

FREE

January 5th to 12th, 2006

ISSUE 138-14

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

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This is a weekly communications about happenings around the DSU.
Check it out, right here every week.



DALHOUSIE
STUDENT
UNION

Happy New Year

I would like to welcome you back to Dal. I hope that your break was relaxing and you are ready for another semester. This term is packed with exciting events and activities brought to you by the DSU some of which I will describe below.

Federal Election Again!

The DSU in cooperation with Dalhousie University and the Saint Mary's University Student's Association will be hosting an **all candidate's debate on Thursday January 12th from 6:30 to 8:00** in the McInnis Room of the SUB. The debate is an opportunity to hear what the candidates in our riding have to say as well as ask your own questions directly from the floor. The DSU is also participating in the Think Education campaign that is organized by our Federal Lobby Group the Canadian Alliance of Students Associations (CASA). Check our www.thinkeducation.ca. This election is an amazing opportunity for promoting post secondary education issues as it has been a top public policy item for the past eighteen months. If you want any information on how to vote, or what riding you can vote in, check out our website www.dsu.ca.

From the 17th to the 20th of January each political party as well as Elections Canada will have a table in the lobby of the SUB. If you are interested in a parties policies and platform or want more info on how to vote, stop by and anyone of them will be able to help you.

On Elections Day, there will be a polling station in the SUB for those students living on and around Campus. We will also be hosting an Election Day party in the Grawood. We will have great prizes, Canadian election trivia and live coverage of the election results.

Destination DSU!

The DSU is working on the development of a strategic plan. We are looking for participation from as many people as possible in this process. If you have an idea of what the DSU could be, are disillusioned with what the DSU is now or would like to be a part of shaping the DSU's future, this is your chance to have your voice heard.

The beginning of this process will be launched on January 27th with an event called Imagine DSU. Come to this event and be sure to bring your friends and your favourite Prof. This event will take place from 1:00 to 5:00 in the McInnis room with a band, snacks and drinks from 5:00 to 7:00. Check our website for more information.

Dalhousie Hits the Slopes!

In February we will be hosting our annual Winter Carnival and the Munro Day Ski Trip. We will be organizing a sleigh ride at Hatfield Farms on February 7th, the Kick of the Battle of the bands will be taking place on February 8th, there will be winter Trivia in the Grawood on February 9th, and on February 10th we will be hosting our annual Charity Ball. Tickets for these events will be available at the Info Desk in the Lobby of the SUB. For more details check out our website or this space in the coming weeks.

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be January 11th at 6:30pm in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building.
All are welcome.

On February 8th the DSU will be having its Annual General Meeting. We will be presenting our Audited Financial statements, as well as a number of constitutional changes which will include revisions to our elections procedures. The meeting will start at 6:30 in the McInnis room, and we will be providing pizza and pop to all members in attendance.

The DSU elections are also coming up this term so if you thinking about running keep your eye on this space and our website for upcoming announcements and dates.

Ezra Edelstein
DSU President
Office Room 222 SUB
dsupres@dal.ca
my.dsu.ca / www.dsu.ca

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BA JOHNSTON'S BIRTHDAY

SATURDAY, JAN 21, \$8

IN FLIGHT SAFETY

And another one bites the dust

2005 is, officially, an *annus horribilis*. Here's betting it won't get any better

CHRIS LAROCHE
Editor-In-Chief

Going back to school after Christmas break is not unlike a hangover that follows a good night of drinking — it's sobering, and it hurts.

It hurts even more when you've got to shed those Christmas pounds, crack that post-Christmas bank account and get started on that first assignment.

Worse yet are those pesky New Year's resolutions that force you to look back at last year's actions, find your faults, and come up with solutions.

After a year like 2005, there's a lot to fix.

Admittedly, my own personal resolution tartarus is nearing capacity.

Most of us concoct our New Year's resolutions in eggnog-saturated heads, announce them to our closest friends, and then proceed to bury them in the depths of hell.

I'm no exception.

Egged on by peer pressure and doomed by my own failure to develop an Ego that simply doesn't care, I've made many a well-wishing resolution over the years. And I've failed to fulfill so many of them that my Jan. 1st commitments read more like the lyrics to an experimental track on Radiohead's next album — stuck in a slowly decaying repeat — than anything constructive. These include some usual offenders, of course. "Work out more," I tell myself. "Try playing golf. Donate more money to charity. And be more considerate of the homeless.

"Try to get exercise outside of walking up and down the SUB's stairs. Buff up for the summer. Dare to be different. (Figure out what the above means)."

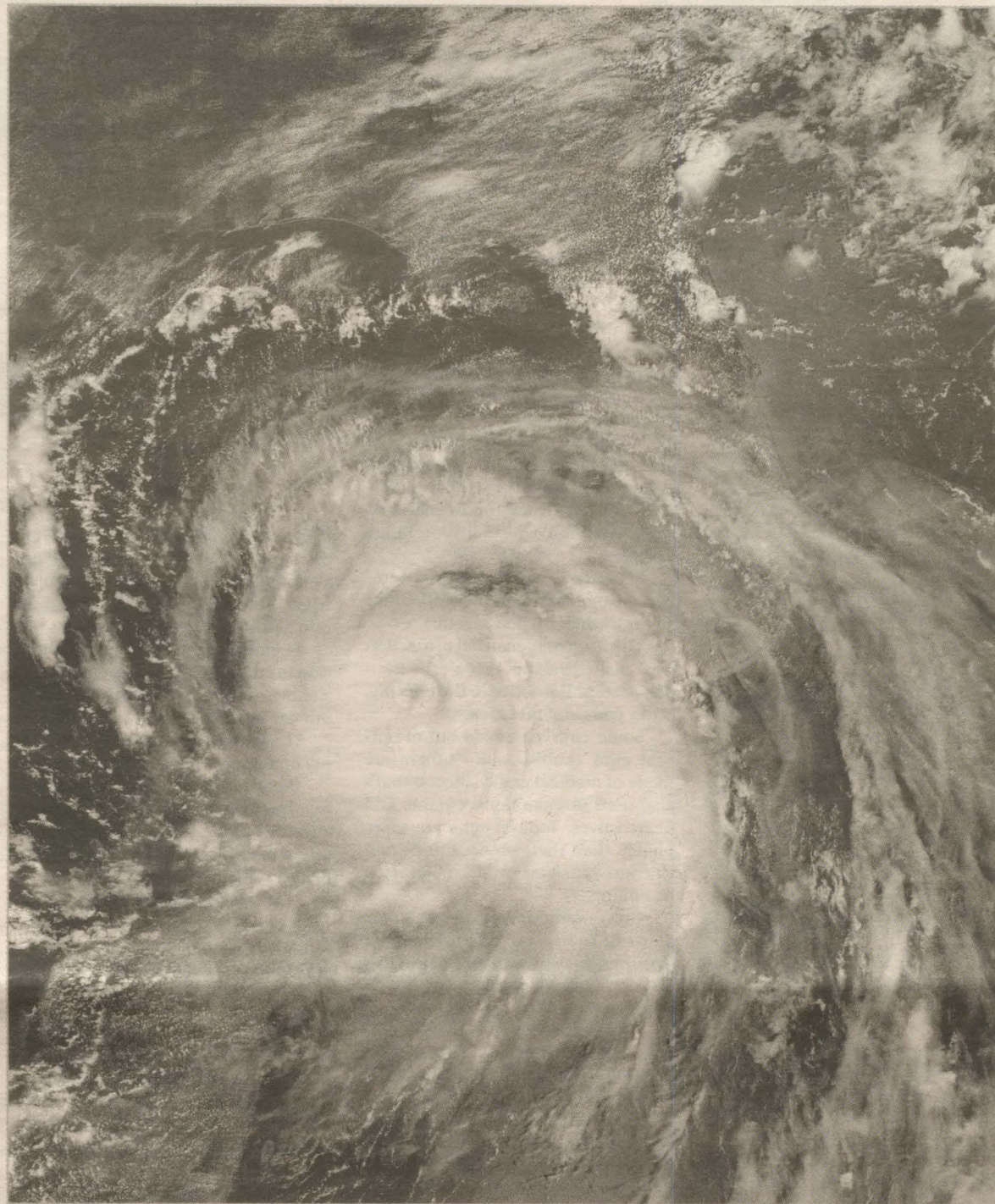
There's also the hygienic: "Take shorter showers in the morning. Floss more than once a month.

"(Buy floss!)"

