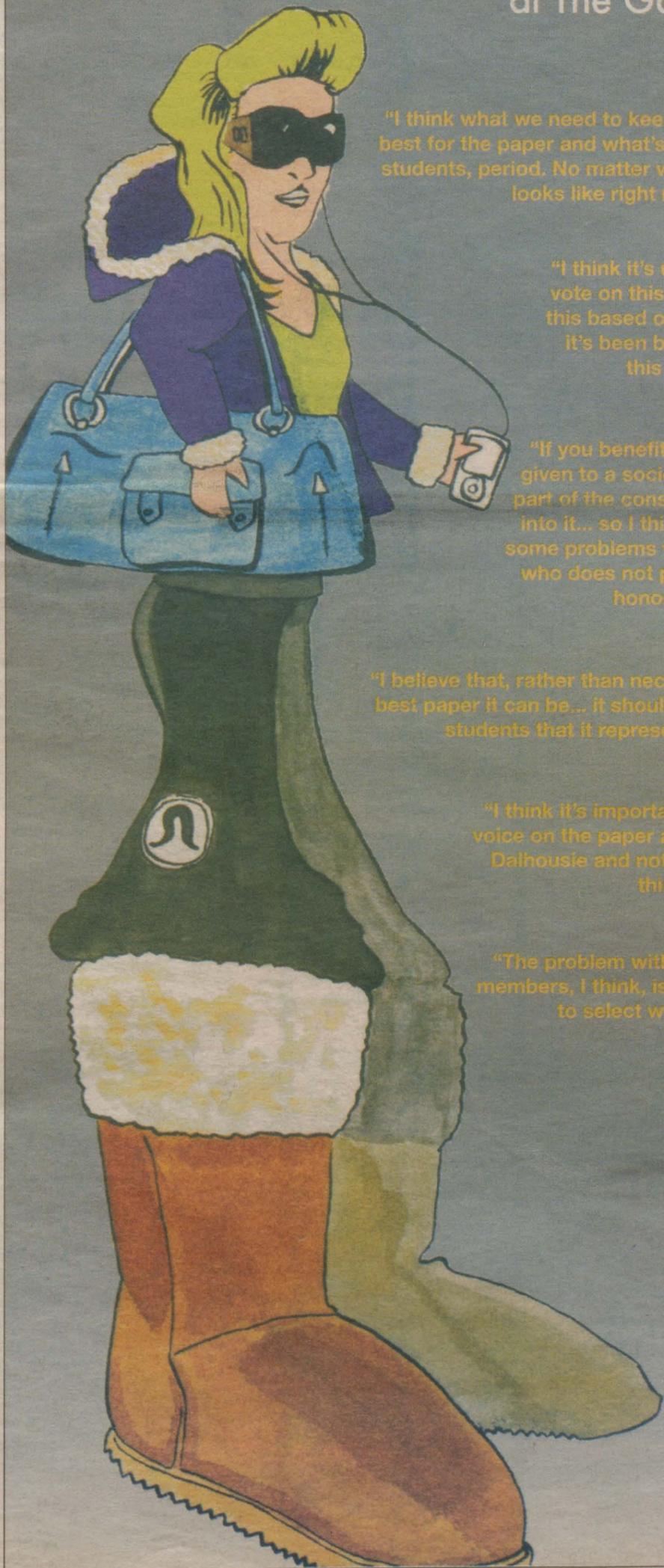


GAZETTE

KING'S IN THE WRONG COURT

Council to decide fate of King's students
at The Gazette pg.4



"I think what we need to keep in mind is what's best for the paper and what's best for Dalhousie students, period. No matter what the landscape looks like right now."

"I think it's unfair that council has to vote on this and bind The Gazette to this based on this being the first time it's been brought forward to us in this sort of a forum."

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"The problem with forcing them to have DSU members, I think, is it infringes on their freedom to select who is most capable."





WEEKLY DISPATCH

RESIDENCE CHARITY FACE-OFF 2008

Bighorns VS. Trojans

Saturday March 15th, 2008
DAL Memorial Arena
Doors open at 5:45pm
Game starts at 6:30pm

Tickets are \$7 in advance and \$10 at the door
Tickets are on sale NOW at the SUB Info Desk

Buy your team t-shirt from the respective residence councils

Proceeds from the event are going to the IWK Health Centre

The Grawood is the Official Residence Charity Face-Off After-Party
9:00pm - 1:00am
\$3 cover with your team t-shirt
\$5 cover without your team t-shirt

For all event inquiries please contact:
Courtney Larkin
Vice President (Student Life)
Dalhousie Student Union
P - 902-494-1281
E - dsuvpsl@dal.ca

WHAT ARE YOU DOING AFTER GRADUATION?

WWW.DSU.CA/NETWORKING

The DSU and a local business organization, Novaknowledge, have partnered to bring student and business leaders together for a networking event. Come speak with local business leaders and engage in a discussion about building a community that reaches out to students and young professionals.

Guest Speaker: Heather Tulk - Vice President, Broadband and Marketing, Aliant.

World Cafe format facilitated by Judith Richardson.

Tuesday, March 18, 2008
Networking begins at 2:30 pm, event starts at 3:00 pm
McInnes Room, Dalhousie Student Union Building, 6136 University Avenue.

Dress: Casual

Free admission.

THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

For more information, contact:
Tara Gault
Vice President Education
Dalhousie Student Union
(902) 494-1275
dsuvped@dal.ca

DSU Awards for Teaching Excellence

Please come and celebrate with us!
March 11, 2008
7:00 pm

McInnes Room, SUB

This event is open to the Dalhousie Community. All are welcome to attend.

For more information, contact Tara Gault (info above)

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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 Prof. Talk feature, 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. All quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

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.

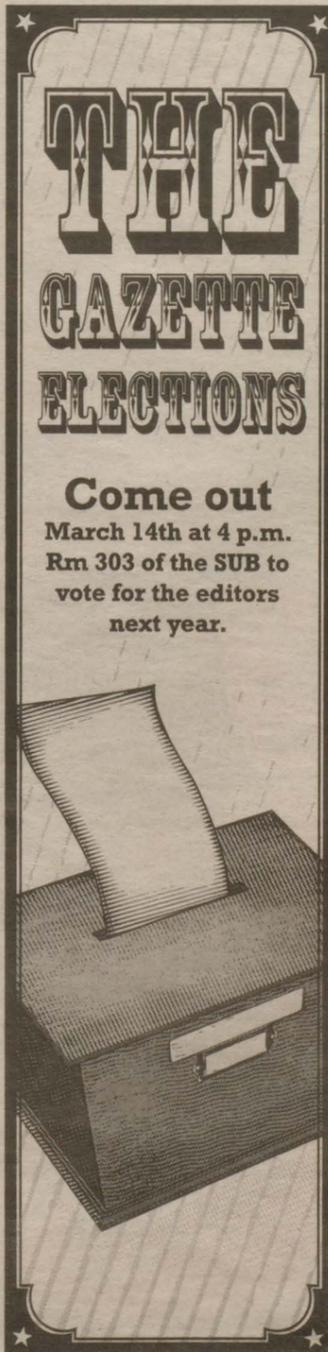
COVER

This week's cover was illustrated by James Nadel, the only member of our staff who still knows how to operate writing utensils. Nadel was asked to objectively depict both Dal and King's students and he did not disappoint. In a time when campuses are being torn apart and student unions are readying themselves for battle, we are happy to report that Dal and King's students will forever be united by their love of the hobo-chic movement. a.k.a. dressing like rich homeless people.

"That James Nadel is a good looking motherfucker. I'm surprised he's so interesting."

-John W. Packman

Questions or comments welcome:
-Susan Maroun design@dalgazette.ca



What we do at *The Gazette*

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As a student paper, we try to be as transparent as possible.

Just before reading week, the Dalhousie Student Union council discussed what they want to see in the revamped society policy that refers to *The Gazette*. They talked about the issue for over an hour and everyone on council seemed to have an opinion.

But not everyone's opinion was based on how *The Gazette* actually works.

I feel I haven't done my job when students, student councilors and anyone else, for that matter, don't understand how *The Gazette* works. Because really, it's not that complicated.

Since our staff elections are coming up next Friday, I'd like to explain what we do and why we do it.

Basically, we try to be as open as possible so any student can write, take pictures or help with the paper. Most students won't get the opportunity to write for a newspaper after they graduate, so we want to give them the chance now.

Anyone who comes up to the third floor of the SUB on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays can just stroll into the office and check it out. If you're walking by University Avenue, you can look into the window with the neon *Gazette* sign and see if there's anyone up there. If there is, the door will be open.

I try to explain how *The Gazette* works to every new contributor who comes through the door so that if they want to get deeply involved, they know how. And in every copy of the paper, we run a gist of how we operate under "The Fine Print" in the

bottom right corner of page two.

Essentially, it says that anyone who wants to write for the paper can do so.

At our Monday contributors' meeting, all you have to do is show up and you can find out how the paper works, meet the editors and get free pizza. You don't need a membership card or an official pair of Dal Uggs, just an interest in writing or taking pictures.

In order to stay transparent, accountable and democratic, the editor positions at *The Gazette* are directly elected by students. That way, we're free to print whatever we want. We're not appointed by university administration, the DSU council or hired by a committee. If we think the university is falling apart, we'll say it. If we think the student union isn't doing their job, we'll say it.

There is no higher power to tell us what to print and not to print. If anyone has a problem with *The Gazette*, we'd like to hear it, but we're not going to retract a story because someone doesn't agree with us.

The Gazette also strives to run the paper as democratically as possible. The editorial staff get together to decide the paper's official position on matters, but we're happy to publish differing opinions in letters to the editor and opinions pieces. We don't want to publish 'The Gazette voice.' We want to publish the different voices that make up Dalhousie.

The Gazette is also student-run. That means all the editors either go to Dal or King's. That's not so we can be edgy, hip and get through to the 18-25 demographic. It's because a student publication should be run by students on campus. They know the campus best and if they have an interest in helping run the pa-

per, there should be nothing to hold them back.

Unlike SMU students, King's students don't have a weekly publication. Because they're so integrated with Dalhousie, it's in *The Gazette's* and Dal students' interests to give them a chance to work at the paper.

There is the view that since King's students have a monthly paper, they should just write for that one. But the two papers are very different. We've devoted this week's opinions section to discussing this issue.

To give people a comprehensive view about *Gazette* elections, I'd like to provide as much background and context as we do in the paper about the DSU elections.

You might think we're just a campus rag, but we have a wider distribution than a lot of community papers. We deliver 10,000 copies around campus, downtown, on Quinpool Road, and this year started expanding even further. All of our content is also available free on our website, www.dalgazette.ca.

To help us get *The Gazette* published and distributed, we get \$5.00 from all full-time Dal students and \$3.50 from part-time students. Depending on Dal's total enrollment, this accounts for about \$75,000 to \$100,000 of our budget. We also get a further \$100,000 from advertising revenue. About \$50,000 goes to printing the paper and we pay all of our editors for the work they do.

Halifax is a big city with a large readership, but we still have to compete with *The Coast*, *Metro*, the *SMU Journal* and various other free publications to get it. So we need to keep our content interesting.

Luckily, we have the focus of covering Dalhousie, which as a community, has more stories than we

can hand out.

The paper only comes out once a week, but interviewing, writing stories, editing and working with new contributors, taking pictures and getting the whole paper organized is a process that never ends. At the same time, almost everyone on staff is taking a full course load.

If a contributor has had their photos or stories published in at least three issues (not including letters to the editor or street answers), they are eligible to run for a section editor position at our annual elections. And if they're eager to do the job, we encourage them to run.

The section editor positions include news editor, opinions editor, arts and culture editor, sports editor and photo editor. Each job requires editors to think up interesting and relevant stories, teach contributors how to write or take photos, edit stories from their section, set up/take photos, and when they're not busy doing all those things, write stories themselves.

Section editors get about \$4,500 per year.

The copy editor and editor-in-chief are also elected, but need to be section editors for one year before that to run. This gives them the chance to learn how *The Gazette* works and to know what they need to watch out for in the coming year.

The copy editor may be the only person who reads every word of *The Gazette*, and she does it twice.

Copy editors need to know how to reword, restructure, punctuate and clarify confusing sentences. It's thankless work and not everyone can or wants to do it. But they keep the paper legible and clean. They get paid about \$8,000 a year.

The editor-in-chief is responsible

to keep the paper running smoothly and coming out every week. It's their job to make sure everyone on staff gets along and that all the editors are clear on what is required of them. When new staff come in, it's the editor-in-chief's job to train them and help them get through the first few weeks.

The editor-in-chief also offers some overall vision and context for the paper. Ultimately, the editor-in-chief is responsible for all aspects of the paper. For the past two years, he has also taken on the additional role of office techie. The position pays \$11,000 a year.

In past *Gazette* elections, any Dal student or King's student could vote for editorial candidates. Usually, the people who came out to vote were interested Dal students; the only King's students were *Gazette* staff, mostly journalism students.

This year, the DSU has brought up the fact that King's students don't pay the \$5 *Gazette* fee, so they shouldn't get to vote. And this, for the most part, is fair. I think if you haven't contributed to *The Gazette* with either time or money, you shouldn't vote.

But if a King's student has put in enough work at *The Gazette* to become a staff contributor, I think they should get the chance to vote.

This is something that will be brought up next week at the DSU council meeting: the question of whether King's students who have worked hard on the paper should get a chance to vote along with Dal students. We would like to hear from you on this matter, whether you're for or against.

And since the DSU council is representing the students on this matter, it would be helpful to e-mail them with your opinion too.

WANTED: University Students
to participate in an
ENERGY DRINK STUDY



We are interested in your experiences with Energy Drink use (i.e. Red Bull, Rockstar, Full Throttle, etc.) Why you use it and when you use it.

You may participate in this study if you have ever consumed energy drinks.

You will participate in a confidential face-to-face interview and complete several questionnaires. The study will take approximately one hour.

Participants will be compensated with ten (\$10) dollars cash or credit points towards an applicable Psychology course.

For more details contact the researcher, Stephen Price
(Steve.Price@dal.ca)

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, March 10 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB



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Council intervenes in Gazette elections

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

The Gazette must represent Dalhousie students first and foremost – even if that means overhauling the student newspaper's current constitution and restricting the participation rights of other student groups.

That's the conclusion most of the Dal Student Union council reached at its Feb. 20 meeting, following several rounds of heated debate regarding University of King's College students' involvement with the paper.

The results of council's "non-binding straw poll" vote show that a slight majority of council members want The Gazette to allow only Dal students to vote in newspaper elections and to allow Dal students and King's students to run for executive positions in those elections, but to offer first priority for positions to Dal students.

The Gazette's current operations violate the DSU's old society policy. While the newspaper's constitution states both Dal and King's students can vote in Gazette elections and that contributors from either school can hold executive positions, the union's constitution specified that those privileges are to be reserved for Dal students only.

Rosalie Hanlon, DSU vice-president (internal), and the members of her society policy review committee have been working for months to write a new policy. For the first time since last spring, when the DSU executive realized its rules didn't match The Gazette's, Hanlon presented to council several alternative solutions to fix the problem.

"Everything is on the table," Hanlon told the roomful of student representatives, nearly all of whom had just returned from the DSU's annual general meeting held earlier that evening.

"I think what we need to keep in mind is what's best for the paper and what's best for Dalhousie students, period. No matter what the landscape looks like right now."

Hanlon began her presentation with six different options outlining how The Gazette should operate, ranging from maintaining the paper's current policy that allows all Dal and King's students to vote and run in staff elections, to limiting voting and employment opportunities to Dal students, regardless of whether they'd previously contributed to The Gazette.

Council members could vote for the option they liked the best as a guide for the society policy committee to follow as it writes the official policy within the next few weeks. The vote would be non-binding, Hanlon explained, but she asked council not to change its mind later, when it comes time to review the of-

"I believe that, rather than necessarily being the best paper it can be, it should look out for the students that it represents first." - management representative Chris Kolmatycki

ficial policy.

"It is really greatly appreciated if you do it, if you vote as you will that day so that The Gazette can run their elections in line with how you want them to since they are a body of the DSU," she said.

Within the hour, council members put four additional options on the table amid the fluctuating atmosphere of strong support, fervent distaste and general confusion regarding the current and future states of their one and only campus newspaper.

Board of Governors representative Shannon Zimmerman told the rest of council she found it difficult to have to choose one of 10 options that would directly affect who can and cannot participate in Gazette elections.

"I think it's unfair that council has to vote on this and bind The Gazette to this based on this being the first time it's been brought forward to us in this sort of a forum," she said.

Throughout the discussion, the opinion that Dal students need to be more fully represented on The Gazette's staff remained virtually undisputed. For some councilors, the most important reason was money.

King's students, as members of the King's Students' Union, pay neither the \$113 DSU membership fee nor the \$5 per full-time student Gazette levy.

Several councilors, including senate representative Jordan Roberts, felt that allowing King's students who don't pay those fees to hold paid positions at the newspaper is unfair to Dal students.

"If you benefit from the money given to a society you should be part of the constituency that pays into it," Roberts said during the meeting. "So I think there could be some problems with a KSU student who does not pay into their own honorarium."

Money mattered less to other councilors, including management representative Chris Kolmatycki. Some were primarily concerned that Dal students don't have enough

opportunities to significantly contribute to The Gazette, compared to King's students who may be journalism majors.

"I'm not even really thinking about the money," Kolmatycki told council. "I believe that Dalhousie students should be running Dalhousie's newspaper and it's sort of a better representation of Dalhousie to have Dalhousie students running it as a top priority."

"I believe that, rather than necessarily being the best paper it can be," he continued, "it should look out for the students that it represents first."

Scott Wetton, Sexton engineering representative agreed. He argued in favour of a priority system that would ensure Dal students get first dibs at Gazette jobs.

"I think it's important that Dalhousie students have a voice on the paper and basically that we're celebrating Dalhousie and not constantly talking about the bad things at Dalhousie," he said during the meeting. "And I think that if we had a Dalhousie voice on the paper, I think that kind of aligns us to, hopefully, propagating that through the paper, and maybe, hopefully, correcting some of our apathy problems."

