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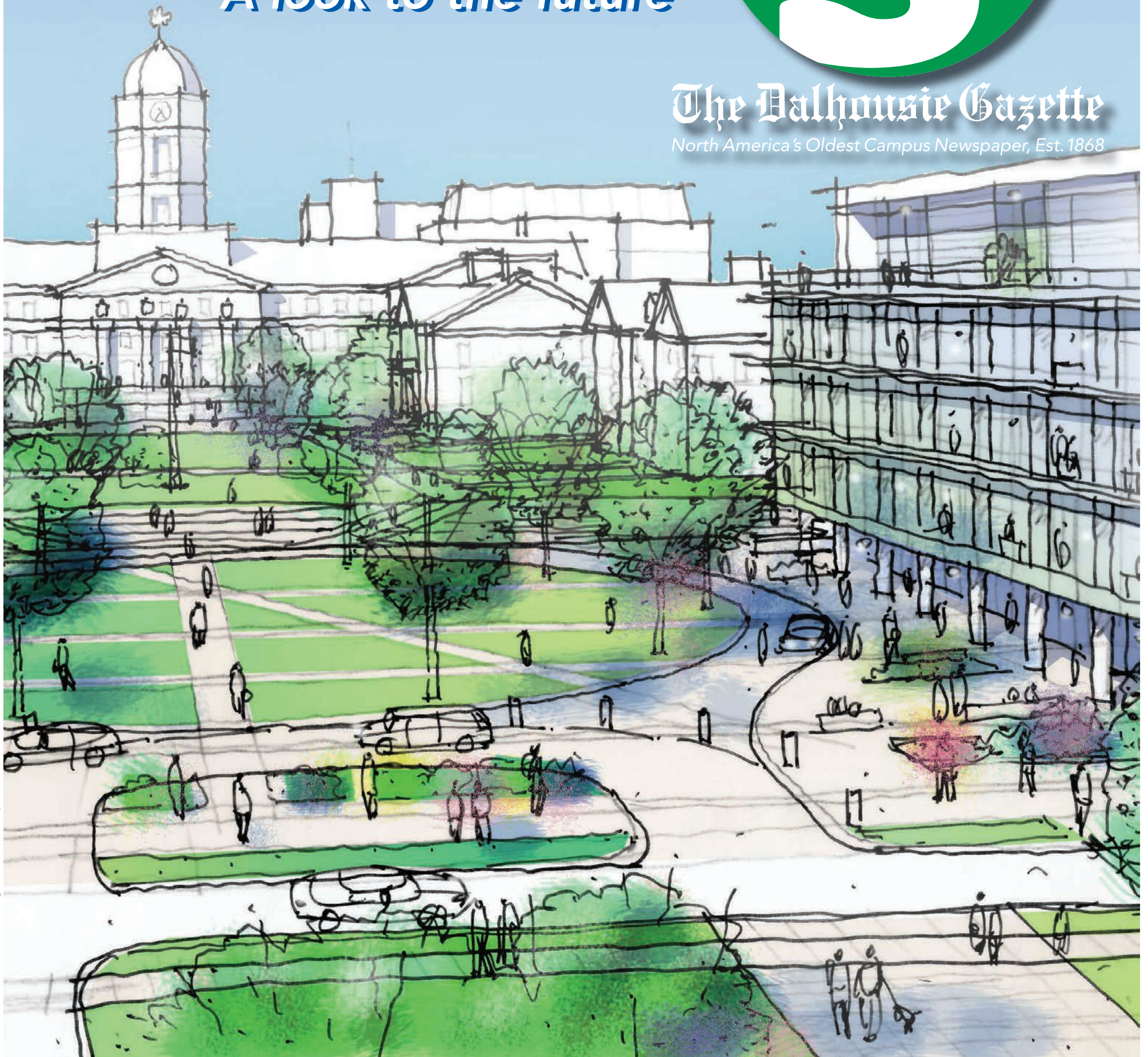
CAMPUS MASTER PLAN

A look to the future



The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868



Dalhousie Master Plan image via IBI Group

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The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

staff

Katrina Pyne, Editor-in-Chief
editor@dalgazette.com

Torey Ellis, Copy Editor
copy@dalgazette.com

Daniel Boltinsky, News Editor
Calum Agnew, Asst. News Editor
news@dalgazette.com

Sam Elmsley, Opinions Editor
opinions@dalgazette.com

Andrew Mills, Arts Editor
Meagan Deuling, Asst. Arts Editor
arts@dalgazette.com

Ian Froese, Sports Editor
Graeme Benjamin, Asst. Sports Editor
sports@dalgazette.com

Chris Parent, Photo Editor
photo@dalgazette.com

Ethan Calof, Online Editor
Joelline Girouard, Asst. Online Editor
online@dalgazette.com

Ben Gallagher, Other Editor
theothergazette@dalgazette.com

Jonathan Rotsztain, Art Director
design@dalgazette.com

Paul Balite, Financial Manager
business@dalgazette.com

Aaron Merchant, Business Manager
advertising@dalgazette.com

Isaac Green, Advertising Manager
advertising@dalgazette.com

contact us

www.dalgazette.com
The SUB, Room 312
6136 University Avenue
Halifax NS, B3H 4J2

advertising



Isaac Green
Advertising Manager
902 401 9666
advertising@dalgazette.com

the fine print

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868. 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 debates on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. Views expressed in the letters to the editor, Overheard 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 Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff.

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DSU WEEKLY DISPATCH

Feeling the February lull? We got a homecooked recipe of events, creativity, and opportunity to help you make it through.

BUILD YOUR OWN SUB Its your space, here's your chance to make it what you want. We have brainstorm sessions Monday and Tuesday next week to guide renovations for The Grawood, society space, and our first floor café/lounge space. If that ain't enough there's going to be mass amounts of lego too, and free food (you can make your own sub in more ways than one!)

MORE TREADMILLS? BETTER STUDIO SPACE? Dal is remaking our fitness facilities. There's three chances to give your input Feb 12, 13 and 14

FEBRUARY EVENTS INCLUDE puppy protests, Oval ice skating, Caribbean culture jams, a great Valentines Day concert with Craig Cardiff, and lots more. And, don't forget TEDx tickets go on sale February 11th. Grab them online or through the DSU InfoDesk before they sell out.

DSU ELECTIONS Run, run, run, run, run! Whether for your faculty society or for the DSU Exec, the journey begins Feb 18th.

Get details on all of the above at DSU.ca or www.Facebook.com/DalStudentUnion

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DalGazette.com Website Top 5

- 1) 2013 Most Eligible Tigers—Paula Sanderson, Sports
- 2) What I dig about you—Monica Mutale, Sports
- 3) Ben's Ten: Rowdiest Rivalries—Benjamin Blum, Sports
- 4) Tigers unite with intellectually disabled youth
Stephen Campbell, Sports
- 5) Love in the time of financial drama—Katherine McKenna, News

CONTRIBUTORS' MEETINGS

Mondays 5:30pm, Rm 312, The SUB



—Jessica Perrie Feb 2013

editorial

from
the editor

Email Katrina at
editor@dalgazette.com

Katrina Pyne Editor-in-Chief



The woes of indecisiveness

...And the indeterminate future

Katrina Pyne
Editor-in-chief

When it comes to the future, I see two streams of action: indecisiveness and investment.

But what do those terms mean, exactly? We are told to invest in our futures.

"Have a stake in your own lives!" guidance counselors shout at us. Investment is the way to assure us that there is something to meet us when we get there—the future, that is.

Invest time in a coffee-fetching part-time gig now and soon you'll be the newly hired full-timer. Invest in your studies now and you'll come out with a scholarship. Invest an hour each day to work out and you'll live to be a hundred. It's all that extra-mile stuff come back to haunt us.

Hell, invest in a pair of hundred-dollar pants now and you'll be laughing as you rock those skinny jeans well into your 70s.

Invest.

But that's not how I feel most of the time. I'm one for the indecisiveness camp. You know the feeling.

I can't secure a house to live in next year because I won't commit to signing a year-long lease.

I can't get the schnauzer puppy I've always wanted because I wouldn't be able to travel if the opportunity comes up.

I don't bother starting a garden because I'm almost positive those poor petunias wouldn't follow me to my unorthodox future.



Indecisive or invested—which camp are you? ••• Photo by by Dave Hoefler via flickr

Indecisiveness.

It seems to me like those who have the ability to turn indecisive situations into opportunities for investment have a one-up on the rest of us. I used to tease my boyfriend for buying expensive L.L. Bean jackets. He'd look at me and say, "Oh, you've got it wrong. It's an investment! This is going to last me my whole life!"

Was he right to invest in every purchase he made? Is it wrong that every year I return to the Sally Ann to spend my hard-earned cash on new jackets and boots, knowing full well that both are already on their last leg? My in-the-moment action leaves me feeling as though I've found great bargains, but is that the case?


You can see it now, the two camps

of indecisiveness and investment.

Perhaps investment is for the things we are the most sure about, the things we are the most passionate about. But it doesn't always have to be the obvious stuff, like a job or a workout.

Invest time in long-distance relationships, not just the "special someones." Invest in your grandparents, your brothers or sisters, old friends or teachers—call them. Give them those minutes in your day. Build those relationships now.

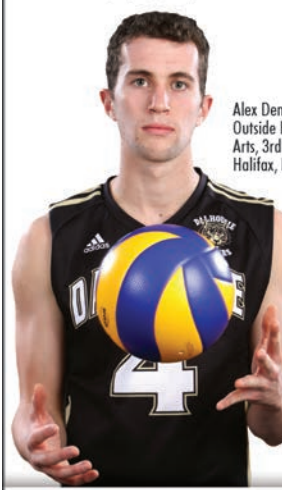
Even here at the *Gazette* we have a wavering vision of what our future will look like. It's hard to invest money in a paper whose revenue depends on the ever-declining advertising climate.




CATCH THE ACTION!

Admission is FREE for Dal students with ID


DATE	EVENT	TIME	LOCATION
FEBRUARY 15	2013 Subway AUS Men's Volleyball Championship vs UNB	7pm	Dalplex
FEBRUARY 16	Tigers Track Classic	12pm	Dalplex
FEBRUARY 17	Tigers Track Classic	10am	Dalplex



Alex Dempsey
Outside Hitter
Arts, 3rd Year
Halifax, NS



Nabil Moussa
Events - 60m, 300m
Dentistry, 3rd Year
Wolfville, NS



Lesley d'Apollonia
Events - 60m, 300m
Kinesiology, 4th Year
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Daniel Boltinsky News Editor

DISP gets trimmed *PROGRAM TO BE REDUCED, NOT CUT*



Randi Sullivan and Callum Mireault are DISP alumni. ••• Photo by David Munro

Joelline Girouard
Assistant Online Editor

Dalhousie's faculty of science hopes to save \$100,000 by cutting staff in the Dal Integrated Science Program (DISP), leaving students in the program to take regular first-year biology, chemistry and math classes.