I must also include the banes and boons of all students: "Read all those unread books you proudly display on your bookcase, instead of simply talking about them and encouraging others to read them, too. (Or at least pretend to). Drink less coffee. Don't be so finicky about Tupperware. Eat less cheese. Hand in essays on time. Stop sleeping in past 2 p.m. Be more productive on weekends. Try to be less hostile to people outside of your program."

The list goes on... and I'll spare you the rest (My latest: write shorter editorials).

Some of these items may strike readers as familiar. Some of them certainly won't. In any case, one would think that, after years of spec-



tacular and depressing failure, New Year's resolutions would be left to the birds.

But we humans keep trying. Indeed, home sapiens are one of the most stubborn, hypocritical species to ever walk, run or slither the surface of the earth. We commit to environmental sustainability, and then degrade it. We sermonize the separation of church and state, and then use the Bible to justify foreign policy. We acknowledge the need for spending restraint, and then over-consume.

Allow me to preach for a moment: we are so steeped in hollow hypocrisy that we are blind to the illogic of our own devices. The fact Paris Hilton is

a millionaire and scores of talented, dedicated individuals are not is simply taken as a 'fact of life'. It's *the nature of the beast*.

But the year 2005 — affectionately dubbed *annus horribilis* by much of the media — tested that beast to the extreme. Beginning with the aftermath of the 2004 Boxing Day Tsunami, 2005 brought a litany of natural disasters to both the developing and the developed world.

Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, Rita and Stan wrought destruction across North and Central America, exposing economic disparities across the Western hemisphere. More than 80,000 people died in earthquakes.

Millions of Africans continued to die of disease and malnourishment, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan dragged on for yet another year.

And while dramatic commitments were made to reduce poverty, stop violence and promote environmental sustainability, 2005 proved to be one of the worst years on record in all of those categories. Soaring oil prices allowed ExxonMobil, Dutch Shell, BP and other oil companies to rake in record profits — Exxon's \$250 billion net revenue in 2005 matches Austria's GDP — while consumers, still dependent on oil for almost every one of their daily activities, suffered a minor shock.

Meanwhile, steamship earth continued to head towards that edge of the world where "the coming environmental apocalypse" ceases to be the content of science fiction novels or gloomy newspaper editorials and finally becomes reality.

Allow me to preach some more. (There's light at the end of the tunnel. Really.) Canada is no exception. Our venerable Prime Minister paid more attention to clearing his name from the Adscam mess than he has to implementing policies of substance. Our government has criticized other Western nations about solving the crises in Sudan, increasing aid relief commitments and lowering greenhouse gas emissions.

Yet Canada itself has done nothing to match its own rhetoric. Our Official Development Assistance remains far below our goal of 0.7 per cent of the GDP and our greenhouse gas emissions have increased enormously over the last few years. Our pontification about action in Sudan was — like a lot of Canadian foreign policy — all talk and no action.

We are concerned only with what goes on in our own borders, and what we do say outside those borders often smacks of an elitist moral propaganda, all pomp and circumstance — and, like New Year's resolutions — with no realistic commitment in sight.

Canada — the beacon of democratic light that we, as Canadians, must believe in — has not been spared from the collapse of global ethics. Indeed, 2005 stabbed the world with steely knives, but it just couldn't kill the beast. Our mettle has been tested, but the world continues to blunder forward blindfolded, aware of the faults of its actions but unwilling to stop them.

It is as we have all been taken up with New Year's resolutions.

The year 2006 presents us with an opportunity for change. As students, we are still far away from taking the reigns of any global steamship. But global responsibility must be on Canada's agenda, and we have the democratic right to put it there. In 2006, don't just think about what you do with your garbage — think about where your country is going.

Scandals, health care funding and taxes should only dominate the electoral rhetoric so much. Canada was (a long time ago) a voice of reason on the international scene.

It is time our government's actions actually reflect whatever Canadian values we actually espouse.

And it is time to put away New Year's resolutions and demand more of our government. Canada deserves as much.

Student Employment Centre

A new year brings new workshops:

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Please visit www.dal.ca/sec for further details on these and other upcoming events and how to purchase tickets.

Upcoming Events

Summer Job Fair

February 15, 2006
Dalhousie University
McInnes Room

Visit www.dal.ca/sec for more details.

Editor-in-Chief

Chris LaRoche
editor@dalgazette.ca

Managing/Photo Editor

Rafal Andronowski
photo@dalgazette.ca

News Editors

Reid Southwick
Jess McDiarmid
news@dalgazette.ca

Opinions Editor

Sarah Vanderwolf
opinions@dalgazette.ca

Arts Editors

Lindsay Dobbin
Bridgette Sullivan
arts@dalgazette.ca

Sports Editor

Joey Ryba
sports@dalgazette.ca

Copy Editor

Nadine LaRoche
copy@dalgazette.ca

Office Manager

Andrew Erskine
aerskine@dal.ca

Sextant Editor

Peter White
sextant@dal.ca

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

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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.

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, 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 Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba or Chris LaRoche. 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.

CONTACTING US

6136 University Avenue
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3H 4J2

www.dalgazette.ca
info@dalgazette.ca

General Inquiries
(902) 494-2507
info@dalgazette.ca

Advertising Inquiries
(902) 494-6532
advertising@dalgazette.ca

CONTRIBUTORS FOR THIS ISSUE

All contributions in this issue of *The Gazette* were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors:

Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB starting the first week of the new year. Our offices are officially closed from Thursday December 1st 2005 until the first week of 2006. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.

Stemming the flow

More women switching to menstrual cups

CHELSEA MURRAY
Staff Contributor

"No More Pads! No More Tampons!" a young Laura Keresztesi read as she browsed through a section of *Canadian Geographic*.

Underneath was a link to a website.

Intrigued, Keresztesi sat down at her computer and searched the site that had caught her attention. She found the advertisement was for a type of menstrual cup called the Keeper.

Keresztesi was excited, she says. She'd never been successful using tampons and the possibility of an alternative to inconvenient pads was good news.

"I read the testimonials and read how great it was. I got really excited and told my mom I wanted to get it," says Keresztesi, an urban planning student at the University of King's College.

Keresztesi, and a growing number of women around the world, now swear by their menstrual cups.

The form of menstrual protection was created in the 1930s as a non-disposable alternative to the era's big, bulky pads and messy rags.

Some cups are made out of natural gum rubber, while others are made of medical grade silicone that's also used in knee replacements and heart valves. Today's cups are more pliable than their predecessors, and silicone cups can even be sterilized by boiling.

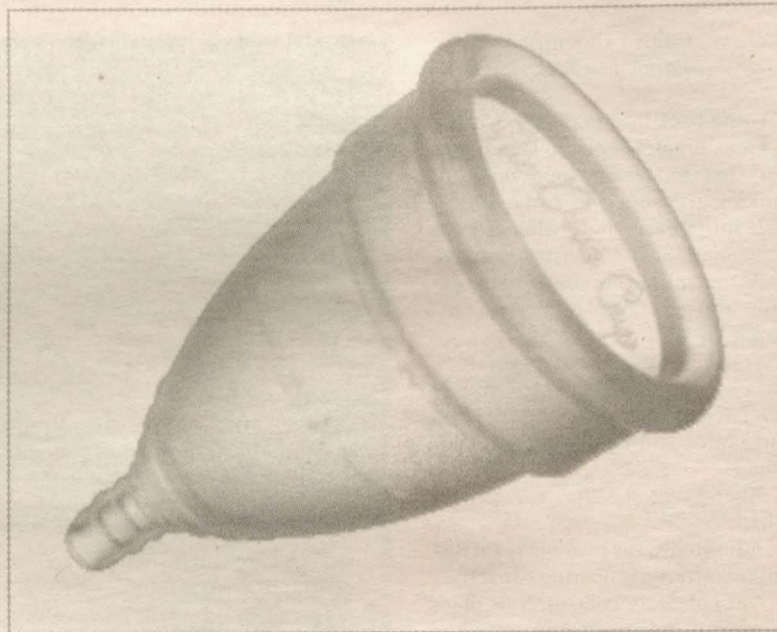
Unlike tampons, menstrual cups aren't linked to the potentially fatal toxic shock syndrome. Modern cups also look more attractive so women aren't as wary of trying them out.

"They are an altogether sexier-looking menstrual cup," says Maggie Haywood, manager of Venus Envy, referring to the brand Diva Cup.

The popularity of menstrual cups is sky-rocketing — in 2004, Diva Cup, based out of Kingston, Ontario, saw a market growth of 168 per cent.