But second-year law student Jen Bond, a Gazette staff contributor and former DSU executive, questioned the opinion that Dal students don't already have equal opportunities to be involved with The Gazette.

"I think there's some sort of a perception that we have some sort of chip implant on Dal students that they get buzzed out of the Gazette office when they come up to try and contribute," she told council. "We're not beating Dal students off with a stick at The Gazette, so I think that is a bit of a false assumption."

Some councilors also rejected the idea that Dal students should always come first, supporting The Gazette's mandate to operate as an independent and democratic free press.

"The problem with forcing them to have DSU members, I think, is it infringes on their freedom to select who is most capable," said Senate Representative Christian Tschirhart.

On March 3, Gazette representatives made recommendations to the society policy review committee that the official policy set criteria to allow King's students who have contributed at least three articles to The Gazette to vote in the elections, along with all Dal students. The Gazette also recommended that Dal students be given priority only for the elected positions on the newspaper's budgetary committee, which will control the paper's finances and will be voted in by Dal students.

The DSU council is expected to have a binding vote on the official society policy by the end of the month.

Similarities and differences between Dal and King's

COMPILED BY JOHN PACKMAN

DAL	KING'S
Administrative	
Same tuition costs	
Same classes/exams	
Same minimum entrance grades	
Entrance scholarships based on grades only	Entrance scholarships based on grades and a submitted high school essay
General scholarships awarded to Dal students only	General scholarships awarded to King's students only
Arts and science students can switch from Dal to King's or King's to Dal at any time until registration for the term ends	Students have to apply to the Journalism School separately Students can't switch into faculties other than arts or sciences
Use B00 ID system	
Dalcard	King's Card
The only difference between the two cards is that Dalcards admit underage students into The Grawood and King's cards admit King's students into The Wardroom (The King's campus bar).	
Both can use Dalhousie student accounts	
Both use Dalhousie's online registration system	
Dal Registrar's Office (can be used by King's students)	King's Registrar's Office (can be used by Dal students if applicable)
Dalhousie administration distributes all transcripts	King's only sends out transcripts for the Journalism School
Individually responsible for facilities management (cleaning, security) and building upkeep.	
Can use each other's libraries through Novanet.	
Separate residences and residence administrations (Dal and King's help each other in case of student overflow)	
Residence meal plan provided by Aramark	Residence meal plan provided by Sodexo
Both receive Metro Transit U-Passes	
Classes	
Offers undergraduate, graduate and professional degrees	Only offers undergraduate degrees
Must be a Dal student to be in engineering, costume studies, health professions, architecture, management, professional programs or Master's degree programs	Must be a King's student to take the Foundation Year Programme or major in journalism
Dal and King's students in the arts and science faculties fulfil exactly the same course requirements	
Both can take any of the same arts and science programs	
Dal and King's students enrolled in Early Modern Studies, Contemporary Studies or the History of Science and Technology programs have to be combined for honours students	
Awards degrees to all Dal students and King's students who graduate with BAs and BScs. King's students receive degrees that distinguish them as King's students, but they come from the president of Dal	Awards only journalism degrees. King's also offers joint degrees with Dal for the Early Modern Studies, Contemporary Studies or the History of Science and Technology programs
Dalhousie hires its own profs. They can teach at King's if approved by faculty	King's hires its own profs. They can teach at Dal if approved by faculty
Societies	
Dalhousie Student Union	King's Students' Union
DSU fee: \$113	KSU fee: \$156
Canadian Alliance of Student Associations as federal lobby group	Canadian Federation of Students as federal lobby group
CKDU	
The Dalhousie Gazette (weekly newspaper)	The Watch (monthly newspaper)
The Grawood, The T-Room, The Gradhouse	The Wardroom
Sodexo as general campus food service provider	
Athletics	
Only Dal students can be on Dal Tigers varsity teams	Only King's students can be on King's Blue Devils varsity teams
Tigers play in AUS (university league)	Blue Devils play in ACAA (college league)
Dalplex available to students	Dalplex and King's Gym available to students

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday
March 10th @ 5:30 p.m.
in room 312 of the SUB

McGill Daily faces extinction

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

Does a university have the right to force a referendum regarding the existence of an independent society? The editors and contributors of the student newspaper *The McGill Daily* are facing this question, and may be publishing their last edition this year.

From March 8 to 14, McGill students will vote on whether to keep paying for two of their student newspapers, *The McGill Daily* and *Le Délit*. This referendum is not a student initiative, but part of a mandate from the McGill administration. In an e-mail interview, Drew Nelles, the coordinating editor of *The Daily*, expressed his frustration that the university is taking responsibility for what are supposed to be independent newspapers.

"The (Daily Publications Society) obviously needs to remain financially accountable to students," writes Nelles. "However, McGill is insulting students by implementing this referendum from the top down. There are mechanisms in place for students to initiate referenda themselves on *The Daily's* funding, which they have done in the past. Rather than forcing this referendum upon us, McGill should treat its students like the adults they are, and respect students' ability to intervene when they consider it necessary."

The university now requires all independent societies to hold a referendum every five years regarding their student levy, in order to re-negotiate their contracts with the university. Other societies affected by this requirement include the campus community radio station, CKUT, and the Legal Information Clinic, a society that deals with legal community issues.

The McGill Daily and *Le Délit* are run by the Daily Publications Society (DPS), an independent organization that receives \$5 per undergraduate student each term. Since the society is not affiliated with the student union, it must hold a referendum. If students vote 'no' in the referendum, then the

newspapers will no longer operate.

Morten Mendelson, McGill's deputy provost (student life and learning), says the administration is acting to make the publication society more accountable to students.

"We see this policy as an issue of passive approval versus active approval," Mendelson says. "We believe that having the referendum is more active in terms of renewal. With the DPS specifically, they have constraints in their constitution on how referenda are placed on students. We're trying to make sure that the groups that exist are accountable to the students."

Mendelson explains that the newspapers exist according to the support of students.

"When societies are up for renewal, then they should have to re-affirm their services," he says. "With the DPS, we collect over \$220,000 from students for the society. We're collecting the bill so students should have a say on how their fees are spent."

The McGill Daily publishes twice a week, and the weekly *Le Délit* is the only francophone newspaper at the Montreal university. Notable contributors to *The Daily* include Phyllis Platt, the former executive director of arts and entertainment for the CBC, and journalist and novelist Adam Gopnik, who writes for *The New Yorker*.

Nelles considers the paper a necessary forum for students to explore their journalistic abilities and share their opinions.

"Since McGill doesn't have a journalism program, we like to consider ourselves *The McGill Daily* School of Journalism. We are a public forum for students, and give our members a platform to speak out."

He values an independent student press for its ability to criticize the university, and not be controlled by it.

"Perhaps most importantly, autonomous newspapers – those beholden to students directly, rather than to the student union or university – act as watchdogs, to make sure administrations and student politicians remember who their real bosses should be."

No Grad House levy for now

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

A student levy for The Grad House's renovations is off the table – at least for now.

The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) isn't ready to ask students if they want to help fund the relocation of the beloved campus bar/café to a new building across the street.

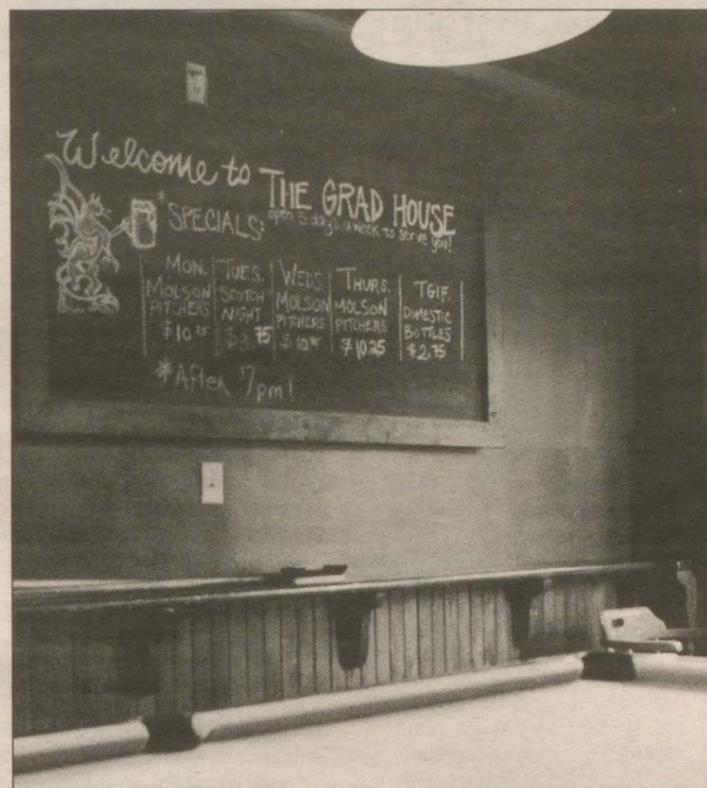
After meeting with the university's facilities management department and receiving a \$400,000 estimate for renovation costs at The Grad House's proposed new site on LeMarchant Street, DAGS founder André Arsenault withdrew his motion to pose a student levy referendum question at the Dal Student Union's Feb. 20 council meeting.

The grad students' society, which operates The Grad House restaurant and bar, had planned to present DSU council with a draft of a referendum question that would have asked students if they wanted to pay a fee for a certain number of years to help fund the relocation and renovation of The Grad House, beginning next September.

But DAGS wants to get more of the money details worked out before the society invests in the project and lets the student body make funding decisions. Arsenault says they're working on financial partnerships with the administration and the law fraternity, Domus Legis Society. He hopes more societies, such as Sexton engineering students, will be able to get involved with the new Grad House.

"Once we have more pieces of the puzzle put in place, we can have an open forum and get student feedback," he says. "There might be an opportunity to partner with other student groups on campus."

Next year's DAGS executive could decide to hold a referendum



Plans for students to fund new grad house renovations are on hold. JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

at any time, but Arsenault says taking the question off the table at least until the end of this term means they can devote more time to planning, and potentially garner more student support for the renovation project.

While he says the existing Grad House building is not unsafe, Arsenault notes the new location will need to meet much higher construction standards and accessibility requirements, such as wheelchair ramps and fire exits.

"There's some real structural upgrades that would have to happen to the existing Grad House," he says, mentioning the building's founda-

tion. "Because it's an old house, they've kind of turned a blind eye to those building codes."

But the university, as landlord for the potential LeMarchant Street Grad House, is already committed to ensuring the property is up to current safety, accessibility and environmental standards, says Arsenault.

DAGS has already met with the administration's Sustainability Office and the DSU-run Sustainability Office to discuss eco-friendly construction methods, such as using biodegradable paints and installing windows that help conserve energy.

Students to choose whether to pay for HSA

KATIE MAY
NEWS EDITOR

Dalhousie students will have the option to trade their loonies for the pursuit of more municipal lobbying power when they vote in the Dal Student Union elections later this month.

The Dal student council passed a motion Feb. 20 to include a Halifax Student Alliance (HSA) levy question on this year's referendum ballot. More than half of council voted in favour, despite initial uncertainty and disagreement among some councilors.

The HSA is a municipal lobby group formed by the student unions of Dal, Saint Mary's University, Mount Saint Vincent University and Nova Scotia Community College. The referendum will ask full-time students to pay \$1 each semester in support of the group, and part-time students \$1 for both fall and winter terms.

The DSU has been a member of the group since last term, but does not currently contribute any money to HSA, which as of yet has only an estimated budget structure and no actual funds from its members.

At the last council meeting, DSU President Mike Tipping strongly advocated for student representatives to support the cause, drawing on local instances of violent crime and the need for transportation safety and affordable housing as examples of issues the group can push for at the municipal level.

But some council members were concerned about asking Dal students to support the organization, knowing that SMU's Feb. 12 to 13 referendum asking students to contribute \$2 to the HSA lobby group failed.

Mitch Gillingwater, president of Saint Mary's University Students'



DSU President Mike Tipping strongly supports a municipal lobby group student levy. / JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Association, told councilors at the meeting that Dal could count on his union's financial support for the HSA. He said SMU's referendum failed by only seven votes and that the student union plans to put the same question to students again on March 18 and 19.

"We're extremely shocked and disappointed that this did not pass," he said during the meeting. "We feel this is something the students want to support."

If they don't, Gillingwater said the student union would fund HSA itself.

"We're going through our budget process right now and it's our full intention of supporting the Halifax Student Alliance through our operating budget and finding the funds to make sure that this organization continues to grow."

Still, some councilors, including Shannon Zimmerman, remained skeptical about the plan to pay for

the lobby group, although many of them agreed with the idea of the municipal organization.

"I don't have a problem with HSA; I have a problem with students paying for HSA right now," said Zimmerman, a Board of Governors representative. "If this is something the university student unions have deemed of interest to them, then I don't think it's going to fail because we don't give them the money."

Tipping acknowledged the concern during the meeting and emphasized that the HSA needs to use an advertising campaign that won't insult students.

"I think that's a decision a lot of students are going to have to make about whether this is important enough for them to be paying that \$2."

Students can vote on the HSA levy question during the DSU elections from March 18 to 20.

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Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Student group unhappy with Quebec's proposed fee regulations

University students in Quebec may soon have the power to accept or reject ancillary fee increases, but not everyone is satisfied by the proposal.

The Quebec Ministry of Education proposed this new regulation after students lobbied for years against the hikes on these extra tuition fees, reported *The McGill Daily*.

Max Silverman, Students' Society of McGill University vice-president (external affairs), said that if this proposal is passed, the administration will have to justify funding for certain projects.

"This really empowers faculty associates to get involved with their students and get them to think about the money," Silverman said.

But Katherine Boushel, vice-president (federal and institutional affairs) for the Fédération étudiante universitaire du Québec, a provincial student association, said the new regulations aren't enough.

"It's a good announcement, but it's still a band-aid solution," said Boushel. "This isn't bringing any long-term, sustainable solution to our funding problem."

Campus anti-war demonstration suppressed

Students participating in an anti-military protest at a job fair at

Fanshawe College in London, Ont. were forcefully removed, reported the University of Western Ontario's student newspaper, *The Gazette*.

The president of Fanshawe's Social Justice Club, Darius Mirshahi, was one of 12 protesters dragged out by security after lying down in ripped clothes, painted red, in front of the Canadian Forces recruitment booth.

"I firmly believe places of education should be free of military influences," said Mirshahi, who helped organize the event.

Travis Mazereeuw, president of the Fanshawe Student Union, said the union is supportive of students' right to free expression.

"Each student at Fanshawe has the right to speak up and stand behind the things they believe in," said Mazereeuw.

Student needs ignored in new B.C. budget

British Columbia's new budget ignores student issues and other post-secondary policies, reported student newspaper *The Martlet*.

The provincial government has only provided enough funding to cap tuition fee hikes that come along with inflation, which the government is currently doing already. The budget also outlines decreases in post-secondary education funding.

Robert Clift, executive director of the Confederation of University Faculty Associations of B.C., said the government's narrow attention

span is the problem. He told the newspaper the new budget regulations aren't good enough.

"The government have been sitting and twiddling their thumbs for 10 months," Clift said.

Chairperson of the University of Victoria Students' Society Tracy Ho said the province isn't investing enough in post-secondary education.

"We have a skills shortage and yet we're not putting in the money to make sure that people that live in B.C. are educated so they can take on those jobs," said Ho.

Sources: *The McGill Daily*, *The (UWO) Gazette*, *The Martlet*

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Students lobby to carry guns

Cornell University students asked their student union to consider a motion that would allow all students to carry concealed weapons on campus.

Some students, including *Cornell Sun* columnist Mark Coombs, made the proposal to Cornell's Student Assembly Feb. 28 in response to the recent school shooting at Northern Illinois University.

Coombs told *The Cornell Daily Sun* he introduced the motion to help students protect themselves on campus, though several students at the meeting raised concerns that allowing students to carry weapons would only

make campuses more dangerous.

If the motion passes at Cornell, Coombs hopes the university will lobby to change state law so students can carry concealed weapons on all public campuses.

The Cornell Sun reported that currently New York state law allows citizens older than 21 to carry guns in public places, but carrying concealed weapons on college campuses is banned.

State bill aims to lower textbook prices

Florida universities may soon be forced to lower their textbook prices, reported Florida International University's student newspaper *The Beacon*. A recent state-wide bill proposes to regulate textbook costs at colleges and universities across the state.

If passed, the Florida Textbook Affordability Bill will come into effect July 1, ordering schools to give students detailed information about book prices at a variety of different bookstores at the beginning of each semester.

The bill intends to save students money by allowing them to compare textbook prices rather than simply paying what are often exorbitant campus bookstore fees.

Under the new rules, professors would have to inform students when they can buy old editions of texts for courses or if and why new editions are necessary.

ACROSS THE POND

Returning officer resigns after candidates complain

Candidates running for positions in the University of Oxford's student union have accused their elections returning officer of intentionally intimidating them during the union's recent elections.

Union Returning Officer Cameron Penny quit Feb. 27 after four candidates from Christ Church, a college of Oxford, complained to a union standing committee that Penny subjected them to "interrogation-style knifing sessions," reported Oxford student newspaper *Cherwell*.

Penny denied the accusations and said his resignation was unrelated to the claims. The four candidates, who all ran for election with platforms that relied on their beliefs that the student union was too much like an exclusive club, told the newspaper they felt singled out and victims of "snide and belittling" questions during the returning officer's routine candidate interviews. They said they were required to stand a certain distance away from the elections committee and weren't allowed to sit or stand without permission.

Penny, however, told *Cherwell* the Christ Church students weren't grilled as much as the other candidates because their platforms were less substantial.