The university is facing a \$17.5 million operating budget gap. Some of the decisions regarding budget cuts are falling upon the faculties' shoulders.

According to Chris Moore, the dean of science, current projections place the faculty of science's deficit at \$1.3 million. The faculty must present a balanced budget to the administration.

DISP, which admits approximately 70 students per year, covers a wide range of scientific disciplines in an integrated, small-group setting. It includes field research and an ethics course during students' first term, setting them up for a research project during the second.

Cindy Staicer, director of DISP, says the program is expensive and requires a lot of work to run, but adds that professors benefit from it.

"You get to interact with some of

the brightest science students coming to the university, and you learn a lot from your colleagues."

The research project component of the program is unique to any integrated science programs in the country, says Staicer. It allows students to present their research in a formal scientific conference format, an opportunity most students will not get until their third or fourth year, if at all.

"THE PROGRAM IS EXPENSIVE."

Staicer says the project might be a factor in a larger proportion of the program's students going on to graduate studies than other students.

Nicole Marshall, a recent alumnus of DISP, has been a teaching assistant in the program for the past two years.

She is a fourth-year earth science and oceanography student who plans to pursue a master's degree, and says the range of disciplines she studied in DISP helped her choose an undergrad field.

"It's definitely a passion of mine I

didn't realize I had until I took DISP," she says.

Marshall says doing a research project prepared her for the rest of her degree.

"Now that I'm doing my honours project I can see how that was like a mini honours project in first year, and I was really well-prepared for my honours thesis this year."

George Kitching, a second-year biochemistry student, chose Dal because of DISP. He thinks one of the biggest reasons the program should be saved is the research project.

"That was critical to me. I got a summer job in a lab right after first year, and I was really lucky for that."

Smaller class sizes and easier access to professors are other benefits of the program, he says.

Staicer says small class sizes make the program more versatile.

"Because they're in a small group, you can do a lot of things that you can't do in a big class. You can go on field trips, you can do more hands-on labs, you can interact with your profs more."

She hopes that the trims to the program won't be permanent.

"We would like to go back to the full version if we can find funding." ☹

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GAZETTE AGM

Thurs, Feb. 21
SUB Rm 307, 7:30-10pm

Resume, cover letter and clippings for editorial positions also due by Feb. 21.

Please note, anyone interested in applying for an editorial position must have written five articles this year for the Gazette by that date.

Hope to see you there!

CKDU 88.1
TOP TEN week of Feb. 11

1. Stephen Fearing - Between Hurricanes
2. Hayden - Us Alone
3. The Good Lovelies - Live At Revolution
4. Petra Haden - Goes To The Movies
5. James Gordon - Coyote's Calling
6. Unknown Mortal Orchestra - 11
7. Vinz - The Birth Of Leon Mewars
8. Ben Harper & Charlie Musselwhite
9. Toro Y Moi - Anything In Return
10. Maria Dunn - Piece By Piece

www.ckdu.ca

DALCAD

NSCAD facing budget crisis, possible merge with larger university

Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor

Almost 200 students, staff and faculty marched to Province House to demand funding for the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) on Feb. 6. Without more funding, NSCAD is in danger of losing its autonomy.

"I think the rally went really well," says Sarah Trower, NSCAD student union president.

"We also had students from King's and Dal and faculty and staff come out. We marched from Granville to Province House and delivered our manifesto."

The manifesto, for a "vibrant, strong, and independent NSCAD," was created collectively by students, staff, and faculty. It was voted on and approved by all of their unions.

Its main goal is the autonomy of NSCAD.

Over 100 students, approximately 10 per cent of the total student body, disrupted a NSCAD Board of Governors meeting to present the manifesto.

According to Trower, half of the board members left while the rest stayed and listened. At the time of print, the board has yet to formally recognize the manifesto.

"Now we are focusing our efforts on the government," says Trower, "because they are the body putting pressure on NSCAD and ultimately they're the ones who decide if we're funded adequately or not."

Talks of merging with a larger university began with the 2010 O'Neill report, which was commissioned by the provincial government to assess the economic situation of Nova Scotia's universities. The report called for the merging of NSCAD as well as the Nova Scotia Agricultural College with

Dal, as well as a decrease in provincial funding.

Now, with a deficit of \$1.36 million, the government is telling NSCAD to produce a long-term plan for sustainability by March 31, according to an article by *The Chronicle Herald*.

"Most schools have debt and our debt is not huge compared to that of other schools," says Trower.

"NSCAD is being targeted, similarly to how we feel we would be targeted as part of a larger university, because artists are picked on first. We have been asked to write reports after reports and are in a state of constant crisis."

In 2011, Harold Windsor, a special advisor to the government, suggested eight recommendations for NSCAD. The university agreed to follow his advice in exchange for a one-time \$2.4 million investment.

"NSCAD's financial problems are not sudden, new or a surprise," said Windsor in his report.

"They were evident at least three years ago but persisted and grew. NSCAD today is operating at a loss equal to more than 10 per cent of its annual budget. The situation is not sustainable."

The university has faced years of financial instability. Their debt a year ago was estimated at \$19 million, according to the Windsor report.

"Some people are proposing merging with Dal or SMU," says Aaron Beale, VP (academic and external) for the DSU. Beale says his views do not represent the DSU.

"But they [the government] are still going to throw a bunch of money at it because neither Dal or SMU want to take on the debt of NSCAD. So the government is going to spend that money, it's just whether NSCAD remains autonomous or not."

The debt is largely attributed to



Swamped in debt, NSCAD needs more funding to remain independent. ••• Photo supplied

federal budget cuts in recent years. NSCAD also has \$9 million left to pay for the construction of its waterfront campus.

"They're asking us to sign on to an agreement that basically affiliates or amalgamates us with another university," says Trower.

"They want us to walk blindly into any agreement that comes forward."

NSCAD isn't the only university with an unexpectedly large deficit this coming year. Its deficit is only 13

per cent of the \$17.5 million shortfall facing Dal. But NSCAD relies on the federal government for approximately 60 per cent of its total revenue, according to the Windsor report, compared to the average 30 per cent that other universities receive.

"We need to be properly funded," says Trower. "Right now we are funded less than journalism students, less than theatre students, and less than music students. We need a funding formula that adequately rep-

resents the studio-based education that's offered here at NSCAD."

NSCAD is currently reviewing what a merger would mean with a larger university.

"It's in some ways the most important issue for the university system in the province right now," says Beale. ☹

Canines protest against student debt

11 dogs for \$25 million

Mackenzie Scrimshaw
News Contributor

The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has a new strategy in the battle against student debt: the annual Day of Action march is out, and dogs are in.

Students and a litter of pups took to the streets to raise awareness for student debt in the Walk for Affordable Education at Dal on Feb. 5.

"YOU CAN MAKE A SERIOUS IMPACT."

Canines and their owners gathered for a common cause: to call on the provincial government to implement policies that will reduce student debt. For graduates of Nova Scotia universities, that debt has climbed to about \$35,000 on average.

The organizers estimate that with \$25 million, Nova Scotia could turn 100 per cent of the provincial portion of student loans into up-front, needs-based grants.

Those who joined the event's Facebook's page, "Puppies for \$25 Million! - Dog Walk for Affordable Education!" may have noticed the DSU changed the event's name late Monday evening, removing the 25 that

had originally preceded the word puppies.

In the end, only 11 pooches turned out to the walk.

"There were different numbers at different times—it was really cold," says Aaron Beale, VP (academic and external) of the DSU, of the puppy deficit.

The crowd of university students and their pups gathered outside the Student Union Building (SUB) as Beale, standing on the exterior façade of the university's concrete centerpiece, hoisted an enormous white banner bearing a hand-drawn 25.

Some sported white bandanas on which the same number was written in felt-tipped marker, while others, undoubtedly the luckier of the lot, wore coats.

"The state of education in Nova Scotia is definitely a sad story," says Rebecca Eldridge, a second-year student, who helped with the planning of the protest. "There are a lot of people who want to go to university but can't because they can't afford it."

"What we're calling for is more needs-based grants," says John Hutton, a fourth-year student and one of the event's organizers.

Hutton and the other student organizers are seeking to eliminate the province's Graduate Retention Rebate and the student loan debt cap.

"We think that these are well-intentioned policies, but [they] don't help students when they need it most, which is when they're in their classes," says Hutton.



The dog walk is one of a number of events replacing the Day of Action. ••• Photos by Mackenzie Scrimshaw



He says their plan will not pose any additional costs to the province.

"If you simply just move money around within the Department of Education, you can make a serious impact on students."

The protestors set out from the SUB to Quinpool Road. The frigid temperature, which dipped well into the negatives, sent many home or

back to the university's campus, their dogs in tow.

The rest of the protesters arrived at the office of Howard Epstein, the MLA for Halifax Chebucto, who was not in.

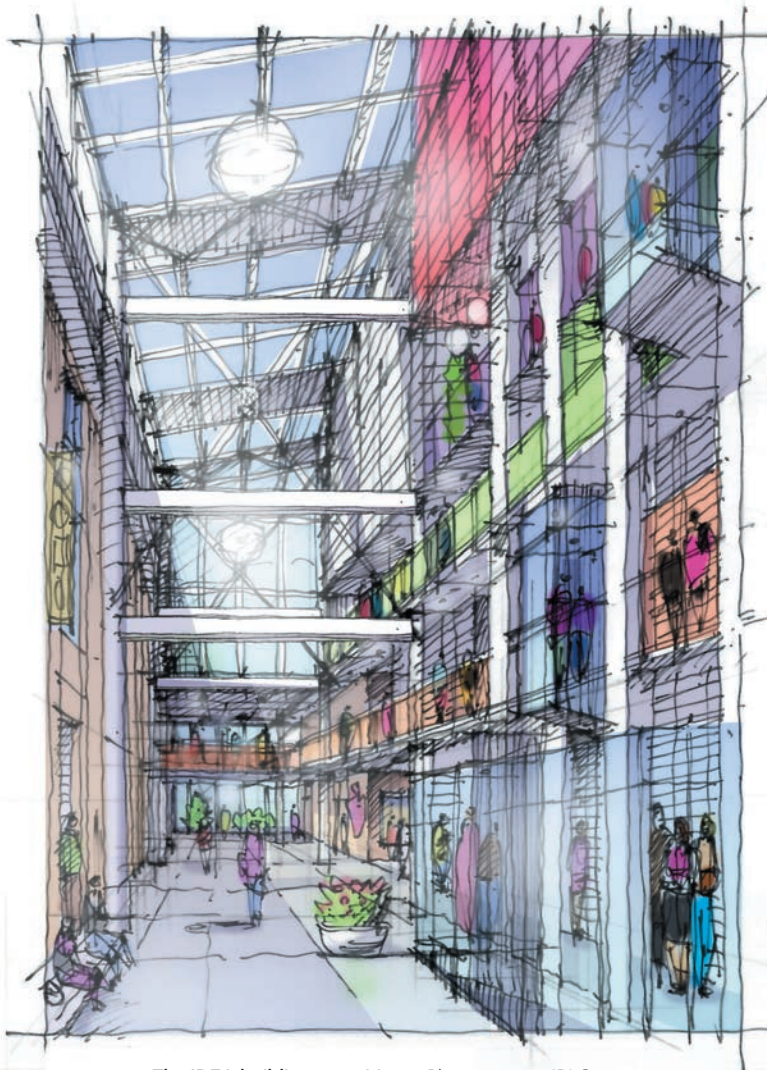
Hutton says the Dal community can expect a series of similar events in coming weeks. Together they will replace the annual Day of Action.

