition could have."

She says if any students, including SMAC, had come forward saying they were upset about the contract, she would have been happy to discuss it.

"It's definitely a conversation we are more than willing to have," says Zimmerman. "I can't speak for anything that happened last year, but in my term it has not been something that has formally been brought to me yet."

Matthew Downer, third-year Dal student, says he signed the petition but isn't sure what's going on either.

"The petition went around in class," says Downer. "I wasn't really aware of the issue but everyone else was signing it so I did too."

He says he doesn't care that the DSU signed a contract for Pepsi Co.

"I guess it's important for the DSU to include students in decision making," says Downer. "But I'm not too upset about the whole Pepsi thing."

The Pepsi Co. contract is for sev-

"Are you going to be on the side of democratic openness or not?"

en years, so even if council debated no longer signing secret contracts, it may be a while before the petition would actually make an impact.

SMAC on the other hand, wants to make a point.

"The contract turns students into a product being bought and sold," says Bush.

A second winter Out of the Cold

Last-resort shelter re-opens in St. Matthews Church

Lauren Naish
Staff Contributor

As the winter months approach and the temperature drops below freezing, the community members, volunteers and organizers of Out of the Cold emergency shelter are gearing up for another season.

On Nov. 12, more than 40 people attended an orientation session at the shelter's new location, St. Matthew's Church. As they sat on metal chairs in a gymnasium attached to the church, members of the Out of the Cold organizing committee discussed the roles, expectation and goals of those who would be involved in the shelter.

"We have a very basic mandate that is just to provide sanctuary to those who just don't fit anywhere else," Jeff Karabanow said after the presentation.

Karabanow is a professor of social work and international development studies at Dalhousie. His interest and expertise in homelessness drew him to join other concerned members of the community to create the emergency shelter last winter.

The group got together after the long time emergency shelter for Halifax, Pendleton Place, was shut down. The government cut funds to Pendleton Place because they felt existing shelters could serve the needs of people better, if the money went to them instead.

Carol Charlebois, executive director of Metro Non-Profit Housing Association, did not believe this would be the case. She and the Metro Non-Profit Housing Association took on the cause and became the main organization for the Out of the Cold shelter.

When shelter opened last year in March, it was run out of the Fort Massey United Church on Tobin Street. Even though the season was short, she says it was enough to show that this was an important resource.

"Just over the two months, and there was no fanfare. Very few people knew we existed, we served 64 different individuals," Charlebois says.

Both Charlebois and Karabanow are quick to point out that providing shelters isn't the solution to the bigger issue.

"It's our philosophy that people deserve a place to call their own, so we are involved in housing," says Charlebois. "We felt we had to step in, in this emergency, but we would rather not be running shelters."

Karabanow agrees, and believes the group still needs to push the government to see the importance of safe housing. He is confident in the city's need for the shelter, but feels it isn't the solution.

"It's around because we see there is a gap in the system," Karabanow says. "Our fear is that since we, as a community, have kind of taken up the cause, it lets governments off the hook."

"None of us are in the shelter business. We don't believe that is the answer, but while we advocate for support in safe housing we also need to be providing something immediate."

This year the immediate service provided will come in the form of 15 beds in the church on Barrington Street



Shannon Aulenback says he used to have no idea how many people were in need of safe housing in Halifax. | Photo by Lauren Naish

and they hope hot meals provided by the volunteers. The shelter will be open from Nov. 22 to the end of April.

Volunteers do all the work. They sign up to staff overnight or evening shifts, or to do cleanup duties, or they donate supplies.

whether it be non-profit like Metro Non-Profit Housing, or church organizations," says Aulenback.

To Aulenback, the shelter also serves to direct people through this network of support.

"It helps, it definitely helps. I mean the

"Our fear is that since we have taken up the cause, it lets governments off the hook."

Shannon Aulenback volunteered last year and came back this winter as a member of the organizing committee.

Before his stint last year Aulenback had no idea what the homeless situation was like in Halifax.

"This isn't a big city and there are a lot of people that don't have a safe housing situation and I really had absolutely no idea about that," he said, after this year's orientation meeting.

Working at Out of the Cold also opened his eyes to the network of support out there for those who are on the street.

"There is a huge network of organizations around, whether it be government run and that sort of thing,

answer isn't shelters for people who are homeless," he says. "The answer is finding a way to find stable housing for people."

"If nothing else, we try to refer people, we try to find out where a person is, what their needs are, where we can best try and refer them to get them into a stable situation."

As the volunteers leave the meeting Thursday night, a message written on black wooden panels is left behind in the belly of St. Matthews Church. In white letters, it reads: "An open door ... welcoming people regardless of background and social situation who are interested in joining our journey of growth and life."

News

Climate wars will take no prisoners

Journalist brought his terrible predictions to Dal

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

The Copenhagen summit has to fail spectacularly. That's the only way actual progress to fight climate change will happen, says one Canadian journalist and global conflict expert.

Independent journalist and military historian Gwynne Dyer has spent the last 30 years following and analyzing global conflicts and international relations. He has served in the British, U.S. and Canadian militaries and was formerly a senior lecturer in War Studies at Britain's Royal Military Academy. Since leaving academia to become a journalist he has written eight books and produced seven documentaries. His weekly column is published in 45 countries around the world.

He has spent much of the last two years drawing attention to the political implications of climate change, the need for international action to prevent global warming and the dire consequences if that action fails. The author sat down with Dyer before he spoke at Dalhousie on Nov. 12.

Joel Tichinoff: In your most recent book, *Climate Wars*, you paint a frightening picture of a not-too-far-off future in which run-away climate change causes vast human suffering: starvation, disease, displacement, global conflict. Is it time to panic?

Gwynne Dyer: Well, panic never serves any useful purpose, you know. But get really frightened and do something about it? Yes. Although, I'm not actually painting a picture of run-away climate change. With run-away climate change, it's too late to do anything about it. And we're all screwed. What I'm painting is a picture of the period of climate change before we hit "run-away," before we hit two degrees (Celsius) of increase in average global temperature). At that point you've lost the battle, you've lost the war, and, in all probability, you've lost your civilization. And so, there's not much point talking about that.

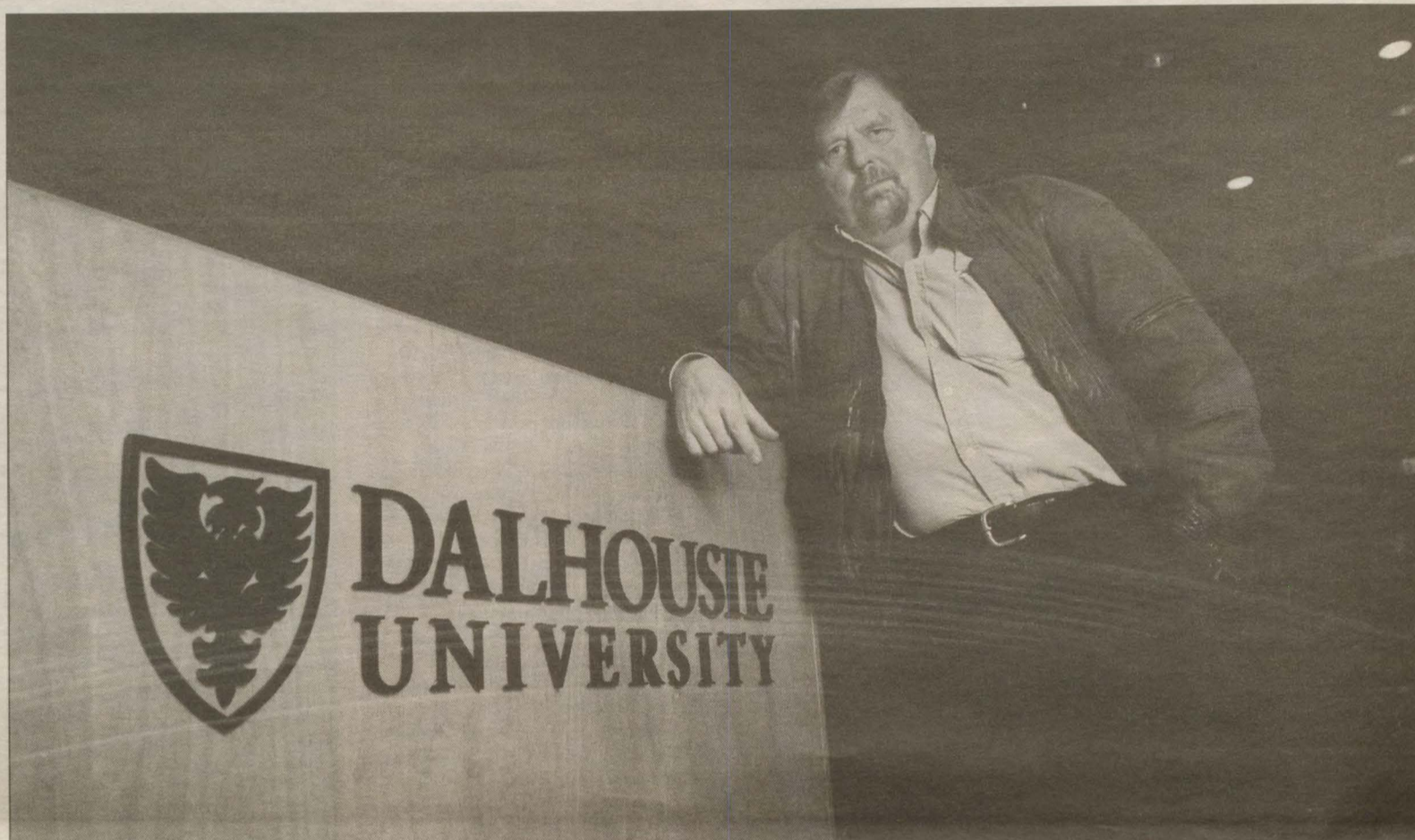
The problem is that on the way up to two, and we're under one at the moment, you already start to get an awful lot of bumps in the road because the food supply starts to shrink. And you get all the negative consequences of that in terms of waves of refugees, failed states, wars.

JT: People will fight before they starve.

GD: Right, exactly. So in that sense its more about what happens to get in the way of dealing with climate change than what happens to us if climate change goes run-away.

JT: Wars, refugees, failed states. ... Sounds like something is "run-away".

GD: Mark Linus wrote a book about it called "Six," as in six degrees, which goes through what happens all the way up. I'm not going past two because at that point ... it's no longer of interest.



Gwynne Dyer says don't panic, but get really scared. | Photo by Pau Balite

JT: Game over.

GD: Yup.

JT: Your book came out in October of 2008. Has anything happened in the last year to radically change your outlook on the climate crisis?

GD: No, it hasn't. You'd be surprised how little changed. Yet more proposals for carbon-capture and storage have been cancelled – the usual again. The long-term sustainable target for the level of carbon dioxide on the Earth dropped again, from 350 to 300 (parts per million in the atmosphere), looking at the ocean cores they've been bringing up recently and 300 is probably the most you can live with in the long run and we're 90 past that now. The target was 350 a year ago. Okay, we had to drop it a bit more. No nothing dramatic.

Now, there might be. And I'm having a little war with the publisher of some translations at the moment, about whether we really have to lock this off in print before January because if (an international climate agreement in) Copenhagen goes down, or, if by some miracle it succeeds, there will be other things to say and you'll probably want to put them in there.

JT: With the Copenhagen conference less than a month away, do you realistically see anything being achieved?

GD: I think it's unlikely. Obama's still coming in empty-hand-

ed. The United States is the key.

JT: The Europeans, the Chinese, the Indians won't go along without them.

GD: No they won't, without the U.S. The European Union and the Japanese have both made quite impressive offers. Thirty per cent cuts before 2020, if the other industrialized powers, by whom we mean the Americans, do the same. And you could argue cynically that they only made those promises because they know the Americans won't do the same. Even the proposal that Obama has not yet gotten through Congress is not suggesting anything like that.

So I'd be very surprised if something came out of Copenhagen that would be useful because Obama can't promise American cuts. Maybe he can get it through Congress next year. People aren't going to get really sticky about whether it's exactly the same commitment made in Britain or perhaps in Germany or Russia or Japan but they do want something substantial. They've got to be able to take that home for their own folks. Next year, 12 or 18 months from now, you can see a useful treaty emerging from the process. I'd be very surprised to see one now. What I fear is that we'll get a botch, which will foreclose the option of doing it again properly a year or 18 months from now. So in a way I'm kind of wishing for it to fail, more, rather than less, spectacularly.

JT: How effective are just reducing a percentage of emissions? If it's 450 parts-per-million in the atmosphere that we want to absolutely not exceed,

shouldn't we really just be trying to figure out how avoid that number?