American student Margo Sproat, who spent a semester living and working in Halifax, says the greatest advantage of the cup is that it can be reused, so she doesn't have to carry tampons while camping and travelling.

Still, Sproat says she's had un-



usual experiences with her cup. One of the worst incidents occurred on a mountain biking trip last summer when she accidentally dropped it into a public toilet at a rest stop.

She decided she couldn't stop the ride for the small inconvenience and she definitely couldn't finish it without her Keeper.

"I grabbed it, washed it, washed my hands and went," says Sproat.

But while Keresztesi and Sproat say they love their cups now, it wasn't always the case. Menstrual cups are often uncomfortable and hard to adjust to at first.

"I was really excited when I got it. I thought it was going to be so great and then it was uncomfy at first," says Sproat. "I kind of wanted to persevere, though, and now I enjoy using it."

Keresztesi says she had similar problems with her cup in the beginning. "It was really painful to put it in and take it out. It leaked and would fall down," she says. "I don't know what's changed, but it doesn't do that anymore."

Diva Cup president Francine Chambers, whose company offers a one-year warranty, says the main reason women return their cup is because they give up too soon.

"The Diva Cup will work for every woman, but they have to work for it," says Chambers. "They're terrified

and think it's so big. But things bigger than that go in there and it doesn't hurt."

Jody Sawchyn, an employee of Venus Envy, agrees. "A few people return [their cups]," she says. "To be honest, I don't think they gave it a fair go."

But women in greater numbers are switching to menstrual cups as an alternative to pads or tampons. The Diva Cup website has hundreds of glowing testimonials from women who say their lives have been changed by the menstrual cup. Chambers even received a poem from a satisfied customer.

"I don't think I've ever bought a product that made such an impact. You're not buying another tampon again in your life," says Chambers. "You're saving the environment tons."

In the U.S., two billion pads and seven million tampons were disposed of in 1998 alone. The average woman will discard more than 250 pounds of feminine hygiene products in a lifetime.

"I'll actually say the Keeper changed my life," says Keresztesi. "I hated periods, couldn't stand them. And then I got the Keeper."

Keresztesi says the only problem she now has with her Keeper is that "boyfriends don't always know when it's in, and encounter surprises."

SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN THE US

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 6/17-8/12. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Interviews on campus on January 18th. Contact staff@camptowanda.com to schedule an appointment.

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Contribute!

Come to our weekly contributor meetings, 5:30 p.m. every Monday. Room 312, Dal SUB.

Top five stories of 2005

REID SOUTHWICK
 JESS McDIARMID
News Editors

Once in a while, stories arise at Dal that have all the components of a great news story in the making. They have resonance with the student body, are wrought with controversy and, oftentimes, shed light on important issues in the university community.

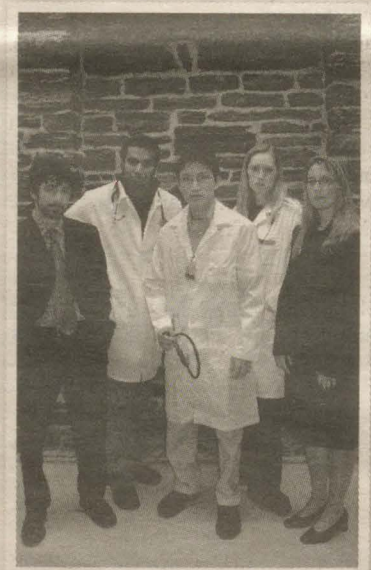
Here are five of the best, and most important, news stories covered by *The Gazette* in 2005.



2005 DSU elections debacle

For the second year in a row, the DSU president-elect was disqualified for campaign violations. The elections committee declared Ezra Edelstein ineligible for the presidency following an investigation that revealed that he exceeded the campaign spending limit by roughly \$27.

Edelstein appealed the decision. Three weeks after the election, when he defeated his opponent, Kevin Wasako, by roughly five percentage points, Edelstein was reinstated following a review by the union's judicial board.



Silent protest against tuition hikes

International students and students and faculty from Dal's professional programs gathered in the lobby of the Henry Hicks building on March 22 to protest tuition fee increases featured in the president's budget.

Members of the board of governors arriving to vote on the budget were greeted by more than 200 silent students lining the hallways of the building dressed in the traditional garb of their future professions.

The university Senate, the DSU, faculty members and students expressed major opposition to calculations behind the increases and presented their concerns about a perceived lack of information and transparency informing the budget committee.

The board postponed the vote on the contentious budget, which included a 9.28 per cent tuition hike for professional students, and a 16.8 per cent hike in differential fees for international students.

The April 19 vote was deadlocked at 10-10 and university president Tom Traves cast the deciding ballot in favour of the tuition hikes. But the budget presented on April 19 also included 63 per cent more in student aid than was included in the previous budget.



Putting the breaks on *Girls Gone Wild*

ATV reported in August that the notorious *Girls Gone Wild* bus planned to make Dal a stop in its Canadian tour. The university publicly announced its opposition to the plan, and the Dalhousie Women's Centre launched an awareness campaign about the perceived threats of *GGW*. The DWC also prepared to protest around the bus upon its arrival in Halifax.

The bus was allegedly seen in the area surrounding Dal campus and rumours circulated that it would be parking outside a fraternity party in September. But in an interview with *The Gazette*, *GGW* denied it had ever been in Halifax, and announced that it would not come to Nova Scotia.



Future of Dal

The Gazette took an in-depth look at Dal's plans for the future, including attempts to develop the campus and market the Dal experience while

facing declining enrolments and a budget shortfall.

To combat the fall in the number of students, the university launched a new enrolment strategy, stepping up recruitment across the country and investigating ways to make the university more attractive to prospective students.

This year, however, the decrease in enrolment, coupled with rising pension plan and energy costs, forced the administration to cut one per cent from the budget of all departments at the school, with the exception of student services and the library.

The Gazette also offered an update on Dal's branding campaign, which attempts to put the university's stamp on the shrinking market of high school graduates across the country.

While university administrators expect the enrolment figures to continue their decline over the next two years, they hope the branding campaign and enrolment strategy will bolster the student body over the long term.



Shinerama shortfall

DSU Vice President (Internal) Phil Duguay came under fire for leading the first Shinerama campaign that failed to raise more money than the previous year. Dal's 2005 fundraiser for cystic fibrosis came up \$16,000 short of the 2004 total of roughly \$60,000.

Duguay argued that his office should not have to dedicate its entire summer to the campaign, and also blamed a lack of volunteers for the lower total.

Critics, including the 2004/2005 VP (Internal) Mathew Godwin and former VP (Finance and Operations) Jonathan Wilson, weren't satisfied with Duguay's explanation and expressed concern over the perceived lack of commitment to the fundraiser.

Philosophy

As part of its routine planning process, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Graduate Studies conduct periodic reviews of all academic departments. In 2006, a Review Committee is examining the Department of Philosophy. Students (undergraduate or graduate, current or former, majoring in this field or studying it as an elective) and other interested members of the University community who would like to comment on the undergraduate or graduate programs, their experience as students with these programs, or any other aspect of the department, are cordially invited to meet with the Review committee on Monday, January 9th, 2006 from 1:00-5:00 p.m.; Tuesday, January 10th, 2006 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; Monday, January 16th, 2006 from 1:00-5:00 p.m. or Tuesday, January 17th, 2006 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Marian McCain Building Room 3101. Please contact Ms. Caroline Sequeira (494-3510). If you prefer, you could write to the Review Committee at the address listed below.

Professor Dan Middlemiss
 Dan.Middlemiss@Dal.Ca
 Chair (Philosophy Unit Review Committee)
 Department of Political Science
 Dalhousie University
 Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Length:
 Up to 1500 words

Submission date:
 Received by
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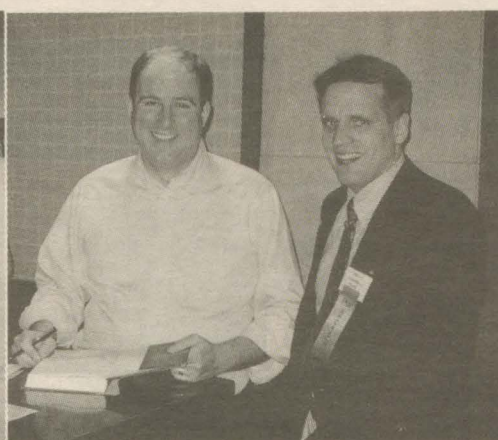
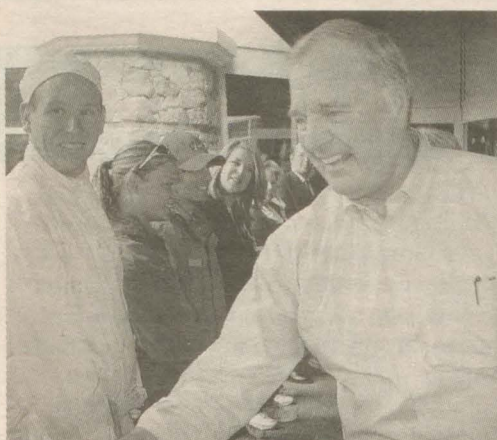
THIRD PRIZE
\$500

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On the issues...