"We're just doing fun things," says Beale, adding that there might be a larger protest in March.

While this year's events are smaller and more numerous, Hutton says their objective remains the same: to lower student debt.

"No one should be denied education simply because they can't afford it." ☹

DALHOUSIE'S MASTER PLAN A DECADE OF EXPANSION



The IDEA building. ••• Master Plan image via IBI Group

Daniel Boltinsky
News Editor

The Dalhousie Master Plan was approved in 2010 and lays out the administration's design for the university during the next decade. The plan includes the construction of new buildings and campus spaces, revival of old ones, building infrastructure, investment into athletic facilities, and much more. Now the plan is three years along, and some projects are coming up sooner than others.

Some upcoming projects cost almost \$50 million, while others, like the campus lighting upgrade, cost less than \$5 million. With precision, the Plan details everything from the distance between trees to be planted on University Avenue, to the administration's general vision of Dal's future.

It's an important document, whether you think its plans are inspired or just serve to siphon cash. There are also projects, such as the \$4.6 million Aquatron Laboratory, that are not discussed in the Plan but that can be found on the Dal website.

All in all, it's not an exaggeration that students will see Dal's own little construction boom in the next few years. Here are five projects you can expect as part of it:

The Dal Ocean Sciences Building

The Dalhousie Ocean Sciences Building will be both the first project completed and one of the most noticeable. It will be finished this May at a cost of \$41.5 million,

The building, in the final stages of construction, is 76,000 square feet and five stories high, and includes office and lab space for the Ocean Tracking Network and the Halifax

Marine Research Institute (HMRI).

Doug Wallace is the Canada Excellence Research Chair in Ocean Science and Technology and the science director of the HMRI. Dal received \$25 million last year from the federal government to support a project Wallace is heading. Wallace and his team of about 40 researchers will be the main tenants of the building.

A container bay will be one of the facility's unique features. This is an area for several 20-foot shipping containers, used as portable labs, that can be transported between the building and sea-bound ships.

"It's a world class showcase for Dal's ocean science capability," says Jim Hanlon, CEO of the HMRI. "Ocean scientists from around the world come to visit Dalhousie and they're kind of disappointed—it doesn't show very well. But this building will be a really good showcase."

LeMarchant Street Mixed Use Building

Dal aims to increase enrollment over the coming years, and as the CBC reported in September, the administration hopes to raise the number of international students by eight per cent. The LeMarchant Street Mixed Use Building is part of this expansion, and will house roughly 300 students when finished, hopefully by spring 2014.

The project's budget is \$48 million, and goes toward seven floors and 165,000 square feet. On the bottom two floors the building will house health and counseling services, a recruitment centre, the International Centre and the Black Student Advising Centre.

The building has already changed the campus landscape. One year

ago, the three-decade-old Memorial Arena was demolished to make way for the residence.

Active Transportation Corridor

The master plan outlines a "four corridor streetscape" that could change University Avenue radically by creating a large 'pedestrian-only zone.'

A forecourt is the privately owned space between a building and the public right-of-way. Under the streetscape plan, the university will focus on a "seamless" aesthetic, which may include outdoor art installations.

Between the forecourt and the existing university green, the plan envisions an "active transportation corridor" that will serve cyclists, pedestrians, in-line skaters, and others who don't want to get hit by a car. Those on wheels will have a three-metre-wide pathway buffered from pedestrians' own five-metre-wide sidewalk.

The university green will stay largely the same with some minor redesigns. The vehicle road will get two parking lanes spanning most of the way between LeMarchant and Robie, with some parking additions around Carleton campus.

When construction could start is uncertain. Administration is currently solidifying a land agreement with the HRM. Upon completion, a University Avenue committee will be set up, consisting of faculty, staff and students.

"I think it will be really important during the spring and summer," says Isaac Sliwowitz, a second-year computer science student. "But I wonder what they'll do with it during the winter."

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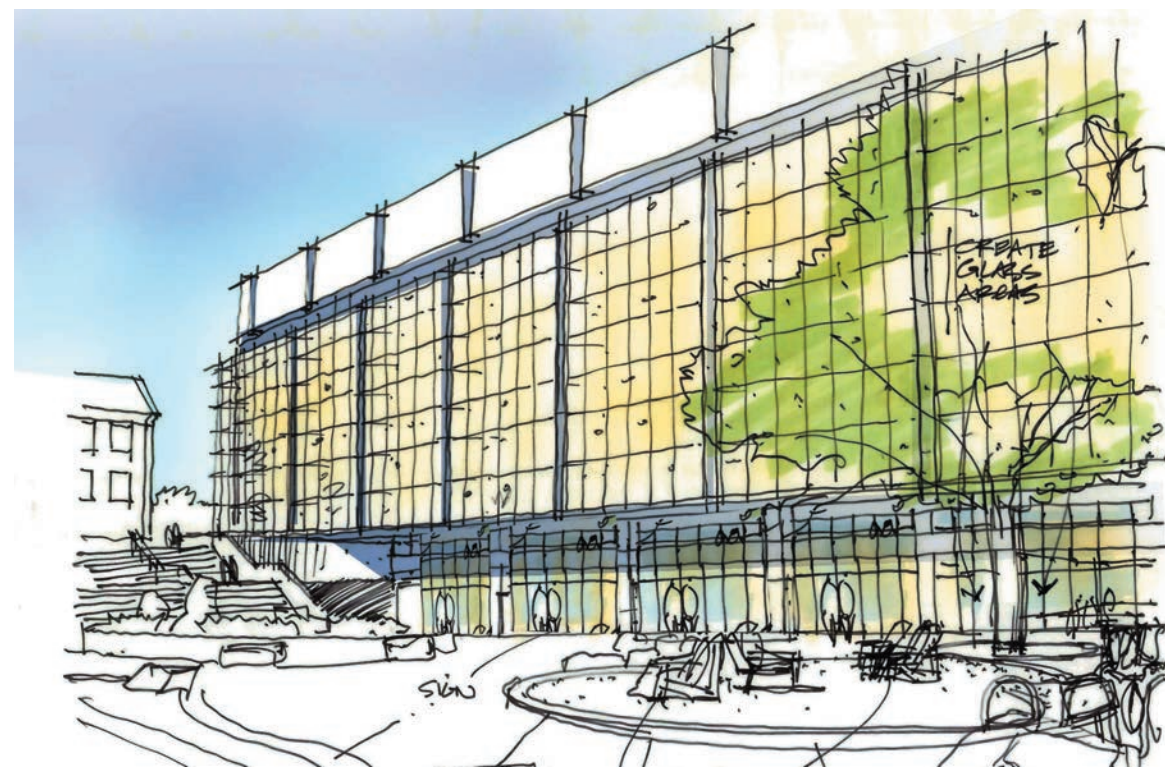
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The Killam may be enclosed in glass. ••• Master Plan image via IBI Group

Killam looking glassy

The university commissioned art-renderings for the area above LeMarchant, like the one on the Gazette's cover, featuring the Killam Memorial Library.

It's brutalist, with something very different about its familiar façade. The concrete face is replaced with glass. According to the Master Plan, "the Killam would be extended along its south and east sides with glass walls replacing its present (and deteriorating) masonry panels, resulting in transparent exposure, solar collection potential, and natural day light penetration."

New buildings on campus, such as the Life Sciences Research Institute completed in 2011, feature architectural glass prominently. With the Killam, the administration will wait until the end of the cement masonry's lifespan, which could be up to ten years, to make the change.

Mary Jane Adams, the director of planning at Dal, says that glass serves a functional purpose. The plan is to construct another small, illuminated glass structure on the corner of Summer Street and University Avenue to light students' walks.