GD: Absolutely. So it's not just reducing emissions, it's ultimately eliminating them. There's a simple sum you can make. It would be actually be quite useful if that became a shared and declared objective or at least negotiating point out of this year's otherwise unproductive Copenhagen conference. That would be that we all agree we must never exceed 450 part-per-million, we all agree we are at 390, we acknowledge that that only leaves 60 part-per-million. We can calculate that quite easily as millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. If we agree that that is the sum total of permissible carbon dioxide emissions between now and, let us say, the end of time, the end of time for human beings, then whatever we negotiate in the future has to acknowledge that limit. At the moment we don't have that. There is no connection. We talk in terms of cuts in carbon emissions. There is no connection with "how much can we actually emit?"

JT: You said earlier that the first 30 per cent of emissions cuts in the developed world would be easy, but the next 30 per cent is going to hurt. What are we looking at in the first 30 per cent reduction, versus the second?

GD: Well, you see, you can get the first 30 per cent out without changing a single power-plant, simply by changing the way you do business in terms of consuming energy. Insulate your houses, better fuel-efficiency in your vehicles,

change the light-bulbs, all that good stuff, which is what most people think of when they think about fighting climate change. That's really just things to do to gain time to achieve the real objective, which is to get out of burning fossil fuels. The less you do it now, the less time you have to get out of burning fossil fuels, but you still have to do it in the end. Because, you know, we have the rest of history to get through and we can't even afford to be emitting at five per cent of what we are. I mean, it would take 20 times as long to go over the cliff but we'll still go over the cliff in the end. You probably would manage to do some of it by closing down old coal-fired stations and opening up solar, tidal, wind power, whatever, but you could certainly get half to two-thirds of it (done) over the next 10 years by conservation measures that wouldn't actually cause voters to rebel. But then you've got to go to the next step. The next step probably doesn't involve so much conservation because you've done all the easy stuff. Now you really do need to start replacing your fossil-fuel-fired generating capacity, your transportation fuels with non-fossil-fuels sources of energy.

JT: The end of Hydrocarbon Man.

GD: Exactly. If we have 15 years where we get most of our early gains by conservation, that gives us time to gear those technologies up. But we do have to get out of the fossil fuels. It's doable, it really is doable.

New survey aids lobby efforts

Canadian Student Survey details still unclear

Lucy Scholey
Assistant News Editor

Student unions and associations across Canada might have more push behind their lobbying efforts with data gathered from a new survey.

The Canadian Student Survey is designed and run by student organizations – the first such project in the country. Unlike past confidential reports conducted through research groups such as the National Survey of Student Engagement, this project will publicly publish its findings and the students will own the data.

"It's filling a void," says Arati Sharma, national director of the Canadian Alliance of Students Association (CASA). "Canada doesn't do a fantastic job of data collection when it comes to post-secondary education. I think there's a real gap in the research side of post-secondary education and the actual system."

The voluntary survey launched Nov. 9 and will remain open for three weeks. Members from CASA-affiliated student unions, plus a few non-CASA members, are participating. Each school participates with approval from its respective research ethics board. The cost for each university is roughly \$1,000. On top of these fees, CASA is putting \$30,000 towards the project.

The Canadian Education Project, a new Toronto-based education research group, is co-initiating the survey. The group is a branch of the better-known Educational Policy Institute (EPI), based in the United States. EPI will analyze the data and publish it in a report, but the students still own the data, says Sharma.

Other student groups have partnered with CASA on the initiative, including the Alliance of Nova Scotia Students Association (ANSSA), the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance and the Council of Alberta University Students. Mark Coffin, executive direc-

tor of ANSSA, says the decision to partner with the project stems from the need to understand issues concerning students as a whole.

"You hear a lot of anecdotal evidence from students," he says. "The problems they've faced in student financial assistance, and the problems they face paying back their debt, or the views they have on where money should be going."

"We want to put weight behind the advocacy efforts that we're doing right now," he adds.

ANSSA is contributing \$3,000 toward the project. That money helps fund the survey's implementation at the five ANSSA-affiliated universities. CASA is funding the remaining participation fees.

Rob LeForte, Dalhousie Student Union VP (education), says the DSU is participating in the project to uncover information about its own students, but also "to have Dal students represented in that national data. We wouldn't want to see them left out of reports that were being generated and going to be presented to everyone federally and provincially."

The DSU decided to allocate a portion of its ANSSA fees to the survey after it learned about it at an ANSSA retreat last August. Dal students each pay \$2.50 toward ANSSA, amounting to roughly \$35,000 per year.

Although the survey's website says the project aims "to publish national and institutional-level reports," the data won't include all universities across Canada.

CASA is associated with 23 student unions across the country. Nineteen student unions are participating in the survey – 14 are affiliated with CASA and five are not.

St. Thomas University's Student Union isn't participating because of several concerns surrounding the project.

Ella Henry, STUSU's VP (education), says she's still unclear about the project's details since she first heard

about it from the executive director of the New Brunswick Student Alliance.

"What we would really like is an explanation because it's very frustrating to find out, not from CASA, but from conversations with a different organization that CASA agreed to contribute this money and then after several phone calls and e-mails, not have an answer as to where that \$30,000 came from," she says.

The union might have participated, but its research ethics board had concerns with the project including its lack of scholarly research, says Henry. She contacted Sharma, who told her EPI would contact her about her concerns. They never did. The project launched, without STUSU.

"I think it was a really rushed process and I don't think the decision to fund that was done very openly or very accountably to members," Henry says.

Sharma says the survey launched quickly to gather data at a time when students were more likely able to participate.

"The timeline was a little tight, but, I mean, each one of our student associations was consulted," she says.

But Henry says by the time Sharma contacted her again, the decision to launch the project had already been made.

"We were consulted on whether the STUSU would like to participate, not whether we thought CASA should spend \$30,000 on the survey," she says, adding that CASA's budget can't cover that amount for a project.

When asked how CASA produced the \$30,000, Sharma said to speak with the treasurer. He didn't respond before this article went to print.

The DSU hosted CASA's Annual General Meeting this past week. As of last Sunday, the STUSU planned to put forward a motion asking for financial and decision-making details about the process leading up to the survey.

New immigrants leaving Nova Scotia

Access to data key to migration questions says Dalhousie researcher

Joshua Brown
Staff Contributor

Atlantic Canada has more recent immigrants leaving than any other of region of Canada. Academics in the Dalhousie department of sociology and anthropology are trying to figure out why.

Dr. Howard Ramos of the department of sociology and social anthropology at Dalhousie says greater access to regional data is needed to answer those types of questions.

"Atlantic Canada has begun to respond to a lot of immigrant settlement issues," says Ramos. "But without Atlantic Canada regional data ... we have no way of knowing if their efforts are actually paying off."

With about 24 per cent of landed immigrants eventually leaving the region, Atlantic Canada is the only region other than Saskatchewan with more than five per cent of its landed immigrants leaving, says Ramos.

Ramos presented some of his most recent work with colleague Dr. Yoko Yoshida on the topic at a seminar on campus last week. He was quick to point out their research is not complete.

"(This is) a working paper. It's not a paper that is closed to further discussion. The answers that we offer are really tentative," says Ramos. "(More regional data) will allow us to make stronger statements."

Ramos spoke to a packed seminar room at Dalhousie of mainly policy professionals and academics.

He describes economics, demographics and health amongst other factors affecting why immigrants leave Atlantic Canada.

He says when you look at people who move and people who stay, you find a big difference between incomes.

"As one would expect, the stayers earn more money," says Ramos. "By looking at average income ... what you find is that there is a \$10,000 difference between stayers and movers."

Income is just one of the aspects considered by Ramos and Yoshida affecting why landed immigrants in Atlantic Canada leave.

"What you find is that there is a \$10,000 difference between stayers and movers"

The federal government is also thinking about immigrants. On Nov. 12 the government released an updated guide for people considering Canadian citizenship.

The new 62-page guide is the first update to the government guidelines for citizenship since the Liberal government published one in 1997, Canwest News Service reported.

Ramos emphasizes the importance of designing a government policy that facilitates immigration processes and makes it more comfortable for families.

"Immigrants are constantly entering into the job market," says Ramos.

They can help solve problems such as declining fertility, aging populations and economic stagnation, he says.

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PROF SLAMS INSTITUTIONAL RACISM

El Jones continues a fighting legacy

Tim Mitchell
 Features Editor

El Jones woke up one morning with poetry in her head. She grabbed a pen and wrote down the rhymes she heard.

"I didn't even know why I wrote it down, because normally if you wake up with something, you forget about it."

She'd been listening to rap recently – artists such as Kanye West and Lauren Hill.

The poem she woke up with, she decided to call "White Neighbours." She says it's about growing up in a white neighbourhood. Jones, who was born in Cardiff, Wales, grew up in Winnipeg. She moved to Halifax to study English literature at Dalhousie.

"But what do I do with it?" Jones wondered about her poem. "It's sort of like a rap, but I can't rap, and I don't have any beats."

Jones is a professor at King's College – the first black professor to teach in the Foundation Year Program. A few days after writing her poem, she bumped into one of her students on the street.

"How come you never come to poetry night?" her student asked.

"Because I don't know what poetry night is," Jones replied.

Her student explained to her that on the third Thursday of every month, spoken word artists met at Ginger's Tavern to recite poetry to an audience.

She decided to take her student up on the offer.

It was February of 2007. At first she was nervous about performing, but she decided to get up on stage and read "White Neighbours."

"So I got up and read the poem, and people liked it," says Jones.

"That's my professor!" She remembers hearing her student proudly say.

Jones uses her spoken word poetry to articulate what she feels are the social and political issues affecting black people today.

"I just kept writing from there."

She performed at poetry night again in March, and again in April. By the time May and June rolled around, she began performing her spoken word poetry at the competitive level. In what's called "slam poetry," contestants are limited to reciting their poem in about three minutes.

"Some people will actually write two-minute poems, but I write four-minute poems, then cut them down to three-and-a-half, and then just speak really fast to get them into three," she says, laughing.

Jones' slam poetry team, with her as captain, won a victory for Halifax in the Canadian Festival of Spoken Word in 2007. In 2008, she won the CBC's poetry face-off in Halifax, and she still performs regularly in Halifax.

"I get really, really nervous, but once you're on stage you have this really cool intensity."

Today, she's standing outside of her office in the basement of the New Academic-



El Jones uses spoken word to voice the everyday political and social issues facing black people today. | Photo by Jared Dalziel

ic Building. She's locked out, and no one can let her in until after lunch. An image of U.S. President Barack Obama is tacked to her door with the saying, "Yes we can."

"I teach in a program where I don't exist ... I mean, we don't study a single black woman."

We can't get into her office, so instead we find a vacant classroom in which to talk.

"It's not that courageous for people like me to speak up at this point," she says. "You have protections under the rights and charters, you can sue for termination of employment, but, to be a black man with no social security or anything, speaking about these things, these were things you could get killed for."

She's telling me about her grandfather, Patrick Jones, who was jailed in Trinidad for speaking up against British colonialization.

"This is actually kind of interest-

ing, I guess. Because, I'll say I'm black, I'm half black, but actually I'm black, Chinese and white. My Grandfather's family originally came out of China, they were kicked out in the Taiping revolution in the 1830s or 1840s."

"He was a real Calypso historian; he was one of the few people that understood the history." Calypso is a form of Afro-Caribbean music that originated in Trinidad and Tobago. Patrick Jones wrote and performed some of the early Calypsonian songs such as "Class Legislation," about colonialism, or "Sans Humanité," about Calypso censorship. He was a strong voice for social change and cultural activism. He was also one of the first members of the Trinidad Workingmen's Association: the first labour union in Trinidad.

Jones shares her grandfather's passion for social justice, and she's not afraid to speak up about it.

"I think I'm more my Grandfather. I've got that 'I wish someone would charge me with sedition,' she says, with another laugh. "I'd love to say, 'I went to prison for something I said.'"

Jones is working on getting her PhD in English literature. Her dissertation is on the white perspective in English literature, with a focus on George Orwell and Rudyard Kipling. She balances her time between marking students' papers, as well as working on her own.

"I teach in a program where I don't exist," she says about the Foundation Year Program. "That can be difficult. I mean,

we don't study a single black woman. To intellectually know that you exist, but to not be represented in any importance, I think that's always difficult, especially when you spend most of your life asserting your existence, as a poet, asserting your history and looking for that yourself."

Thinking back now, she says she wishes that she'd chosen a different topic for her dissertation, probably one relating to black authors. She jokes, however, that there probably isn't a topic she would be happy with at this point in the writing process.

"Obviously, like all academics, you have this sort of obsession with this kind of knowledge, and being able to talk about it. But you're in a disadvantage in that sense in an institution that doesn't reflect you, and wasn't made for you. And that's not just King's, that's any university institution."