Sources: *The Cornell Daily Sun*; *The Beacon*; *Cherwell*

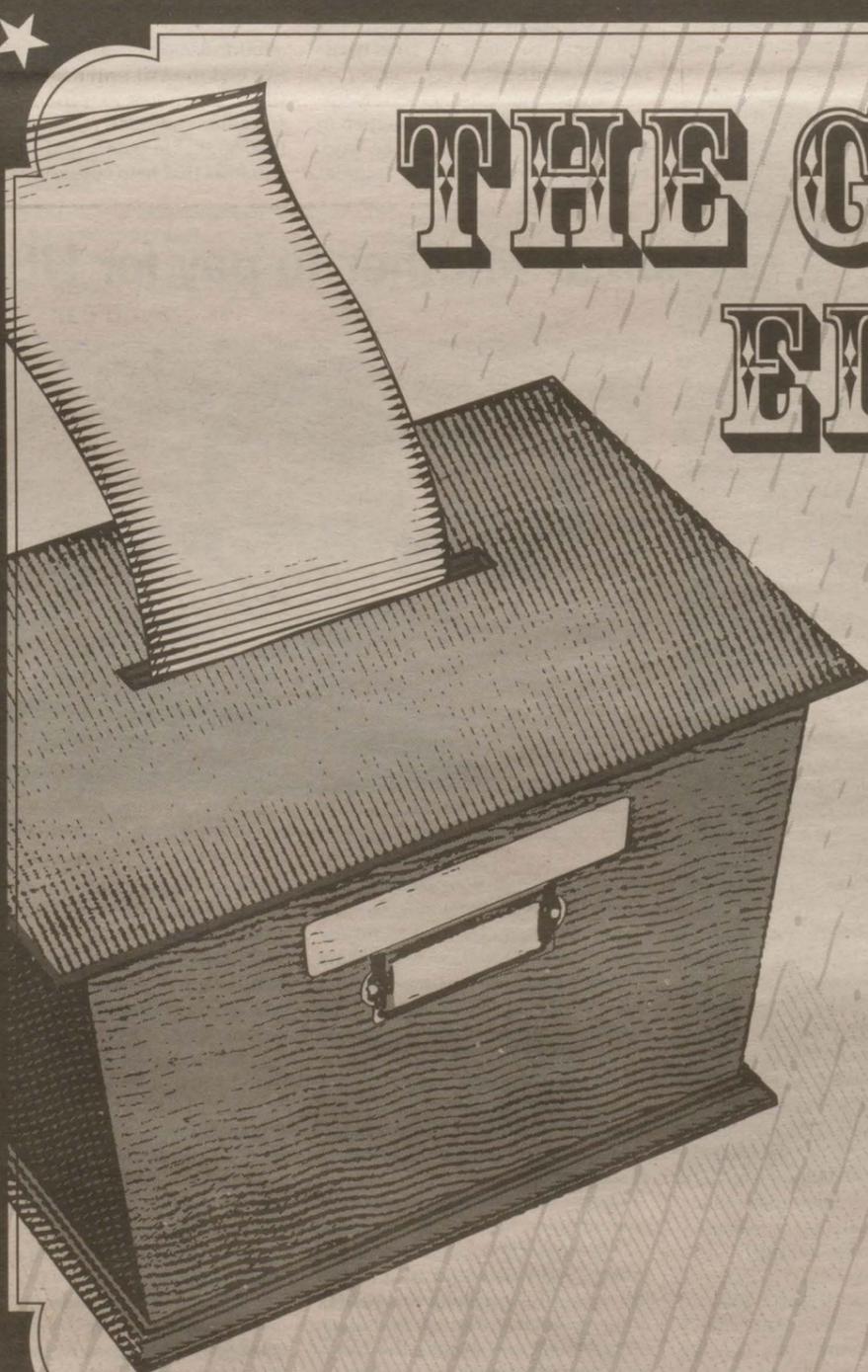
THE GAZETTE ELECTIONS

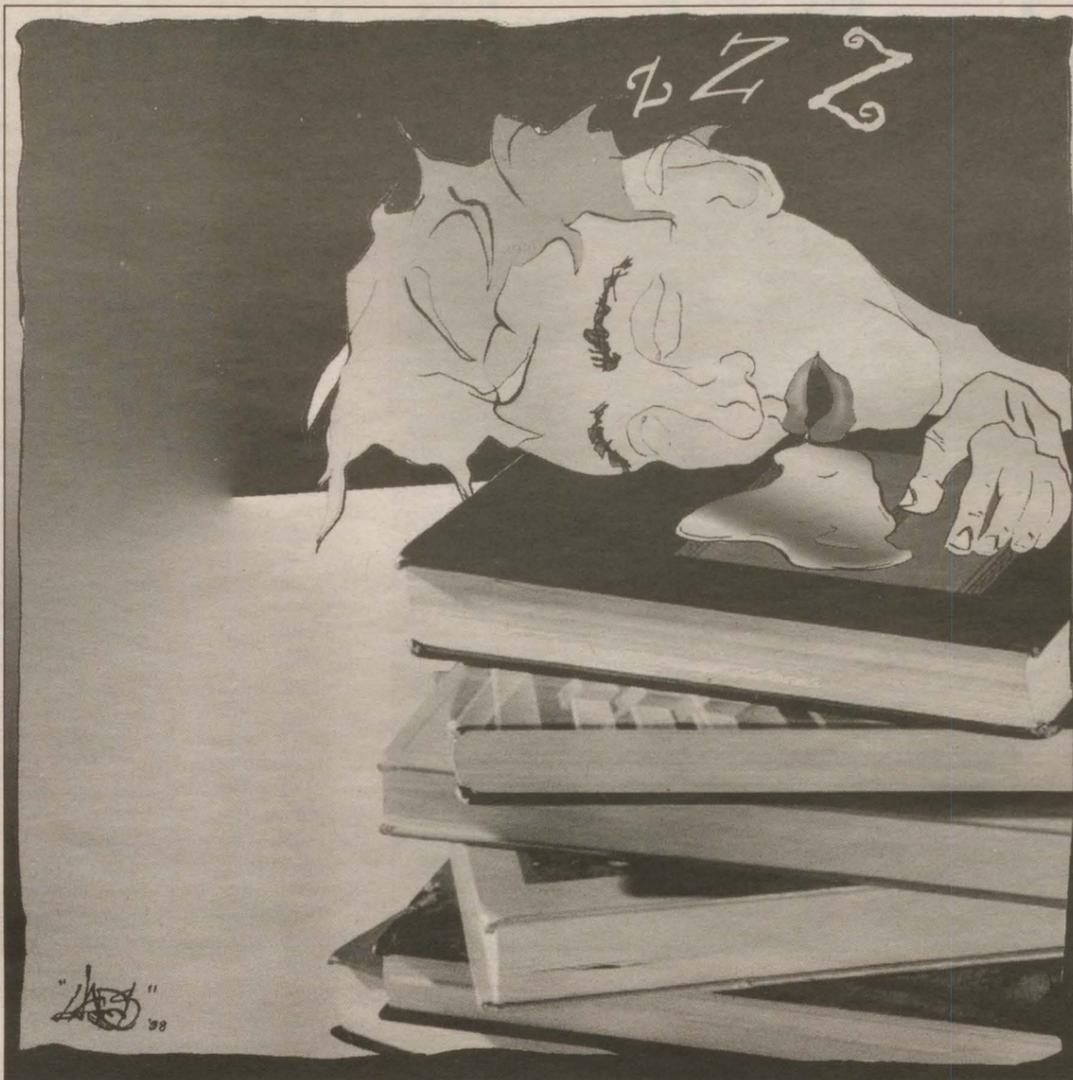
Come out March 14th at 4 p.m. Rm 303 of the SUB to vote for the editors next year.

Any Dalhousie student can vote

Anyone who has published articles or photos in three different issues can apply for any of the section editor positions. Just drop off a cover letter, resume and clippings to The Gazette office by March 13 at 4 p.m.

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JAMES NADEL / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Student apathy won't be cured by exclusion

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

There are some people out there who would have you believe the DSU is facing a crisis of indifference. They will tell you that you don't have to look far for the evidence, that the annual DSU elections send enough signals.

Last year, we pulled in a whopping 21 per cent of eligible voters, despite roaming elections officials, voting stations placed every 10 feet around campus, easy online voting and a hot-button referendum that was held only a few weeks beforehand. The year before that it was 20 per cent. The DSU is less popular than George W. Bush, smoking and the theory that the sun revolves around the earth.

But even if all these facts are true and interest in the DSU is hitting rock bottom, no one is going to convince me that our union representatives aren't responding in a heroic fashion.

Indeed, just recently they've begun pushing ahead with policy that will directly address the issue of student apathy. The answer they've hit on could not be simpler: to improve students' perception of the apathy issue, they will restrict the participation of some of the most active members of DSU society life.

As with most internal crises, a little good old-fashioned xenophobia will go a long way toward fixing this problem. The general argument, as I'm sure 20 per cent or so of you will know, is that individuals who are not members of the DSU should be barred from serving on the execu-

tives of societies under the DSU umbrella.

If you think about it, this makes perfect sense: as a member of the DSU, I might pay as much as \$9 a year for some of the most expensive societies. Logically, paying this fee makes me innately more qualified to run these societies.

Take *The Dalhousie Gazette*, for example. *The Gazette's* constitution defines Dalhousie as "Dalhousie University and University of King's College." But why in the world would we want to allow members of the King's Student Union to participate in *The Gazette*? They may be a vital segment of the Dalhousie student community, but their student union doesn't charge the \$5 student levy that ours does.

Sure, having actual journalism students involved with *The Gazette* might look good on paper, but the fact is that they don't contribute to the levy. Therefore, the only logical thing to do is take away their say in how the paper's run and make it impossible for them to vote and difficult for them to devote years of service in editorial positions to make our paper the best it can be.

Now some bleeding hearts seem to think societies should have the right to elect their most qualified participants to their executives, regardless of the union to which they belong. Why exclude some of the most active, energetic members of the Dalhousie student community when student interest is already at an embarrassing low, they ask. Why not work with the KSU to allow Dal society membership to King's students at the same nominal fee, and

let them help us build a thriving student community?

These people clearly do not understand how exclusionary diversions work. If we're not focussed on sticking it to the prominent minorities, then more people might start to wonder why it is that the DSU is failing to capture the imagination of its members. Before you know it, people will start forming opinions, debates will take place and the status quo just might be unsettled. Talk about a crisis! Sheer Bolshevism.

I think it ought to be clear by now that there is only one reasonable course of action the union can take. If you still have any lingering doubts as to which side you fall on in this debate, let me offer you one final argument.

As everyone is well aware, *The Gazette* has an annoying habit of acting as a DSU watchdog and providing even-handed coverage of student issues, even when officials who fail to live up to their duties would rather they didn't. Sounds suspiciously like the sort of behaviour picked up in journalism school, doesn't it?

If we can drive out the King's students, we might just be able to deprive *The Gazette* of some of those annoying 'question askers.' Without them around to rain on everyone's parade, we can all settle back into blissful ignorance.

If no one is asking questions about student apathy, no one will be worried about it. If no one is worried about it, it's not a crisis. It's the sort of logic that's impossible to argue with – or will be impossible soon enough, if you're a King's student.

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Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday,
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DSU refuses to accept reality of society "crisis"

JEN BOND
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Democratic bodies are supposed to work bottom-up rather than from the top-down; a student union is no exception. Students put money into their unions so that representatives can work on their behalf. The guys at the top shouldn't tell students what to do with the money, nor should they get students to do all the work.

But in its latest attempts at revising its Society Policy, the Dalhousie Student Union is displaying its refusal to accept the realities of the people and situations it strives to regulate. When all aspects of a situation aren't considered, students suffer.

For those not in the know, the Society Policy is the regulatory framework by which every DSU society must abide in order to be ratified, be eligible to receive grant money, and gain access to facilities of both the union and the university.

At the beginning of this academic year, it was discovered that there were real live King's students on the executives of some DSU ratified societies! This was in direct violation of the DSU Society Policy, which dictated that executive members must be Dalhousie students.

Mass chaos ensued. DSU Vice President (internal) Rosalie Hanlon was charged with trying to figure out how to accommodate King's students within DSU societies while still protecting the "needs of Dalhousie students."

Or whatever that means.

I do not mean to knock the efforts of Hanlon or her Society Policy committee. They have worked hard this year in trying to come up with a solution to a problem they perceive



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The DSU and the KSU should be dealing with the society crisis, not downloading onto students.

to exist. They have consulted with students, held Imagine events and consulted former DSU hacks (full disclosure: this included me). In the end, however, they have missed the mark in a fundamental way.

This is not a student problem; this is a union problem.

Both the DSU and the King's Student Union have avoided the

fact that the lives of King's and Dal students are inextricably interconnected. Instead of facing this issue head-on, they have laid down rules for students to follow and made societies try to sort out their own problems. Of course if societies don't, that could mean they won't get ratified next year.

Aside from any superficial school

loyalty that may exist, it makes little difference to a student whether they are labeled Dalhousie or King's. It makes even less difference to which organization they pay their union fees.

A King's student taking every single one of her classes at Dalhousie with a view to a political science degree does not want to be told that she cannot run for president of the

Political Science Society simply because her 100 odd dollars a year go to the wrong people.

Similarly, a Dalhousie student taking a History of Science and Technology class at King's who wants to have a beer with his classmates at The Wardroom should not have to wait for a friend to sign him in because his fees go across the street.

Make no doubt about it: this all comes down to money. Shrouding it in anything else – "the principle of the thing" or what have you – is disingenuous. The protectionist view of the DSU is that it does not want to fund the endeavours of King's students, and vice versa.

Whether the fact that the president of the Dalhousie Debating Society is a King's student automatically makes the whole society unworthy of DSU grant money or whether allowing Dal students to drink at The Wardroom taints it forever is beside the point.

The whole 'problem' is really an issue of accounting that can and should be dealt with by the executives of the two student unions.

The current 'solutions' being banded about (because there is, to date, no finalized policy) of having quotas of King's students on executives or allowing King's students to be involved but not vote in society elections, simply downloads the problem onto students – students who are trying to get involved in societies.

It is, in a word, shameful. In no world should students bear the brunt of an issue that could be dealt with at the union level.

The DSU and KSU have to come back to reality, get their heads out of the sand and figure out how to work together for the best interests of students from both schools.

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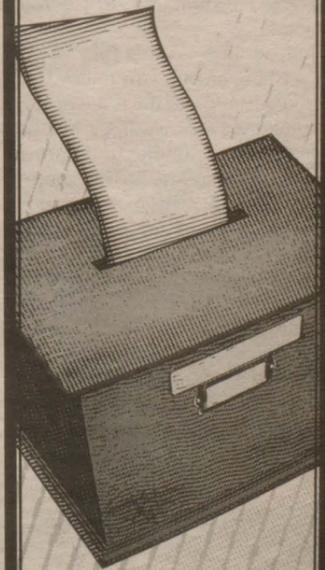


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GAZETTE EDITORIAL

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate

on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

DSU undermining student democracy

University societies are kryptonite to social cliques and other vestiges of the high school atmosphere. Their membership is based on merit and participation, not on popularity or favour. You even get a chance to democratically lead your society based on a record of good leadership and hard work.

Societies also have the freedom to make use of the best resources available to them. A student in an arts program shouldn't be kept from joining the Computer Science Society if they've been fiddling with technology since they were tots. An engineering student shouldn't be kept out of CKDU if their lifelong dream is to become a radio announcer. As long as these societies bring students together and run things democratically, they should have the freedom to run their societies as efficiently as possible.

With this in mind, the merit of the DSU's decision to lower the profile of King's students at *The Gazette* is a little questionable.

The DSU will soon vote on new society policies that could give Dal students an advantage over King's students during *The Gazette's* elections, as opposed to the current rules that put all *Gazette* staff on equal footing for elections.

As it stands today, any Dal student can come and vote for or against the staff members who choose to

run. They can ask staff members questions and grill them on their performance during the year. This is the democratic cornerstone of a student-run paper. Ultimately, *The Gazette* runs on the interests of Dal students.

The Gazette's constitution, which upholds interested students' rights to get involved in the paper, enshrines these principles and keeps *The Gazette* a legitimate source of student-focused news and opinion. The attempt of the DSU to undermine the democratic spirit of *The Gazette's* elections is a tyranny of the few.

Yes, we are aware that the DSU is also elected by the student body. We're not trying to suggest that they aren't working on behalf of students. Since *The Gazette* is already democratic, what is it about its election that the DSU seems to think isn't in the interest of students?

The DSU has its own ideas of what students want in their newspaper. Since student newspapers always run the risk of being reigned in by an unhappy parent organization that they monitor with their news coverage, like the union, it's important that the newspaper's own elections are not controlled by the interests of that union.

The DSU's oft-repeated contention with King's students on *The Gazette's* staff is that they don't pay the newspaper's levy – but no current

King's students on staff have ever ruled out or taken issue with paying the levy for the paper. In our view, the DSU has not worked hard enough with the King's Student Union to make paying that levy a possible option for King's students on staff.

As it stands today, *The Gazette* is run by those who show enough ambition to run for the positions and seek to earn student votes. We are elected directly by students, and we consider this student democracy.

But the DSU will not hear this point. For some reason, they assume *The Gazette's* democratic principles are out of line. But out of line according to what standard? Staff are elected at *The Gazette* according to the will of the voting student body.

So maybe it's not the process that the DSU has a problem with, but the outcome. The DSU must have expected democracy to turn out differently. Apparently they didn't expect King's journalism students to excel, run for positions and get elected in a society that allows them to apply their studies and prepare for their intended careers.

So in order to alter to outcome, the DSU is voting to change the elections process. But if the DSU wants societies to run as democratically as they run their own executive elections, they should back off from trying to put conditions and exclusions on society elections.

Newspapers need all the help they can get

ALEX BOUTILIER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

If you're a Dalhousie student, your money helps to keep this paper afloat.

And if you happen to be a King's student, your money funds the paper I work for.

Dal students paying the Dal Student Union (DSU) fees will naturally have a vested interest in who benefits from said money and who makes the decisions at *The Gazette*. Ditto for King's students and the King's monthly student paper, *The Watch*.

As a Dal student, you may think, "Gee, I bet our little newspaper benefits greatly from allowing interested King's students, who are more often than not journalism students, the chance to contribute to our paper."

Or you may think, along with some members of the DSU council who have proposed giving preference to Dal students in upcoming elections, that people who have not contributed their \$5 to *The Gazette's* levy are unfit to vote in the paper's elections or concerning its constitution. You may also agree with the DSU that Dal students should be given preference in elections, even if a more experienced and qualified student from the university next door wants to contribute.

I disagree with this for a few reasons.

First, I know the value of a page in a student newspaper, and not in some kind of wishy-washy, 'articles matter, student journalism matters' bullshit way. I know the value of a page because I've spent too many nights trying to get a damn paper ready for publication to not know the value of a page.