REID SOUTHWICK
News Editor

Halfway through the 39th federal election campaign, Canada's two leading federal political parties are at a dead heat in the polls. The Tories have made recent modest gains in Ontario, while the Liberals need to gain ground in Quebec. The Greens largely remain below the radar of Canadian public opinion but the NDP's continuous moderate support offers promise that the fledgling party can retain its key role in the next parliament, which will likely be led by another minority government.

With the Jan. 23 election date closing in, who will win over the undecided voters? What issues are most important to Canadians? Most importantly, how will the policies affect students? Here's where Canada's political parties stand.

Post Secondary Education

Liberal Party: Change PSE funding formula to ensure money follows the student to his/her place of study. Create a dedicated transfer of funds for PSE. Create a scholarship program for graduate students that will support 4,000 master and doctoral students. Increase the maximum amount of debt reduction from \$20,000 to \$26,000. Introduce a new grant of \$3,000 for first-year students from low-income families. Increase the weekly loan threshold in the Canada Student Loans program from \$165 to \$210. Recently announced a \$2.2-billion increase in financial aid.

Conservative Party: In concert with the provinces, lower the expected parental contribution rates for middle-income families in Canada Student Loan applications. Create a separate education transfer, geared toward PSE. Provide students or their parents with a tax credit of up to \$500 to help cover the cost of textbooks. Work with the provinces to increase family income thresholds for student loan eligibility. Exempt the first \$10,000 of student scholarship or bursary income from taxation.

NDP: Create needs-based grants program to replace the Millennium Scholarship Fund. Introduce plan to reduce tuition fees by 10 per cent and freeze them by increasing federal funding. Separate PSE funds from the Canada Social Transfer and create a transfer solely for PSE. Work with the provinces to draft legislation that prevents the establishment of private, for-profit universities. Included \$1.5 billion for tuition reduction and training in an amendment to the 2005 budget.

Green Party: Reinvest in PSE. Reduce tuition fee levels. Create needs-based grants program. Ensure that all Canadians have access to quality education.

Economy

Liberal Party: Reduce the corporate tax rate from 21 per cent to 19 per cent. Encourage companies to boost productivity. Encourage university-based research to help strengthen the knowledge-based economy. Funding will educate skilled workers and help small businesses move into emerging markets.

Conservative Party: Lower income and corporate taxes. Privatize crown corporations that compete with comparable private services. Provide tax incentives for young Canadians to learn skilled trades as apprentices, and for businesses to hire new apprentices. These incentives include a tax reduction for up to \$500 spent on tools; \$1,000 two-year grant for apprentices in approved programs; and a tax credit for employers who take on apprentices.

NDP: Ensure that Canadians who make less than \$15,000 annually don't pay federal income taxes. Grow the economy and increase employment with a national environmental program that would create jobs to fix municipal water and sewage systems. Remove the GST from family essentials, including children's clothing and medicine, school supplies, books and medical equipment.

Green Party: Reduce the GST on products that cut pollution and improve the health of Canadians. Gradually eliminate GST on education supplies, books and children's clothing. Postpone across the board corporate tax cuts in favour of more extensive fiscal reform and targeted tax relief. Introduce \$350-billion tax cut.

Health Care

Liberal Party: Introduce a program to train 1,000 new Canadians to deal with the shortage of primary care providers. Continue to follow the 10-year health-care agreement affirmed by the first ministers in fall 2004. The deal includes targets for reducing wait times over the next five years in at least five key areas: cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacements and sight restoration. The deal also features plans to create a National Home Care Program and a National Pharmaceuticals Strategy.

Conservative Party: Work with the provinces to reduce wait times for medical procedures. Increase the number of doctors and nurses by working with the provinces and territories to expand educational programs for health-care professionals. Ban embryonic research for at least three years and encourage granting agencies to focus on adult (post-natal) stem cell research. Support the addition of a sixth principle to the Canada Health Act that would ensure stable and transparent federal funding.

NDP: Create a \$1-billion annual transfer to the provinces to expand home-care services. Hire more doctors and nurses. Refuse money to doctors also working outside the public health-care system. Launch a national pharmacare program, starting with low-income Canadians and those facing massive drug costs. Label diagnostic procedures such as MRIs medically necessary services. Launch a \$500-million plan to create as many as 40,000 long-term care spaces over four years. Ban unhealthy trans fatty acids from prepared and fast foods.

Green Party: Launch a five-year program that ensures no Canadian will suffer from hunger or malnutrition. Promote physical activities and healthy eating habits. Reduce the prevalence of obesity by 15 per cent. Ensure that the Canada Health Act applies to all provinces equally and is enforced. Hold a referendum on expanding the Act to include prescription medicines.

Municipalities

Liberal Party: Develop and implement a national housing program to serve the needs of low-income Canadians. Create a formula to share \$5 billion of the federal gas tax revenue over the next five years. Provide \$4 billion over the next 10 years to clean up federally owned contaminated sites. Introduced a GST rebate that will provide municipalities with up to \$7 billion over the next 10 years.

Conservative Party: Transfer at least \$2 billion per year to provinces and municipalities for infrastructure. Work in concert with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments in dealing with affordable housing demands and homelessness. Use tax credits as incentives to generate investment in low-income housing. Give public transit riders a tax credit to cover the cost of their monthly transit passes.

NDP: Reintroduce a 10-year national housing program that aims to, in part, build 200,000 affordable and co-op housing units. Provide tax incentives for developers to restore downtown buildings. Direct infrastructure funds to help build and run community recreational facilities, with priority for facilities serving youth and seniors.

Green Party: Encourage municipalities to plan neighborhoods that support walking, cycling and recreational sports. Establish funding arrangements to support municipal wastewater management and safe water supplies. Negotiate an agreement to give municipalities a greater share of federal tax revenues. Create new funding networks for more locally-run housing, childcare and health programs.

How to vote in Jan. 23 federal election



Canadian citizens studying away from home are eligible to vote either in their parents' riding or in their riding of residence when attending school.

To vote in parents' riding:

The returning office of the riding must receive the student's special ballot at least six days prior to polling day. To obtain a special ballot package, call Elections Canada at 1.800.463.6868 in advance.

To vote in riding of residence while attending school:

There is no minimum time of residency to be eligible to vote in any riding. Students must bring in proof of residency — a driver's license with the new address, a lease agreement, or a friend or relative who lives in the riding and is willing to sign a declaration that the student also does.

For more information, visit Elections Canada at www.elections.ca or call 1.800.463.6868.



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Uni-Briefs

DAL BRIEFS

Dal teams take top prizes at business plan competition

Dal students walked away with first and second prizes in the MBA category of the CIBC Business Plan Competition held at the University of New Brunswick on Dec. 1 and 2. Recent MBA grads Jeff Livingston and Michael Stricker represented the Halifax Art House team, and carried away a \$5,000 prize for their plan to start an independent movie theatre in Halifax.

Second prize in the MBA field went to another Dal team represented by MBA students Todd Shaver, Jim Gray and Kevin Buchan for their plan for a coffee shop that would use an embedded payment chip in coffee mugs to reduce lineups. They received a \$250 prize.

Students, alumni and entrepreneurs from across Canada have competed in the CIBC Business Plan Competition since 1999. International teams participated for the first time in 2005.

Dal appoints new Vice President (Academic and Provost)

Dalhousie announced the appointment of a new Vice President (Academic and Provost) to replace the current VP, Sam Scully. Alan Shaver will assume the position on July 6, 2006.

Shaver was the Dean of Science at McGill University for two terms, after serving as chair of the chemistry department at the Montreal school. He has also published more than 125 research papers, and been a member of McGill's Board of Governors and the president of the Conference of Canadian Deans of Science.