Jones says she experiences institutional racism all too frequently at Dalhousie and King's.

"Everything from not seeing people like you, to curriculum choices, to just like conversations people have with you not really understanding where you're coming from, to questions people ask, to weird statements that people make. I mean, these things, in each event is small, I mean, no one's tying you to a tree, but, in the aggregate they can make you feel very, very alienated and marginalized," says Jones.

She says it's a different form of racism than that which was encountered by

her grandparents, or even her parents.

"There's definitely changes, and opportunities increase, but I think racism is an amoeba, it changes with the times," says Jones. "It's just a different form of racism that we encounter. Just because Obama is president doesn't mean there's still not a disproportionate amount of black men in jail. There are millions of black men in jail. The average black man spends a third of his life in jail. So what does it matter if Obama is the president or not, but people see that as, 'Yeah! It's 'Yeah!' on a symbolic level."

"There's moments where people slip, but no one is going to walk up to you and call you nigger. It's more reflected in the silent institutional every day, so you feel it but it's very hard to articulate it," says Jones. "As long as the Klan isn't riding, people don't really recognize it as racism. So, to try and explain, I'm in this different situation, or it's the way people look at you, or it's the way you feel, those things are very hard to articulate. You see this all the time in the news, where a black person in an incident will express racism, but everyone else will talk about how crazy they are for thinking it's racism, no matter what the incident is. Like Rodney King can get beat the fuck up, and the cops will still get off because that can't be racist, right? I mean, the burden of proof is always on the victim. The only thing that people will really accept, is outright vicious racism, but they don't recognize the silent, everyday marginalization that goes on."

"You got a black janitor cleaning up a white college Black man but white hallways White dollars buys white knowledge Use black labour then go home to your white neighbourhoods ..."

Opinions

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Kaley Kennedy **Opinions Editor**
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Point/Counterpoint

Should universities avoid using affirmative action policies when hiring faculty?

Neil McPhee and Gavin Charles
Opinions Contributors

Point (Neil McPhee): A university is fulfilling its responsibilities if and only if it works to further its research and to provide students with the greatest possible education. When a university knowingly hires a less qualified individual to further its academic research, this university engages in an action that directly undermines its own responsibilities. The same holds true when a university hires a less qualified person to fill a teaching position. University affirmative action policies for hiring new faculty take into consideration not only a publication record, teaching awards, and letters of recommendation – they knowingly give preference to people in possession of superficial qualities gained by accident of birth. Being Black, Hispanic, Asian or Caucasian has no bearing on an individual's ability to teach or conduct research. Furthermore, to reward a person for what they cannot help runs counter to the academic spirit of rewarding people for what they've done.

Counterpoint (Gavin Charles): Af-

firmative action does not necessarily mean prioritizing one person over another regardless of relative merit. "Accident of birth" is not prioritized over the other criteria discussed, but alongside – and normally as a last resort. Generally, affirmative action means that if two candidates are of roughly equal experience and each demonstrates roughly equal potential, the employer will favour the candidate who comes from a background underrepresented in the particular field of work for which the employer is hiring. As for the idea that affirmative action policies are bad because they are not linked to the quality of one's achievements, that actually does ignore the notion of relative merit. If two persons have made equal achievements, why shouldn't we prioritize the person who, statistically speaking, has probably had to overcome greater barriers to make those achievements? And why shouldn't we make a point of sending the message that those barriers can be overcome?

Point: Affirmative action proponents often argue that the university has a social responsibility to promote racial diversity. If this is true, then a university

must have a visibly diverse staff or they risk not being taken seriously if they condemn other agencies for a homogeneous working environment. However, I deny that a university has any societal responsibility of the kind suggested in

"If two persons have made equal achievements, why shouldn't we prioritize the person who, statistically speaking, has probably had to overcome greater barriers to make those achievements?"

adopting affirmative action policies. The responsibility of the university lies only in promoting and developing academics. The responsibility to promote the acceptance of visible minorities lies with our government and other social organizations. If a university has no responsibility in this matter, and if the university harms its own legitimate responsibilities by overstepping its boundaries, then the university should not institute or main-

tain affirmative action hiring policies.

Counterpoint: Universities are on the very forefront of society. What happens in universities affects the way that the leaders of tomorrow will act and coexist.

Since they have such an opportunity to foster the development of values, universities should promote socially positive ideals including tolerance and equality. On a related note, everyone knows that the professor matters as much as, if not more than, the class material. Some people undoubtedly will or do feel as though they cannot become the person in front of the class because all the people in front of the class are unlike them. More-

over, that person at the front of the class may also end up on TV or in the newspaper, discussing their work as a scientist or researcher. Some studies indicate that when schoolchildren are asked to draw a scientist, they usually draw a white male. Universities can, and should, work to change these popular conceptions. Otherwise, the world, and the universities, may miss out on the next great researcher, simply because she or he was convinced from an early age, perhaps subconsciously, to abandon that career path.

Point: Does visible diversity within the academic atmosphere intrinsically benefit academia? It is unclear how this could be true. Perhaps coming from a visible minority provides unique perspectives on particular issues? First, it is unclear why this should be true. The perspective an individual develops is something manufactured by their interaction with their environment. It is silly to suggest your environmental interactions are any more unique as a black person in our society as it is for a Scientist or Catholic. That is, race is no better an indicator of diversity of opinions than are beliefs an individual can choose to develop. Second, even if this was true, it is unclear why affirmative action is necessary for these opinions to be heard. I'm not so naive as to think a visible minority can't produce a CV rivaling that of a middle-aged white man.

Counterpoint: Again, affirmative action usually does not mean that a visible minority 'takes away' a white man's job, and the common misperception that it does mean that is unfortunate. The association of minorities – and women, because this affects them as well – with "unique perspectives" is not because they all think the same way, which is obviously untrue. Rather, this association, in a university setting at least, exists because a university is, very specifically, a place where a wide variety of viewpoints and perspectives are welcome. If minorities and women have interesting perspectives to provide, simply based on their experiences as minorities and women, they should be encouraged to share those perspectives in academia. This is true, in fact, even if those perspectives are largely the same as those of the majority or men, because that would clarify those similarities instead of hiding or obscuring them.

Neil McPhee and Gavin Charles are members of Sodales, the Dalhousie Debating Society. Debaters are notorious for arguing things they don't actually believe. Positions taken by the authors aren't necessarily their personal beliefs. Vote for the side of the debate you agree with at www.sodales.ca.

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Opinions

SEX ED



Sex: not just for the able-bodied



Katie Toth
Sex Columnist

Picture someone with disabilities in the bedroom. Many of us usually think they're either sleeping or asking for help getting dressed. We should all forget every stereotype we've been taught and instead remember Claire Sainsbury's simple words on *Scarleteen*: "Disabled people have sex, too!"

People with disabilities are often overlooked in healthy sexuality discourses. Meloukhia, a feminist blogger with disabilities, writes, "Either we are desexualized, or we are fetishized for our bodies and treated explicitly as sex objects/playthings for able bodied fetishists."

I am quick to gloss over the discussion of sexuality in the context of disability, fearing that the intersecting issues will get too complicated or I will get in over my head. But I'm not the only one.

Different disabilities are stigmatized in different ways, but many people who have them can identify with a common thread: the assumption that those who are disabled do not have sexual agency. Whether you're disabled physically, intellectually or have learning or mental health difficulties, our society sends a clear message that it is weird for you to be sexual.

This kind of stigma negates the ability of people with disabilities to have a sexual identity. I was about to say that this stigma renders them asexual, but it doesn't even do that. In acknowledging someone as asexual, you offer him or her a sense of agency, an opportunity to identify with a lack of sexual desire.

How does this fit in with the rampant sexual abuse of people who have disabilities? With the trope of the "desperate" disabled woman, or with the concept that if you have disabilities and someone abuses you, it's not really abuse, but rather flattery – you should be "happy" about it or "take what you can get."

When you are in a wheelchair, your body often becomes associated not with hot sex, but with either a child-like, protected state or one that is stoic

and heroic. Deaf people and people who can't see, like Marlee Maitlin on *Family Guy*, get mocked. This just perpetuates a stereotype that those who are physically different can't be smoking hot. Thank god for Maitlin's stint on *The L Word* to challenge some of that bullshit.

With those who have intellectual/developmental disabilities, some people – often doctors, caregivers, conservative family members or even strangers – worry about giving people information they're "not ready for" or that will "encourage them." The blatant paternalism of such behaviour should be obvious. Why shouldn't people with disabilities be encouraged to feel sexual? Do they not have the same rights to self-expression as everyone else?

Secondly, and of perhaps more urgent importance, is the necessity of education in order to protect anyone from what they may decide they aren't ready for. Because people with disabilities aren't always given consistent information about relationships and sexuality they need, out of a weird "protective" (read: condescending) drive on the behalf of caregivers, they remain some of the most sexually vulnerable people in the world.

According to the Wisconsin Coalition against sexual assault, as many as 83 per cent of women and 32 per cent of men who are developmentally disabled are victims of sexual assault. How can anyone be expected to speak out against their abuse if they haven't been given the properly extensive educational tools and language to do so?

For those who have physical disabilities, stigma can be less blatantly paternalistic, but that doesn't necessarily make it less condescending. In the university community, many of us identify as having some sort of learning disability. Many of us can look back to some point in high school where this made us feel isolated or weird.

I've never experienced not being refused entry into a mall, store or someone's home because my wheelchair didn't fit, but the isolation that would cause is probably more than just emotional. I can say that I was on crutches once for a summer, and walking places suddenly became a large and draining effort. When I did finally get somewhere, such as Starbucks, and receive extra whip cream from the hot Starbucks guy, and start to feel kind of sexy, my friends would tell me that he probably felt sorry for me because my crutches made me look like a gimp. Thanks, douchebags.

It's like a double whammy on your ability to date and be sexy. Not only does it take you more time, more effort and exhaustion to be social, but also, once you throw yourself out there, you're treated like you're somehow not entitled to the same rights and privileges inherent in being there, such as the right to flirt or assume you're worth taking home. Suddenly, I was only expected to look sad and pathetic in my plushy, comfortable chair.

But I digress. The discussion of sex and disability doesn't have to be all stigma, assault and disparity.

Despite all the bullshit people who have disabilities are forced to overcome, they – like everyone – still engage in some pretty rad sex. That is, when you open your mind to the question of what sex is. The sexuality spectrum is broad for people who have disabilities, just like for people who "don't."

Diane Heatherington, a Halifax sex educator, emphasized one thing during a recent interview: when it comes to sex, the necessity of a sex-positive environment rich in education and consistent information is the same for everyone. All people – with or without disabilities – can benefit from more education, more acceptance of their feelings, and a more open mind about the huge spectrum that constitutes "sex."

For deaf people, or those who don't communicate auditorily, sex might just come with a priority to leave the lights on. That's not just a hearing-impaired thing, though – it's a hot thing.

For people who can't see so well, oral communication becomes key, and any of us who are good auditory learners can learn from these cues and start making more noises and asking for what we want out loud in the bedroom.

Those with disabilities that affect their hands or penile functioning might bring in toys, vibrators and lube. Again, this isn't "modifying" sex for a disability, any more than me going down on a hot lesbian who's easy on the eyes is "modifying" sex for homosexual tendencies. It's just having hot sex in a way that some people don't jump to when they're busy thinking of the standard hetero missionary position.

Whether we have disabilities or not, we can all learn from trying different methods of communication and different ways of getting ourselves, and our partners, off. Including those with disabilities in a discussion on healthy sexuality only makes everyone's sex life more fun.

Second place no reason to cheer

N.S. still has highest tuition fees in the country

Jake Byrne
Staff Contributor

Statistics Canada released its annual Tuition Fee Report last month detailing average tuition fees across the country. According to the report, tuition fees in Nova Scotia dropped 3.1 per cent, meaning we now pay the second highest fees in the country as opposed to the highest; a title we held for two decades.

The government was quick to pat themselves on the back. "Lower tuition will help ensure more young people are able to attend our world-class universities," cheered one press release.

But wait a minute. There's no tuition fee reduction in place in Nova Scotia, so how did we lose the Stats Can title of highest fees in the country?

The fact is that tuition fees in Nova Scotia have remained the same since 2007 when the government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with universities guaranteeing more funding in exchange for a tuition fee freeze. This was a step in the right direction but did not remedy the damage done by decades of underfunding and massive tuition fee increases.

Twenty years of sky-high fees means the average student's debt has climbed to almost \$30,000 and a slew of Nova Scotia youth have fled the province to study or work in other, less expensive, provinces. Four years ago, in response to this growing problem, the Progressive Conservative government of the day promised to bring tuition fees down to the national average. At the time, students cautiously applauded the move, but we later found out how the government planned to reach its goal – by freezing tuition fees and waiting for fees in other provinces to meet, or pass, those in Nova Scotia. Ontario, which according to the report now has the highest fees, did just that. Since 2006, fees in that province have been allowed to increase a total of 20 to 36 per cent.