And let me tell you, it's more than \$5. At *The Watch*, we currently pay contributors \$30 a page.

So if a King's student really wants to contribute a few articles to this newspaper without getting paid, and makes enough effort to show up and vote at a meeting (which, honestly, few of us do), why shouldn't they be

treated equally to Dal students? Just because they haven't been charged the cost of a beer at The Grad House?

Secondly, I think the DSU's first priority should be the quality of *The Gazette* – just as much as the King's Students' Union should uphold the quality of *The Watch*. This means that if a King's student wants to run for Editor-in-Chief at *The Gazette*, as one has for the past two years and won, they should be able to do so on equal footing with a Dal student. This ensures that whoever is voted in for a position is voted in based on merit – not on which school they happened to be registered at.

You may call attention to the fact that King's has its own newspaper – a fact that I, too, am vaguely aware of. Why shouldn't a King's student run for a position at *The Watch*, or vote on *The Watch's* constitution, rather than meddle with Dal's paper?

To my mind, this doesn't even count as an argument. Anyone who has read an issue of both papers can attest to the fact that they play different roles. *The Watch* publishes monthly, *The Gazette* weekly. The difference in style and content necessarily follows from this fact. More often than not, what we offer is commentary on stories, while *The Gazette* can immediately call attention to stories as they happen.

Better people than I have attempted to define the relationship between King's and Dalhousie, and plenty of people have offered their opinion on the role of King's students in Dalhousie societies. I agree that these are very complicated questions that should be tabled and discussed.

But shutting talented, enthusiastic students out of positions of power does not make for better societies. More importantly, it does not make for better reading for you.

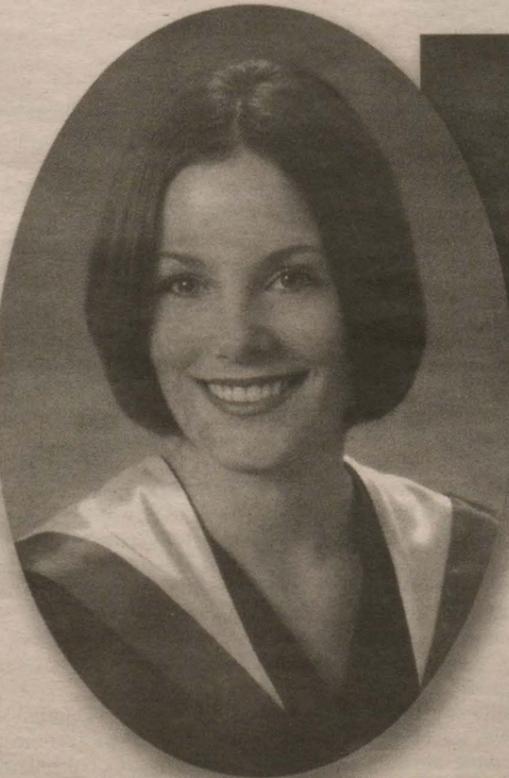
Alex Boutilier is Editor-in-Chief of *The Watch*, the University of King's College student newspaper. 100-some Dalhousie students would probably do a better job than him.

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The Scientific Skeptic

How to use more than 10 per cent of your brain



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
SCIENCE COLUMNIST

When asked to explain the source of their alleged abilities, many psychics, including the famous Uri Geller, point to the common assumption that most of us use only a small fraction of our brains.

They say we use around 10 per cent of our brains, and that if we took advantage of our entire brain, we could all be psychics too. The claim has also been used by brain enhancement products or companies who point out our own inefficiency to try and sell things we probably don't need.

I asked Aaron Newman, a neuroscientist in the Dalhousie Psychology Department's NeuroCognitive Imaging Laboratory, about whether we actually only use 10 per cent of our brains.

"This claim is false," says Newman. "Really, all of our brain is active, all the time. Even when the brain is at rest, it's not really at rest."

Newman does research in neuroplasticity (the ability of the brain to form new neural connections), specifically when learning second languages or learning sign languages. For his research, Newman uses both fMRIs and EEGs to look at activity in the brain. EEGs measure electrical activity with electrodes that are placed on the outside of the head, while fMRIs use a strong magnetic field to measure oxygen flow to different parts of the brain.

In his studies, Newman needs to compare his images of the brain to template images, so he will get his subjects to lie in the MRI and stare at a screen of moving dots – a very boring task. Even then, much more than 10

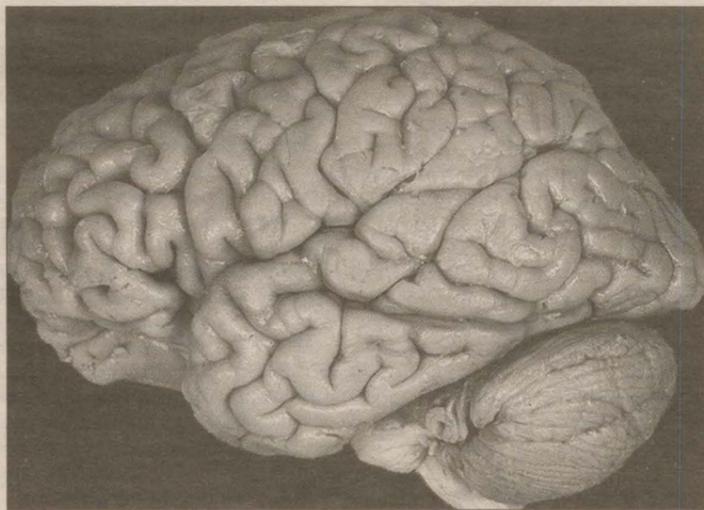
per cent of the brain is active.

Every waking moment, our brains take in large amounts of data and almost simultaneously process it so that we can make sense of our world. Because of this, our brains are huge consumers of energy; by weight they account for only 3 per cent of our mass, yet use 20 per cent of our energy.

Over the course of a day, every physical part of the brain is used. It wouldn't make sense from an evolutionary viewpoint to have large, unused sections of the brain in our al-

American psychologist William James may have also started it when he said, "We are making use of only a small part of our possible mental and physical resources."

Early experiments may have provided evidence to support the 10 per cent myth. For example, it was found that small animals could still function even with large parts of their brains removed. However, the same cannot be said for humans; even the loss of small parts of our brains can change us completely.



WIKIPEDIA

Psychics say we use around 10 per cent of our brains, and that if we took advantage of the rest we could all be psychics too.

ready large heads.

However, over time our brains do adapt and change through experience.

"As you get better at a task, you use less of your brain," Newman says. "The brain is acting more efficiently."

In this sense, the brain of a student writing an exam of newly studied material is working much harder than the brain of a professor of that subject writing the exam.

So where did the 10 per cent myth originate? There are many possible sources. It has often been attributed to Albert Einstein, though there is no official quote of his to explain why.

It's promising to believe in the 10 per cent myth, which is probably the main reason why it has perpetuated in our society. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could all become geniuses or psychics just by unleashing the other 90 per cent?

Unfortunately, there is no such thing as psychic ability and the road to genius is paved with hard work – or good genes.

Being skeptical of those who say we use only 10 per cent of our brains is intelligent. As Newman puts it, "Usually the people who say that are trying to sell you something."

DSU decision doesn't consider all voices

RUTH MESTECHKIN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

In a week, a handful of King's students and I may decide to run for a position at *The Gazette* during the newspaper's elections. But if the Dalhousie Student Union has its way, I and other King's students won't have the same chance as other potential Dal candidates.

King's students will most likely have to demonstrate that they've devoted a lot of time and effort toward *The Gazette* in order to run for positions. But the King's kids who want to vote won't get a ballot.

When DSU VP (internal) Rosalie Hanlon held a non-binding vote at a council meeting on Feb. 20 to inform *The Gazette* how to run their elections, its members made a choice that could affect the aspirations of King's students.

The DSU should be speaking for Dal students when making decisions, and not against King's students.

The difference between King's and Dal students isn't relevant when it comes to societies.

Ideally, a society should be an organization in which anyone who has the drive and enthusiasm to get involved should be able to join and share their ideas.

If members of different student unions want to contribute creatively, then their participation shouldn't be limited.

The exclusive voting rights that the DSU is suggesting to give Dal students is odd.

Not that all King's students should get the vote, but those who have shown they've worked in its interests certainly should.

There's something unsettling about ranking and prioritizing people in this way. I wouldn't support King's students raking up more rights just because their university has a journalism school.

Opportunity should be equal among students, and every student in the Dal community should have an active say in the process.

A newspaper is a forum for balanced discussion, but this will flop if we don't open the floor to willing participants.

There shouldn't be a 'King's student' or 'Dal student' label dividing up *The Gazette* or any society; we're students, collectively, writing and acting in our surrounding community.

Democracy is about the right to have your say on the same level as other people. Elections lose their credibility when democratic principles are tailored and toyed with.

The DSU has to listen to Dal students and consider what they want, but when it makes decisions that affect other students on its shared campus, it needs to consider them too.

If the issue is of union membership and fees, then deliberating with the King's Student Union on how to solve it might be a start.

All students, be they from King's or Dal, should have the right to vote and run at *The Gazette* – and no student union has the right to tell them when and in what order.

This is the freedom of the press in a nutshell – the freedom to function in the interests of those who want to report and read fair news, not according to the desires of its financiers.

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, March 10 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

Letters@dalgazette.ca Letters@dalgazette.ca Letters@dalgazette.ca

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

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

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

The intent of this letter is not to dispute facts printed in *The Gazette*, nor is it a comment on the opinions of other individuals or an attempt to provide a one-sided view of the Sustainability Office.

Firstly, I would like to establish some widely accepted facts.

1. Yes, the Sustainability Office got off to a rocky start. I don't think anybody will disagree with that. It is important that students are aware about how DSU-funded entities operate – but the Sustainability Office shouldn't necessarily be the only one under the microscope.

2. There has been a change of staff in the office – there are now three part-time student positions as opposed to one full-time coordinator.

3. The Sustainability Office is a work in progress.

Now that that has been established, I think students are tired of hearing about the past trials and tribulations involving this office. We have recognized that already.

I think it's time to take a brief look at what is happening in the office right now. Emily Rideout, our networker/coordinator is working with

Deborah Buzzard and Rochelle Owen (from the Administrative Sustainability Office) to organize a 'meet the key sustainability players' conference.

Mark Johnston is focusing his current efforts on increasing the profile of our office to students. He is reaching out to all student societies, letting them know we are here.

I, as the promoter of the office, am working hard to organize Dalhousie University's first Sustainability Week called 'Green Week,' which is occurring Mar. 10 to 14. The purpose of Green Week is to promote the idea of a sustainable campus to students as well as to promote current activities and encourage future student action.

As a university, we are taking a step in the right direction with the establishment of the Administrative Sustainability Office in January, along with a workshop involving students and faculty to discuss the future of sustainability in the curriculum which occurred in mid-February.

As students, we cannot ignore the sustainability movement. It is slowly creeping its way into all facets of our society. At the risk of sound-

ing repetitive, the operations of the office should be looked at critically, but the ideas, intentions and hard work behind the initiative should not be forgotten.

Sarah Applebaum
Promoter
DSU Sustainability Office

Re: Sex Issue (140-19)

Though the topics of decency and gender equality are relevant in the discussion of The Sex Issue, *The Gazette* exposed too much skin and not enough latex in the Feb. 14 issue.

The Gazette is getting to be known for engaging in risky behaviour. The Sex Issue has upset a number of people. I too was dismayed at how poorly *The Gazette* cameras captured a tasteful conceptualization of sex. We all do that sometimes, it happens, but *The Gazette* simply ventured out of some people's comfort zones. *The Gazette* also failed to include adequate attention to the role of condoms in the act of sex.

The use and promotion of prophylactics during coitus is of great importance to any sexually active

person on or off campus. Although not a perfect solution, when used properly condoms protect individuals from certain sexually transmitted diseases (STIs) and pregnancy at least 97 per cent of the time.

I think *The Gazette* missed a great opportunity to remind students about a highly relevant topic. *The Gazette*, which could have been recognized as a provider of sage advice, instead chose to play paper peddler. Sexually active people need to be reminded to cover up their parts pre-penetration, period. That thin piece of latex needs more attention.

We need to be reminded that a simple thing like a condom can offer excellent protection against many STIs, as well as provide peace of mind. I am no prude, as I have undressed and undulated uncovered. At that time, I was uncertain if my partner was carrying anything undesirable in their underwear. When I was screened for HIV, Hep C and other STIs, I was totally stressed out. To have taken the extra few seconds to unroll a rubber would have saved me much fretting. *The Gazette* should have reminded people to make smart

decisions about sex on campus, not quick ones.

Because safe sexual practice has not been adequately addressed by *The Gazette*, I suggest you include content that will not only arouse the readership but also guide them to making wise decisions. The readers deserve from *The Gazette* an authoritative voice, and that includes elements of parental concern. When it came time to encouraging safe and wise sexual health choices, *The Gazette* sent us out into the storm without a raincoat. Please in the future show the students that you care about them: include more responsible content.

Brad Congram

[Editor's note: Condoms aren't the only form of protection necessary to decrease the risk of contracting STIs, and you should use protection for more than just penetration. If you don't know your partner's or your own status, use condoms for fellatio, gloves for genital touching and dental dams for cunnilingus and anal rimming.]



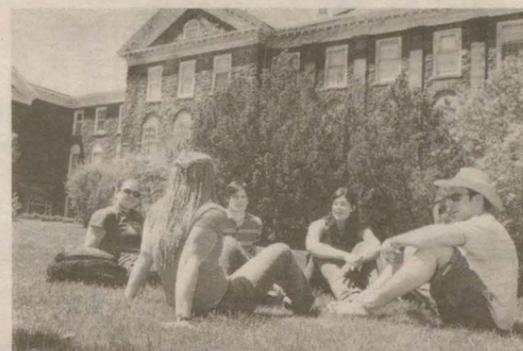
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a place
to
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STREETER

Do you have a recurring dream?



“The end of the world.”

Mohammed Al-hamdani, third-year health promotion



“Tied to a bed surrounded by naked women.”

Justine White, fourth-year kinesiology



“A few years ago, I would always have this dream of something under the floor.”

Lihui Liu, fourth-year computer science



“Changing the world in big leaps.”

Gregory Debogorski, second-year management



“I'm in a red box and I can't get out.”

Victoria Jones, fourth-year history



“All of my friends and I are on a boat in a storm tracking sea lions.”

Amanda Silver, first-year sociology



“Floating around on a mattress through some caves.”

Greg Woolner, fifth-year sociology



“Being able to vote in *Gazette* elections after working there for three years.”

James Munson, eighth-year grape peeling

TOP 10

Things to look for when house hunting

1. Thickness of walls: very important with sexually active roommates.
2. Proximity to bars: close for a good time, far for a good GPA.
3. Proximity to Superstore: rent may rise, but strolling across the street for an extra dash of paprika is priceless.
4. Space: 'roommate rodeo' is far trickier in a small living room, though arguably more thrilling.
5. Washer and dryer on site: Riding out your wardrobe for a full year is an art, and not something you learn the first time around.
6. Heat: paying for heat sucks. Getting it free allows for the joy of the thermo-crank. Sundays are so much better when the ice cream melts before it reaches your mouth.
7. Neighbourhood: go for somewhere low-end. You can make a ruckus at any hour and the bums will clean up your empty beer cans gratis.
8. Landlord: seriously guys, if his name is Kenneth and he has a limp and a lazy eye he WILL steal into your apartment in the dead of night and watch you sleep.
9. Backyard/Deck: barbecues are a great way to catch up with your friends, but the people at Shopper's Drug Mart get very upset when you broil in their parking lot.
10. McDonald's: When it's right across the road and the double cheeseburger combo is only \$3.99, it's really hard not to gain 27 lbs.

HOT OR NOT

HOT: March Madness	NOT: Spring sanity
HOT: Wake n' bake	NOT: Fake n' bake
HOT: Going for a run everyday	NOT: Having the runs everyday
HOT: One more month	NOT: Four more term papers
HOT: Making your bed	NOT: Wetting your bed
HOT: Taking one for the team	NOT: Taking one from the team
HOT: Ketchup	NOT: Catsup
HOT: Being sexually progressive	NOT: Rope burns
HOT: Computer porn	NOT: Typewriter porn
HOT: Finding an apartment in March	NOT: Living in Dartmouth

DISCLAIMER

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

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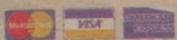
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OVERHEARD AT DAL

In class:

Prof: All I know is that sex works... don't quote me on that.

In Shirreff meal hall:

Guy: He smells like the old bowling alley from my hometown.

In Shirreff meal hall:

Guy: I wasn't trying to kiss Derek, I was just showing him something.

Girl1 : You know that restaurant in Halifax... Discount Shoe Factory?

Girl2 : Umm... Economy Shoe Shop?

One fourth-year to another:

Where is the North End?

Girl: I hate hand jobs!

Guy: Why, do you get them often?

Girl1: I can't believe how lazy you are!

Girl2: I know, I won't even lift a hand... unless there's a burger in it and its heading for my mouth.

In the Risley Hall lounge

Boy: And at the air hockey game you were too busy flashing me.

Girl: Nuh-uh, I was trying to get the puck out of my hole.

Prof in Cell Bio, referring to blue-eyed people:

Your ancestors were probably inbreeding ... that's when cousins have sex.

Two girls in front of the SUB

Girl1: I wish I was related to someone.

Girl2: Um... what about your parents?

Girl1: I mean like, real people, like Burt Reynolds.

While discussing the Oedipus Complex:

Prof: I have examined my inner psyche with LSD and found no such notion.

Transgenics 3036

Prof: Did you know that 20 per cent of cats have AIDS? A cat can bite you, lick you, or even exchange fluids with you and you still won't get AIDS... Pussy will not kill you.

Class laughs

Prof: I'm sorry guys...

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Sloths, dildos and disposable cameras

MATTHEW A. MACDONALD
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Inflamed with curiosity

When Aimée Clark gave children in the Kenyan village of Matangwe 12 disposable cameras to take their own pictures, she never imagined the tragic impact such a small gesture could have.