As VP (Academic and Provost), Shaver will be responsible for leading the planning, management and evaluation of academic activities at Dal, by working with faculty deans and administrators to promote good management and a high quality of instruction. Current VP Sam Scully has held the post since 1998.

Dal students remember Montreal massacre

Dal students, faculty and staff gathered at Sexton Campus on Dec.

6 to pay tribute to the victims of the 1989 Montreal massacre, which resulted in the deaths of 14 women and injuries to many others at L'Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal.

The candlelight vigil is held annually on the anniversary of the incident — when a gunman opened fire whilst screaming, "I hate feminists" — and is also meant to remind people of the need to stop violence against women, and all humanity. Dal students represented each of the 14 victims of the shooting, lighting candles and placing roses in memory of the women.

The ceremony was led by Emmy Schnepf, Vice President (Communications) for the Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society. Several people who were at L'Ecole Polytechnique 16 years ago when the massacre occurred spoke, including Elizabeth McCormack, director of the Dal Women's Centre, and Josh Leon, Dean of Engineering.

Following the massacre, which traumatized L'Ecole Polytechnique for years, the Canadian Parliament declared Dec. 6 the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Dal joins North American data research project

Dal's Archives and Special Collections (DUASC) was chosen as a partner in an international research project based at the University of Toronto, the University of Michigan and the University of North Carolina. The project will attempt to develop standardized survey instruments so that North American post-secondary institutions can use the same survey and data collection tools. Researchers hope the new instruments will allow colleges and universities to consolidate and analyze data across institutions.

Dal joins 20 collaborating institutions, which includes Princeton and Yale universities' archives. DUASC will review project documents, critique survey instruments, help recruit subjects for pilot tests of survey instruments and facilitate administrative issues.

The research project is supported by a \$328,000 grant from the Andrew

W. Mellon Foundation.

CANADIAN CAMPUS

Christian university "legalizes" dancing on campus

The Board of Governors of a Christian university in Langley, B.C. recently decided to allow students to take part in social dances on campus.

Starting this January, students at Trinity Western University can dance to their hearts' delights, as the Responsibilities for Membership that govern student behaviour will lose the stipulation that "social dancing is not permitted on campus, nor may dances be sponsored by university or student groups."

The change follows a proposal from last year's president of the student association at Trinity Western, which called for an event with a club-like atmosphere, along with music and dancing.

Students reportedly had mixed reactions to the legalization of dancing at their school. Some thought there should be guidelines for appropriate dancing in place, while others said that times were changing, and the school had to evolve.

Canada's first non-profit, private university to open next year

The former president of the University of British Columbia is founding the country's first non-profit, private university in response to what he calls the diminishing quality of education in Canada.

David Strangway says Quest University will not be an antithesis to large public universities, but rather an alternative. The university, set to open in 2007, will offer a broad curriculum of liberal arts and sciences, while maintaining small class sizes. The different approach is meant to provide a fulfilling undergraduate experience, rather than acting as a diploma factory, says Strangway, CEO and founding director of the school.

There are major problems with the public system, Strangway says, where schools struggle to keep class sizes small and to maintain intimacy with their students while funding

decreases every year.

An academic year at the private university will cost \$32,000, including tuition, room and board; a scholarship program will pay for a portion of the costs, so students will have to fork out slightly more than \$25,000.

UWO: no place in bedrooms of its students - officials say

A first-year student at the University of Western Ontario has achieved international fame — or notoriety — after she performed an on-camera striptease and lap dances for several male students in a dorm at the London, Ontario, university. "Raunchy" images were circulated on the Internet following the October incident, which the university is now investigating.

Susan Grindrod, UWO's Vice President of housing, says university officials approached the young woman as soon as they learned of the incident, inquiring whether she had been coerced into performing or being photographed. She said she wasn't.

Grindrod says there would have been repercussions if the student had not participated willingly. But because the young woman was a consenting adult, acting in the privacy of a residence room, and no one complained about the incident, the university will likely not take any disciplinary measures, says Grindrod.

The university does not condone the students' actions, and expressed its disappointment in those involved, she said.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Schwarzenegger beefs up PSE funding

California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Republican administration revealed it will wipe out an eight per cent fee increase for undergraduate students in the upcoming budget, scheduled to be released on Jan. 10.

The planned fee hike would have hit students at the University of California and California State University next year, increasing their tuition by roughly \$200 to \$700.

According to the San Francisco Chronicle, the elimination of the fee

increase was possible because the state has more money to cover expenses than in previous years.

The universities agreed to the plan to increase tuition as part of a deal Schwarzenegger made with post-secondary institutions in 2004, in which schools agreed to raise fees over six years in exchange for a guaranteed minimum level of annual funding.

The governor's budget will allot \$141.3 million to offset the money that would have been generated by the fee increase.

University officials and student associations at the schools applauded the decision to wipe out the fee increases. But the state's leading Democrat, Senator Don Perata, blasted the Republicans for offering a "Christmas present" that they will take back next year, and called for a long-term plan for higher education.

U.S. government finally approves hurricane relief package

College officials in Louisiana and Mississippi were left disappointed after the United States Senate approved a \$200-million hurricane relief bill for colleges in Louisiana and Mississippi affected by Hurricane Katrina as part of a \$29-billion aid bill for the storm-ravaged southern states.

The relief money is \$300 million short of what officials sought to begin repairs to the higher education system in the region. Officials also objected to the stipulation that the money will be split evenly between Louisiana and Mississippi, as Louisiana suffered far worse damage.

Officials still said they appreciated getting the funds at all. "It was very likely this or nothing," said Becky Timmons, director of government relations at the American Council on Education.

The bill will provide \$95 million to each state for higher education. The remaining \$10 million is allotted for schools outside the region that accepted students displaced by the hurricane and didn't charge them tuition

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That was the year that was

2005 in review

SARAH VANDERWOLF
Opinions Editor

Ah, another year has gone. As usual, newspapers and magazines have their annual wrap-up of the previous year in the form of memorable quotations, photographs, and news stories.

Like every year, 2005 was littered with celebrity stories, ranging from Michael Jackson's acquittal to Brad and Jennifer's breakup, from Charles and Camilla's wedding to the true identification of Deep Throat. The Canadian political scene has also rocked the house, what with the Gomery inquiry to Belinda Stronach's defection to the failed vote of non-confidence in May to the Christmas election campaign.

Who knows what 2006 will bring? Every year I ask myself this question and I am unable to fully answer it for another 365 days. In January, we will have an election, and in February, we will have the Winter Olympic Games in Torino, Italy. I hope 2006 will have fewer natural disasters than 2005 — the world has no need for more tsunamis, hurricanes and earthquakes.

But in our own little personal microcosm, what is the significance of a New Year? In academic terms, it signifies the start of another semester, which for many of us will be our last. It's hard to believe that I have made it through seven semesters, and am about to embark on the final lap. Each semester has been so distinct that I remember each one vividly.



University life is so intense and full of change that no two semesters are ever the same; they are characterized by the classes we take, the professors we meet, the activities we get involved in, the places we live, and the experiences we share.

I hope that many view the turn of the year as a time for change and new beginnings. In just four months, the school year will be over and our daily lives will change drastically in

the summer months, whatever we find ourselves doing. In September, things will be different again as many of us return to school. As youthful students, each year offers us the opportunity to experiment and try new things, unencumbered by old age and, for most of us, familial responsibilities.

As I look back on 2005, the 21st year of my life, it seems unremarkable. On the face of it, all I did was

attend classes for four months, work in a factory for four horrible months and then attend classes for another four months — the typical trimester of a university student.

But, like every year, nothing stays the same even if we want it to. Just as the world is not the same as it was a year ago after numerous elections, hurricanes, news scandals, blockbuster movie releases, earthquakes, weddings, trials, tsunamis, homi-

Who knows what 2006 will bring? Every year I ask myself this question, and I am unable to fully answer it for another 365 days.

cides, best-selling book publications, break-ups and riots, no person can be the same after another year's worth of living.

My dad, a professor, was once asked by a student if he thought a bachelor's degree simply teaches you the equivalent of what you would learn during a lifetime. My dad answered that no degree can teach you what you learn over the course of a lifetime. As rich as our educational experiences are at Dalhousie, I think the first of the year is a time to reflect on our personal lives over the past year, and what we hope for them in the next one. For better or for worse, each year, amidst the chaos and stress, another chapter is added to our lives, and to the world's history.