In the meantime, the government has provided only some students (Nova Scotia students studying in the province) with a

\$267 per year tuition fee "rebate," the equivalent of a tuition fee coupon with a 2011 expiry date. Due to this rebate scheme, Nova Scotia is one of only two provinces that charges out-of-province students higher fees. Both the provincial government and Stats Can count this rebate as a reduction.

A true reduction in tuition fees would apply to all students, and would be included in the province's annual budget for universities, rather than as an "instant rebate." It has been four months since the current government took office and it has failed to provide a comprehensive plan, or even a tangible outline, of how it plans to improve access to post-secondary education in Nova Scotia. The NDP government needs to make a real investment to reduce tuition fees for all students. With the \$14 million this government has pledged for tuition fee tax credits, we could reduce tuition fees across the board by \$350 – nearly triple the province's need-based grants program.

Myself and other representatives of the Canadian Federation of Students have met with decision makers on both the provincial and federal level, including Education Minister Marilyn More, to lobby for real tuition fee relief and increases in government funding and grants. But as they say there's "strength in numbers" and if we ever want to see this government reduce fees we, as students, need to flex our collective muscle.

This semester, students from across the province have already collected thousands of signatures on a petition calling for reduced fees for all students, an increase in per-student funding to the national average, and 50 per cent of every provincial student loan to be provided as a grant. We will present this petition to the Nova Scotia legislature.

So pick up a pen, a clipboard, and a stack of petitions and hit the streets or hallways. Because when students work together, we get results.

Jake Byrne is the Nova Scotia Representative of the Canadian Federation of Students and a second-year student at the University of King's College.

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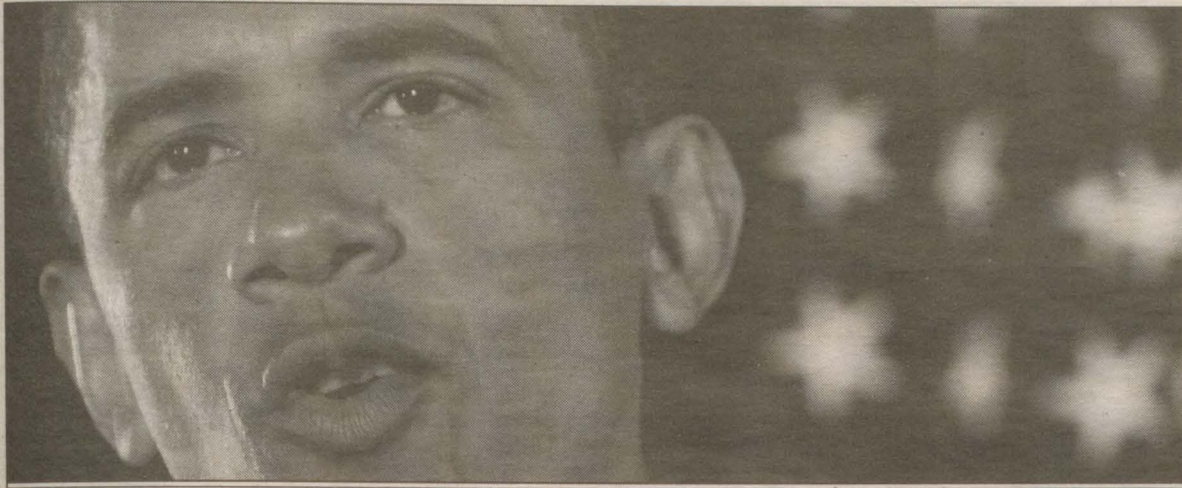
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Obama should live up to his Peace Prize and stop participating in needless fights. | Photo supplied

Obama waging wrong war

Donnie MacIntyre
Opinions Contributor

President Barack Obama and his administration have named their enemy and declared war; but the enemy may not be whom you expect. No, it isn't Taliban forces fighting to regain control in Afghanistan, or al-Qaida insurgents hiding in the mountainous region of Pakistan. It isn't even those rich Wall Street bankers who brought on the global recession with their greed and mismanagement. No, in this era of economic crisis, chaos in the Middle East, and national debate over health care reform, Obama and his team decided now is the time to go after that constant pain in the butt of Democrats across America: FOX News Channel.

That, I say, is a mistake.

Several weeks ago FOX network (not FOX News Channel (FNC), but instead its cable counterpart) was the only network that decided not to air the President's address on health care reform. As a result, FOX News Sunday was the only Sunday morning current events program left off the list of Obama's whirlwind interview blitz with every other network that morning.

When host Chris Wallace referred to the administration as "a bunch of crybabies", a White House official responded by saying, "Fox is an ideological outlet where the president has been interviewed before and will likely be interviewed again, not that the whining particularly strengthens their case for participation any time soon."

Naturally, this ignited a firestorm for FNC's conservative talk show hosts, particularly Sean Hannity and Glenn Beck, who had a field day painting Obama as a thin-skinned president who surely can't deal with the likes of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad if he can't even handle a few political pundits.

To seal the deal, White House Communications Director Anita Dunn told CNN during an interview that FNC is "opinion journalism masquerading as news (and) often operates as either the research arm or communications arm of the Republican Party."

There have been shots fired back and forth ever since.

Now, regardless of your opinion of FOX News, and it seems that everyone who has ever watched the channel has one, this is one tactic that will

surely backfire on the White House.

First of all, as just alluded to, Obama is leaving himself wide open to charges that he is weak. "He's going to sit down and talk to the president of Iran? He's weak on relations with rogue nations! He's going to end the war in Iraq? He's weak on terror!"

Add to the mix the fact that he won't face a loud mouth pundit with a camera and the fodder for this line of attack seems endless. If Obama truly believes FNC acts as an extension of the Republican Party, couldn't his refusal to face them head on be construed as a sign that he is afraid to take on the Republicans themselves?

If you'd prefer to interpret this as a sign that he is simply unwilling to waste his time talking to a Republican outfit, then doesn't that fly in the face of his mantra of crossing the aisle and working together with the Grand Old Party? Another popular conservative talking point since the President took office is that he has not followed through on his promise to unite both parties. See? These are two weapons Obama is handing directly to his enemies. "But so what?" you might be thinking. "The conservative hosts on FOX and talk radio are going to be using these attacks on the Obama Administration anyway."

Yes, that is true. But now they have an opportunity to make White House officials look foolish while they are at it.

Just take a look at Glenn Beck's latest stunt as a prime example. He set up a red phone like the one that linked the White House to the Kremlin during the Cold War. Painting the administration as a bunch of Communists is a favourite past time of Beck's. He had the phone number sent to Anita Dunn herself. Beck is encouraging Dunn or any other White House official to give him a call at any time to correct him if he is mistaken with any of his constant attacks on Obama and his associates.

The implication, which Beck is constantly reminding us of, is that if what he is saying is not true, that phone would surely ring and someone on the other end would present the facts. But since what he says is true, the White House cannot respond and thus the phone remains silent.

On the Oct. 28 edition of his show, Beck plainly stated, "They never called. They aren't going to call. We have to stop expecting answers from these people. Their silence is their answer."

Now, how can the Obama Administration show they are un-

afraid to confront their foes and directly respond to that while they are determined to not talk to FOX?

It's likely that Dunn and all the rest are simply ignoring Beck's taunts knowing very well that should they actually call and confront him they would not only be playing right into his hands, they would also be giving him a ratings boost at the same time.

This refusal to give Beck a boost leads directly to this next monkey wrench in the White House's operation. If Obama is trying to cause FNC to lose credibility, and thusly viewers, it is not working – the news channel's ratings have actually increased during this whole brou-ha-ha. According to official Nielson ratings data for October 2009, the month in which the majority of this battle took place, FNC easily dominated its competition.

Glenn Beck, who joined the network in January and is possibly the single biggest participant in this battle from FOX's side, has increased his timeslot's ratings by 64 per cent in total viewers and 188 per cent in the demo from this same month last year. I hate to say it, but if the administration was actually unaware that a controversy of this proportion would draw even more viewers to FNC, a network that feeds off controversy and used it to climb to the top of the ratings pile years ago and remain there ever since, they truly must be foolish.

It is true that many FOX News viewers are die-hard conservatives, but approximately 20 per cent of FNC viewers label themselves as Independent. It's the Independents that Obama wants to reach out to. He already has the support of most Democrats, but the Independents are almost always the ones who can make or break an election or vote.

Especially now, with Obama trying to garner support anywhere he can for his health care reform plan, one would think he would make every effort he possibly can to get his message out to Independents. Why would Obama choose to let FOX control the message that all these voters are taking in, without trying to get out there and set the record straight?

Presidents often make major gaffes while in office, and this whole anti-FOX campaign just may be a huge one. Obama needs to realize he is not campaigning any longer; he is the president. It is time to put away the gloves and stop participating in fights with needless enemies. Use FOX News Channel to your advantage, Obama; don't let them use you to theirs.

Climate catastrophe approaching Canada turns a blind eye

Nicole Feriancek
Opinions Contributor

Climate change is no longer about energy saving light bulbs and reusable grocery bags. It's the single biggest problem humanity has ever faced. Ever. It's being called a climate catastrophe.

You might not believe me.

Climate change is a good thing, you might tell me. Hey, I wouldn't mind Nova Scotia being a few degrees warmer either, but did you know that the sea ice in the Polar Regions has shrunk to its lowest level ever in known history?

Of course you did, intelligent readers.

Did you know that 80 per cent of the world's forests are gone? That the remaining old growth forests are being chopped down as you read this, to make flyers that you immediately throw away?

By the way, when you throw something away, where is "away", exactly? Think about it.

OK, you're getting the point – plastic bags are bad, pollution sucks, human beings are stupid.

But let's talk about just how stupid we are, Canadians in particular.

Well, Canada is in the top 10 most polluting nations in the world. Canada is polluting more and faster than any other G8 country. Canada's tarsands are the most destructive means of extracting oil on the planet. More carbon is released into the atmosphere by the tarsands than any other oil exporter.

You all know that carbon in our

atmosphere is bad, and that it's the cause of rising global temperatures.

Think of it like this: our Earth's atmosphere can only hold so much carbon safely (350 parts per billion). Currently we are at 378.

"Carbon pollution is being trapped in our atmosphere, creating a heat trapping blanket that is smothering the earth," says Tzeporah Berman, environmental activist.

The tipping point between safety and chaos is 350. At the rate our world is polluting, in eight years, we will have reached 450 parts per billion of carbon in our atmosphere. At this point, it will be out of our hands. Global warming will be on a downward spiral that can no longer be affected by human actions. Mass devastation will be inevitable. We have one last chance to fix the wrongs we have done to our environment.

This December, every world leader and country will get together in Copenhagen to talk about solutions to create a new Kyoto Protocol. Canada has no solidified plan for negotiations.

Our government is actively ignoring the issue, to the point of disrupting international discussions.

If any of this made you think, or made you feel any shame or negativity for Canada, you need to let our politicians know. Write a letter to your member of parliament. Call them. Leave a message saying you're discouraged, that you expect better.


Stand up. Say something. Let's all wake up and stop ignoring global warming and let our government know why.

OVERHEARD AT DAL

Prof: Back in the day, Catholics used to talk to priests about their problems. Now its psychiatrists, mostly, because boys under a certain age can't go to priests anymore.

In front of the Killam:
Guy 1: Man, I have a three-hour exam today.
Guy 2: Shit. When are you going to find time to smoke weed?

In ENVS Class:
Girl: Doesn't, like, just a little part of you want global warming to happen? I mean, it's so cold in Halifax.
Prof: No.
Girl: If you just quoted me, you would have a whole Internet site.



Opinions

Social movements still worth building

Ten years later, Seattle protests should be remembered for hope not defeat

Dave Bush
Opinions Contributor

This month, pages of newspapers and magazine will be filled with the reflections and analysis of two events that have defined our era over the last 20 years.

The fall of the Berlin Wall two decades ago ushered in the end of real existing socialism and the creation of a new world order. This supposed end of history or post-political era was the triumph of neo-liberalism. Markets were freed in a way that benefited the few in the global North while devastating economies in the global South. North American and European farmers flooded the global food markets with cheap, subsidized food, while farmers in the south were stripped of all subsidies and trade protections. The system created a supply of cheap labour for manufacturing industries that were quickly located in the global South.

The neo-liberal project, which had been well underway by the time the Berlin wall was torn down, went into hyper speed in the 10 years that followed. Formal transnational trading bodies, such as the World Trade Organization (WTO), the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, oversaw the neo-liberal project. Trade agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement were implemented, while new broader agreements such as the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas and the Multilateral Agreement on Investment were dreamed up in order to open markets.