The result inspired Clark's painting, "Portrait of family in front of burning home caused by disposable camera," which stood out among the brilliant pieces by four unique artists on display at the Anna Leonowens Gallery at NSCAD from Feb. 19 to 23.

Clark was working in Matangwe for Caring Partners Global, a Christian aid organization. One day, a girl from the village, which is near Lake Victoria, came running up to Clark and her colleagues and said that her house had burned down.

Alarmed, Clark went to assess the situation. There were suspicions someone had stolen the disposable camera Clark had given the girl and knocked over a candle in the process, setting the girl's home ablaze.

While no one seems to know for sure what happened, this event revealed to Clark just how profound an effect the simplest actions can have.

Clark's exhibit was named after another striking painting of hers called "The Curious Boy" – a portrait of an emaciated child staring eerily back at the viewer. Her paintings and photographs span the time before, during and after her trip to Africa. They give a vivid sense of the amazing journey this young artist has been on.

Sex and the sloth



AIMÉE CLARK / SUPPLIED
"Portrait of family in front of burning home caused by disposable camera"

Another fascinating exhibit was "See Sloths Slide" by Mia Sandhu, a study in wood and paint of the sin of sloth, sloths the mammals and slothful behaviour among humans. In this work, Sandhu attempts a visual fusion of Christian beliefs regarding the sin of sloth and Sikh beliefs about reincarnation.

While the religious dimension of her work was a bit difficult to grasp, her wood panels featuring depictions of sloths in Victorian dress, sloths climbing gigantic fluorescent dildos, sloths gazing longingly upon disembodied vaginas and sloths whipping humans were captivating, to say the least.

"Everything we do has an aspect of sloth in it," Sandhu says. According to her, masturbation, fast food and sex toys are all manifestations of sloth.

Sloth, she says, is a byproduct of our "bourgeois" society. She is planning to paint a sloth family portrait and make a series of nested babushka dolls depicting humans evolving and eventually becoming sloths.

A sight to behold

Sharon Kim's exhibit, "Eternity Series," and Svetlana Wulsten's exhibit, "Russian Traditional Dress Revival," rounded out the show, making it a veritable smorgasbord for the eyes. Kim's "Eternity Cuff," an exquisitely crafted, delicate silver cuff with a simple undulating pattern, stood out among her original jewelry designs. Wulsten's traditional Russian dresses, meanwhile, exploded with colour. The combination of so many unique works of art by such talented artists made the show well worth seeing.

A cut above

ANDREW BERNARDO
THE EPICURIAN STUDENT

I'm a tapas guy. Small tasting plates shared with friends over a couple glasses of wine are a great way to spend an evening without wrecking your budget. Best of all, you get to bed at a decent hour and don't wake up with an Alehouse-sized hangover.

I used to like Mosaic for my tapas nights, but now it seems you can't swing a rubber chicken in there without hitting a wannabe millionaire strutting about in clothes they probably spent two months' salary on, just to impress someone who probably won't give them the time of day after they treat them to a hugely expensive meal.

Comparatively, The Grill at the recently opened CUT Steakhouse, located in front of the new Courtyard Marriott Hotel on Lower Water Street, is less swanky and the food is spectacular. Dishes range from \$5 to \$12 and include brown sugarcane and beet salad, duck confit with orange marmalade and apple bourbon sauce and slow-braised beef short ribs.

"The food is simple," says Shannon Bruhm, vice president of operations at RCR Hospitality Group, the owners of the restaurant. "Our corporate chef, Tahir Salamat, is a master of coaching beautifully balanced flavours out of his dishes. We talked about the overall concept with regards to the menu and then let him go. We never worry about the quality of the food with Tahir, and he's a patient and master teacher to each culinary team he works with. He is micro-organized and amazingly creative."

I've seen and tasted what Salamat has created at the award-winning



SUPPLIED
Chef Salamat does more than just cut at the just opened restaurant.

Onyx, RCR's flagship restaurant; his work at CUT is no different. The true test of a chef is not how many ingredients they can put into a dish, but their ability to use the right ingredients to prepare food that expresses layers of texture and flavour without being overwhelming.

Many of the dishes at CUT are made possible by the butchery located in the basement of the restaurant, which is necessary in order to supply the rather luxurious Steakhouse located in the upstairs portion of the establishment. Upstairs is a good place to take Mom or Dad if you like a great steak and they'll foot the bill. The wine list at The Grill offers a decent selection by the glass and bottle, but if you are looking for something a little more eclectic, I'm sure they would bring you down a bottle from The Steakhouse's extensive list.

Dinner for two at The Grill, consisting of two or three shared dishes and a couple glasses of wine, plus

tip, will get you out of there for about \$50 to \$60 – or the equivalent of two rounds of Jäger Bombs for you and your friends at the Dirty Dome.

As I left from lunch at The Grill, I told my guest I didn't think they did anything substantial with the décor. But then I got to thinking – the minimalist décor and the decently soft music meant I could actually hear and keep eye contact with my guest, rather than feeling as though I was trapped in a carnival full of aspiring bourgeoisie, where people talk loud because they think they're way more interesting than they actually are and customers are so distracted by the décor and loud music that they don't pay attention to their guest or their meal.

Maybe that's the theme of The Grill at CUT – the lack of other distractions allows you to enjoy the friends you're with and savour the food in front of you.

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NOVA SCOTIA

Only scratching the surface of the sand

Happy Days at the Neptune

MITCHELL CUSHMAN
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

On the opening night of Neptune Theatre's production of Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days*, it didn't take long for the audience to demonstrate that, unlike the character of Winnie, they were not held fast by a pile of sand.

Five people walked out during the first act, while many more disappeared during intermission. And while part of me laments this rude, lazy, and, let's face it, cowardly response to live theatre, I also cannot help but feel that, in this case, it served the Neptune right. That's what you get for tricking people into seeing Beckett.

The show's poster, featuring a sultry woman and a gun incorporated into the lettering, suggests something akin to a new James Bond flick, not a canonical piece of absurdist theatre. Neptune's thought process was, I suppose, to lure audiences in with sex and violence and then blindsides them with Beckett's mesmerizing text. But such a plan necessitates a track record for infallibility that Neptune, unfortunately, does not have.

In *Happy Days*, Beckett offers us one of theatre's most haunting depictions of aging: the sands in the hourglass of Winnie's life drain out directly onto her head, so that as her days go by, she becomes more and

more submerged.

The play is as close as it gets to a one-woman show while still necessitating a men's washroom backstage. Winnie is accompanied by her rarely-seen husband Willie, but he's really just a glorified prop, one of many she continuously pulls from her Mary Poppins-style bag.

Happy Days is undeniably Winnie's day at the beach; the success of the play rests squarely on her fast-disappearing shoulders. Unfortunately, Neptune's Sherry Smith is a shaky choice for this daunting task.

Early on, Smith works hard to establish a rapport with her audience. Her maternal, singsong voice draws us in; her long monologues never feel oppressive – but they also never resonate as particularly meaningful. Smith fails to punctuate the text with any decisiveness. Her monotonous delivery cushions the excitement of Beckett's script; each beat is telegraphed in the preceding moment.

Beckett's work offers stark contrasts: dirty tramps wearing aristocratic bowler hats, venerated senior citizens living in trash cans, and a vibrant, go-getting optimist stuck in a hole. Smith's flowing delivery lacks this integral juxtaposition. It fails to harness either power or humour – the dual cathartic forces that make Beckett's theatre come alive.

Smith does, however, excel in conveying one Beckettian trope: the Irishman's penchant for metatextu-

ality. Smith shines while impersonating nay-saying critics of Beckett who demand to know, "what it all means," and her delivery is poignant as she earnestly confides in the audience: "I have a strange feeling someone is watching me."

Brian Heighton's Willie succeeds nicely in complimenting these moments with ironic turns of his own: he places a snotty hanky atop his bald head and proceeds to read his newspaper with so much upper-class pomp, it would make Edward Albee salivate.

Ron Ulrich's direction, for the most part, is harmless. It underscores both the strengths and weaknesses of the production. He does engineer one serendipitously perfect piece of blocking in the play's final minutes – a moment of clarity that will linger in audiences' minds long after they have walked out of the theatre (providing they didn't walk out during the first act).

The set is fitting and the lighting choices memorable. As a whole, though, the production is all surface. It fails to capture the layered substance that makes Beckett's *Happy Days* a masterpiece.

The poster promises James Bond, and unfortunately, James Bond is just what the audience gets – all flash and no substance. In the end, the poster is not a trick on the audience, but an ironic summary of the Neptune's production.



SUPPLIED

The Darcys' play *Hell's Kitchen* on March 13.

The Darcys go to Hell

LAURA DAWE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Luckily, it turns out the best way to write about The Darcys is to be a girl and to be drunk. I know this because I talked to drummer Wes Marskell for a half an hour about the band in the Dalhousie atrium.

When I got home I realized he had tricked me. He made the same joke over and over again while allowing me to believe I was conducting a useful interview. The joke, boiled down, is that The Darcys like to drink and The Darcys like girls. The Darcys are sneaky. Their self-deprecating charm is intelligently blind-siding.

The band consists of five "boymen" who are all, according to Marskell, "virile, to say the least." They live in two cities simultaneously: Halifax and Toronto, and they somehow manage to be two bands at once: live Darcys and recorded Darcys.

Recorded, The Darcys sound gentle and clean-cut, like well-tailored suits. The title of their latest album, *Endless Water* (2007), aptly describes the songs it contains. The record is comprised of waves of calming harmonies and watery songs with hidden philosophical references. Marskell describes the band as "a shoe-gaze pop band covering your dad's record collection," and their sound as "Blue Rodeo dressed up in Kevin Drew's beard." I couldn't tell if he was joking.

But live, The Darcys are something else altogether. Live Darcys wear suits, but they are not well-tailored.

"It's like hobo-chic," says Marskell, "because they're not very nice suits. And they've been worn from here to everywhere and back... I don't think they've ever been washed. Mine's kind of like a fitted hat. It's, like, hard. Like a helmet. For my legs."

The difference between the album and the live show isn't just in the boys' appearance, but in their sound.

"There's a certain amount of steroids that get injected into the record when we play live," Marskell says. "The shows are pretty rambunctious and everyone seems to dance... Because we're so drunk we play things twice as fast. So the show's only 12 minutes long."

I'm thinking that by steroids he actually means copious amounts of beer.

Despite themselves, The Darcys are getting good press. The shows

they're playing during this round on the East Coast are an extension of the tour they did a month ago. That tour got them on the cover of a couple local weeklies, and emails have been pouring in requesting interviews from places Marskell never imagined the CD would wind up.

"(*Endless Water* has) made it's way all across Canada, into the states and somehow to Australia," Marskell says. "And yet we just sit at home mailing them out in zip lock bags from our basement."

Marskell says The Darcys' fanbase consists mostly of girls, and explains why the softer sex is so interested in the band.

"Collectively I think we have 400 ex-girlfriends, or we've slept with – I don't know, we've slept with the same number that Wilt Chamberlain claims, so it's like a thousand something. Ten thousand."

The Darcys have been drunkenly wooing ladies and writing songs about it for two years. They met at King's College, during one fateful Halloween at the campus bar.

"When I first came to Halifax like four years ago to visit... I slept on Kirby's (singer/songwriter Kirby Best) couch," says Marskell. "But I didn't know who Kirby was. And then I found out he had an acoustic record, on Halloween at the Wardroom."

Guitarist Jason Couse was dressed as a cheerleader and Marskell as a hooker.

"We just kind of attacked Kirby. And I was wasted and Jason held his arms down and I just screamed 'Be in our band!' until he said, 'O.K.' And then we all sobered up and were like, 'Oh shit, we have to go to band practice?'"

Darcys' members Kirby Best, Dave Hurlow and Mike Le Riche live in Toronto, but they're flying to Halifax to play shows with Couse and Marskell, who still go to King's. On Mar. 13 they're playing *Hell's Kitchen* in The Marquee with rap superstars The Rhythm Method and as Marskell says, "probably the coolest band I've ever seen in my life," Cool Dad.

"I think that it'll just be, as always, such a good time," says Marskell. "I feel like we're just kind of like a soundtrack to those nights where you get so drunk and you make out with your roommate and punch your best friend in the face and then you wake up and you're like, 'The Rhythm Method was wicked!'"

The Darcys play *Hell* on Mar. 13 and *The Wardroom* at King's College on Mar. 17.

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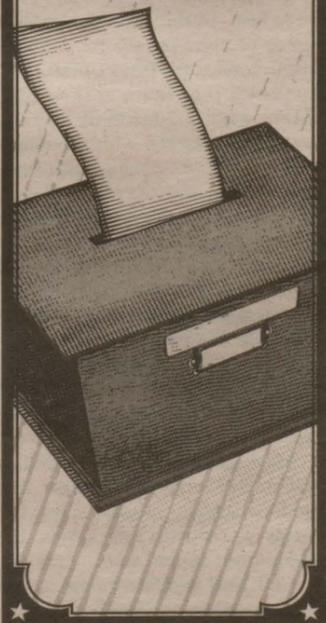
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More bang for your Bucko

LAURA DAWE
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

From the outside, Bucko's looks like an average two-bedroom apartment. The only sign that could give it away is a Canadian dollar bill posted in the whited-out window.

Inside, it's not just an apartment, but an illegal eatery. The two tables are full of laughing friends sharing breakfast. The couches are covered with people, chatting and waiting for a table or finishing their drinks before heading out. A green chalkboard lists the day's menu. Instead of prices, there's a drawing of a gleaming loonie. Everything at Bucko's costs one buck (or one bucko, to the savvy).

But I should really be using the past tense here, because Bucko's will be closed by the time you read this.

Bucko's was a project started and run by Halifax North Enders Geoff Tanner and Chris Dahn. Tanner came up with the idea in October 2007, and in November Dahn opened up shop. Dahn ran the restaurant alone for two weeks while Tanner worked a job cooking for Katimavik.

"It was dead for a long time," Dahn says.

But then, according to Tanner, the restaurant's presence in the community started to slowly grow.

"Word of mouth," he says. "Friends. I sent an email to about 150 people."

By December, the little place was hoppin' with 15 to 20 customers per day - which at Bucko's meant 9 a.m. till 1 p.m.

Bucko's had a lot of regulars, mself included. Dahn says some customers came to eat every day. Regulars let their friends in on the secret by bringing them along for breakfast or by telling them how to recognize the house so they could find it on their own.

This presented an awkward situation for Tanner, who waited the tables as well as cooked.

"People show up alone that I don't know. I always have to ask them - it feels really awkward, you know - 'How did you find out about Bucko's?' They might be the health inspector."

Though they've never done it, Tanner and Dahn know that in order to run a legal restaurant in Halifax, you need a license and an inspected kitchen. Being caught operating a food serving establishment without those requirements could have meant big trouble, but they did it anyway.

"I have fears, but I try not to let them dictate what I do," Tanner says. "And triple that for anything that relates to government... If you ask me, I don't think there's anything dirtier than a Big Mac, or a federally inspected dead chicken in a Superstore. They're disgusting. I wouldn't eat one of those things and the government tells me they're fine."

Anyone who has ever worked in a kitchen can probably agree with Dahn's take on restaurants that pass inspection.

"I don't think that a license is representative of the quality of your restaurant or the cleanliness of your kitchen," he says.

The kitchen at Bucko's was big and bright and clean, which customers could see because they were able to wander back there to grab their bill or chit chat any time they wanted, unlike your typical licensed diner.

It didn't make money like a typical diner, either. After almost four months of business, Bucko's just broke even.

"We work 40 hours a week," says Tanner, who also served as the proj-

ect's accountant. "I think by the time we close we will have earned a dollar an hour for the life of the project, plus eating for free."

In addition to fun, friends and getting up in the morning, Tanner explains that one of their major goals for Bucko's was to "put our politics, to put our money where our mouth was."

"I think one way to sum it up is that we haven't spent one penny at a Superstore or a Sobey's," Tanner says. "We've maybe spent \$10 at Pete's and \$10 at Irving's on bananas for smoothies. Everything else has come from the (Halifax Farmers') Market, Mid-East (Food Centre), European Pantry, Salim's corner store and Speerville (Flour Mill)... It's probably half organic and a lot of it's local, and if it's not local, it's still from a small local food store."

"Except we bought our toilet paper from Superstore... because that's all they're good for."

Their political motivation to buy



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Everything at Bucko's costs one buck (or one bucko, to the savvy).

locally and from independently run stores also helps explain why the food was so incredibly delicious.

"Everything's homemade - there's no processed food," says Tanner. "The bread, the yogurt, the granola,

stewed fruit, like everything. We just start with basic ingredients."

These basic ingredients were combined to form daily offerings, like re-fried "beany beans," vegetables, bread, eggs and special items

like pancakes or lamb patties.

Perhaps the most incredible thing of all though, is how little waste Bucko's produced.

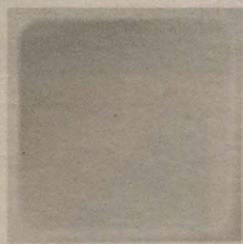
"In three and a half months, we have put out two blue bags of recycling and half a garbage bag full of landfill and maybe three green bins of compost," says Tanner.

Now the project is done, having served its last beany bean on Feb. 29, as was the plan all along. Tanner knows something so good could never have lasted forever.

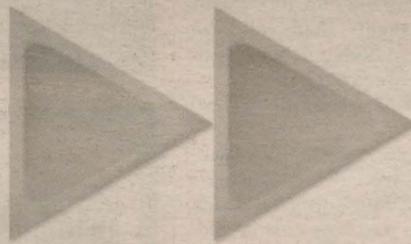
"It's not sustainable. It's a project. I don't know how we could make it sustainable, especially legally. But I'm considering exploring that in the future."

Their final feelings about their venture are as wholesomely delicious as the entire concept of Bucko's.

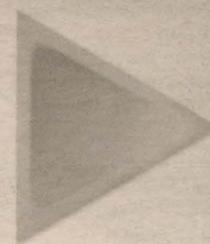
"It confirmed a theory for me," says Dahn. "If you have really consistently good, cheap food, people will come. And you don't need to advertise or anything."