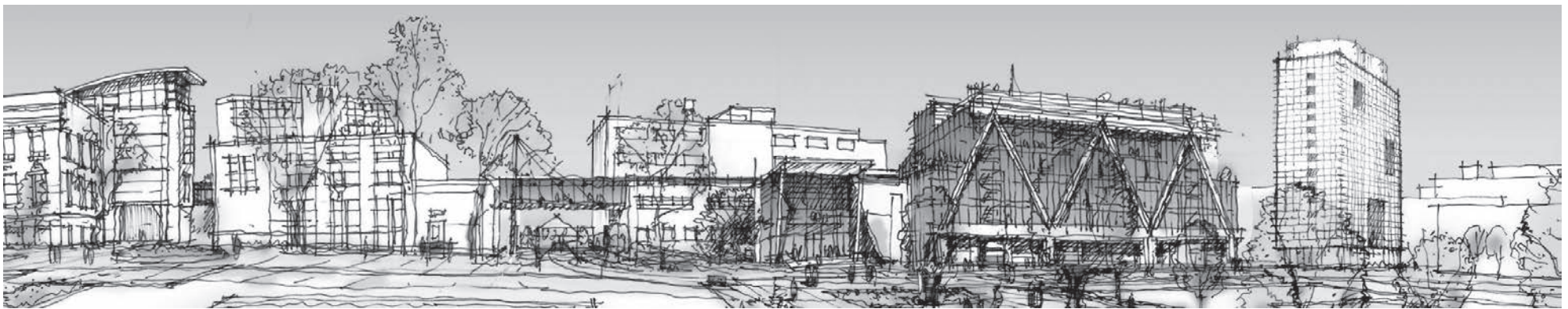
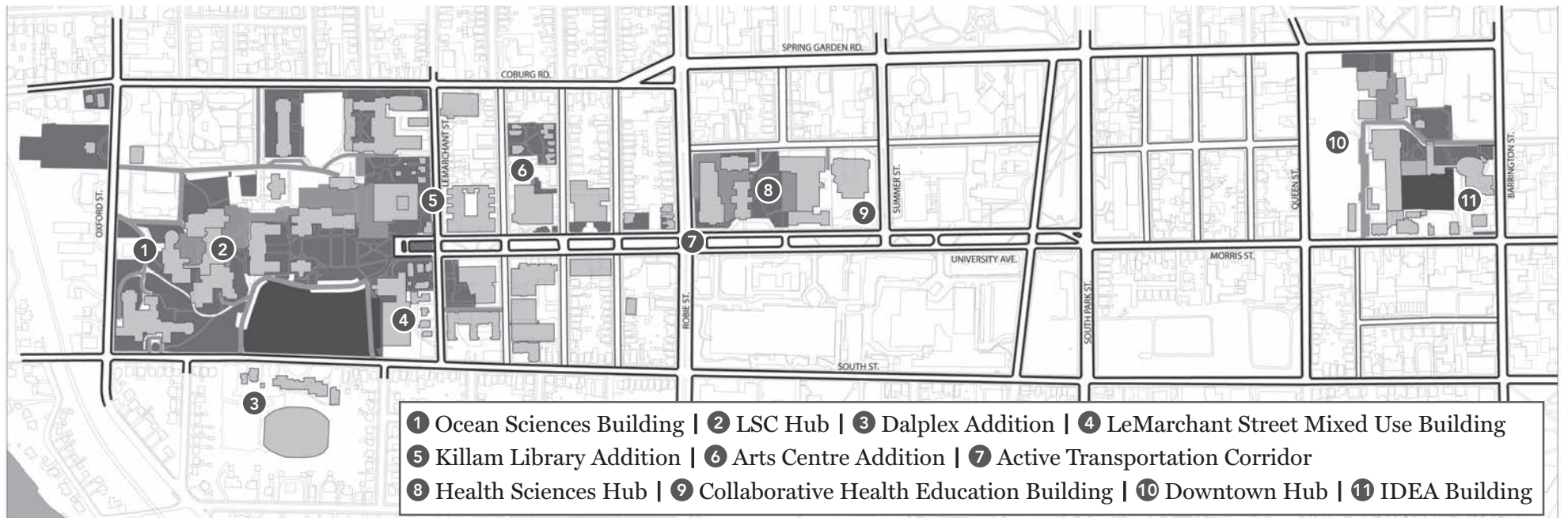
"The premise that they were looking at is if that would at least draw university students to come to that

area and then up University Avenue," she says. "That drew on, 'OK, now the Killam Library will be another light beacon.'"

Hubs

A "learning commons hub" is a sort of cross between a lobby and a classroom. They are informal study areas outfitted with computers, video-conferencing labs, and other technology.

There will be four of these in total, spread over Dal's campuses in the Life Sciences Centre, the Killam, the Carleton campus and Sexton campus. The Killam Hub has already been completed. ☺



Sexton campus is badly in need of new facilities, according to students and staff. ••• Master Plan image via IBI Group

PAYING FOR IT WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

Calum Agnew
News Editor

With Dalhousie facing a budget crunch, the illustrations on this page might seem a bit incredulous. The university will be cutting its budget and raising tuition next year. The Gazette wondered how the university is going to pay for its future.

Bold Ambitions

“The Master Plan is a road map in terms of the direction we want to head,” says Ken Burns, vice president (finance) of Dal. “But any specific project will require the cobbling together of the finances to make it work.”

Burt is one of the planners behind Dal’s Master Plan, a set of documents outlining development of “unprecedented magnitude” to take place between 2010 and 2020.

Dal is constantly ‘cobbling together’ millions of dollars to repair buildings and update facilities to modern standards. Burn says his own office holds 20 per cent more people in the same space than it once did, and is cheaper to operate. It also no longer resembles a classroom.

But the university isn’t just getting older—it’s growing. And there are a number of landmark projects in the works.

Capital

Dal has spent over \$100 million on new buildings in the past five years, and you can see (and take class in) the results: the Mona Campbell on Studley Campus, and the Life Sciences Research Institute on the Carleton campus, for example.

Even more construction can seem gratuitous when the university faces financial pressure, but Burt says it’s necessary.

“Dalhousie has a very, very old building stock. Most of our buildings are between 30 and 50 years of age, and that’s about the time that buildings begin to fail,” says Burt.

The university is currently spend-

ing a little more than half of the estimated \$30 million per year required to keep its facilities in shape. The university’s deferred maintenance—the total cost of returning all of the buildings on campus to their original condition—is currently estimated to be \$280 million, nearly 85 per cent of the university’s operating budget.

“We’re playing catch-up right now,” says Burt.

Rodents, asbestos, poor lighting and leaky roofs are just a few of the problems facing Dal. The most pressing issue is space: the university needs fewer small classrooms, and more large lecture theatres, says Burt. And the problem is most acute on Sexton campus.

When Dal merged with the Technical University of Nova Scotia in the late 90s, it inherited a campus in disrepair. “We’re spending about a third of our deferred maintenance on that campus alone every year, just because they’re so far behind,” says Burt.

The university is planning to remedy the situation by building a new complex—the IDEA, or ‘Innovation and Design in Engineering and Architecture,’ building. The proposed facility will be home to the booming faculties of engineering and architecture & planning.

Elizabeth Croteau is the president of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society (DUES).

“We’re looking at an 87 per cent increase in the number of students on this campus,” says Croteau.

“While we’ve been used to having between 500 to 600 people on campus per semester, some new changes to the curriculum mean that two years from now there’ll be 1,000 people on Sexton, in engineering. Which is an absolutely ludicrous number considering how jam-packed we are down here already.”

Burt agrees. “They badly need new space on the Sexton campus,” he says. Currently, second-year students have to take classes in a theatre in Park Lane mall—and the university has to pay Empire Theatres for the privilege.

Joshua Leon, dean of the faculty of engineering, says the faculty has been planning the building for years. They are using projects at Concordia, Queen’s, and Ecolé Polytechnique as models.

“We’re looking at a state-of-the-art building,” says Leon. “Dal students deserve it.”

How to pay for it

Projects like IDEA are expensive. Leon estimates that the IDEA building will cost between \$18 and \$30 million dollars. But the money from construction doesn’t necessarily come out of the university’s operating budget.

Some facilities, notably residences, are effectively free to the university provided they are used. Residence fees pay for the construction cost over time.

But for other facilities, such as labs and classrooms, it’s more complicated. Burt says that the university pays for about one third of the cost of any new facility. The rest comes from donors, and from support from some level of the government.

For example, the Mona Campbell building on Coburg Road was partly funded by a \$10-million bequest by Mona Campbell as well as a grant from the provincial government intended to help cover maintenance costs.

But Burt says that Dal doesn’t have access to the same level of government support as other large universities in Ontario, British Columbia or Quebec, which will sometimes pay for facilities outright.

“Pick any one,” says Burt. “The governments of those provinces either provide full funding, or they provide incentives to the funding, where they match the money universities put up for new construction.”

For the IDEA project, the university is pursuing one traditional source of funding: a generous donation. The IDEA facility is listed as a \$20-million “Opportunity for Support” on the website for Dal’s ‘Bold Ambitions’

fundraising campaign.

The ‘Bold Ambitions’ campaign currently stands at \$200 million, with a goal of \$250 million. Leon says that a number of donors have already committed money, but not enough to break ground.

“If someone came and wrote a cheque for \$5 million tomorrow, I think we’d see it built very quickly,” he says. “Optimistically, I’d say three years.”

But the university isn’t relying on donors alone. Without strong government support or room in the operating budget, the university has turned to a different source to fund the IDEA building: an auxiliary fee, levied on engineering students.

Auxiliary fees

The faculty of engineering approached the students earlier this year. Croteau says DUES was asked whether they thought the student body wanted new space enough to be willing to pay a fee of \$75 to \$100 a semester for it. Leon estimates that this fee will finance a quarter to an eighth of project.

The DUES executive was unanimously in support of the new fee, says Croteau, “provided a few conditions were met.” The society wanted student representation on the planning committee and a guarantee that the fee wouldn’t go into effect until the building opens.

“DUES really wants to see student space on this campus that is useful and effective. We’re willing to pay to have our say in that,” says Croteau. “And we also want it to be relatively timely.”

The proposed IDEA fee isn’t novel. In fact, the IDEA building will be the second new construction project funded by a direct levy on students. The new athletics facility on Studley campus will cost Dal and University of King’s College students an additional \$90 per semester when it opens. The Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) council approved the fee in 2010.

Tuition versus fees

Under the memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed by the university and the province in 2009, tuition increases are capped at three per cent per year for undergraduates. Auxiliary fees, although the province must approve them, are not similarly capped.

If both the new athletics fee and the proposed IDEA fee were to be in place next year, engineering students would face a 6.5 per cent total fee increase.

Despite the fee increase, DUES student council approved the new IDEA fee 17-4, provided their conditions were met.

“I personally would be willing to pay \$75 right now if it meant I got a bunch more student space, a bunch more bookable design rooms, and my poor satellite design team out of a non-existent corner of a lab,” says Croteau.

Reactions

While some students are worried about the prospect of paying even more to the university, others are more ambivalent. Those in their second, third or fourth year likely won’t be around by the time the fee is put in place.

Sarah Martakoush is a first-year engineering student and is a first-year representative for DUES. She voted for the proposed fee.

“I want lots of space,” says Martakoush. “I don’t want to walk around to Park Lane theatre for class.”

Despite DUES’s support for the fee, there is a certain element of pragmatism.

“If they decide to tack on a levy, we can’t really stop them. This way, at least, we’re having the levy implemented on our terms, rather than hidden elsewhere—rather than having a ‘Sexton Campus Fee,’” says Croteau.

“We think that more people four or five years down the line will thank us, than curse us.” ☹



ADVICE FOR STUDENTS

Wayne Mason

HRM Councilor,
District 7 (Peninsula
South Downtown)

I learned what kind of difference I could make when I was a student. If you believe in something, champion it. If you think something is wrong, challenge it. If you think something should change, fight for it. Get involved and enjoy changing the world.



—Bethany Riordan-Butterworth

EAST COAST

Mum's the word

Knock, knock—who's there? Why, it's a mummer at your door. Mumming is a traditional folk custom in Newfoundland and Labrador. Practiced during Christmastime, a group of friends dress in foolish costumes, including masks, and travel from home to home unannounced.