The neo-liberal agenda was not without its detractors. Significant resistance to unfair trading practices and policies of the IMF and World Bank were widespread in the global South. From farmers in India and Jamaica to sweatshop workers in Indonesia and Mexico, the losers in the globalization game were not accepting their position in the new world order.

During the 1990s, North American social movements were slowly coming to grips with trade liberalization. A loss of industrial jobs, an influx of cheap foreign goods and the destruction of the Soviet Bloc meant that unions, Marxist-Leninist parties and traditional bastions of the left were in decline. The global economy required activists to build global rather than national social justice movements.

The mass protest against the WTO in Seattle was neither the first nor the biggest protest against neo-liberalism in the global North. However, it was the most iconic.

It showed there was widespread discontent with the neo-liberal agenda and more importantly it symbolized that such diverse groups as labour unions, environmental groups, church groups, anarchists and anti-corporate activists, could organize together and defeat the WTO in the richest nation on the planet.

When I was 18, I remember being glued to the television watching in awe that so many people thought there was something wrong with this world. It forced me to think about why the world was that way, and to re-evaluate my position in it. It inspired me to take action.

This was not an uncommon feeling among my peers. From 2000 to 2003, you couldn't go to a meeting, workshop or teach-in without Seattle being mentioned. Seattle was hope.

The Alter-Globalization Movement spread. There were massive protests in Quebec City, Prague, Quito, Gothenburg and Genoa, among a host of cities. The World Social Forum, an annual gathering of leftists activists and organizations, started in 2001 with a massive conference in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

There was hope in the air that a united global justice movement could construct living alternatives to neo-liberalism. There was hope, real existing hope, that the world could be different. Hope that workers and the impoverished could live a just and meaningful life. Hope that our planet could be saved from the destruction of capitalist exploitation. That people from all over the world could take back control over their lives and communities. However, in the global North, the hope of something different faded under the crushing discourse of terror and war. People became less interested in politics, and more willing to let people speak for them – to let leaders embody hope.

The defeated social movements in the north had their language appropriated by NGOs and CEOs. 'Fair trade,' 'organic,' and 'social and environmental responsibility' are now terms used by those at the top of our economic pyramid.

Seattle's memory is being white-washed, or better yet greenwashed. Gone from our public memory is the radical kernel of change that the movement inspired. Forgotten was the fact that the ideological grip of capital was shaken, the impossible was made possible, was deemed necessary.

George Orwell wrote, "He who controls the present, controls the past. He who controls the past, controls the future."

This ideological filter when it comes to public memory is as true in totalitarian states as it is in democracies.

Our collective memory is a reflection of dominant ideological positions. When we remember the Berlin Wall fall, we fail to mention that the protesters were not calling for free market liberalization. The driving force behind destruction of the wall came from socialist movements, such as Democracy Now, and New Forum in East Germany. The end result of the wall may have been a symbolic representation of the victory of global capitalism. However, real change stemmed from social movements that called for socialism with a human face, not from Regan or free marketers.

As we remember Seattle in the north we must note that Seattle was not a call for reform; it was a call for radical change. It showed that global capitalist projects could be confronted, even in America.

Milan Kundera once wrote, "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting." As the world fractures more drastically into have and have not, as resources become more expensive to extract, as our planet is dramatically altered by our economic activity we can't afford to forget real change is possible.

The image shows a screenshot of the DalGazette website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for Home, Editor, News, Opinions, Features, Arts, Sports, and Media. Below this, there are three article teasers: 'PLAYING WITH PRINT', 'YOUTH PROTEST FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION', and 'NIGHT RIPPER'. A 'Latest articles' section follows with two more teasers: 'What gives you the right?' and 'Neutral internet vital to innovation'. A large banner at the bottom of the screenshot reads 'Check out our exclusive web content' with the URL 'dalgazette.com'.

The advertisement features a black and white portrait of Dr. Brad Lohrenz, a smiling man with short hair. To the right of the photo, the text reads: 'Are you looking for a Chiropractor?' followed by 'Dr. Brad Lohrenz Robie @ Spring Garden Chiropractic Clinic'. Below this is a bulleted list of services: 'Stress', 'Headaches', 'Back / Neck Pain', 'Numb Legs / Arms', and 'Nutritional Questions'. At the bottom, the phone number '422-[EASY] 3279' is displayed in a large font. The address 'Halifax Professional Centre 5991 Spring Garden Road Main Floor (beside Starbucks)' is listed on the left, and 'Close to Dalhousie (1 block to main campus) Works with Dal student insurance. No referral needed' is on the right.

Arts

Get your Af-freak-on

African dance classes are for everyone

Rebecca Spence
Staff Contributor

By the end of the 80-minute class, Dalhousie dance instructor Susan Barratt and her 19 theatre students look exhausted. But they can't stop smiling.

For many of the students, this was their very first exposure to African dance. The class has spent much of their last two years learning traditional dance genres, such as ballet and jazz. Never before had they been given the chance to experience such a foreign culture in their studio.

"It was very refreshing," says Claire St-Francois, a 21-year-old honours theatre student who is specializing in acting. "I learned that you don't need a ridiculous amount of experience to be able to do this. It's all about soul it seems."

Richelle Khan, also a 21-year-old acting major, agrees.

"I loved the fact that you don't really have to fully get the choreography," she says. "It's way more about how much physical exertion you put into it."

"I have a lot of dance experience and I found that it uses a totally different part of your body than the techniques you would learn in ballet or jazz."

Throughout Barratt's choreographed routine, the intensity within the studio gradually built. With the help of drummers Glenn Fraser and Peter Watson (a.k.a. Unca Pete) who busted out beats on instruments called dou-doums and the djembe, the rhythm became all-consuming. From stomping their feet like elephants to flapping their arms like exotic birds, the class followed its animal instincts. At some points, the energy was so high that Barratt and her students let out yelps and howls.

Katie MacDonald, 23, explains that technique is typical for the group.

"We're encouraged by our professors to let it all out, and not inhibit yourself."

An intense physical connection to the art was obviously essential to the process. Watching Barratt, it appeared as though every muscle in her body was 100 per cent committed to the dance. Her eyes wide and her knees bent, she stayed low to the ground like a cheetah on the savannah, patiently waiting to attack its prey.

"I like that it uses every muscle in your body. You feel everything," says Barratt. "There's something very organic about it."

This is Barratt's first year of teaching at Dalhousie, but she has been teaching African dance classes for about seven years now. She was trained in Montreal, where there is a large community of French-speaking West Africans. She met musicians Fraser and Watson in a samba group in Halifax about 10 years ago. Together they offer their African dance workshops every Friday night at DANSpace.

"I like how celebratory and energetic it is," says Barratt, smiling.

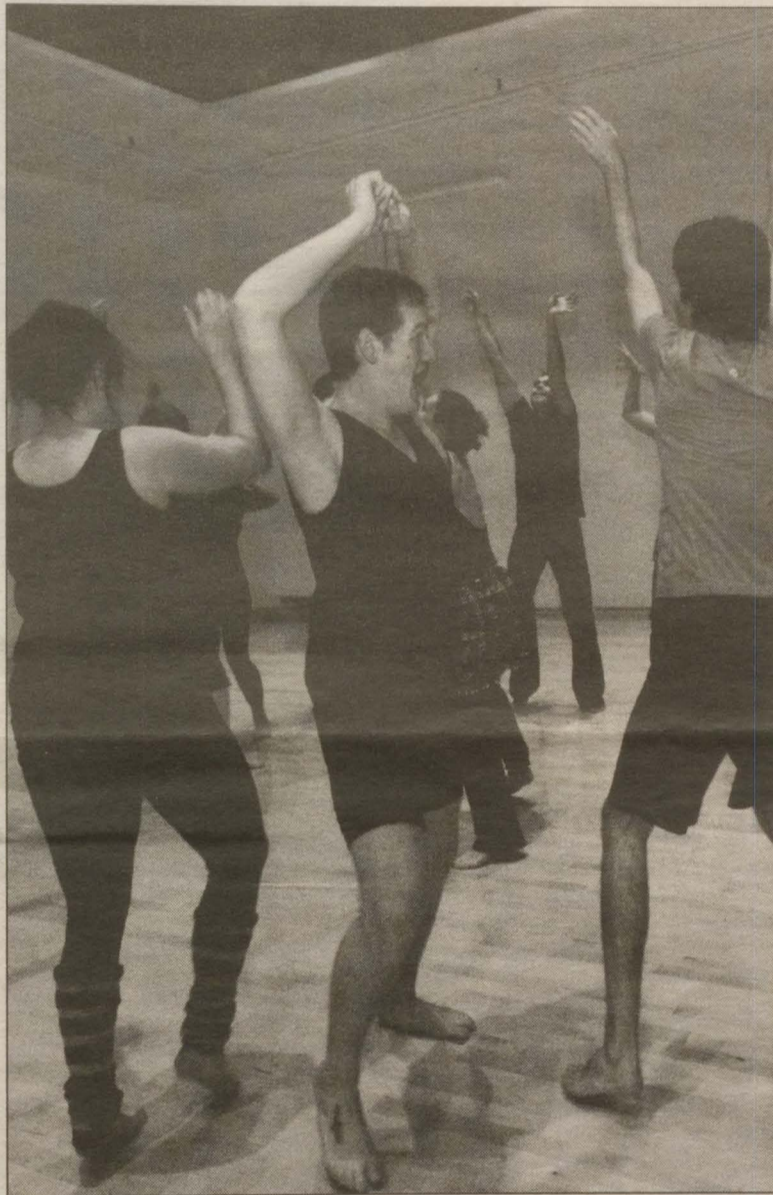


Photo by Pau Balite

ing. "It makes me happy."

Throughout the class, Barratt's theatre students were enthusiastic and eager to learn something new. Many of the students agreed they would

"I learned that you don't need a ridiculous amount of experience to be able to do this. It's all about soul it seems."

like more of an opportunity to experience different cultures through dance.

"I would love to explore India's Bollywood style of dancing," says Christine Milburn, 21. "That would be amazing."

"Russian dance would be really cool," says Katie MacDonald. African dance proved to be a

great place to start, as it was much less constraining than the genres the class was used to practicing.

"It was very much about being free in your own body," says Claire St-

Francois, 21. "It's really liberating to do."

Sue Barratt's African Dance workshop is offered every Friday at 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at DANSpace on 1531 Grafton St. Cost is \$7 for drop-in (\$6 for students).

Arts

Gazette Arts covers cultural happenings in the Halifax community. You heard it here first. E-mail Laura or Matt at arts@dalgazette.com to contribute.



Laura Dawe Arts Editor
arts@dalgazette.com



Most Serene Republic will hit the Paragon Theatre before the restaurant at the end of the universe. Photo Supplied

Modern day sailors

Most Serene Republic float across the ever-expanding universe

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Ryan Lensen, keyboardist and chief arranger for The Most Serene Republic, is on a break in Ontario before setting off on another jaunt along the east coast. He probably needs it. His band's touring partners, Toronto's Meligrove Band, have recently come down with a bout of the Jon and Kate of sicknesses: H1N1.

"I don't think any of us have caught the swine," says Lensen. "But who knows what else we may be carrying."

Emerging from Milton, Ontario, the band broke free of their hometown confines in the middle of the decade under the wing of Canadian powerhouse label Arts&Crafts.

In the summer of 2005, they opened up for Broken Social Scene and Modest Mouse for the much-hyped Olympic Island concert. Walking on stage amid the swirling synthesizer textures of Lensen's many keyboards, the band broke into a plethora of songs on their recently released *Underwater Cinematographer*. Those in Toronto took note, especially press such as *Now* magazine and *Exclaim!*

Their universe has expanded ever since. "There's no way in hell I'm going to forget that concert," says Lensen. "Unless I continue my habit of drinking."

Over the next few years, the band endlessly toured while releasing albums and EPs consistently.

"It just sort of happened really quickly, or right away," Lensen reflects. With three albums under their belts, a few big name TV appearances and a string of festival shows, it is hard to believe the band has been around for little more than five years.

With their new album *...And the Ever Expanding Universe*, the suburban Ontario septet has ditched the Moog synthesizer sounds and guitar trickery of *Underwater Cinematographer* in

favour of something much more classically based. The album is decorated with baroque and romantic woodwinds, brass flourishes, strings and even a banjo. However, this sound is nothing new to the band.

"I think we've always had a classical base," says Lensen. "But it really came down to ambition and availability."

For the first time in their short career, the band is able to explore a deeper sonic scope. They also do the unheard of; the album lacks any semblance of pretension generally associated with a rock band getting their Chopin on.

"More resources became available to us and are allowing us to expand on certain ideas," explains Lensen.

The result is one of the most ornate records on the Arts&Crafts label, something arguably a certain group of friends could never produce with as much glamour and glitz.