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WANDERLUST



Varadero, Cuba

Tips for a Canadian in Cuba

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

This reading break, I travelled to Varadero, Cuba with one of my best friends, Martina. The sand, water and people were beautiful, and it was definitely worth the cash. The following are a few things I wish I knew before I left. If you're planning a trip to Cuba, don't just do the obvious preparations, like brushing up on your Español and packing your SPF. Keep these tips in mind.

Avoid going out the night before your flight. You will end up drunkenly packing ridiculous things you will never wear (like jeans), and be one of those people who wears sunglasses at the airport.

Take out all the money you will need for the week. There are no bank machines in Cuba. Take Canadian dollars or Euros. Visa and MasterCard are last resorts.

Do not bring US dollars. You will get charged crazy interest when converting and will be judged.

Always ask cabs how much the fair is before you get in.

Play volleyball instead of tennis. It's more sociable and there are no language barriers.

Befriend the Cubans who work at the resort, but avoid making out with the resort's resident singer. He will call you out on it at his next show, and sing the song he serenaded you with at karaoke the night before.

Greet locals when you pass them. It's what they do.

The water is horrible and your stomach will be affected by it. Bring Tums.

The food is horrible and your stomach will be affected by it. Bring Tums.

Expect good cheese, bread and ice cream. Expect withering vegetables and tasteless fruit. Pork is the meat of choice. Cuba's not quite kosher or fit for vegetarians.

Bring all the toiletries you'll need, because it's next to impossible to buy things there. Leave extra toothbrushes, tampons, shampoo and anything else you brought for the week for the housekeepers. It will mean more to them than it does to you, even if you're a student.

Talk with your hands when you

talk to people who don't speak English, and even play mini-charades. It will open up communication.

Go to downtown Varadero on the double-decker bus. It's five pesos round trip, and the cheapest way to travel. A cab is 15 pesos and other buses are five each way.

Book your dinner reservations early. There are usually a couple fancy restaurants included in your package if you stay at a resort, and it's a nice break from the buffet.

In downtown Varadero, go to the Pirate Cave and The Mamba Club. Don't wear any flashy jewelry.

Go to the disco at night. You will hear a mix of Spanish salsa, reggaeton, house and hip hop. Along with flashing backlights, there will be a drunken grandmother dancing with her jacket between her legs.

Try the drink called 'Miami Vice.' It's delicious.

Bring a travel mug for the beach. It will cut down on the wasteful plastic cups whistling down the beach and will keep your Piña Colada cold.

Take a dance lesson. If you stay at a resort, try to participate in everything included in the package.

Flip cup is a universal game. Singing the 'ole' song will bring a crowd.

Don't overdue it on your last day in the sun, and don't trust something that says tanning oil *with* sunscreen. You will get burnt and have a very uncomfortable flight home.

Save 25 pesos for departure tax at the airport - not \$25 Canadian or US, because they won't accept it.

Be prepared for your bags to be searched if you're bringing wood into the country, such as bongos.

Buy alcohol at the duty free. It's pretty much the same price as at the resort, and you don't have to worry about your suitcase being weighed down by three bottles of Havana Club Rum. You also won't have to worry about the bottles breaking and soaking your clothes.

In Cuba, how you do your hair has more specific meaning than it does in Canada. If you have one curl in front of your face, it means you're looking for one man that night. Two curls, two men. If you have a head of braids, according to my Cuban friend, you're "looking for a black man."

The shape of spring



KATIE NATION
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Spring has sprung! Or at least it has in the fashion world. Even though our Canadian weather seems to be in deep contempt of the idea, stores and magazines are still filling up with light-weight garb to tease us.

But before you rush off to stock up on all the latest trends, know that not all of them are suited to all body types. Whereas some trends will universally flatter your figure, others will figuratively falter.

One of the freshest trends likely to be filling stores everywhere is the visible underwear look that positively invaded the Spring 2008 runways. Using cutouts and sheer fabrics (much to the dismay of the trend reporters on the TV show *Project Runway*, I should say) Marc Jacobs abrasively reincarnated the whole underwear as outerwear thing, opening the doors for designers everywhere to follow suit. This look is clearly for those with bold taste.

Another trend that dominated the catwalk is one of the most flattering out there. Masculine attire



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

for women presented itself in the form of blazers, vests, trousers... you name it. With a tailored fit, these kinds of garments make just about every figure look fantastic. Take a cue from Annie Hall and flaunt your femininity with some high-contrast masculine pieces against your feminine shape.

And 60s hippie style is back again, along with florals and tribal patterns. This is a recurring trend that's presented as fresh year after

year. But those with plus-sized figures shouldn't be seduced by big flowy dresses and shirts, which make curvy figures look larger. Instead, look for fun 60s patterns on dresses with waist-cinching belts or flowy skirts paired with tailored tops.

A number of current trends that should stay lively for a couple more seasons include leggings, skinny jeans (in lighter shades to keep them current), day dresses and waist-cinching belts. Those who aren't graced with gazelle-like gams and want to avoid looking stumpy should avoid skinny jeans in favor of boot cut, but cinched waistlines and day dresses are incredibly flattering to absolutely every figure.

I've always maintained that leggings should never, ever be worn as pants. They can make even the most covetable figure look absolutely stupid. The sexiest hips look bulky and the slimmest legs look boney. They're clearly an enormous trend, but if you're looking to elongate your legs, go for full-on tights instead, or in the spring, opt out of covering up your legs altogether.

Following trends can be fun, but nothing is as unattractive as a trend whore, especially when the clothes in question do nothing for your figure. Stay current, but don't let yourself get wrapped up in the look du jour if it doesn't suit your style. Trends are supposed to represent the modern idea of what's beautiful, and poorly fitting clothes on an uncomfortable, self-conscious frame is anything but.

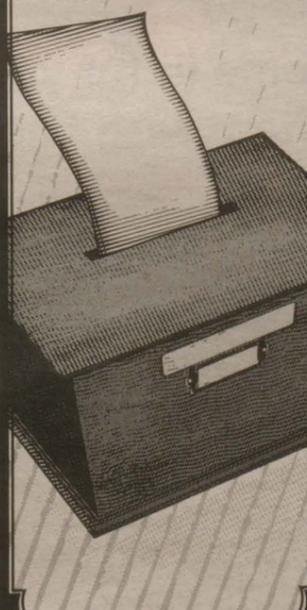
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Come to the next Gazette
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Monday, March 10 @ 5:30 p.m.
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Will the real actress please measure up?

ROBERT SPEIRS
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Let's face facts: Ellen Page is short. She's only 5'1", and it is her short stature that may have caused her not to walk away with a slightly shorter Oscar statue. She just did not measure up: talent, yes; height, no.

Redneck Nova Scotians who live vicariously through the lives of local celebrities hoped Ellen would win a Best Actress Academy Award for *Juno*. Yes, Ellen is talented, but she is short and perhaps too short to win an Oscar.

Fans and industry degenerates discuss an actress' box office draw, talent, casting-couch skills, weight and, of course, upper and lower body expansion; but they rarely discuss the all-important issue of height.

Do not misunderstand me. I do not dislike short people. Some of my best friends are short, I am rooting for that short Filipina songstress on American Idol and I found some of those munchkins in *The Wizard of Oz* quite arousing. How many times have you bumped into a short person because you just did not see them and subsequently experienced an uncomfortable moment? I mean, really, be honest.

Short Best Actresses exist, but the winners seem to be getting taller. The tallest Best Actress freak is Nicole Kidman, who clocks in at 5'10.5". Scary. Her height explains why so many puny actors have stood on boxes or sat in highchairs to kiss her - including Tom. Swedish beauty Ingrid Bergman (5'9") was just tall enough to royally annoy the ego of Humphrey Bogart (5'8.5").

Louise Fletcher, Gwyneth Paltrow and Charlize Theron are all 5'9.5". The shortest Best Actresses were Janet Gaynor and Helen Hayes at only 5', before they became old and shrunken.

Page's best chance would have



When it comes to the Oscars, apparently size does matter.

been back in the 1920s and 30s when Best Actresses tended to be shorter than the average Best Actress height of 5'5.5". Most Best Actresses are still more than 5'5.5", though. To make matters worse, only nine percent of Best Actresses have been younger than age 25, and Ellen Page is only 21.

The percentage of Best Actresses believed to be female still remains at 100 per cent, but that statistic is expected to be tested in the near future.

Anyway, back to height: this year's nominees presented especially unfair competition for Page. The winner, Marion Cotillard, French (usually reliably short), clocks in at 5'6.5", a whole 5.5" taller than Ellen. Julie Christie is 5'2," only one inch taller than Ellen, but she is old, so is unimportant.

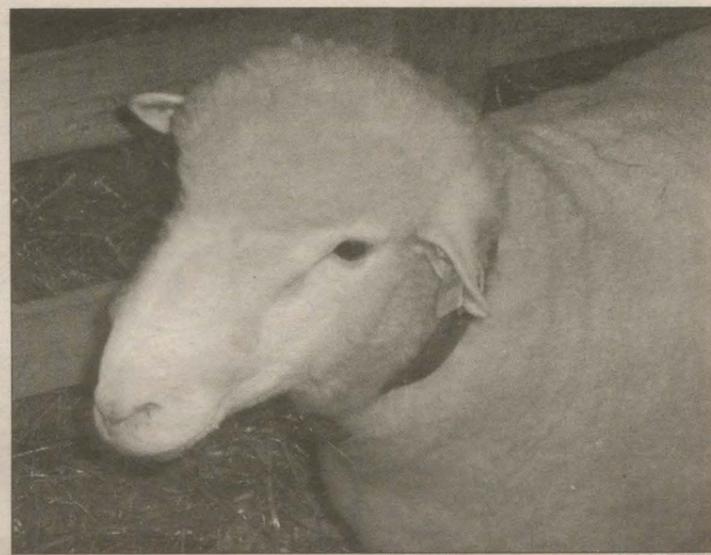
Only three (4.5 per cent) of Best Actresses have been born in Canada,

and only 24 (35.8 per cent) have been born outside of the United States (includes the Canadians).

Being Canadian - a politically undesirable, of course) foreigner in the Excited States, where everyone dislikes 'those people' from the north stealing their jobs - also did not help Page. It is so obvious that she was shutout by that French chick because the Yanks wanted to suck up to France to make amends for years of Frenchie-bashing.

Most people agree that Ellen Page is a talented actress, but perhaps just too new, too young and too Canadian to win an Oscar - and definitely too short.

Robert Speirs is an opinionated freelance writer of normal 5'9.75" height, residing in Halifax until deportation.



CARLEY MCKENNA / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sorry Dolly. Stockholm street style has no place for clones.

Norwegian Diary: An individual in Stockholm

BRITTANY SMITH
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

I don't think I'm alone in thinking there's an underlying pressure in North America to conform in order to fit in. Conform to be popular, get a job, find a mate, or be accepted by society at large. In the land of the free, we aren't completely free to be ourselves. This has never been more apparent to me than when I took a trip to Stockholm, Sweden, where original trumps ordinary.

Back home, we stress the importance of the individual at all levels of society. Our entire social order is so formatted around this notion of the 'cult of individualism,' yet ironically, conformity reigns.

Maybe it's a sub-conscious phenomena or a distinctively North American societal thing, but it seems as though so many of us seek to conform to what has been established as the cultural norm - be it the way women ought to look, what students ought to do to have fun, who we ought to love or what we ought to wear. The second you step out of this constricting box of convention, you're cast aside as the 'other,' doomed to drift among the other social pariahs that swerved off the road to them mainstream.

The social system in Stockholm is nearly opposite to ours in Canada. The system is based on equality and the common collective, and individuality prevails. In what is probably the most community-oriented egalitarian region of the first world, everyone

drives their own bandwagon.

Nevertheless, there are stereotypes in Stockholm - emo kids, goths, punks, jocks, pink popped-collar polos, plastics, pill-popping electro-heads, a gay scene, reading circle people, art folk, fashionistas du jour - you name it. But there is no ultimate mainstream, no 'normal' for them to be judged against, to make people feel different, weird or like an outsider.

People are accepted for who they are, not for their wallet size, their TNA/Uggs combo, their looks or their lifestyle choice. Fashion is individualistic. Because nobody is bound by the ropes of conformity, each person is free to be him or herself; Stockholm street style is a sight to see. And it's little wonder that so many in-the-closet homosexuals return home from Europe, ready to be themselves.

People also aren't so strictly categorized by their lifestyles so that they never cross paths. Stockholm is like a cultural mosaic of individuality, not a puzzle where each piece must stick to the certain, rigid place where it fits in.

We could learn a lot from a place like this. It's not simply about borrowing fashion tips (although killing the TNA/Uggs template at home wouldn't be the worst idea), but rather about what lies beneath the seams: who you are. It's about the freedom to be yourself and express that however you want without fearing ridicule from peers for being different. It's a freedom from the kind of society that can make you feel like you don't belong if you aren't like everyone else.



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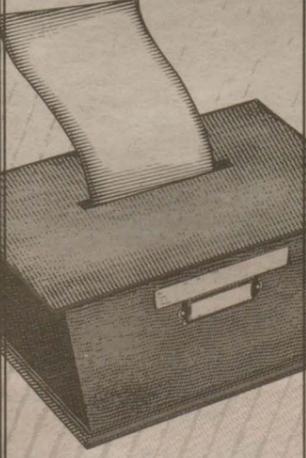
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No pig pen for Penelope

CASSANDRA WHITTY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Despite the silly premise of Penelope, it's a charming movie and manages to be both comical and serious. It lunges wonderfully into issues of love, self-image and first impressions. The film displays a distinct charm in its dialogue and plot, and provides hopeful insight into how to find love in today's frantic and busy world.

Penelope (Christina Ricci) is a beautiful young girl born into a family that has only produced boys for generations. Thanks to a curse put on the first girl born to the family, Penelope came out with the features of a pig – the most prominent being her snout, which makes suitable bachelors run away screaming.

Her mother (Catherine O'Hara) has kept her at home all of her life and Penelope is eager to get out into the world and break the family curse by finding true love, despite the odds stacked against her.

With her newly gained freedom and a scarf that covers half her face, Penelope meets Annie (Reese Witherspoon), a funky-haired parcel delivery girl who's full of energy and happy to make friends. Annie enthusiastically helps Penelope adapt to her surroundings.

Penelope quickly falls for Max (James McAvoy), a former musician and problem gambler. Max gives her a chance and develops feelings for her, even though her nose holds him back. McAvoy's portrayal of Max, a troubled soul, is absolutely genuine. Ricci is brilliant as Penelope, and she and McAvoy have wonderful chemistry together onscreen.

Despite some depressing situations in the film, humour is present throughout, thanks to Penelope's narration and the character of her mother, who keeps the film light.

Penelope goes after what she wants, granting hope to us unlucky lovers who never seem to get a break. The film displays the lighter side of love in a unique and comical way, and how first impressions shouldn't be focused on physical characteristics, but what lies on the inside. While that may sound clichéd, the movie is far from trite. Rather, it's a fresh perspective on how love can triumph over the judgmental realities of our world.

The movie is definitely a little mushy and lovey-dovey, but in this case it's a good thing.

Sometimes it's important to be reminded of all the Penelopes of our superficial world and remember what's really important.

A good winter for Bon Iver

BRAD CONGRAM
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The breakup of his band and a desire for creative control sent Justin Vernon into retreat last year, living alone in an isolated cabin in the woods of Wisconsin for three months. This may not seem like the makings of a particularly good winter, but Vernon emerged from the cabin anew as Bon Iver. With his first solo album, *For Emma, Forever Ago*, he provides nine contemplative tracks of soul-soothing sounds.

The opening track, "Flume," is alive with room tone and guitar playing quality that could be found at just about any campsite in Canada. The addition of some brass and wind instruments add depth to the recording. Vernon's falsetto voice, siren-like, hooks listeners with its lyrical exploration of mother love and idyllic nature.

In "Blindsided," Bon Iver experiments with his emerging voice and the harmonics of his guitar in the cabin where it was recorded. It comes together quite well, considering the constraints the environment placed on the production of the album. Sud-

denly and intentionally, a brief but thick and hazy moment cuts the song in half, while repetition of a single note weighs down the sound. The well-timed heartbeat of a drum helps the song to be visceral and introspective, before the song eventually trails off with the purposeful and playful pawing of strings.

"For Emma" relies on horns to carry the repetitious and infectious guitar through Vernon's vocal playground. He experiments with his vocal range, from crisp highs to growly lows.

On the last song, "re: Stacks," Bon Iver opts for guitar and voice alone. At times it sounds cracked and at other times thickly layered. His falsetto rings off the cabin walls and finds its way into the forefront of listener's attention with clever wordplay.

And although Vernon misses beats, has clumsy fretting and uncomfortable endings, *For Emma, Forever Ago* seems genuine in the comforting lyrics of this closing song:

"This is not the sound of a new man or crispy realization. It's the sound of the unlocking and the lift away. Your love will be safe with me."

SEX WITH HUGH

Getting it on green



HUGH WALLACE
SEX COLUMNIST

One of the things I have had the greatest pleasure of studying here at Dalhousie is environmental sustainability, and I feel it's my responsibility, as both a mediocre columnist and a semi-environmentalist, to use this media outlet while I still can. Why, you might ask? All the better to persuade you with, my dear.

Having fun while being responsible is what life is all about for me. I think one of the best ways we can live up to our responsibility to mother nature is by doing something fun while consciously thinking of ways to protect or coexist with her. If this is possible in our environmental use and reuse of goods, why can't it be possible when we get the goods?

I'm not talking about a 12-step program to turn your sex life into a recycling depot. I'm talking about what you buy, what you use, where you have sex and how you can make

greener choices.

This week I had the pleasure of investigating the idea of going green in the bedroom. I read three different pieces about the topic and have decided to review them for you, as well as provide the links so you can check them out yourself.

The first is the worst. "The Greenpeace Guide to Environmentally-Friendly Sex," as if the hyphen was even necessary, is a 10-step guide to nothingness. Some of their suggestions, such as turning off the lights during sex or not using petroleum jelly as lube are a reflection of the environmental standpoint of Greenpeace alone. This is not an article about how to make your sex more environmentally friendly. This is an article about how to be kind to the environment.

The second article, "Brave new world of sex thinks green, not blue" by Misty Harris, is a showcase of progressive happenings around Canada. Renowned adult toy stores like Good Vibrations and Babeland were reported to have stopped carrying toys with phthalate-generated toxins.