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TOP 10

- 1 **STILL FEELING THE REVERBERATIONS FROM NEW YEAR'S EVE THE FIRST DAY OF CLASS** Even the profs seem hungover.
- 2 **PEOPLE GETTING DRUNK FOR FREE ON AIR CANADA FLIGHTS** Ugh, as if that baby next to you wasn't obnoxious enough without telling you "I love you maaannn."
- 3 **HEATH LEDGER AS "CASANOVA"** He's got a better chance of playing the role of a gay cowboy... wait a minute.
- 4 **TONI BRAXTON FINALLY AGREEING TO APPEAR IN PLAYBOY** Thus Unbreaking my heart!
- 5 **MAN GIVES WOMAN RING FASHIONED OUT OF HUMAN BONE TO SHOW HIS AFFECTION** There's a joke to be made here... but we're way too classy for that.
- 6 **HAVING NOTHING TO DO OVER THE BREAK** What kind of casino closes at 2 a.m.? What kind of casino even closes?
- 7 **SOMEONE IS SHOOTING BULLETS AT OBIE TRICE** Real gun, no gimmicks.
- 8 **GETTING CHRISTMAS GIFTS YOU DON'T WANT** Thank God for receipts.
- 9 **THE NEW MOVIE TRAILER FOR THE TRAILER PARK BOYS MOVIE** Much funnier than my introduction for it.
- 10 **ACTUALLY ACCOMPLISHING NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS** Is soooooo 2005.

HOT	NOT
Narnia	Middle Earth
Not being a loser	Understanding the above references
First Class	First class
Rapping about getting shot at	Earning the right
Christmas Day	New Year's Day
Layton's Moustache	Harper's old-man hair
Ocean's Thirteen	Thirteen Going on 30 II
White Lies	White Winter
Our sub-arctic country	Everywhere else

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

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Have an opinion?
opinions@dalgazette.ca

STREETER

What's the most creative thing you've done with a copy of the *Gazette*?



"I once wrapped a present with the full-page Dawgfather ad."
Alison McEvoy, third-year English



"I use it to line my cat's litter box."
Heather Milne, fourth-year English



"I folded it into an origami swan to make it something of beauty and worth."
Shannon Hilchie, third-year theatre



"Occasionally I read it and if not, it makes a dandy hat."
Zachary Robbins, third-year theatre and business



"I lit it on fire to see how fast it would burn, then I threw it in my garbage can and it almost burnt the house down."
Ashley Goodwin, second-year theatre



"I changed the DSU ad from a bunch of pictures to a column that conveys what the DSU has been up to for the past week."
Ezra Edelstein, DSU President



"I use it to light fires. When it's not good reading, I burn it."
Morgan Sears, third-year political science



"Obviously I read it while I am engaged in the bathroom. I could make the obvious crack about using it as hygienic paper in there, but why wipe shit with shit? That is like so counter-productive."
Joey Ryba, seventh-year lavatory academic

Got a question you want to see answered by students? streeter@dalgazette.ca

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Spin Spin Sugar

Need to know what tunes from 2005 should stay on your playlist? Here are some *Gazette* picks for best albums of 2005

LINDSAY DOBBIN, SAMAN JAFARIAN, CHRIS LAROCHE, BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN
Music Junkies



Animal Collective
Feels
FatCat Records

It happens all the time. One of your favourite bands releases a new album and it does something completely different. Some fans love it and embrace the band for their departure; others hate it.

I'm sure some Animal Collective fans don't like *Feels* because it's their most accessible, pop-friendly release to date. While it's not a huge departure from *Sung Tongs*, there are marked differences — there is more of a wistfulness to *Feels* whereas *Sung Tongs* was weighted in its primal, devilish quality.

For an artist like Joni Mitchell, for example, I can understand the backlash that emerged because of her strange duet-with-a-bass jazz stuff in the 80s, but one has to embrace the tangents that the Animal Collective pursue. — LD

every niche. That's where the colour sits. Waiting to be discovered. — LD



Broken Social Scene
Broken Social Scene
Arts & Crafts

There's always an urge to compare artists' new creations to what they've done before. Broken Social Scene's previous release, *You Forgot It In People*, was simple, affecting and spoke to the teenage boy or girl sitting alone in their suburban bedroom dreaming of a better world.

The band's self-titled release of this year uses the same suburban setting but speaks to everyone at the same time. Broken Social Scene's music has moved from suburban bedroom rock to suburban house rock — meandering from the secrets in the basement to the mysteries in the attic and filling everything in between. — LD



CocoRosie
Noah's Ark
Touch & Go

CocoRosie's music maintains, at the base, the simplicity of a bluesy folk song you know you've heard before but never have. Beyond that, things are more open. Literally. There is so much space found within their songs that it's easy to get lost inside of them. The sister duo does their best to guide the listener through, but still leaves quite an amount of open-endedness.

The songs on *Noah's Ark* are elevated by hip-hop beats, electronica, field recordings, children's toys and vocals that are, at times, operatic and, at others, childlike.

The most seductive element of CocoRosie's music is that it's very unaware of itself like a child. It's almost as if everything occurs accidentally. As a result, CocoRosie's music creates a dreamlike world similar to those we remember from our own childhood. — LD

to push new boundaries, this isn't necessarily a bad thing. The band's major strength has always been sing-along songwriting, not experimental soundtrack (better leave that heavy stuff for Radiohead).

So while *X&Y* doesn't really sound different from *Parachutes* (or, perhaps more accurately, "Clocks") the album's melodies are varied enough to bring out the warm, emotionally-stirred-but-still-committed ambient arena soft rocker in everyone. Assuming that actually exists. — CLR



controller.controller
X-Amounts
Paper Bag Records

The wait for the Toronto-based band's second album was well worth it — and if you were at Stage 9 on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2005, you'll understand the rationale behind deeming it a must have.

The band known far and wide for its dance-punk styling did not disappoint in its sophomore round. The eleven-track album shows great range with songs like "Raw No" bringing the band's usual frenzied tempo down a notch; "Magnetic Strip" and "PF" provide the dance beats controller fans have come to seek out like fiends. — BS

distinctive sound, while clever, witty lyrics grab your attention throughout.

With a running time barely over 20 minutes, the album begs another listen immediately. Of special note are songs "Use Your Powers," "Zombie" and "Sharp Teeth." — SJ



Final Fantasy
Has A Good Home
Tomlab

Armed only with a violin, Owen Pallett has made a name for himself in the increasingly popular indie-rock scene. *Has a Good Home* is a unique album, created from looping and overdubbing Pallett's violin and vocals.

Dropping references to Canadian bands and places throughout the record, Pallett ranges from pure pop to a one-man chamber group, with a light but haunting voice to match. Stand out tracks include "The CN Tower Belongs to the Dead" and "That's When the Audience Died." — SJ



Bell Orchestre
Recording a Tape the Colour of Light
Rough Trade

When all the lights of the city fade, Bell Orchestre's music will be there. Weaving through the streets. Cutting through the fog, shadows and commercial signs of the city. Sparkling in our eyes. They are our voice.

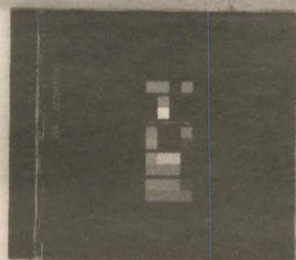
We are those who still see the beauty in the world. Hidden in corners, idiosyncrasies, and simplicity. We are those who see why darkness is an absence of colour. The colours will never breathe until we have light. And light is something we create. They realize that when you have so much colour in one place, it seems as though there is an absence of it. The trick is to focus on the details, in



Caribou
The Milk of Human Kindness
Domino

Like the cover art of Caribou's latest CD, *The Milk of Human Kindness* is a patchwork — a patchwork of sounds. Although the album is heavy on the folksy electronic side of things (Caribou's forte), he adds a dash of hip-hop with tracks "Lord Leopard" and "Pelican Narrows" to the mix. Guitar led "Bees" and "Hello Hammerheads" also feel right at home on this album.

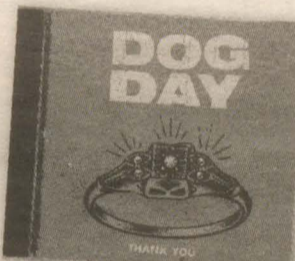
The constant changes in direction, not to mention the light and breezy feel of Caribou's music, invite the listener to go on a magic school bus ride of whimsical adventure or perhaps just to lie on a grassy hill and find shapes in the clouds. — BS



Coldplay
X&Y
Capitol

Coldplay have officially become rock revisionists on *X&Y*, the band's third album. Featuring awful, overly-obscure cover art worthy only of a Coldplay release, *X&Y* finds a melancholy Chris Martin & Co. stepping backward from the sonic experiments of *A Rush of Blood to the Head* and instead hiding behind the synth-pop ideas already well explored on *Parachutes*.