When asked if being associated with such famous Canadian bands as Broken Social Scene and Feist causes problems for the band, Lensen is taken aback at the thought of it being a hamper on them. He feels that although it may somewhat overshadow some of their press endeavours, it certainly is a help and a blessing to be connected to other bands on the label.

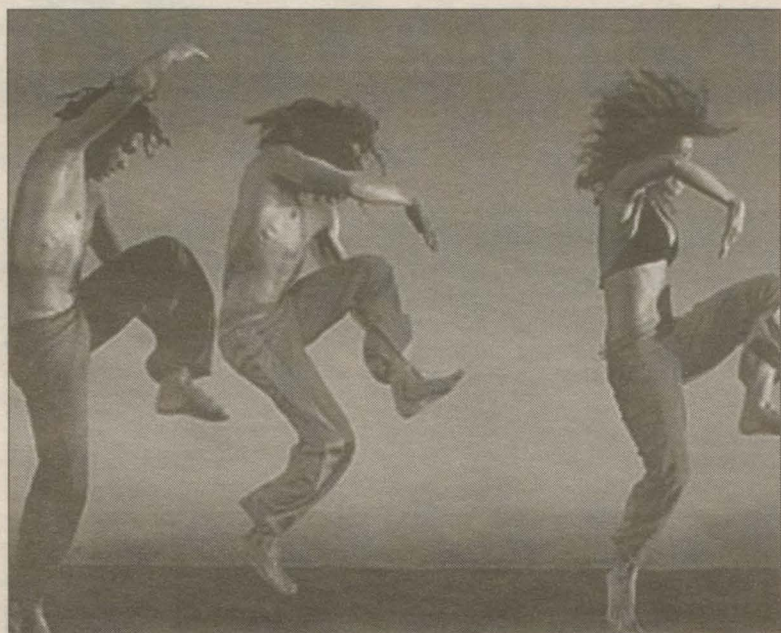
"If I'm reading an article about a popular band and the things they are similar to are things I like, I'm much more likely to go and check out that band than, say, if they were compared to Simple Plan."

Luckily for Most Serene Republic fans, the band doesn't seem to be stopping their creative experimentation in favour of a mainstream sound anytime soon.

"The sort of motto we live by is that there is nothing you can't do when it comes to art," says Lensen. "Risk and chance are everything. It doesn't work so well in the real world. But when it comes to art, it seems to become the golden rule."

The Most Serene Republic will perform Friday, Nov. 27 at The Paragon Theatre.

Arts



Stock Photo

Cultura e arte é cool

Appreciating Capoeira

Hilary Stamper
Staff Contributor

Last year, Paula and Azeitona da Silva, owners of the Dende do Recife Capoeira club in Halifax, were deported back to Brazil. The da Silvas came to Halifax in 2003 to settle their family, become Canadian citizens and introduce parts of their Brazilian culture into the city. The couple were trained in the Brazilian art of Capoeira. In 2005 they opened the Dende do Recife club in the North End of Halifax so that people could go learn about Brazilian culture, music and history, while getting physically in shape. The couple continues to work on their application for permanent residence in Canada from Brazil. Even in their absence, their beautiful impression on Halifax is felt.

The humble space of Dende do Recife is floored in black and white chequered linoleum. There's a front room for seating and a main room for classes. The main room is decorated with photos, a few mirrors, training gear and musical instruments. Students and teachers of Capoeira are largely responsible for creating their own music — one of the many distinguishing features of the art. Students initially focus on learning the physical movements of Capoeira but soon find that the instruments creating the musical rhythm are just as important.

"It is all part and parcel," Ross Burns, a senior student of Capoeira, says of the knowledge students of Capoeira acquire. "People start and they want to know how to do this move, or how to be a better fighter or acrobat, but then they end up learning the music, the language, the African-Brazilian history and other important elements of Capoeira."

Apart from being a student at the club, Burns is also a teacher and has stepped in as one of the managers while the da Silvas are away.

The consensus among Capoeira teachers of its origins are uncertain, but most agree that it evolved from various African influences during the Brazilian slave trade.

"The mixing of all the west coast African cultures in that turbulent situation in Brazil gave rise to different cultural things, and Capoeira was a result of all those," says Burns.

One theory is Capoeira was a way for slaves to disguise their martial arts training. Burns suggests that Ca-

poeira evolved as a cultural weapon.

The technicalities of Capoeira can be classified as a combination of dance, acrobatics, martial arts and music.

"It's an improvised game that is very much spontaneous and playful," says Burns. "Some movements of Capoeira can be more aggressive, some can be more playful, but ultimately there is no one specific goal and nothing is set out or planned before hand."

Capoeira's reputation as a martial art combined with physical and competitive demands have led it to be generally male dominated. Paula da Silva, the co-founder and co-owner of Dende do Recife, has become a role model for many women in and out of the Capoeira community. Burns explained that the machismo attitude that sometimes poisons Capoeira clubs usually reflects the small mindedness of the owner and teachers of certain Capoeira organizations.

"The Dende do Recife group, very explicitly because of Paula, has a different atmosphere," says Burns. "The people attracted to the da Silvas are more like them, more open and relaxed."

Aside from teaching Capoeira, Burns is also a musician and appreciates the more rhythmic parts of Capoeira. "If you took away the music from Capoeira it wouldn't be the same thing anymore," says Burns. "It would be something different."

However, Capoeira still involves a lot of strength and physical training to be able to express yourself in an artistic way. Just as the African slaves in Brazil developed Capoeira as a cultural force against their oppressors, current students of Capoeira have evolved the art into appreciative form of expression as well.

Like many other sports, arts or lifestyles, in order to understand them you must partake in them. Capoeira is no exception. Those who train the movements, practice the instruments, learn the language and genuinely submerge themselves into the community will be the ones who fully understand the culture surrounding Capoeira.

It is strange that our supposedly multicultural and diverse nation turned its back on the da Silvas, but their community and cultural appreciators will be here waiting for them when they return.

What's a gluten-free food lover to do?

Hannah Griffin
Staff Contributor

Being gluten-free can feel like a curse. There is the persistent feeling of being an inconvenience when eating out, or going to people's places for dinner. Not to mention the shame of bringing vodka and Coke through the door of a kegger — on St. Patty's Day no less. And let's not forget the misery of having to tell the server at the Ardmore, "No toast, thanks," when she asks whether I would like my Lumberjack Breakfast accompanied by two delicious buttery pieces of white or whole wheat bread.

Despite this recently bestowed curse, I refuse to compromise my culinary enjoyment by eating spelt all day. While consoling myself with still permissible favourites of sushi and ice cream, I began to investigate the best ways to stay content and well fed in Halifax. So whether you have a gluten or wheat allergy, are celiac or are just not down with flour, read on to learn about the best gluten-free chow in town.

First stop: Superstore. Some of the best bets here are from the Glutino and Enjoy Life lines, including apple-cinnamon and chocolate-flavoured granola bars. If you heat the chocolate ones up in the microwave, they taste just like a brownie. Glutino also makes a couple different kinds of bread, including flax bread, plain rice flour bread, and my personal favourite: cheese bread. Keep in mind that this bread tastes like a dry sponge until toasted, and then it takes on a chewy and much improved texture.

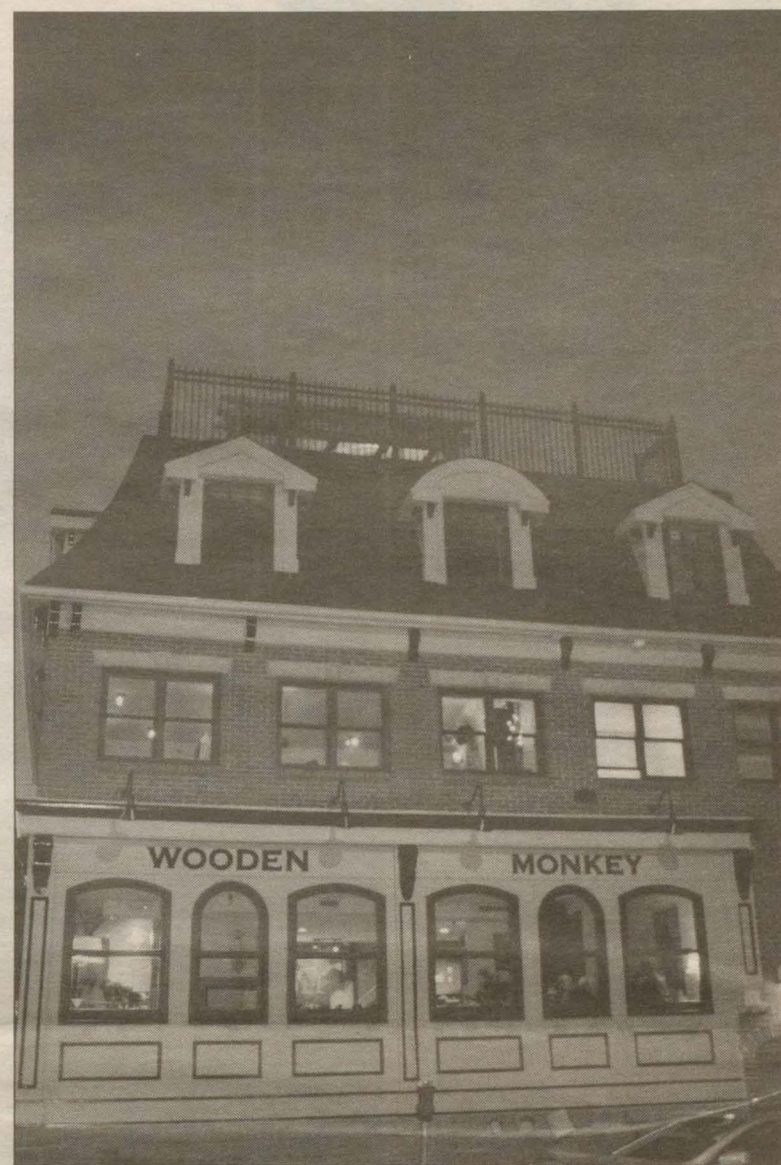
The Enjoy Life Cinnamon Crunch granola, filled with raisins, is definitely a good buy. Steer clear of the prepackaged pizza; I excitedly tried to nurse a hangover with one two weeks ago and the soggy consistency made it much, much worse.

Next stop: Pete's Frootique (1515 Dresden Row). Pete's offers a very good selection of gluten-free eats. At the very back of the store sits a small, shelved section bursting with delicious and easily digested goodies. These include sun dried tomato and oregano crackers, almond and cranberry-orange biscotti, three kinds of rice flour pasta, apple and cinnamon cereal, Red Mill pizza crust and glazed cashew granola.

The frozen section houses an array of breads, sesame and poppyseed bagels, as well as microwaveable pad Thai and chicken Alfredo dinners. At the deli counter you can ask for fresh rice bread — a definite step up from the frozen Glutino loaves.

However delicious the options are at both these grocery stores, the reality is that most students can't shell out close to \$6 for a loaf of bread, or \$5 for a small package of granola. So what's the alternative for the cash-strapped gluten-free student? Baking!

The best place to find gluten-free recipes is on the Internet. Although there are lots of sites out there, the best one I have come across is Karina's Kitchen (glutenfreegoddess.blogspot.com). This website is packed with hundreds of great recipes, including tips to make your own bread. The gluten-free baker will want to stock up on sorghum, millet and rice flours to make some of Karina's



The Wooden Monkey's gluten-free beer and rice bowls are a big hit. | Photo by Hannah Griffin

tried and true breads. As well as recipes for the everyday staples and meal ideas, there are also those for deserts and an entire section featuring alternatives to gluten-packed holiday foods. One highlight is the maple-roasted acorn squash and cornbread stuffing, adorned with curried apple and cranberries.

When it comes to dining out, there are a surprisingly large array of restaurant options in Halifax that cater to the gluten-free, including Morris East, The Wooden Monkey, Heartwood Café and Jane's on the Common.

Morris East (5212 Morris St.) offers eight delicious gourmet pizzas available on crispy gluten-free crust, topped with unique ingredients including caramelized onions, spicy banana peppers, blue cheese and pork loin. They also offer a handful of scrumptious salads. The grilled vegetable and goat cheese pizza on rice flour crust was so good that I would order it even if I could eat wheat. They also make an amazing flourless chocolate cake, rich and full of dark chocolate flavour.

The Wooden Monkey (1707 Grafton St.) also offers a large range of options — nachos to pizza. The gluten-free pizza crust isn't quite as crispy as Morris East, but the rice bowl with brown rice, scallions, almonds, tofu and sesame oil is filling and the vegetables are fresh. For dessert, they carry Big Life's chewy gluten-free brownies. Big plus: they serve gluten-free beer!