If you don't get enough of a headache over the pronunciation of phthalate then try the definition for increased stimulation: phthalates are chemicals added to plastic to increase their flexibility.

Harris's article was the gateway to the crème de la crème of writing on environmental sex: TreeHugger.com's "How-to" on greening your sex life. This beautifully organized fountain of information was just waiting for me to discover it. I'm so glad I did.

Coming in first place is definitely "How to Green Your Sex Life" by Jacob Gordon. Found on TreeHugger.com, this beautiful guide has all the information you need about what to buy and where to find it.

Their Top 10 list features information about toys, lube, condoms, sustainable bed sheets, eco-friendly underwear and even how to meet that green special someone. If that isn't enough for you, they also give six other tips about going green in the bedroom (or organic garden, as you please) and figures about sex and sustainability issues.

The best part is the list of online shops of where to buy all the products they mention from a variety of sources.

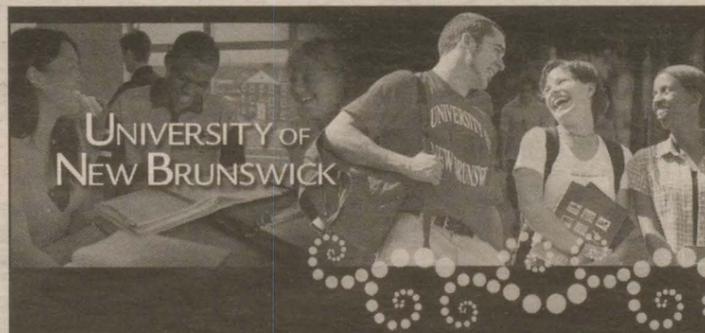
Not only does this delicious treasure trove make sense, but it gives you the information you need to make a difference. Even a small environmental difference will last after you're gone. At the risk of getting a little Haight-Ashbury circa 1960 on you guys, it's time people starting being aware of the impact of their actions.

The links to the sites are as follows:

- <http://www.greenpeace.org/international/news/eco-sex-guide>
- <http://www.canada.com/edmontonjournal/news/story.html?id=32cdae27-df2e-486b-a731-3089a4b7457d&k=58327>
- <http://www.treehugger.com/files/2007/02/how-to-green-your-sex-life.php>

Send questions, comments, or concerns to sex@dalgazette.ca.

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, March 10 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB



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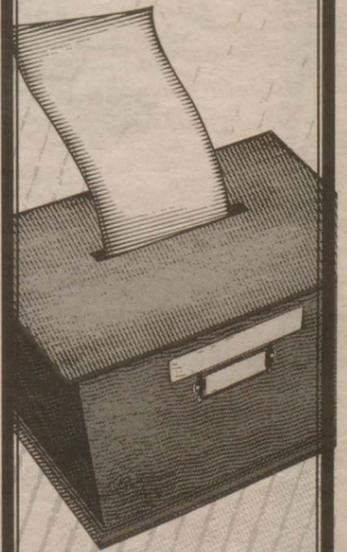
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, at 2 locations...

- 1 Dalhousie University
Main Lobby - Student Union Building
from 11 am to 3 pm
- 2 Lord Nelson Halifax
Britannia Room
from 7 to 9 pm (information session)



THE
GAZETTE
ELECTIONS

Come out
March 14th at 4 p.m.
Rm 303 of the SUB to
vote for the editors
next year.



National medal out of reach

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

After a major upset, the Dalhousie Tigers fell in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) men's volleyball championship held at Laval University from Feb. 29 to Mar. 2. They finished fourth overall after a series of hits and misses in post-season play.

"At the beginning of the year, if people were talking about our team as one of the top four in Canada, I think people would be surprised," says Tiger Niklas Rademacher. "We had a lot of support and positive talk during the season."

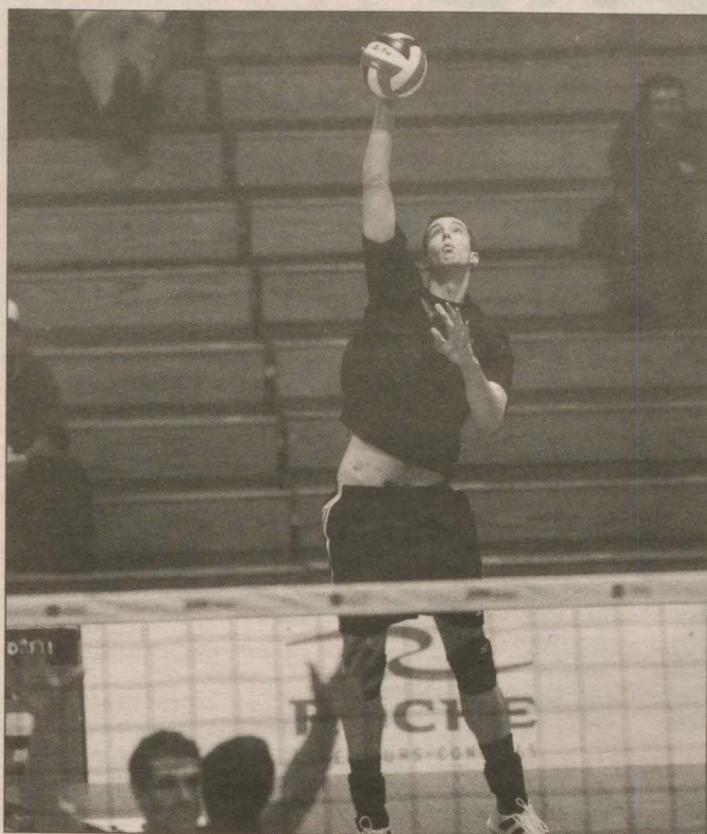
The Tigers struggled in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships on Feb. 15 after losing the first match in the best-of-three series against the University of New Brunswick Reds. They won the final two matches of the series on Feb. 19 and 23 for the AUS title and for a berth to the CIS championship.

Eight teams participated in this year's CIS championships, including last year's champions, the University of Winnipeg Wesmen. The Tigers were ranked sixth in the CIS tournament and faced the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds, who were ranked third.

The Tigers pulled off the upset when they defeated the Thunderbirds in four sets. The Thunderbirds finished second overall in the Canada West championships.

The Thunderbirds won a tight first set, 25-23, but the Tigers kept their composure. The Tigers went on to win the next three sets, 25-19, 25-22 and 25-23 to move on to the semi-finals. Max Burt was the Player of the Match with 8 kills, 2 service aces and 10 blocks.

The next round proved to be too much of a challenge for the Tigers when they faced the Wesmen. The Ti-



Max Burt was the Player of the Match in the CIS quarterfinals.

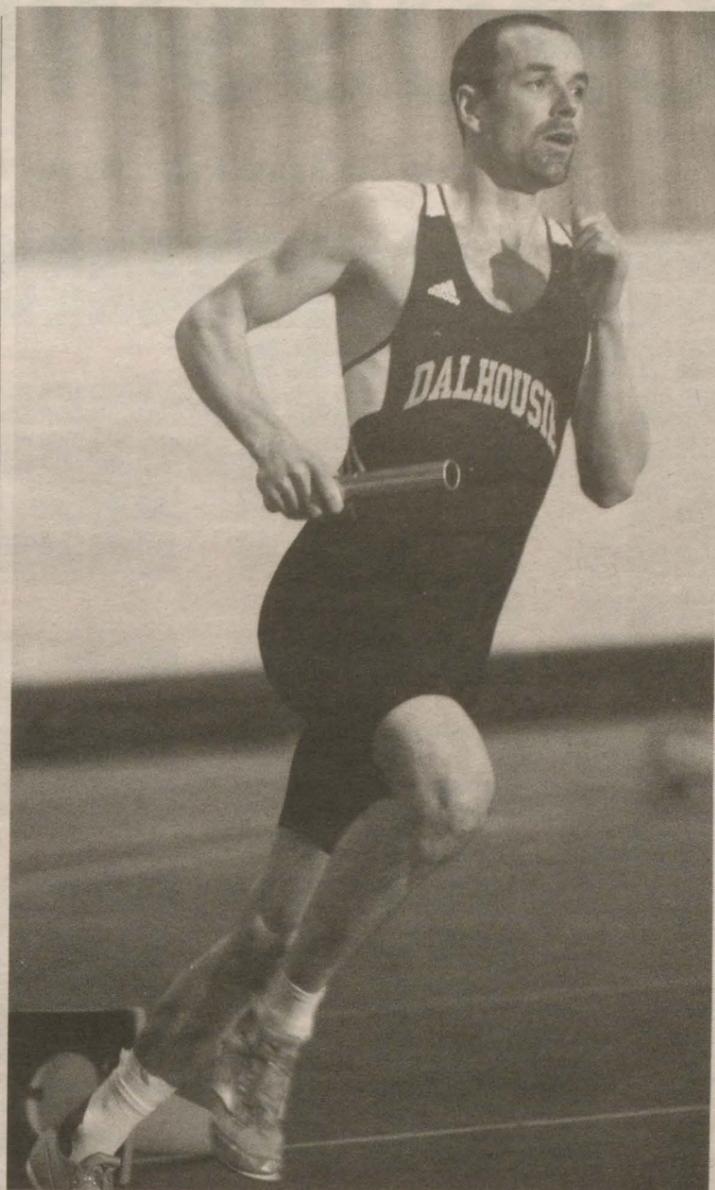
gers were swept in straight sets, 26-28, 21-25 and 16-25. Despite the loss, Rademacher was the Player of the Match as the match's leading scorer with 16 points. Rademacher is the AUS Most Valuable Player.

The Tigers' efforts led them to the bronze medal match. After gaining a 2-0 set lead, the Tigers fell to the Thompson Rivers University WolfPack, who took three straight sets for the win: 25-17, 27-25, 17-25, 17-25 and 10-15. This is the first CIS medal

in WolfPack history.

"It was definitely heartbreaking to be within a hair of winning a bronze medal and frustrating to lose," says Rademacher. "We could've won, but after the pain, sorrow and anger vanish over the days and weeks, I think we'll fondly look back at this experience and see that we had a great season."

The Tigers continue to improve on the national stage. Last year the team finished fifth overall at the CIS championships.



NICK PEARCE / NICK PEARCE PHOTO

Tigers win consecutive titles

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

Once again, the Dalhousie Tigers are winners on both sides. The men's and women's track and field teams won dual Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championship titles.

The Tigers' success is unsurprising, given their dominance in track and field in the past few years. This is the 19th consecutive title won by the women and the seventh consecutive title won by the men. The St. Francis Xavier X-Men and X-Women finished second and the St. Mary's University Huskies men and women finished third overall.

While the results were good, the competition wasn't easy. Most of the athletes were plagued with colds and fevers.

"Everyone was sick," says Tiger Caroline McInnes. "I was sick when I was there and so were a bunch of other people. For some people, it was something serious. We're having a bit of bad luck."

Their bad luck didn't show in their medal count. The women took home 18 individual medals, including eight gold. The men also had an impressive 18-medal count, with 10 gold. Alicia Dobranowski broke the AUS record in the women's pentathlon with a score of 3,262 points, shattering the former 2004 record by over 80 points. Russell Christie won double gold in the 3000m and the 4x800m, with times of 8:48.10 minutes and 8:11.73 minutes, respectively. Peter Corrigan won the gold in the men's 1500m with a time of 4:00.49 minutes, with Christie coming in second with 4:03.34 minutes.

"We had good performances, but not the best," says Christie. "But that's the way it usually is since we want to be ready for the national championship."

While their performances were enough to pass by the competition, the championships were a letdown in terms of qualifying for the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship. Only Susan Sobey's gold-win-

ning performance in the 60m dash at 7.65 seconds met CIS standards.

"We don't take the AUS championships for granted, but we know that the competition at CIS has more depth," says McInnes. "Personally, I wasn't really happy with my performance. I had a shot to do better."

The AUS championship was the final opportunity for individuals to qualify for nationals. The championship was held at l'Université de Moncton, where the track is known as difficult for athletes trying to produce fast times.

"It's tough to get a good time on the track," says McInnes. "The track is really slow in Moncton because it's a short track and flat. That means the turns are tight and not banked, which makes it harder to run through those turns. A lot of people ran really well."

The Tigers have a chance to make an impact at the CIS championships, held at McGill University from Mar. 6 to 8. Four Tigers women qualified to compete in the 600m – a rare feat in a competitive event. Celia Peters is the top-ranked Tiger in the event and is ranked fourth in Canada with a time of 1:33.3 minutes. Sobey is also ranked fourth in Canada in the 60m with a time of 7.65 seconds.

For the men, the middle-distance runners have a chance to reach the podium. Ueli Albert is ranked third in Canada with a time of 1:19.1 minutes, and John Corbit is fifth in Canada in the 1500m with a time of 3:52.75 minutes.

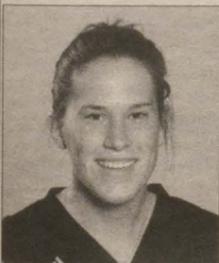
Russell Christie will compete in the CIS Track and Field Championship for the first time in his career. He competed in the CIS Cross Country Championship last November and won the silver medal. His experiences in cross-country will aid him when competing in the men's 3000m. Christie is ranked seventh in Canada in the event with a time of 8:24.5 minutes.

"I've never qualified before, so this year has been pretty awesome," says Christie. "I'm not nervous. I don't want to sound cocky, but it's just a race."

Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE

LAURIE GIRWOOD
BASKETBALL



Laurie Girdwood had 20 points, one steal and one block during the Tigers' quarter-final match up against Acadia at the AUS Championship over the weekend. Her strong performance helped the Tigers steal a two point overtime win from the tournament hosts. Girdwood continued to play well during the Tigers' semi-final game against CBU, but the Capers proved to be too strong, winning 75-60. Girdwood is a third-year recreation management student from Dundas, Ont.



MALE ATHLETE

NIKLAS RADEMACHER
VOLLEYBALL



Niklas Rademacher was named a tournament all-star for his performance at the CIS Men's Volleyball Championship over the weekend. Sixth-seed Dalhousie surprised third-seed UBC in a 3-1 quarter-final win, which moved the Tigers on to a semi-final match against Thompson Rivers University. Despite Rademacher's 21 kills and 25 points, the Tigers succumbed to the WolfPack in a five-set match. Rademacher caps off his varsity career with several other accomplishments: he was named the 2008 AUS men's volleyball MVP, is a CIS first-team all-Canadian, the recipient of the Dale Iwanoczko Award, and an academic all-Canadian. Rademacher is a fourth-year student who will be graduating from Dalhousie's management program this spring. He is originally from Bocholt, Germany.



Help decide who runs your campus paper.

Any staff writer (someone who has written three times)
can run for a section editor position.

To be held the evening of March 14 in the SUB.

Still up on Sunday morning?

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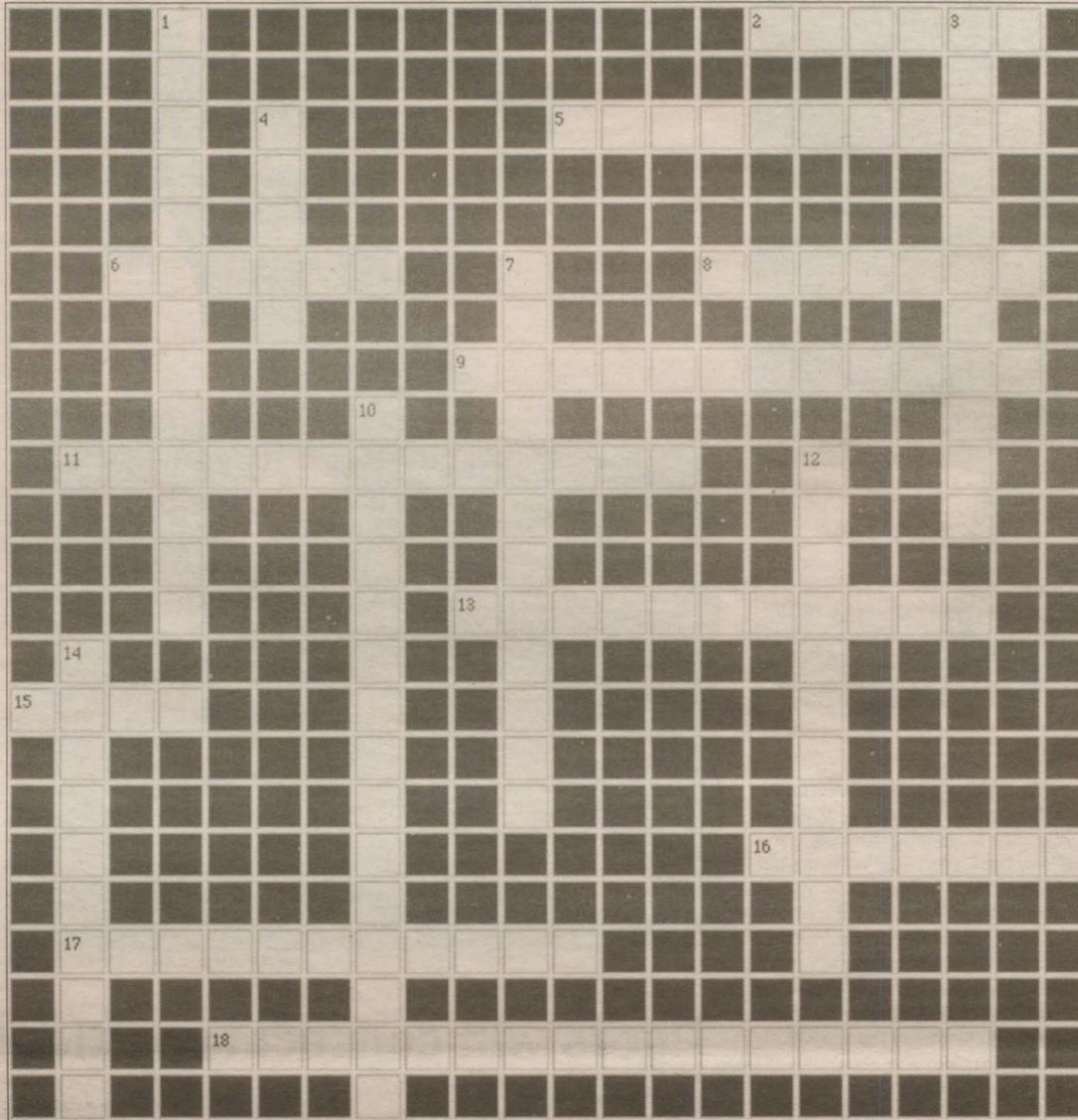
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CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPES

On the same Page. By Aly Coy.