And although the boys of Coldplay may fancy themselves timid and — at least for the moment — unable



Dog Day
Thank You
Out of Touch

Quirky, ironic, poppy, and catchy as hell, *Thank You* has quickly elevated Dog Day to the status of possibly the Halifax band. Driving guitars and drums and a synthesizer paired with strong, yet delicate vocals results in a



Gang Gang Dance
God's Money
The Social Registry

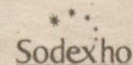
The title *God's Money* sums up the dichotomy found within Gang Gang Dance's music. It's music that feels like the universe conspiring between the crotch of your pants and your heart.

There is a transcendent, spiritual quality to this album — an individual listening effort as you reflect on a life worth living. But there is also a very tribal, primal quality to it — ethereal, stream-of-consciousness vocals float over the instrumentation that is, at

Continued on next page



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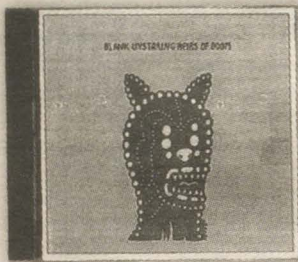
Continued from previous page

times, weaving through space and then, at other times, locked in corners, trying to beat its way through the walls. —LD



Green Day
American Idiot
Reprise

A great post-punk romp that fuses politics with — Wait, didn't this come out in 2004? Shit, it did. Oh well. Buy it again anyway. —CLR



Jana Hunter
Blank Unstaring Heirs of Doom
Gnomongsong

It's easy to think that Jana Hunter has made her way into the hearts of freak-folk lovers because of Devendra Banhart. She and Banhart released a split LP together and *Blank Unstaring Heirs of Doom* is the first release on Banhart's new label, Gnomongsong.

Also, Banhart seems to be the go-to guy for musical recommendations within the freak-folk genre and he has definitely been no slouch when it comes to recommending Hunter (see: the compilation *Golden Apples of the Sun*).

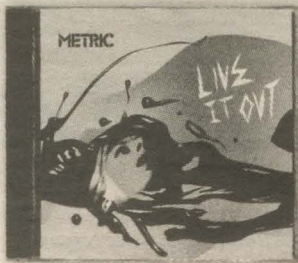
Despite the Banhart connection, Hunter would have likely found her way to ears outside of her native Texas without his aid — even though it probably would have taken a little longer.

Her lyrics are thought-provokingly dark and melodies unassumingly simple. —LD



Kanye West
Late Registration
Roc-a-Fella

While this reviewer will easily admit he's not really a great fan of hip-hop music, the video for "Gold Digger" sure was cool enough to compensate. Plus, *Late Registration* is on every 2005 list in the world and (so that I can advocate sheepthink, peer pressure and musical conformity) that warrants its inclusion. —CLR



Metric
Live It Out
Last Gang Records

It's very hard to find an album that can honestly be enjoyed from start to finish. But Metric has succeeded at, yet again, providing said rare experience. Metric's first full-length album, *Old World Underground Where Are You Now*, gave the band an esteemed reputation that many believed could not be lived down.

Scenester Emily Haines, frontwoman and band mascot, delivers the hit "Monster Hospital" with such conviction, one cannot help but conclude that the band's steady stream of drama-infused lyrics are an urbanite's manifesto.

This album is sweet, sweet pop candy. —BS

The New Pornographers
Twin Cinema
Mint

From the first 30 seconds of the album, The New Pornographers ensure you're hooked. One of the real successes in an otherwise fairly bland year for music, *Twin Cinema* is a solid guitar power-pop album that has been near the top of most best-of lists this year — and rightfully so.

Slower songs such as "These Are

the Fables" and "Streets of Fire" prove that The New Pornographers can still write more than just dance songs. With impossibly catchy hooks, descriptive lyrics, and beautiful melodies and harmonies, *Twin Cinema* a pleasure to listen to from beginning to end. —SJ

Radiohead
2006?
Capitol

Radiohead didn't actually release an album in 2005, but they should have. —CLR



Ry Cooder
Chavez Ravine
Nonesuch

It's not often that you find an artist willing to devote an entire album to one particular social cause. This is what Ry Cooder has done, however, in detailing a story of power and corruption that stretches from New York to Los Angeles during the 1950s.

The album exposes the racism and greed of businessmen and politicians in their quest to dislocate the inhabitants of the Latino community *Chavez Ravine*. With over half the songs in Spanish, Ry Cooder captures the pathos of displacement in music that is both poignant and haunting.

This is Ry Cooder at his best. —BS

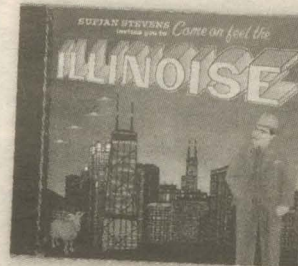


Spoon
Gimme Fiction
Merge

With three years since Spoon's last release, *Kill the Moonlight*, and the resulting anticipation for *Gimme Fiction*, it would not have been hard for this album to fall short of expectations. Fortunately, *Gimme Fiction* is perfect balance between innovation

and familiarity, resulting in what is arguably one of Spoon's most eclectic albums to date.

Songs range anywhere from the brooding "The Beast and Dragon, Adored," to the light-hearted "Sister Jack," to the hypnotic, one-verse "My Mathematical Mind." Granted, one can still play name-the-influences; however, the brilliance of the album is that Daniel takes these wide-ranging influences and makes their music his own. —SJ



Sufjan Stevens
Illinois
Asthmatic Kitty

Single-handedly making the banjo cool, singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens has improved upon his 2003 release of Michigan in the only way possible: there's more. More chances. More stories. More myth. More intricacy. More artistry.

Rather than a typical rock band formation, Stevens' light, calming voice is backed by a mini-orchestra and a choir — a mix that allows Stevens to create the intimate, yet majestic songs found on *Illinois*, such as "Jacksonville" and "John Wayne Gacy, Jr."

Two states down, 48 to go. Lucky us. —SJ



Queens of the Stone Age
Lullabies to Paralyze
Interscope

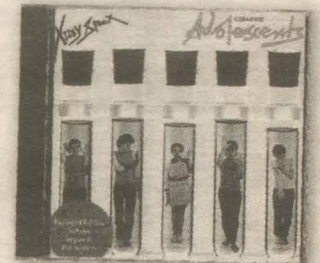
QOTSA — yeah, try pronouncing that — are at it again. After having at long last brought the lost art of guitar-playing skills into the 21st century with 2001's *Song for the Deaf*, Josh Homme has produced another hypnotic cauldron of robot rock with *Lullabies to Paralyze*, the band's fourth

album.

As is usual with the Queens, hundreds of power chords are strummed, falsettos sung, and babies eaten*, producing music that comfortably sits somewhere between old school Metallica and B.B. King.

Lullabies to Paralyze isn't quite as good as 2001's *Songs for the Deaf*, but it's good enough to make the 2005 cut, especially for those of you who want to hear something heavy without having to worship the underworld (NIN), get a headache (System of a Down) or wear spandex (The Darkness).

Dig the poppy singles "Little Sister" and "In My Head." Mmmmm, babies. —CLR



X-Ray Spex
Gernfree Adolescents - The Anthology
Castle Us / Ryko

The wonder of this re-released album can be summed up in its lyrics, which reek of Britannia, youth and the social activism of the 1970s. They may be simplistic, they may be slightly juvenile, but they are genius. Pure genius.

1. "I know I'm artificial / But don't put the blame on me / I was reared with appliances / In a consumer society"

2. "I know you're antiseptic / Your deodorant smells nice / I'd like to get to know you / But you're deep frozen like the ice"

3. "I am a poseur and I don't care / I like to make people stare / I am a poseur and I don't care / I like to make people stare"

4. "Bind me tie me / Chain me to the wall / I wanna be a slave / To you all / Oh bondage up yours / Oh bondage no more." —BS

*The editors would like to point out that Josh Homme does not actually eat babies, and at no point during the making of *Lullabies to Paralyze* were babies actually eaten, nor should they be under any circumstance (!). Rather, "eating babies" is, in fact, guitar rock snob terminology for "Drop tuning a guitar to C." We apologize for any confusion.