Heartwood Café (6250 Quinpool Rd.) has 13 gluten-free options among the 25 dishes on the menu. Unfortunately they don't offer rice flour pizza crust, but they definitely make up for it with their Heartwood Bowls. You can choose either brown rice or rice vermicelli and then create your own bowl of steamed veggies, tofu and sprouts topped with spicy peanut, coconut, miso-tahini or tomato sauce.

For the brunch lover, Jane's on the Common (2394 Robie St.) eliminates the toast problem by serving a jazzed up take on the traditional diner breakfast, accompanied by thick slices of sourdough toast. Eggs Benedict is served on a sweet-potato biscuit. They also offer a char-broiled beef burger on a gluten-free bun.

Despite good restaurant options, the problem arises of what to do at 2 a.m. when all your gluten tolerant friends are scarfing slices at Pizza Corner. Look no further than Rocky's barbecue stand, located in the alcove just outside Willy's, where Rocky serves up some of the best meat on a stick in town.

So as you can see, being gluten-free in Halifax isn't always the curse it might seem. Sure, sometimes I still get a bit mournful when I think of some of my favourite wheat-filled foods (Kraft Dinner, that means you), but then I turn to daydreams of Morris East's prosciutto, blue cheese and arugula pizza, and everything is all right again.

Mr. Malla goes to Halifax

Fairy tales, End Times and New Jack Swing

Vanessa Lent
Arts Contributor

Last Friday afternoon, a dozen excited people sat in room 1198 of the McCain building awaiting the arrival of Pasha Malla. In my four years of attending the English department's Colloquium Series I've never made it more than a few minutes early. I usually showed up, along with everyone else, tiptoeing past bookbags and winter jackets to a seat as a nervous moderator started the class. Not this time. The room was only half-full, but butts were in seats an unprecedented 15 minutes early for what turned out to be one of the most original and challenging talks in years.

Malla is – as a friend commented last week when I told her he'd be giving a talk – "a huge deal right now." Originally from St. John's, he's a regular contributor to *McSweeney's* and has been published in *The Walrus*, *Esquire*, *Nerve* and *Salon*. Along with being long-listed for the Giller Prize and short-listed for the Commonwealth Prize, he's also a bona fide winner, snagging the Trillium Book Award and the Danuta Gleed Literary Award for his short story collection *The Withdrawal Method* and an Arthur Ellis

award (given by the Crime Writers of Canada for the best works of crime or mystery) for his short story "Filmsong."

Add that all up and you get a writer with a significant quota of peer respect, an impressive amount of cold, hard cash, and a little statuette of a hanging man who dances when you pull a string. Arthur Ellis is, after all, a pseudonym for Canada's official hangman.

Fitting, then, that instead of the usual lecture style of the Friday afternoon Colloquium Series, Malla would instead choose to open up the format to a dialogue. He asked for an audience volunteer to read part of a conversation between himself and writer Sheri Heti, encouraging members of the audience to interject whenever they liked. The topic loosely circled the tenuous lines we tend to draw between fantasy and realism in literature. What is the value and how do we value non-realist texts? Who decides how the terms fantasy, fable, magic realism, fairy tale, myth, and sci-fi are variously assigned to our literature? How do we gauge the value of a fantasy that seems to have few reference points to our contemporary world, or few that seem decipherable (think Da-

vid Lynch's *Eraserhead*) against fantasy that seems to be thinly-veiled allegory (think any episode of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*)? Where does the impulse to always try to pull literature to a reference point come from? Why can't stories, as Malla asked us, just be stories?

By the end of this dialogue, we had covered the under-ratedness of New Jack Swing, the Disneyfication of everything sacred in childhood, Fox's innovative use of three-act structuring in "The Simpsons," Y2K (what were those big techno-Armageddon fears about again?), the omnipresence of Coca-Cola as a mythic trope, second- versus third-wave feminism, and how to scare the bejesus out of children (answer: German fairy tales and Edward Scissorhands).

No agreement on or clarity about the questions originally posed was reached, of course, but the value of a dialogue is always located in the process of the thing. Pasha Malla left us, wine glasses in hand, with a satisfying amount of questions to puzzle over in the old brain box.

Watch for Malla's first novel *People Park*, to be published by House of Anansi in 2010.

Feathers and chains

Grand Bam plus Masq equals sexy

Jorah Kai Wood
Staff Contributor

In Halifax, where the masses of pub and bar goers seem to enjoy Top 40 spots, the alternative nightlife tends not to be in the cavernous cabaret bars, but rather in intimate corners around the city.

This Saturday, there will be a plethora of events to choose from in Halifax, but my picks for the night involve feathers and whips.

Deanne Pye, organizer of Pony Land Productions, is presenting *A Glam Affair: The Grand Bam Bam*. It's their first production, and they have been planning the event since May.

"Our goal for this show is to bring glam rock back to Halifax."

Their production is a one-off, but they are hoping to host many future events, with the next one potentially in the early spring.

The event, which asks attendees to come in costume, entices patrons with "long legs and furious circus power," sequins and feathers, go-go boots and "boom a lang double dare in the cock rock city."

The event features various performances that Deanne is excited about, including drag queens and kings, burlesque, dance and "other surprises I don't want to give away. You have to come and see for yourself!"

The performers are from across the city's artistic communities, including the Halifax Burlesque Society, Pink Velvet Burlesque, some of the guests of this year's Montreal Burlesque Festival and some newcomers to the Halifax stage.



Stock Photo

A live band will play songs paying tribute to the pantheon of glam rock heroes including Bowie, Iggy and T. Rex.

The event starts at 10 p.m. and finishes around midnight. It's at The Company House, a gorgeous, cozy venue on Gottingen Street. Organizers are expecting the event to fill early, so arrive on time if you want to be a part of the Grand Bam Bam.

If submission, domination, whips and chains are more your bag, you need to check out monthly event Masq's Fetish themed affair the same night at Club 1668 on Lower Water Street.

Organizer SandE Jordan has been promoting monthly Masq events for two years in Halifax, continuing a legacy of darker, industrial-themed parties such as Shadowplay and Pye's

Staircase – events that have sheltered the darker crowd for the last decade.

There will be a dungeon set up for kinky play, belly dance performances by Monique Ryan and Solmaz Asheri, and fetish performances by MisRE, Careotica Lovicious and other guests. DJ Bludston and Freedom Danish are set to provide music. Doors open at 10 and the event runs until 2 a.m.

If you think you might have a kinky bone in your body, you are invited to witness the performances and then try the dungeon out for yourself.

Catch Grand Bam at The Company House, 2202 Gottingen St. on Saturday Nov. 21, and Fetish Masq at Club 1668, 1668 Lower Water St.

Be Well Sushi

Nick Laugher
Staff Contributor

Grade: B+

Soft, ambient lighting and carefully hung knick-knacks line the walls of Be Well on Quinpool Road. The atmosphere is cozy and inviting, and feels more like the living room of your well-to-do aunt than that of a café.

Be Well is a newcomer to Quinpool, filling the empty sushi spot that has plagued the road for countless years. And they sling the traditional coffee and tea fare to boot. The general vibe of Be Well, from the staff right down to the walls, is literally about being well. The staff is very personable and helpful in a way that's human – there aren't any pushy salespeople

or robotic, burnt out wait staff at Be Well.

The café offers sushi options from dragon rolls to shrimp and salmon nigiri, as well as more interesting menu items, such as the puzzling "sushi pizza."

While the sushi is delicious, there's not really much of a selection on the menu; there are only four sushi combo choices despite the variety of sushi they offer. For the price you're paying for a sushi combo – \$11.25 – you'd expect a lot more sushi to be littering your plate, which also comes with a small ambiguous salad and a bowl of miso soup.

The Be Well is a perfect place to bring a French existentialist novel, relax and have a coffee, but if they want to compete in the breakneck world of Halifax sushi, they'd better step up their game.

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Sports

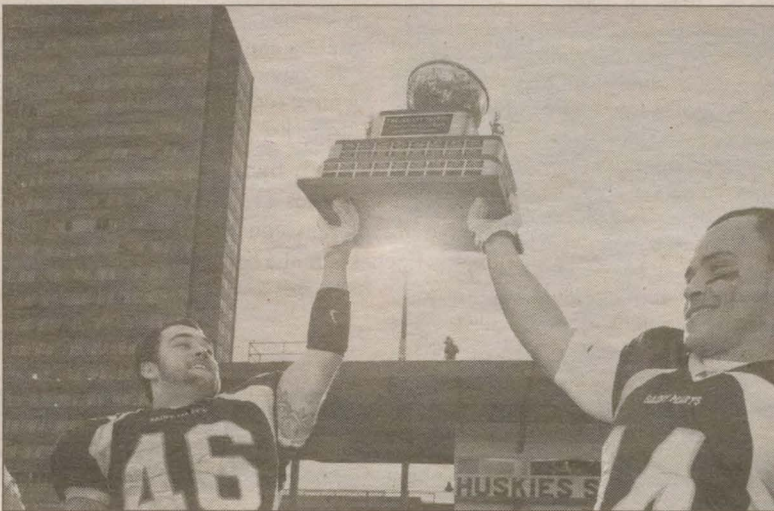
Sports

Gazette Sports covers athletic events and topics relevant to Dalhousie. E-mail Joel at sports@dalgazette.com to contribute



Joel Tichinoff **Sports Editor**
sports@dalgazette.com

HUSKIES WIN LONEY CUP



Ryan King and Carl Hardwick hoist the Loney Cup after a 31-22 victory over St. Francis Xavier. | Photo by John Nilven

BEAT THE KIPPER Questions:

1. Who is the oldest boxer to be crowned Heavyweight Champion of the World?
2. Who has the most Stanley Cup rings of all time?
3. Who is the highest scoring Dalhousie men's soccer player of all time?

ANSWERS:
1. George Foreman at age 45 defeated Michael Moore on Nov. 5, 1994.
2. Jean Beliveau with 17 rings (10 as a player and seven as an executive).
3. Jeff Hibberts with 47 goals (1995-1996, 1998-2000).

MEET THE TIGERS!

BEVAN HALEY, WOMEN'S SWIMMING
Stroke: Butterfly/IM
Hometown: Wolfville, NS
Degree/Major: Psychology
Favourite Class: Climate Change
Favourite Grawood menu item: Nachos
Favourite pump-up song: Destination Unknown
Favourite sports hero: Ian Thorpe

SIMON FARINE, MEN'S BASKETBALL, #4
Position: Guard
Hometown: Toronto, ON
Degree/Major: Management
Favourite Class: History of Rock and Roll
Favourite Grawood menu item: Buffalo chicken wrap
Favourite pump-up song: All That You Are
Favourite sports hero: Steve Nash



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20
Women's Hockey vs. Concordia, 9pm (Exh)
Men's Hockey vs. ACA, 7pm*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
Swimming AUS Invitational, 9am/4pm*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22
Swimming AUS Invitational, 9am/3pm*
Women's Hockey vs. McGill, 12pm (Exh)
Basketball vs. StFX, W 2pm/M 4pm

*Visit www.athletics.dal.ca/tigers to view the webcast. Admission is free for Dal students with ID



WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA

Dalhousie's defence devastated in loss to McGill

Alex Calvert
Staff Contributor

When the Dalhousie Tigers played McGill in the Eastern Canadian Championship in 2008, the Tigers were down a try before they scored in the very last minutes to win 14-12. In 2009, the Tigers weren't so lucky and they were the ones on the short end of a loss to McGill that was decided in the final minutes on Nov. 14.

The teams played in the cold and wind in the Eastern Canadian Championship, and there were many dropped balls, which made for exciting plays and open field tackles. The Tigers had many interceptions that led to long runs downfield. These tired the McGill defence.

John Hewitt stepped up and surprised the Redmen by seeing the vulnerable position they were in and ran 50 yards. That interception eventually led to a try, and helped the Tigers position themselves for the win. By halftime, the score was a hard fought 12-12.

"We knew it was going to a tight game," said Head Coach Matthew Gibbon. "We knew it was going to be close and everyone was in pretty good spirits at halftime. Our defence was getting to where it needed to be."

McGill tried to punch holes in the defence by passing the ball out to the backs and crashing close to the scrum, but Dal held strong and surrendered few opportunities to the talented Redmen backs.

Dalhousie scored in the second half to make it 17-12 on a try from team



| Photo by Andrew McCurdy

point-leader and hooker Ewan Wilson. However Dal's lead would not last. Strong as the Tigers were on the field, it was to no avail last Saturday. McGill completed an impossible march down the field on one of the few defensive breakdowns by the Tigers.

Along with an unbelievable conversion from the McGill kicker, the Redmen made the score 19-17. That was the end of the season for the Tigers. But the season is not without perks. "This was the very first game of the sea-

son that we played as a team," said captain Paul Forrest. The match marked Dalhousie Rugby's first and only loss in the last two years, and, while it is disappointing for everyone, fans and players alike can look forward to lots of great rugby from Dalhousie and McGill for years to come.