When invited in, the mummers perform ridiculous music and comedy and demand holiday food and drink. They offer their unexpected hosts the chance to guess their identities. To make it extra difficult, mummers will stuff their clothes with strange and distracting objects, dress as the opposite gender and use odd voices, especially inhaling while speaking.

Originating in Britain, with earlier origins in French and German carnival culture, mumming has been around Newfoundland since at least the early nineteenth century. It had all but died out until an early 1980s revival by Bud Davidge and Sim Savory, aka Simani, the band credited with maintaining and popularizing Newfoundland's musical heritage.

Mumming is back and now, once again, you'll find masked minstrels marauding Newfoundland streets looking for the next home where they can grab a drink and dance a jig. There's even an annual Mummer's Festival and Parade, established in 2009, keeping old traditions alive and new again.

—Jonathan Rotsztain



the other



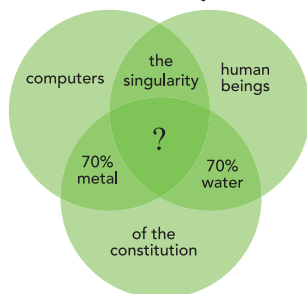
KIND OF SURPRISE is discovering that the online Nigerian prince is real!



POLITE AS EVER, there's Pantless Pat — he always cleans his feet on the welcome mat

—Andrea Flockhart

GET VENN'D Someday



ANSWER: architects

—Daniel Rotsztain



LOOKING BACK Party talk



—Rebecca Roher

POETRY

pink and brown

red orange yellow green blue purple
no brown or pink
two of my favourites

left out of the rainbow
not political labels, light
streaming in through speckled windows

coated with the memory of a long and dusty winter
ready to be washed and opened
letting in the fresh air

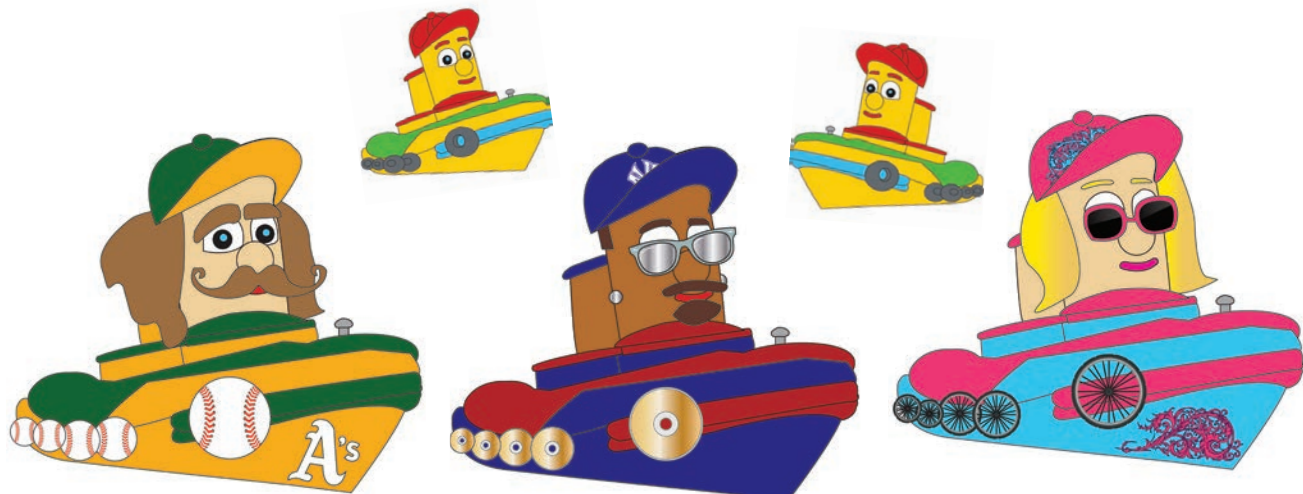
clean and bright
ready for the colours out there
brown and pink

—Kenny Green



LOOK-A-LIKES

Theodore Tugboat Too



ROLLIE FINGERS

SEAN COMBS

AVRIL LAVIGNE

—JR



—Chris Foster

FLEE THE CITY

STREETEER

MASTER PLAN

If you could build anything on campus, what would it be?



"I wouldn't build anything. It's perfect compared to my university in Brazil"
Marina Silva, exchange student



"A new engineering campus"
 ✓ **IN THE PLAN**
Dustin Johnson, fourth-year mechanical engineering



"I'd extend the library, maybe have more computers"
 ✓ **IN THE PLAN**
Stephanie Lefebvre, third-year history



"A nap room"
 ✗ **NOPE**
Katherine Strynaska, sixth-year biochemistry/German



"An outdoor study space made of glass, with plug-ins"
 ✗ **NOPE**
Luke MacIntosh, fifth-year informatics



"A McDonald's"
 ✗ **NOPE**
Kenny Cameron, third-year management



"A park"
 ✓ **IN THE PLAN**
Azharul Islam, first-year commerce



"Indoor soccer turf"
 ✓ **IN THE PLAN**
Michelle Donaldson, first-year dental hygiene

by Joelline Girouard and David Munro

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HALIFAX HOUSING CRUNCH *How can we ensure affordable living?*



This could be the future of housing in Halifax. ••• Photo by Alice Hebb

Ben Wedge

Staff Contributor

•••••
 In November, the Nova Scotia government implemented a number of changes to the Residential Tenan-

cies Act. Students are particularly impacted by these changes, as they tend to not only be renters, but are also renting from some of the lowest-cost options around. The question for students is whether the changes ulti-

mately give more rights to them, or to their landlords.

Many tenants are unaware of this fact, but in Nova Scotia landlords could choose to not renew your lease for any reason at all, unless you had

been in the apartment for five years or more. This five-year period is referred to as tenure, and in the changes to the act, renters immediately gain tenure upon signing a lease.

In this case, the tenant wins. There is a caveat, though: Nova Scotia does not have rent control laws, so your landlord is free to increase your rent every time your lease is due to be renewed. If you don't like the price increase, you'll probably be moving out. That makes the tenure issue a draw.

Tenants on fixed-term leases (a lease that isn't week-week, month-month, or year-year) can now break the lease at any time due to health reasons. While overall this won't impact students as much as it will help the elderly, it's still handy if an unfortunate situation occurs in your life. A university residence is an example of a fixed-term lease. The tenant is the clear winner here.

Another change in the Act allows landlords to evict a tenant once rent is 15 days past due. This is a drop from 30 days, though it shouldn't be an issue unless you find yourself with very low cash flow. In this case, the advantage goes to the landlord.

Amongst the smaller changes in the act, a landlord is now required to provide a copy of the Act within ten days of moving in. There was no set timeline in the old version.

While the tenancy issue is good for some students, it could be problematic for others. *The Chronicle Herald* cited Jeremy Jackson, a vice president at Killam Properties Ltd., as saying that tenants who are by the book (according to the Act) but cause disturbances for others could only be forced out through a lengthy hearing process. This means that the parties in the apartment next to you are relatively safe from eviction, whether you like it or not, so be sure to call the noise complaints in early and often.

On the whole, the changes seem to favour tenants, but the landlords still retain huge powers with the ability to institute an unlimited increase in rent each year. The bottom line for apartment hunters is to continue to do your diligence, and find a landlord who seems friendly, provides good references (you're asking for them, right?), and maintains the property in good condition. Even if you gain tenure, a poor landlord can make for a miserable year. ☹

Darwin Day A HOLIDAY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC

Kristie Smith

Staff Contributor

•••••
 In North America, we celebrate some holidays by closing banks and schools to enjoy the purpose of the day. Be it time with family, a religious connotation, or celebrating insert-province-name-here day, our statutory holidays run the gamut.

For everything else, there are Google doodles.

While a dwindling majority of the North American population is Christian, that does not mean our recognized holidays should be exclusively so. I don't see a nationally recognized Muslim, Jewish, or Buddhist holiday. And as it is, according to an article by the *National Post*, a Canada-wide survey found that while two thirds of the population believe in some kind of God, less than half consider religion important in their lives.

I would like to see a holiday recognizing our scientific evolution.

I want to see an official Darwin Day.

Different cities in Canada do recognize it, most recently Vancouver, but so far there are no efforts to make it a national holiday. In the United States, Congress has been presented with a not-so-new resolution to make the day official.

On Jan. 22, Representative Rush Holt pushed forward Resolution 41 alongside the American Humanist Association, expressing support to celebrate Feb. 12 as Darwin Day.

"Only very rarely in human history has someone uncovered a fundamentally new way of thinking about the world—an insight so revolutionary that it has made possible further creative and explanatory thinking," said Holt, as reported in *Huffington Post*.

"Without Charles Darwin, our modern understandings of biology, ecology, genetics, and medicine would be utterly impossible, and our comprehension of the world around us would be vastly poorer."

In 2009, Darwin celebrated his 200th birthday and the 150th anni-



Easter? Christmas? Darwin Day! ••• Photo supplied

versary of *On the Origin of Species*. Holt, a Quaker Christian and nuclear physicist, is trying again to acknowledge and celebrate the man who has benefited humanity so much.

A similar bill was attempted before but was moved to the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. This sounds like a no-brainer, hole-in-one, easy win, but the first bill died and the odds are still low in Darwin's favour. The committee is largely Republican, with several members denying the legitimacy of evolution.

One representative, Paul Broun from Georgia, has even been quoted in *The New York Times* as saying that evolution and the big bang theory are "lies straight from the pit of hell ... lies to try to keep me and all the folks who were taught that from understanding that they need a savior."

In Canada, some cities celebrate the scientific icon with free univer-

sity lectures, museum tours, nature walks, and film screenings, but there is nothing in the works for an officially recognized holiday. There needs to be more.

Canada can proudly say that it is responsible for the discovery of insulin, the theory of the earth's tectonic plates, the invention of the electron microscope and the first map of the visual cortex in the human brain.

While I was not raised religiously, I always had Easter off of school. We celebrate Biblical icons and a bunny who leaves chocolates but we do little to recognize the great thinkers who have advanced our civilization. Canada is progressive and multicultural, or so we say. We need to own up to that. We need to celebrate tangible, scientific human accomplishments.

Give Darwin his day. ☹

BORN THIS WAY

Acceptance the wave of the future

Neetika Chohan

Opinions Contributor

•••••
 Sir Thomas Overbury's famous remark, "beauty is skin deep," has for decades been the hallmark of self-esteem campaigns. In a society where the standard of beauty has become increasingly unrealistic, such generous attempts to establish positive body ideals are seen as a necessity. In fact, such reinforcement was the epitome of my teen years, with plenty of enthusiastic teachers and counselors eager to promote the importance of inner beauty and the dangers of an unhealthy body obsession.