Across

- 2. In *SNL* skit "_____ Shopping"
- 5. TV movie in 2004, I _____ a Ghost
- 6. The award she won in 2005 for her role in *ReGenesis*
- 8. City of birth
- 9. Actor who played Mark in *Juno*
- 11. Director who made his debut with *Whip It*
- 13. She was nominated for an Academy Award and _____ (2 words)
- 15. "Honest to _____!"
- 16. Juno's last name
- 17. As the opening monologue on *SNL*, Page mocked Juno's dialogue with this actor
- 18. In the *SNL* episode, Page's character decides she's a lesbian after a _____ concert

Down

- 1. Her love interest in *Juno*
- 3. The character she played in *Trailer Park Boys*
- 4. It all started with a _____
- 7. Actress who will replace Page in what movie? (4 words)
- 10. The province *Juno* filmed in (2 words)
- 12. Her character's name in *Hard Candy*
- 14. Page told Barbara Walters she _____.

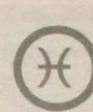
Teach English in Japan

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

Qualified candidates must:

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

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



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

You forgot to put on deodorant, and you won't be the only one to suffer the consequences. The poor people's noses around you are going to be outraged. Things always look smaller from far away. But be wary, because objects in the mirror may be closer than they actually are. Toward the end of the week you will be eating cheese flambé. You cannot help but say ole!



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

A male bimbo will mambo his way into your life. He means well and likes labels, so don't remind him of his IQ. If you would only listen you might just hear the sound of the beat. It's telling you to move your hips and shoulders from side to side. Grab a partner and show them how well you can cha cha cha.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Giving is the gift of life. We are all taught to share in kindergarten, so why are you hogging all the good Smarties? No one likes a stingy beast and no one likes an overindulgent swine either. The balance in your life will be restored. You will be flabbergasted that your Delissio will actually taste like delivery.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Be thankful for your rights and the fact that you have amazing body language. It will make you most lovable in any situation. So what if you don't speak the language? The Roman Empire was not built in one day, nor was your monkey's uncle's fine establishment. That's for darn sure. Walt Disney started with just one likable mouse.



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

Who knew that flip cup was an international game? I guess "ole, ole" are words of friendship understood in just about every language in the southern hemisphere. Dance offs are an excellent source of sweat nutrients, and they make you look extremely cool. Remember that just because the honeymoon is over does not mean you can poop side by side holding hands.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

You rock that (whatever it is) so hard. Right on, dude. You are officially the hippest lunchbox on the scene. But being cool means a 'no sissy business' policy, so make sure you're on time for your next visit to the museum. If you look close enough and blink, not once, not twice, but thrice, the exhibit might just come alive right before your eyes.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

The circle of life is what keeps us connected; it's where magic happens every day. It is up to you whether you want to join the circle and play duck, duck, goose or not. The question boils down to this: Are you content with always being the hunted, or do you want to take charge and become the hunter? Any good woodsman knows that drinking out of a sketchy pool might lead to leaky bowels.



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Dig deep to find buried treasure. Fool's gold was named after you - it's probably best not to brag about it. They tell you not to breathe in when snorkeling underwater for a reason - unless you're into that sort of thing. Rules are rules and we live in a 'free country,' so you can't get in trouble if you haven't done anything wrong.



SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

The jumping castle you have been bouncing on is about to blow. Why do they build you up, buttercup? Just to get you off, baby. Bristol board is a superb stimulant and an excellent source of calcium. Shake your banana milkshake and the flavour is soon to follow. The elasticity in your socks is wearing - sure that your cankles aren't exposed.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Forward and back. Forward and back. Repetition is the name of the game, and the person shouting out directions has the voice of a Hispanic dance teacher on an old broken record. It seems the instructor doesn't like you, but you didn't do anything wrong. It's just the stars reminding you to put Vaseline on your choppers to give them that extra sparkle.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

Be careful with other people's hearts. You have been reckless in the past and the same behaviour is not going to fly this time. What is it exactly that you are afraid of? Could it be that you ate a piece of bad meat? Don't worry - not only are your bowel movements going to speed up, but your love life will too.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Have your ears popped yet? No? Chew your bubble gum and blow those bubbles until they burst. Remember to tip your maid, or she might just sweep you under the rug. When a sweetheart serenades you and asks for a kiss afterward, it's probably best to give it to them. Grab life by the jellyfish.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

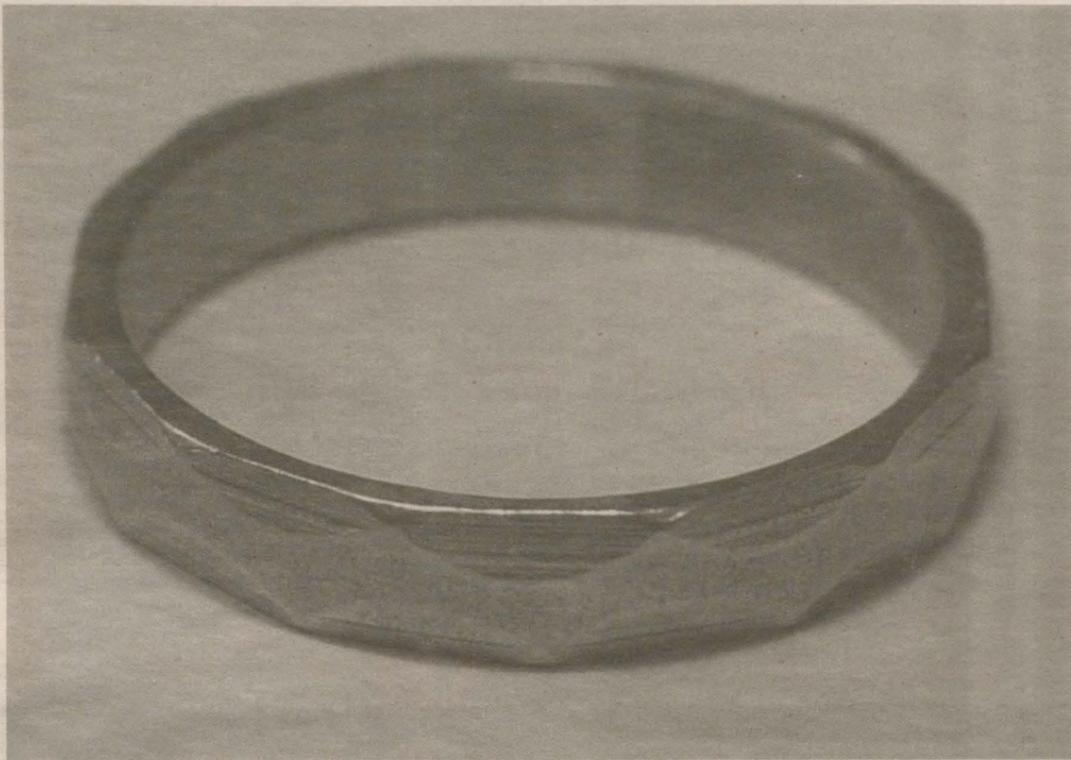
- Crossword Answers:
- 1. Down: Paulette Goddard
 - 2. Across: Ghetto
 - 3. Down: Jason Bateman
 - 4. Across: Chair
 - 5. Down: Gemma Layton
 - 6. Across: Jason Bateman
 - 7. Down: Drag Me To Hell
 - 8. Across: Jason Bateman
 - 9. Down: Jason Bateman
 - 10. Across: British Columbia
 - 11. Down: Kaley Stark
 - 12. Across: Golden Globe
 - 13. Down: Sleepwalks
 - 14. Across: Sleepwalks
 - 15. Down: MacGuff
 - 16. Across: Blog
 - 17. Down: Andy Samberg
 - 18. Across: Melissa Etheridge

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, March 10 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB



THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER



The most important ring I will ever wear

MELANIE HOLMES
SEXTANT EDITOR

We've all seen the T-shirts: five years, piles of debt, a billion mechanical pencils, enough booze to satisfy a small country... it all comes down one day, and one ring.

For those of you that are not aware, the Iron Ring Ceremony is to be held this coming Saturday, March 8th. The Ritual Calling of the Engineer, which dates back to 1922, maintains the simple goal of demonstrating to a new engineer the importance, significance and respect they should exhibit towards their profession.

The Iron Ring itself "symbolizes the pride which engineers have in their profession, while simultaneously reminding them of their humility." It is this humility that as engineers we need to keep in mind.

I'm not sure if it's the stress, the 8:30 classes or the intensive finals that do it, but somewhere along the way we forget what this ring symbolizes. The equivalency of an engineer's

Hippocratic Oath, the Ritual Calling of the Engineer is to remind us of the duty we hold in our profession.

And as a result, this ring manages to all at once be prized, coveted and revered. But can also bathé in a light of disapproval and in some cases is outright detested. It takes only one work term in Alberta these days to get a feel for what I'm talking about...

A friend of mine gave a speech a couple of years ago and said that she couldn't wait for her Iron Ring because it was going to be the most important ring she will ever wear. Muffled chuckles sprinkled the crowd as people wondered if it was wrong to agree, but I think in general, most people did.

It was that "second-year, struggling through D.E. (although struggling isn't close to what we all actually went through...), can't see the light at the end of the tunnel" feeling that we have begun to lose.

I almost lost that feeling. Until last semester: Safety with Professor Amyotte, and a video on the Piper

Alpha explosion in the North Sea.

It demonstrated something that we all may one day be confronted with, and the significance and importance of the decisions that lay in our hands. I don't know why everyone isn't required to take this course.

This ring is more than a piece of metal. It literally is the culmination of five years of stress, crap, work, pain, exhaustion and in the end pure determination. We've made it through a lot. Hell, if we had only made it through D.E. it would have been a lot. But we really need to take a minute and appreciate what we are all about to receive.

In the spirit of humility and respect, I offer a few candid jokes during this time of midterm hell, and my simple congratulations to everyone on Saturday.

We should be proud of our accomplishments but should be humbled by them as well. And in the end it really comes down to the Oath, and a simple pledge: Do it right, do it safely, and do it well.

JOKES JOKES JOKES

THE BIKE

Two engineering students meet on campus one day.

The first engineer calls out to the other, "Hey -- nice bike! Where did you get it?"

"Well," replies the other, "I was walking to class the other day when this pretty, young coed rides up on this bike. She jumps off, takes off all her clothes, and says 'You can have ANYTHING you want!'"

"Good choice!" says the first, "Her clothes wouldn't have fit you anyway."

RED RUBBER BALL

A mathematician, a physicist and an engineer were all given a red rubber ball and told to find the volume.

The mathematician carefully measured the diameter and evaluated a triple integral.

The physicist filled a beaker with water, put the ball in the water, and measured the total displacement.

The engineer looked up the model and serial numbers in his "Red-Rubber-Ball" table.

ENGINEERING PICK-UP LINES

You fascinate me more than the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

Since distance equals velocity times time, let's let velocity and time approach infinity, because I want to go all the way with you.

Let's convert our potential energy to kinetic energy.

ENGINEERS AND LIGHT BULBS

How many first year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb?

None. That's a second year subject.

How many second year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb?

One, but the rest of the class copies the report.

How many third year engineering students does it take to change a light bulb?

"Will this question be on the final exam?"

How many civil engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

Two. One to do it and one to steady the chandelier.

How many electrical engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

None. They simply redefine darkness as the industry standard.

How many mechanical engineers does it take to change a light bulb?

Five. One to decide which way the bulb ought to turn, one to calculate the force required, one to design a tool with which to turn the bulb, one to design a comfortable-but functional- hand grip, and one to use all this equipment.

YOU MIGHT BE AN ENGINEER IF...

- You can't write unless the paper has both horizontal and vertical lines.

- At Christmas, it goes without saying that you'll be the one to find the burnt-out bulb in the string.

- Buying flowers for your girlfriend or spending the money to upgrade your RAM is a moral dilemma.

- Everyone else on the Alaskan cruise is on deck peering at the scenery and you are still on a personal tour of the engine room.

- In college, you thought "Spring Break" was a metal fatigue failure.

- On vacation, you are reading a computer manual and turning the pages faster than someone else who is reading a John Grisham novel.

- The blinking 12:00 on someone's VCR draws you like a tractor beam to fix it.

- The salespeople at Circuit City can't answer any of your questions.

- You are convinced you can build a phazer from your garage door opener and your camera's flash attachment.

- You have ever owned a calculator with no equals key and know what PRN stands for.

- You have ever taken the back off your TV just to see what's inside.

- You have used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts.

- You know how to take the cover off your computer and what size screwdriver to use.

- You know what "http://" stands for.

- You rearrange the dishwasher to maximize the packing factor.

- You remember half a dozen passwords and your ten-digit Compuserve address, but you have to call your niece "kiddo."

- You've already calculated how much you make per second.

- You've ever tried to repair a \$5 radio.

- Your Internet bill is higher than your long distance charges.

- Your three-year-old son asks why the sky is blue and you try to explain atmospheric absorption theory.

- You know the second law of thermodynamics but not your shirt size.

- Someone tells you it's a nice day, and you respond with "it's 70 degrees Fahrenheit, 25 degrees Celsius, and 298 degrees Kelvin."

THE ENGINEERS EGO EGO-WISE, TWO THINGS ARE IMPORTANT TO ENGINEERS:

* How smart they are.

* How many cool devices they own.

The fastest way to get an engineer to solve a problem is to declare that the problem is unsolvable. No engineer can walk away from an unsolvable problem until it's solved. No illness or distraction is sufficient to get the engineer off the case. These types of challenges quickly become personal -- a battle between the engineer and the laws of nature.

Engineers will go without food and hygiene for days to solve a problem. (Other times just because they forgot.) And when they succeed in solving the problem they will experience an ego rush that is better than sex--and I'm including the kind of sex where other people are involved.

Nothing is more threatening to the engineer than the suggestion that somebody has more technical skill. Normal people sometimes use that knowledge as a lever to extract more work from the engineer. When an engineer says that something can't be done (a code phrase that means it's not fun to do), some clever normal people have learned to glance at the engineer with a look of compassion and pity and say something along these lines: "I'll ask Bob to figure it out. He knows how to solve difficult technical problems."

At that point it is a good idea for the normal person to not stand between the engineer and the problem. The engineer will set upon the problem like a starved Chihuahua on a pork chop.



NEWS

THURSDAY:

Telfer and Bryce Tully & Friends,
Golden Key Terry Fox
Date Auction

FRIDAY:

Trivia
Engibeering EngTV

SATURDAY:

T-Room open 2pm for
Iron Ring Reception
IRON RING PARTY, 8pm
p.s. you will want to be there.

Dalendar & Classifieds

dalendar@dalgazette.ca / classifieds@dalgazette.ca

Dalendar

Send your Dalhousie related events to: dalendar@dalgazette.ca (FREE)

Classifieds

Send to classifieds@dalgazette.ca

Thursday, March 6

Picasso's Les Femmes d'Alger: One Hundred and One Years After

7:30 p.m. @ KTS Lecture Hall, University of King's College
The Contemporary Studies Program is hosting a lecture on Picasso by Dr. Françoise Lucbert, Associate Professor of Art History at L'Université du Maine (Le Mans, France). Free

Terry Fox Dating Auction

9 p.m. @ The T-Room
The Golden Key society is holding an auction to bid on restaurant and spa passes. The winning bidder can then spend the rest of the night with the girl or guy who presents their prize. Free

FAST TIMES 6

10 P.M. @ The Marquee Club
With The Rub (New York City), live music from Albertasaurus, art exhibit by Bill Young, and resident DJ Double A.
\$7 advance at CD Plus or \$10 at the door.

Halfnotes 1

10 p.m. @ Ginger's Tavern
Live shows featuring Jason MacIsaac of Silvergun and Christina Martin and Jon Landry of Folds Of Policy.
\$5 at the door.

Friday, March 7

Rock Star Party

9 p.m. @ The Grawood
Dalhousie SUB
Wear your tight leather pants and make up for Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society

Night.

\$4 at the door or \$2.50 with a non-perishable food item.

Saturday, March 8

God Made Me Funky CD Release Party

10 p.m. @ The Marquee Club.
God Made Me Funky is having its CD release party with the Mel-tones and Big League Chu.
Price to be announced

Monday, March 10

Noon Hour Recital

12:30 p.m. @ Dal Arts Centre
Students of P. Allen, L. Stodola, P. Djokic, M. Kasper and S. Walt are performing a free recital of strings and piano in the sculpture court of the Dal Arts Centre. Free

Tuesday, March 11

Brain Fitness: The Myths and the Realities

7 p.m. @ Royal Bank Auditorium
Halifax Infirmary
The Brain Repair Centre is hosting a lecture by Dr. Gail Eskes, of Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University. The lecture is part of Brain Awareness Week which runs from March 10-14. Free

Friday, March 14

Post-Election Orgy

9 p.m. @ James Munson's House
James Munson will be having one last big orgy before graduation. All are welcome, masks are tolerated but not encouraged. Email him at opinions@dalgazette.ca for more details.

Camp Rotary

Camp Rotary is looking for fun, energetic, imaginative people to get on board for the best summer job ever.

Our camp serves children and adults with physical and mental disabilities.

If you want to spend your summer helping others and making great friends email us at: camp_director@camprotary.ca

THE GAZETTE ELECTIONS

Come out March 14th at 4 p.m. Rm 303 of the SUB to vote for the editors next year.

Any Dalhousie student can vote

Anyone who has published articles or photos in three different issues can apply for any of the section editor positions. Just drop off a cover letter, resume and clippings to The Gazette office by March 13 at 4 p.m.

Please prepare a speech that outlines your platform, bearing in mind this is not the Academy Awards, you are not Halle Berry and most importantly at The Gazette your hardwork will never be acknowledged.