The Dalhousie Men's B-side defeated McGill's B-side to claim the Division II Eastern Canada Title. Up by a score 16-0 at halftime, the Redmen fought back and eroded Dal's lead in the second half, resulting a 23-21 final in favour of the Tigers.

TIGERS SPORTS BRIEFS

Joel Tichinoff | Sports Editor

Men's basketball brings down Seahawks at home

Dal and Memorial squared off four times over the weekend with the men's and women's teams meeting in two games each. The Seahawks edged the Dal women by five points in a 68-63 heartbreaker. Dal guard Rachael Harrison, a fourth-year recreation management major from Hamilton, led the Tigers with 14 points.

The women's loss - their third straight - was avenged by Dal men's forward Jason Wang and guard Simon Farine who scored 17 and 21 points respectively in an 83-62 home-opener win against Memorial's men.

Highly touted off-season addition, six-foot-nine-inches forward Jason Schow had 11 points in the victory. Dal's men remain undefeated and are rated fifth in national standings. They will face their first real test on Nov. 22 against visiting 2008 AUS Conference MVP Christian Upshaw and the X-men.

Tigers contend at Cross Country Nationals

Edmonton-native Caroline Schlosser

finished 12th out of 131 in the women's X-C Finals with a time of 17:37.9 and 42 seconds behind gold medal winner Megan Brown of the University of Toronto. Dal's other women finished 32nd (Cara Groves), 75th (Stephanie Bennett), 92nd (Celia Peters), 95th (Erin Ready), 111th (Gwendolyn Muir) and 119th (Rebecca Reeves).

Guelph's women won overall followed by Toronto and McMaster. Dalhousie finished 13th in women's team rankings. Dalhousie's men also placed 13th in team rankings with the Guelph, Windsor and St. Francis Xavier teams taking the top honour in overall points. Dal pharmacy student Russell Christie finished seventh out of 130 in the men's race, earning himself a place on the 2009 All-Canadian team. Host Queen's University finished 10th in women's rankings and seventh in men's.

Volleyball shellacs UNB 3-0, U de M 3-1

Victoria, B.C.'s Devon Parkinson had 11 kills for Dal and teammate Russ Lawrence of Calgary had 29 assists

versus New Brunswick on Nov. 14. Dal swept the Varsity Reds 25-15, 25-17 and 25-12 at home on the Dalplex hardtop. The Dal women's volleyball hosted the Universite de Moncton following the men's game and defeated the Aigles-Bleues three games to one. Calgary's Raeesa Lalani had 14 kills and was named player of the game for Dal.

Defending men's hockey champs pulverize Tigers

Dal followed up a 7-4 win over the University of Prince Edward Island with a 7-1 loss to the University of New Brunswick (UNB) over the weekend. UNB remains undefeated with a +42 goal differential against Atlantic teams. Dal currently ranks seventh out of eight in the Atlantic Conference with a 2-6-2 record. The AUS is arguably the toughest league in Canadian varsity hockey with UNB (first), Saint Mary's (fourth) and StFX (eighth) all highly ranked at the national level. The women's hockey team is in somewhat better shape sitting in third place in the Atlantic with a 5-2-0 record.



THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

“LIVING WILLS” FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS?

George Roter
Co-CEO, Engineers Without Borders

If some banks are “too big to fail” and need living wills, then maybe development projects are “too important to fail the people they’re supposed to benefit” and could also benefit from this requirement.

The basic premise around living wills for banks is simple – some financial institutions were so large and so complex that managers and regulators found it hard to come up with solutions on the fly to cope with their collapse. The concept is that by thinking about this in advance, having a plan, a more orderly and less painful shutdown of these banks could happen in the event of another financial crisis.

But another benefit of living wills, at least for banks, has emerged from some of the dissenting views. They might effectively slow down the growth of these institutions by forcing them to think more about dissolution and also to have more streamlined, less complex operations (lest they are unable to write sufficiently accurate living wills).

Effectively, living wills could force broad-based attitudinal changes within banks.

And then I thought about development projects. What if they had to develop plans, as part of every project proposal, to anticipate possible modes of failure (or at least a process for judging failure) and develop adaptive strategies for either changing course or ending the project altogether.

Let me take a semi-hypothetical example based in some experience. Suppose a development project was outlined to drill boreholes and install 1,000 water pumps across rural Zambia over 5 years. The typical way that this project would be

managed would be to start installing these pumps, probably 200 per year, and encourage local management and operation by volunteer water committees. Success is generally determined on the basis of whether the original work plan is being followed (pumps in the ground, committees set up). Progress on this plan continues afoot through to the end of Year 5 when a final evaluation is completed. Perhaps there was also an interim evaluation in Year 3.

Now consider this project with a living will. At the end of each year, the entire project would need to be considered. Is it alive or dead? Are the pumps we installed at the beginning of the year still functioning? What about the volunteer committees? Is the average cost what we expected? All of the modes of failure, or how to figure out new modes of failure, would be right there in the original project proposal. And this would be evaluated at the end of each year. Depending on the answers, different plans would be followed, with an understanding that parts of the project could be changed drastically or killed off.

When I write this out, it sounds intuitive. Why the concept of a living will ... isn't that just common sense? Well, in our experience it's not how development projects are managed. So, what about calling this adaptive approach for development projects as “living wills”. Maybe this could be just the requirement needed to bring about broad-based attitudinal changes that will allow projects to be more flexible and ultimately effective.

And the bonus: If living wills for development work, it could represent the first useful innovation to come out of the financial services industry in the past few years!

THANKS TO THE REGISTRAR

Bridget Robinson
VP Academic, DSEUS

A few weeks ago, engineering students learned that none of their final exams would be written on Sexton Campus. Many students were upset about this change and contacted the Registrar's Office to voice their displeasure. The DSEUS sent a memo to the Registrar's Office outlining a number of reasons to move the exams to the Sexton Campus.

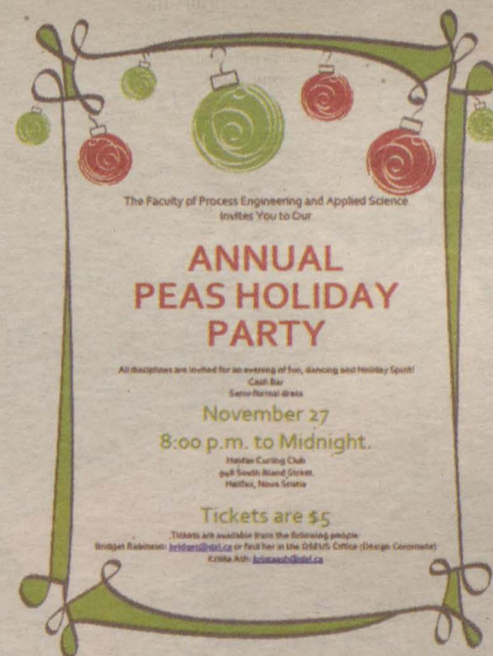
The Registrar's Office has heard the engineering students' complaints and has made accommodations for engineering students. All 4000-level and some 3000-level engineering exams will be written in the Sexton Gymnasium. It was not possible to move all exams to Sexton Campus because the fire capacity of the Sexton Gymnasium has decreased since last year, and the tiered classrooms at Sexton Campus are unsuitable rooms in which to write exams.

All engineering exams written on Studley Campus will be held in the McInnes

Room (second floor of the Student Union Building) or the Studley Gymnasium. Students should consult the exam schedule on the Registrar's Office website to check where the locations of their exams (<http://www.registrar.dal.ca/exam/exams.php>).

Parking passes for Sexton Campus will be valid on Studley Campus during the exam period, and there are several Metro Transit routes (1, 9, 10, 14 and 17) that travel between the two campuses. Each student registered in one or more classes with exams on the Studley Campus will receive a separate e-mail from the Registrar's Office which will include a map of the Studley Campus denoting the location of the Student Union Building (McInnes Room), the Studley Gym, as well as nearby parking.

On behalf of the engineering students, the DSEUS would like to thank the Registrar's Office for its timely response to the engineering students' request.



Thursday November 19 • Recreational Society Night with 'The Fairly Fishy Trio'
Friday November 20 • Trivia
Thursday November 26 • 100 Days to Iron Ring with 'Holdin' Up Grants'
Friday November 27 • Trivia

Note: The T-Room won Best Trivia and 2nd Best Student Hang Out at the Coast Awards!



Every Friday Afternoon • EngiBEERing in the Design Commons Wear a Sweater Vest for a Free Beer! Apparel • Belt Buckles (Bronze, Silver and Gold Toned), Key Chains and T-Shirts

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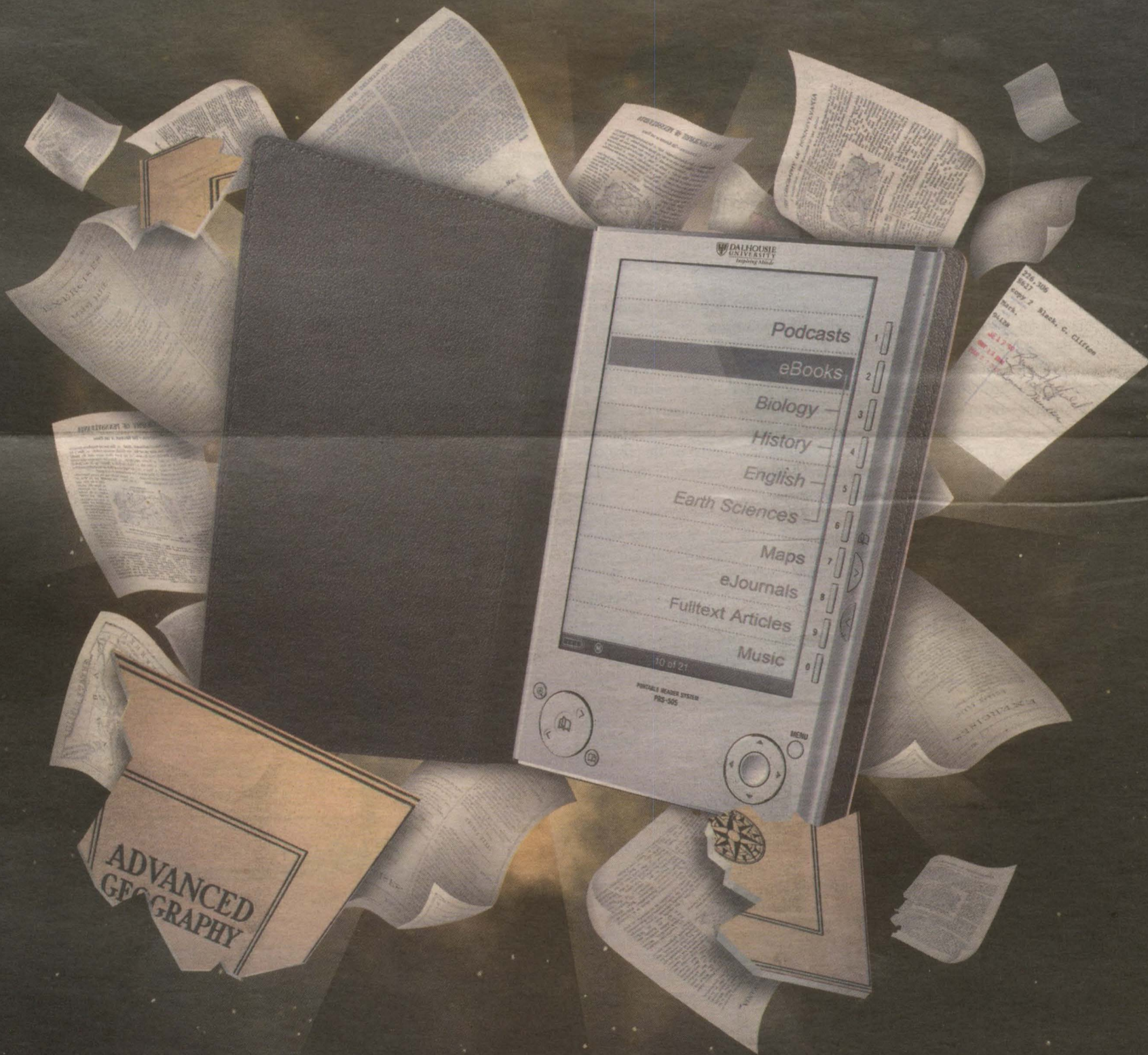
Important Dates:

- October 27 - December 31: Round II

Things to Remember:

- If you have found a job using your own search and not the co-op office, you need to inform the co-op office of this so you are no longer released on PlacePro.
- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: <http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca>

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