These sessions had little impact on my perception of beauty, to say the least. The truth is, my beauty ambassadors were taking their inner beauty advice a bit too literally, showing virtually no concern for their outer appearance—evident by the abundance of tie-dye t-shirts, rear-enlarging "mom jeans" and my favourite, the infamous socks-with-sandal mishmash. It didn't help that many of these women sported crew cuts and make-up that belonged to the cast of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

This criticism is by no means my attempt to mock, but rather to show where these women went wrong, and that was simply their lack of appeal. What 15-year-old was going to listen to a frumpy old lady compared to a glamorous celebrity? Furthermore, there was no escaping the barrage of perfect people advertised in the surrounding media. It made no sense to receive information on improving self-esteem if our biggest influence—media—wasn't going in the same direction. At the time, it seemed the future belonged to the thinly clad models of the runway shows, the sexy video vixens, the well-dressed socialites found in every magazine, the perfect celebrities we idealized and any other illusions the media considered beautiful.

Although not much time has passed since my teen years, today, there is some evidence that progress is being made to create healthier standards of beauty within mainstream media. In recent years, certain industry leaders in the fashion world have introduced healthier weight requirements for models, refusing to cast malnourished individuals in an attempt to promote positive body image. The widely acclaimed Dove campaign encourages women to feel comfortable in their own skin regardless of age, shape or colour. Hollywood too has made subtle changes by praising curvier actresses such as Gabourey Sidibe and creating television and movies that provide leading roles for heavier celebrities, such as the television series *Huge*.

There are also some movements, which may not necessarily promote a healthier body image but nonetheless advocate against the false ideal of beauty we have familiarized ourselves with through Hollywood. The highly criticized "fat acceptance" movement, better known as the National Association to Advance Fat Acceptance (NAAFA), is making headlines by empowering larger people to feel beautiful.

The emergence of these positive influences within mainstream media is a far cry from the classroom lectures I grew up with. Kids are now being exposed to an environment where beauty has a multi-dimensional face. Greater participation from the media, specifically markets reaching kids—television—that are helping to cultivate a healthier generation of adults. Although traditional ideals of beauty still persist, it seems that the movement towards "real beauty" will only get larger, creating a future of people equipped to change the entertainment industry and to be confident with who they are regardless of what others may say. ☹



Redefining Theatre: The King's Infringement Festival

Leah Shangrow
Arts Contributor

Students flocked to the University of King's College the week of Feb. 4 for the annual King's Infringement Festival, a week of theatre entirely written, performed, and produced by students. A total of 27 different plays were staged over six days in classrooms, dorm rooms, and on the radio.

Such spaces as the Alex Hall dormitories demand a sense of involvement and intimacy not found in conventional theatres. Audiences saw characters four feet away, struggling with family tension, paranoia, existential crises, and metaphysical nihilism. Plays twisted expectations, rewrote well-known and loved characters into new stories, and blurred the line between spectator and spectacle.

"I like that it's a social art form," says Karen Gross, the festival's producer. "The shows are always completely different depending on how the audience responds, and I don't think that exists in other art forms—like when you go to see a movie, you don't change the movie by how you react to it."

It's perhaps her favourite thing about the festival.

"I love that it's so ephemeral, especially these shows—these shows were only performed tonight and they're never going to be performed again, and it's just so exciting to participate in something that only happens

once."

But Infringement is about far more than the plays themselves. Tuesday night saw a panel of four directors—Ben Harrison, Siobhan Fleury, T.J. Shiff, and Alanna Griffin—discussing the benefits and challenges of staging plays in unconventional spaces, a necessity considering what Harrison calls a "space crisis" on the King's campus.

For Haydn Watters, the external coordinator of the festival, Infringement is all about creating a sense of community.

"Everyone in the audience is your friend, so I feel like there's a good vibe and you're having a good time constantly."

But it's not just about the audience and performers; the festival is about connecting everyone. "Every single person that has approached us, we've found a way to get them involved in the festival," he says.

"It's the ultimate in accessible theatre," adds Gross. "You get this huge diversity of theatre happening."

With such a dynamic crowd it's no surprise the festival has expanded so rapidly. "We've got the King's community captivated," says a proud Watters, "and people at Dal are starting to come over and know that something's happening here, and it's just kinda special."

Infringement should have no trouble expanding its reach even further next year. With such unique plays and activities there is something for



A scene from the Infringement play "Space Monkeys". ••• Photo by Erica Guy

everyone, for less than the amount of loose change lost in your couch.

Theatre, in general, is an extraordinary experience. "It creates this space outside of our everyday lives where we can explore thoughts or ideas that we might not be able to explore on a day to day basis" says Gross.

In such a communal, intimate environment as King's, the effect is compounded. Audiences are not so much viewing from outside as they are experiencing from within. Whether they were passengers on a plane with Tyler Durden in Rach Klein's *Space Monkeys*, or voyeurs in T.J. Shiff's

I Spy, audiences were written right into the scripts.

If you missed your chance, fear not. The King's Infringement Festival will return next year to tear down and rebuild everything you thought you knew about theatre. 📧

The future has two wheels

Building biking infrastructure in Halifax

Charlotte Bondy
Arts Contributor

Even on the bleakest of January evenings, handfuls of committed, leaky-eyed commuters, hunching over handlebars into the wind, will be spotted cycling Agricola Street. The casual observer can see Agricola is a major artery for bicycle commuting and culture in Halifax.

In a city with a fertile range of cyclists—from students on rusting Peugeots to Dartmouthians crossing the bridge en route to work—funding cycling infrastructure seems like an obvious and necessary step toward a sustainable urban future.

The Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) is an organization of citizens whose mandate centers on improving cycling conditions and raising awareness of cycling issues within the Halifax Regional Municipality. In 2010, the "Crosstown-Connector" project was set in motion by the HCC. To quote from their website, "the Crosstown-Connector is a single, connected bike lane that unites the South End of Halifax to the North End, and further heads in the direction of the Bedford highway, where it will eventually connect with the Bedford Highway Bike Lane."

While there are at least four potential routes for the lane, the HCC supports an Agricola route for reasons summarized on their website: "The Agricola route has flat grades, no buses, relatively low traffic volumes, and holds a pedestrian friendly character ... the Agricola route best connects the places where people live, work and play on the peninsula ... [it]



Soon, all cars will be ghosts. ••• Photo by Adele van Wyk

already shows higher levels of cycling than most other routes, indicating that the factors above do, in fact, play an important role in a cyclist's route choice."

The HCC collected over 1,400 signatures in support of the Agricola Street lane.

The benefit of using Agricola St as the main artery of the crosstown bike lane is but one perspective. Many independent business owners on Agricola air different opinions.

Brent Halverson works at Naus Bicycle Shop, an independent business that's been unpretentiously planted at the corner of Agricola and Charles since 1968. Even the guys at Naus aren't sure if Agricola is the best place for a bike lane.

"I'm all for improving cycling infrastructure, but it has to be done in

the right way, and I'm not so sure that Agricola is the best spot for this infrastructure," says Halverson, from inside the shop.

"I think we need to improve ridership before anything like this can happen."

Halverson thinks Agricola, a street already functional for commuter cyclists, doesn't need a bike lane. He believes a new cycling lane should cater to those uncomfortable riding in the streets; Agricola may be too intimidating a place to begin.

Other business owners have much stronger opinions. Kern Young, from Chapman Auto Body, describes the potential bike lane as "absolutely ludicrous." He throws up his hands and says, "where's everybody gonna friggin' park?"

The bike line would also leave busi-

nesses such as Brothers Meat without a loading zone for trucks. That's an integral part of the company, which ships meat all across the country.

Business owners on Agricola need not throw their hands up in despair quite yet. Dave MacIssac, the head of Strategic Transportation Planning for the HRM, says that while the project "is currently in the final phases of design and development" this doesn't mean we'll be enjoying the cycling thoroughfare anytime soon. He and his team are looking to propose more than one route for the Crosstown-Connector, in order to appease the greatest number of people.

"Because of this, the implementation will probably take several years," MacIssac says. Plenty of time to grease up the old chain and re-tape those handlebars in anticipation. 📧

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Secrets of the game

Industry life meets small town values for rapper Classified



Doing what he loves. ••• Photo supplied

Monica Mutale
Staff Contributor

Before becoming the rapper known as Classified, Luke Boyd spent his days in a town so small you might not have heard of it.

"It's the Disneyland of Canada," he laughs, describing his hometown of Enfield, N.S. "We got our first McDonald's a few years ago."

Boyd's father played in a band, so there was always music in the family home. By the time he was 15, Boyd was trying his own hand at making music.

"I started doing music when I was 15," he says, "around the same time I started listening to hip-hop with friends. I went from there, to having a 4-track, and to having my own studio."

Boyd moved to Halifax at age 18, buying his first house soon after.

Music wasn't always a clear career choice for Boyd. After graduating from East Hants Rural High School, the rapper attended Eastern College, formerly known as CompuCollege. He worked at Aliant for a year and a half before finding himself laid off. At that point, Boyd decided he might as well turn making music into his full-time job.

As for his musical style, drawing in listeners is key.

"In hip hop, I take a lot of pride in my lyrics but I want something to hook people. Something clever and different whether it's a clever concept or hook. Just something to grab people's attention."

Boyd's current single does just that. The song "Inner Ninja" features singer-songwriter David Myles of Fredericton, N.B. The popular song isn't the pair's first collaboration.

"We worked together a few times. He was actually on my last record," says Boyd. "We came up with 'Inner Ninja' one day and arranged the whole thing over a few days. We always make good music," he adds.

Despite his success Boyd, 35, doesn't think the industry has changed him.

"I'm from Enfield," he says with a laugh. "It's not exactly L.A."

"It depends if you let it change you," he says. "Money changes people around you, not necessarily yourself. It changes how they act. I still have the same friends. I'm from a small town."

"Besides," he adds, "my parents would let me know how it is if I ever got out of hand."

Now a parent himself, Boyd's goals have shifted to include his daughters, ages two and four.

"When I started out, I was focused on worldwide fame. Then I narrowed that focus to Canada. Now, my goals are different. I've got kids; I want to focus on raising my daughters. My goals have definitely changed. I really just want to make music and hang out in the studio."

Boyd encourages young people to take time to identify their own goals and figure out what makes them happy.

"Do something you want to do," he says, "not something that will make you rich. The nagging, hard work side of things isn't fun. But we often have to do negative work to make something positive. And if you can turn something you love into a job, well, that's the bonus." ☺

101 Letters to a Prime Minister

by Yann Martel

Kristie Smith
Staff Contributor

Yann Martel, author of *Life of Pi*, writes in the introduction to *101 Letters to a Prime Minister*: "This is a book about books."

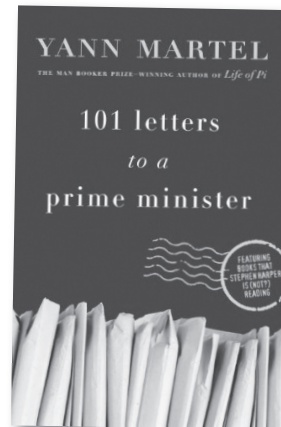
From April 2007 to February 2011, Martel wrote 101 letters to the office of the Prime Minister. The letters described literature Yartel believes essential to a well-rounded intellect—as the leader of Canada should be—as well as a copy of each book.

In total, he received seven replies.

The first came right away. The next four came two years later. Two other authors, who helped Martel when he was unable to select a book and write a letter, received one reply each. Not one of these letters came from Harper.

Martel imagined several versions of replies he could have received, varying from haughty to sly, to practically, brutally and openly honest.

Some recommendations are books everyone has had a chance to read by the end of high school: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Le Petit Prince*, and *Charlotte's Web*. Others include Greek poetry and Russian classics. From Franz Kafka's *Metamorphosis* to *Waiting for Godot*, Martel's book club is all-inclusive. It covers poetry,



children's books, graphic novels, plays, religious texts and literature to challenge the mind. He writes in the introduction:

"As long as someone has no power over me, I don't care what they read, or if they read at all. It's not for me to judge how people live their lives. But once someone has power over me, then, yes, their reading does matter to me, because in what they choose to read will be found what they think and what they might do. Once someone has power over me, as Stephen Harper does, it's in my interest to know the nature and quality of his imagination, because his dreams may become my nightmares." ☹



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Dal once again makes the biggest splash Convincingly take AUS crown

Paula Sanderson
Staff Contributor

They did it again.

Dalhousie's swimming teams are the AUS champions.

This is the 15th consecutive win on the men's side and the 12th straight title for the women.

The Tigers topped the podium in 30 of the 38 events they swam in at this past weekend's meet at UPEI.

Dal's Kyle Watson and Katie Webster were named swimmers of the meet. James Profit was the male rookie of the meet.

Men's team captain Kit Moran believes it's an achievement worth celebrating.

"Winning 15 straight is a significant accomplishment, something that is not currently held by any other swimming squad in the other conferences," he says. "One member joked that now we have started winning so consistently, we may never lose again."

David Sharpe, Molly Wedge and Rachel Shin were among the many to have great swims, but this is standard fare for the Tigers.

What's not standard is how they are training.

"Only people who had not yet qualified for CI's tapered," says Webster. "Some CIS qualifiers actually did small practices in between the prelim and final sessions on Friday and Saturday to make sure that their bodies were not resting too early and to keep

up fitness."

Tapering is a practice where swimmers relax on their training to have higher energy levels so they can perform at their peak.

For them, their focus is on nationals.

"Our team has consistently been working over the past few years towards shifting our focus from AUS championships to CIS championships," says Webster. "This meet proved to us that we can be focused on CIS championships in two weeks, unrested and tired, and still stand up and perform."

Wedge agreed.

"Lance, our new coach, played the AUS championships down this year for those of us competing at CI's and made it more of a practice meet," she says. "I'm super excited for CI's now and I think we're going to swim significantly better than we did last year."

Nationals will not be easy for the Tigers. The teams are currently ranked ninth in the country for the men and eighth for the women. Historically, Dal has not performed as well as expected at the CIS championships.

With a new coach, this could be the year to change that. And coming off a win like this one, maybe they'll end up in the top five. 🐅

CIS championships take place in Calgary from Feb. 21-23.



Dal won gold in the 4x100 metre freestyle relay. Middle four, clockwise from top left, Mary Claire Lynch, Michelle Campbell, Ceilidh MacPherson, Molly Wedge. ••• Photo by Shelley Ebbett via UPEI Athletics

Resurgent roar for Tigers women's volleyball

Dal goes from pushover to powerhouse with Scott at helm

VB Stars! L-R: Hilary Sears, Tara-Lynn Truant, Maggie Powers, coach Rick Scott, Louise Facca & Raeesa Lalani. ••• Photo by David Munro

Benjamin Blum
Staff Contributor

It's been an impressive turnaround for Dal's women's volleyball team over the past five years. Under coach Rick Scott, the team has gone from perennial afterthought to championship contender.

"We've brought in a lot of really good athletes that are physical and athletic, but also a bunch of girls with great character, great work ethic and have really bought in to what I'm preaching as a coach," said Scott. "They deserve the credit."

The Tigers were on the precipice of completing their road to redemption last season, but fell short in the final against Saint Mary's. This year, the team is focused on finishing the job.

"We got one big goal ahead, and that's to win the AUS," Scott said. "We haven't really accomplished anything yet. We're pleased with where we are but we know we got to go and play well [this] weekend."

At the heart of the team is a group of five veteran players who have been instrumental in leading the Tigers to an undefeated season against AUS opponents.

Louise Facca, Marlee Powers, Hilary Sears, Tara-Lynn Truant and Raeesa Lalani have been on the roster since Scott's second season and are products of his extensive recruiting.

"It's taken him about four years to

build the team that he saw was going to be AUS champions," said Lalani. "Having [this] core group of girls at the start and every year adding more and more.

"They know the expectations of being a Dal Tigers women's volleyball player, both on and off the court," said Scott of his upper-year players. "They've really done a great job of setting the tone in practice, the work ethic, the commitment and helping the young players."

The Tigers have improved steadily since Scott's tenure began in the 2008-09 season. After missing the playoffs that first year, the team advanced to the quarter-finals in 2009-10, the semis the year following and the final last spring.

Scott's coaching philosophy revolves around what he calls "the process." He attributes his team's success to focusing on the fundamentals of the game and working hard at every interval.

"When you start worrying about that other stuff, like winning and the score, you're not thinking about passing the ball and hitting the ball and serving the ball," Scott said.

"Pass and dig" added Truant regarding the team's focus. "Being ready to adapt to whatever we hit."

This attention to detail begins at practice, where the mood is intense. "He pushes us hard at every practice. He doesn't hold back, he makes sure to get the best out of us every time,"

said Powers. "He's very, very passionate."

This season, the Tigers sit atop the standings at 16-2 heading into the six-team playoffs this weekend at Memorial University. Their record ensures them a bye into the Feb. 16 semifinals, where they face the winner of the St. Francis Xavier-UNB quarter-final.

If the Tigers win the championship, which would be their first since 2005, they move on to CIS nationals in Sherbrooke.

Dal is currently the third ranked team in the country.

The team is confident they can succeed this weekend, but are grounded by Scott's emphasis on the task at hand and the memory of losing last year's championship to SMU.

"It was a tough loss," said Sears. "Everybody came back knowing that we're going to put in all the effort and not take any plays off or any time off to achieve an AUS championship. We're just going to give it our all."

Scott agrees that this is their year.

"We have a really deep team, we've got a lot of people that can come in and provide a spark. That's the key to our success," he said.

Amidst the pressure of entering the AUS championships as the top seed, Scott manages to keep things in perspective for his team with a message of tempered confidence.

"It's not going to be easy, but we're ready for it." 🐅



Tigers top Huskies in title rematch

Alex Hallink
Sports Contributor

The Dalhousie women's volleyball team had two streaks in jeopardy when they faced the second place Saint Mary's Huskies Feb. 10 at the Dalplex. On the line was an undefeated streak against AUS opponents, while not dropping a set in their last eight matches.

The game seemed like a lock leading into the third set, but it became a slugfest, with neither team taking more than a three-point lead in the third.

The Huskies, led by Shelby Michaels with eight kills in the final set, made the Tigers work for every point. There were multiple marathon rallies, with athletes sacrificing their bodies for what seemed like impossible digs.

It wasn't until Louise Facca served

an ace for a 30-29 lead that the momentum swung in the Tigers' favour. On the next point, after a bit of a rally, it was a Tara Gowan and Petra Rafuse block that extended Dal's winning streak to 14.

The Huskies were determined to play spoiler on senior day, Dal's last game of the regular season, but it was those Tiger seniors who stepped up and delivered the victory. Dal's Hilary Sears was everywhere on the floor with 26 assists and 11 digs, while Facca led the Tigers with 11 kills. The two graduating players shared player of the game honours.

The Tigers will look for this momentum to continue next weekend at the AUS championships hosted at Memorial University. 🐅

Dal will meet the winner of UNB-St. Francis Xavier Saturday, Feb. 16 in the semifinals at 4:30 p.m.

ON-CAMPUS RINK STILL POSSIBLE

TWO-PAD COLLABORATION WITH SAINT MARY'S NOT GUARANTEED



Turn that frown upside down: Dal administration says they will build a new arena. The question: where? ••• Photo by Angela Gzowski

Dalhousie may still build a new rink
Ian Froese
Sports Editor

on its own land, despite requesting the province's help for a shared two-pad arena with Saint Mary's University on neighbouring property.

The saga to replace the on-campus rink Dal demolished last summer has many unanswered questions. One replacement option, to build a two-surface facility at Gorsebrook with assistance from Saint Mary's, is awaiting provincial land and cash to move forward. If that proposal doesn't work out, Dal will build a standalone rink on its premises.

Jeff Lamb, Dal's assistant vice-president of facilities management, says

the university has to keep in-house alternatives available.

"We can't control what happens at the Gorsebrook piece. We can encourage it, we can take part, but ultimately we don't control that one."

The two-pad partnership, which would include the Halifax Regional Municipality, is expected to cost between \$20-30 million.

Before construction can begin, the neighbouring universities need the province's land, a parking lot south of the IWK Centre. But with goodwill established by the province in creating an excellence and innovation program, which set aside \$25 million for post-secondary projects, the universities don't want to pay for the property.

"We're hoping that in the spirit of

that innovation fund, they'd contribute the land," says Lamb.

He added the universities' proposal to the province was submitted late last year.

The two-pad centre, which would conflict with the city's earlier endorsement of a four-pad, has the support of councillor Wayne Mason. Closing three small arenas in the Peninsula and consolidating them into a larger complex at the Halifax Forum site was suggested in HRM's long-term arena strategy report last summer.

"It can help SMU and Dal save a considerable amount of money. That's an admirable goal in and of itself," he says.

Mason says the city has been asked to contribute about \$7 million to the project.

But despite major players backing a partnership, Dal is considering on-campus options. Under pressure to build a new arena sooner rather than later, the university may decide they can't wait any longer for their partners to cut through the red tape.

"If we want something done in a timely fashion, we would likely end up doing it on campus, says Lamb. "But, like I say, I don't know if that's the best solution."

Dal's board of governors recommended last summer that the university pursue internal and external locations. Local firm Fowler Bauld & Mitchell was hired to refine the on-campus suggestions and to submit an options analysis report to the board in June. A schematic design will be drawn this fall, with tenders completed by early 2014.

It will be up to the board to decide this summer whether Dal should go forward on building an arena on their estate or to team up with Saint Mary's, HRM and perhaps the province. This decision may be postponed depending on what progress has been made with the Gorsebrook project.

Lamb suggested if the current arrangement of renting ice at the Forum is deemed sufficient for the time being, the university may elect to pursue the Gorsebrook location, despite knowing it would take longer for that rink to be built.

Dal decided to tear down Memorial Arena in late 2011 rather than paying over \$10 million to replace the roof and make other improvements.

The school's men's hockey team made the Halifax Forum their home this season, while the women were playing in various HRM locations until a hazing incident suspended their season.

At Saint Mary's, the men's team has been playing out of the Forum since 2003, while the women lace up on-campus.

If Dal's shovel hits the ground on-campus, the university has a few prospects. Either a standalone rink or a combined arena/fitness facility could be built where Memorial Arena once stood. The location where the Eliza Ritchie residence stands may be used to construct a new fitness facility

if Dal decides to build the rink elsewhere.

The single arena at the former DMA site provides the shortest time span for a rink to be completed, says Lamb. He says that arena could be ready by the 2015/2016 hockey season at the earliest. An expanded facility including a fitness centre would be completed a year later, and Lamb wouldn't guess on a timeline for the Gorsebrook proposal.

Building on-campus would have its distractors. Some neighbours have been vocal in rejecting any developments south of South Street, citing a past commitment when the Dalplex was built in the 1970s that the university would not construct any more buildings in that space.

Lamb, however, told the *Gazette* last spring that Dal's lawyers believe "we are within our rights to build there."

The neighbours are reportedly more approving of the Gorsebrook location, says Lamb. He says the community's support of the two-pad is an important consideration for the university.

"I think all of us would feel much better if we worked toward a solution we all agree with than fighting over one where there are options that aren't necessarily mutually agreeable," he says.

Fitness facility moves ahead with consultations

Meanwhile, Dal's new fitness facility is also in the early planning stages.

The university held consultation sessions this week to imagine what the new gym would look like, along with planned renovations to the existing Dalplex.

"I'm not even going to guess what we'll eventually build," says Lamb. "What it will be is a new modern usable facility that meets our pocketbooks but is also attractive to students."

Dal's Board of Governors agreed in 2010 to add a \$180 charge to students' bills to help pay for the new complex once it opens. The University of King's College agreed to the same fee last year.

Women's hockey likely to skate at SMU

Ian Froese
Sports Editor

The travelling road show that the Dalhousie's women's hockey team became this season is expected to make its next stop at Saint Mary's University this fall.

Preliminary discussions to host Dal's home games at Saint Mary's on-campus rink are encouraging, says SMU's athletic director David Murphy.

"The time is available, it's been offered and it's just a matter of getting the memorandum of understanding signed," he says.

Dal's director of varsity athletics, Karen Moore, added that while some of her school's players are not enthusiastic about Alumni Arena, it's preferable to the team lacing up outside Halifax for its 'home' games.

"I understand they don't necessarily want to play on someone else's campus, which is not the nicest rink in town, but to be honest, I was quite happy to have secured some ice time that's only a 10-minute walk away."

The Tigers have struggled to find

home ice since their campus rink was torn down last summer. When the Halifax Metro Centre was ruled out, the team scrambled for whatever HRM venue they could find until Truro's new rink was built. When that arena fell behind schedule, Dal planned to drop the puck in New Glasgow for the second semester, about two hours away from Halifax, but the team's hazing suspension put those plans on hold.

The metro universities could have formed a similar agreement to play at Alumni Arena a year ago, but Moore explained circumstances were not the same.

"The personnel was different at the time and the answer [we got] was no," she says.

Murphy became the interim athletic director at SMU last August. He previously held the post for five years in the 2000s. Dal will continue to practice at the Halifax Forum next season.

Men poised to repeat as champs

Stephen Campbell
Sports Contributor

The Dalhousie men's volleyball team are heading into the playoffs on a winning note. In the final regular season game of the year, the Tigers swept the Memorial Seahawks 3-0 on Feb. 8 at the Dalplex.

Dal took the first set 25-17, the second 25-22 and the third 25-23. Bryan Duquette led the charge for the Tigers with 11 kills, while Andrew Stephens had 15 for the Seahawks. Duquette and Stephens were named players of the game as a result.

The victory brought Dal's regular season record to 11-6, while Memorial fell to 1-16. Due to the cancellation of the next day's game because of poor weather conditions, this match was worth four points.

Despite the win, Dal head coach Dan Ota was not happy with his team's play.

"It's a bit of a mixed bag," Ota says. "I think we're aware as a team that we can play much better than that."

"That kind of performance won't win us any games down the stretch."

The playoff stage is set, as the Tigers take on the UNB Varsity Reds this weekend in a best-of-three show-



Dartmouth native Connor Maessen aims for the kill. ••• Photo by Chris Parent

down for the AUS men's volleyball crown. Dal hosts UNB for game one on Friday, Feb. 15, then the Tigers travel to Fredericton on Feb. 17. The tiebreaker will be played Feb. 22 at the Dalplex if necessary. All games begin at 7 p.m.

Duquette knows the V-Reds will be a much tougher test.

"I expect [UNB] to bring their best," Duquette says. "We're confident heading into next weekend. Everyone

knows what has to get done."

Dal is aiming for their second consecutive title, and their 25th in the past 26 years.

Ota believes that in spite of the off-day, his team is mentally prepared for the finals.

"I don't think it's going to take much to motivate either team," he says. "We're ready."



THE SEXTANT

THE OFFICIAL PAPER OF DALHOUSIE SEXTON CAMPUS

DUES holds Winter Semester General Meeting 38 students show up to vote on constitutional amendments



Elizabeth Croteau
DUES President
Industrial '13

On Thursday, February 7th, the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society held its Winter Semester General Meeting. 38 students were in attendance to vote on the budget and constitutional changes, as well as give feedback for what they'd like to see on campus – as well as snack on some free pizza.

The constitutional changes were mainly to bring the DUES in line with some new DSU policies, including having DUES elections tied in and at the same time as DSU elections. This means you'll be able to log in to the online voting center and vote for your DSU candidates and your DUES candidates at the same time. The other major constitution change was the addition of a new position on the DUES executive: Vice President Social Events. This position was introduced to help out the President and the VP Internal, who have an overload of responsibilities. The VP Social Events will sit on the Sexton Entertainment Committee and be in charge of discipline challenges.

The budget and constitutional changes were all accepted unanimously, with discussion mostly limited to clar-



The DUES Executive wait for the Fall 2012 AGM to begin (File photo)

ifying questions about the nature of the changes rather than debate over the validity of them. Students joined in with vigour, however, when asked for feedback on what they'd like to see the DUES focus on over the next semester.

One major area of concern surrounded academic processes, such as how to encourage professors to give out the correct type of exam booklet, how to appeal examination marks, and how to hold professors to academic regulations. The DUES will be looking

into making information about these processes available to all students.

Another area of concern is the availability of student services on Sexton campus, such as Student Accessibility Services and Health Services. Students at the meeting were universally concerned that the "Accessibility" service was only "Accessible" at Studley campus. While the DUES Executive plan on addressing such concerns, they are not optimistic regarding quick turnaround times from the university administration on these issues.

Overall, students appeared pleased with the ability to contribute to the Sexton campus discussion through the meeting. While the meeting was not packed with people, it was efficient and accomplished its goals, which students seemed to appreciate.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email daleng@dal.ca.

Elizabeth Croteau is the president of the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society.

IDEA Building levies approved in principle

\$75–100 per term levy details still being debated



Ben Wedge
Editor in Chief
Industrial '13

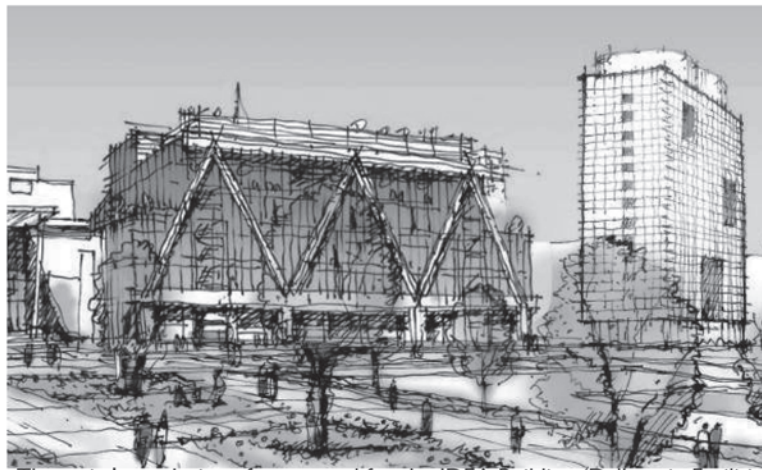
The Innovation and Design in Engineering and Architecture (IDEA) building at Dalhousie has received approval in principle from the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society and the Dalhousie Engineering Graduate Society. The societies agreed to levies of approximately \$75–100 and \$25–30 per term respectively. This approval brings the building one step closer to reality, though the details are still not clear.

At the Sexton Campus Advisory Committee (SCAC) meeting on February 6th, concerns about building access, space allocation, and building utility were aired, particularly by the

president of the Dalhousie Architecture Students' Association, Will Perkins, and the representative from the Society of Undergraduate Planners, Uytay Lee. The current plan is a mix of approximately 80/20 engineering & open space vs architecture and planning space.

The IDEA Building plan calls for expanded student lounge space, group meeting areas, two large lecture theatres for lower-year Engineering students, and a marked increase in lab space. The lab space in question would be for the design teams such as *Formula SAE* and *the Shell Eco-marathon*, freeing space in the existing buildings to be used for academic purposes.

The 100,000 sq ft (9,200m²) facility would be located between the new Halifax Central Library and Gerard Hall, making a "symbolic entrance to campus," in the words of Andy Fill-



The artist's rendering of a proposal for the IDEA Building (Dalhousie Facilities Management)

more, former director of the school of planning.

The construction of the building could begin as early as 2015, pending approval from the Architecture and

Planning students, and Dalhousie's budget, which is currently deeply in the red. That said, the Dean of Engineering considers this to be his top priority.



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MEETINGS**

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themed games.**

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T Room
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Meet Lera.

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