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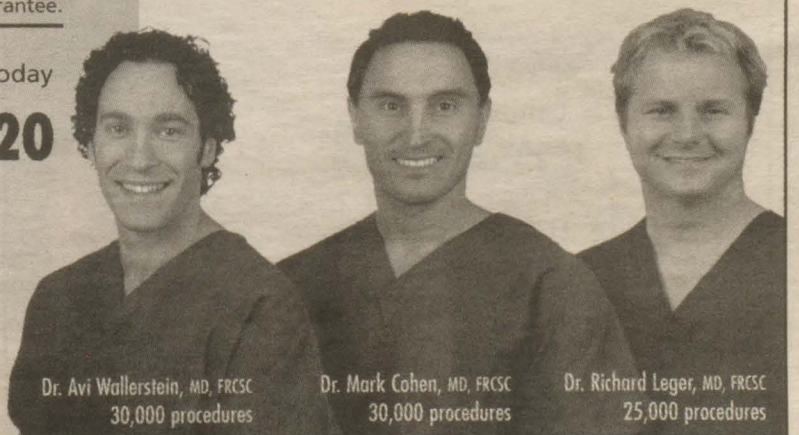
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Shows to CHECK OUT in 2006



akron/family brings it's blend of psychedelic folk to Stage Nine in March.

Saturday, Jan. 14

Feist
9 p.m. @ The Marquee Club
SOLD OUT

Sunday, Jan. 15

All-Ages: Feist
7 p.m. @ The Marquee Club
\$20adv/\$25door
info: tickets available at the Dal Arts Centre (www.dal.ca/artscentre)

Tuesday, Jan. 17

The beautiful Knight brother, Jordan Knight
9 p.m. @ The Palace
\$24adv/\$29door

Saturday, Jan. 21

All-Ages: In-flight Safety CD Release with special guest Jill Barber + others
TBA
7 p.m. @ The Pavilion
\$8
info: www.inflightsafety.ca

Saturday, Jan. 28

Geoff Berner + The Barmitzvah Brothers + Ruth Minnikin
9 p.m. @ Gus's Pub
\$5
info: www.geoffberner.com

Thursday, Mar. 16 –

Saturday, Mar. 18
NXNE - North By North End
@ Gus's Pub and North End Pub
info: www.northbynorthend.ca (details TBA)

Saturday, Mar. 25

akron/family + Windom Earle
10 p.m. @ Stage Nine
\$7
info: www.akronfamily.com

Friday, Mar. 31

The Juno Awards Weekend
Details TBA
info: www.juno-awards.ca

Wednesday, May 3

Alice Cooper + Helix
8 p.m. @ The Metro Centre
\$55.50
info: www.ticketatlantic.com/concerts

Wednesday, May 10

Willie Nelson + The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
7:30 p.m. @ The Metro Centre
\$60.50
info: www.ticketatlantic.com/concerts

Local band to watch in 2006

Scribbler may be the most uncool but unique band in Halifax

SARAH FELDMAN
Arts Contributor

Halfway through a set at the One World Café on Nov. 12, 2005, Scribbler vocalist/guitarist Craig Currie pauses and squints out at the audience.

"Are we in tune?" he asks us. "Is there anyone musical here?"

He's joking, probably, but waits several seconds before resuming, long enough for the laughter to taper off and for a slight discomfort to set in.

It's the kind of thing that happens a lot at Scribbler's concerts, and it's this response — a kind of amused ambivalence — that seems to be a big part of the band's identity, a part almost as big as its music.

Scribbler consists of Craig, his brother Alex (guitar), Adrian Morrison (bass), and Franc Lopes (drums). The band aims to maintain an air of artlessness and eclecticism, citing influences that range from pop art (Duchamp, but "we hate Warhol") to no-wave inflected noise (The Burdocks, Sonic Youth) to more folksy sounds (Syd Barrett, Skygreen Leopards).

Further inspiration is provided by Joel, a three-foot stuffed penguin the band members rescued from a dumpster outside Sobey's, and double-salt liquorice — which they've been trying to cultivate a collective taste for.

As performers, Scribbler's gang is disarmingly uncool, slouching and swaying onstage, and peppering the set with cheerful professions of incompetence. They speak with some admiration of punk ideals ("It's all about assault on the audience," says Craig of their new noise CD, *Scannopapia*) — even if, instead of swastika armbands, fuck-you lyrics, and power chords, their assault consists of a song about Noam Chomsky eating a Big Mac.

But underneath the anarchic gestures, Scribbler is also, it seems, a sensitive emo band that, like Conor Oberst's alter ego in *Fevers and Mir-*



Scrib-a-dub-dub: Scribbler cleans up for their next show.

rors, just wants to be a warm yellow light that pours over everyone.

"I'm not into aggression," says Craig, chewing the edges off a Styrofoam plate. "I just try to be, you know, graceful."

The contradictions in Scribbler's self-description fit well with the band's constantly changing sound, which makes it impossible to define the band in terms of any one genre.

The band's One World Café performance is fairly standard thrash-rock, often overwhelmed by percussion and bass; recorded songs such as "Night Shift" and "Follicle" offer intimate folk textures that highlight Craig's poetic lyricism and trebly, self-mocking vocal delivery; other performances incorporate baby monitors, bell machines, accordions and tin cans into the band's sonic oeuvre.

"We're really all over the map," says Alex, adding that fluctuations in the band's overall sound are mirrored by the shifting roles taken by individual members. "[In the] next show you see, Adrian might be the lead singer and Craig will be drumming."

For a band that only formed last March and admits to having played "some pretty shitty shows" at its start,

Scribbler seems to be gelling fast. Last November alone the band played 11 shows, released *Scannopapia*, and was selected by *The Coast* to appear in their "Best New Music of 2005."

Scribbler plans on releasing another CD, *Prussia*, early in 2006, which will emphasize the band's folkier, more polished side. If the recorded tracks on Scribbler's website are any indication, it is this side — more than either the noise project or heavier performance style — that shows the band in its best element. While *Scannopapia* is interesting for sheer energy and range (by turns, it is engaging, dull, likeable, and thoroughly annoying), the spare, acoustic stuff of "Follicle" and "Night Shift" is better — as simultaneously moving and silly as Thom Yorke at his apoplectic best.

Even more promising is the prospect of music that joins the energy and originality of *Scannopapia* with the emotional resonance of the *Prussia* tracks. Indeed, given more time and better equipment, the band intends to bring these two musical alter-egos together, mixing noise and "pop" to make music that will hopefully elude any easy categorization.

Turn the page

Gazette staffers flip through books released in 2005 and bookmark their favourites

LINDSAY DOBBIN, CHRIS LAROCHE, BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN, SARAH VANDERWOLF
Word Junkies

China, Inc.

Ted C. Fishman
Journalist Ted C. Fishman leaves no fact uncovered in this deluge of anecdotes and figures, all aimed at illustrating China's recent economic growth.

Nor does Fishman make any apologies for his book's thesis: China is rising, and all Westerners should be aware.

Not because China poses an immediate security threat to the West, Fishman argues — but because, 'peaceful rise' or not, China's economic progress will have a clear and present impact on the lives of human beings all over the world.

Fishman focuses his magnifying lens on the global industrial and textile manufacturing industries in particular, deftly drawing links between the collapse of Western dominance in those markets to China's economic rebirth as the "world's factory floor."

Whether the Middle Kingdom continues to overtake western economies or not, *China Inc.* provides an up-to-date snapshot of this massive civilization's fascinating modern-

ization, an experiment that is increasingly unprecedented in its size, speed, and potential. -CLR

The Collapse of Globalism and the Rebirth of Nationalism

John Ralston Saul
In *The Collapse of Globalism*, Canada's premier public intellectual, John Ralston Saul, takes aim at the proponents of the globalisation phenomenon, nay-saying globalism not on the basis that its corporate tentacles must be cut limb from body — as fellow Canadian Naomi Klein once famously did in *No Logo* — but on the basis that globalization as a world economic force simply no longer exists. Indeed, Saul's main contentions — that nationalism, regionalism and fundamentalism are on the rise, and that the world's great economic communities have failed to address the North-South disparities that create them — will force fans of Thomas Friedman, Jagdish Bhagwati, and *The Economist* to suffer a sober second thought.

Although much of the ground covered here can also be found in Benjamin Barber's *Jihad vs. McWorld* and Samuel Huntington's *The Clash of Civilizations*, Saul's uniquely colourful and insipid approach to world

order cage-rattling is refreshing, insightful, and well worth a read. -CLR

The End of Poverty

Jeffrey D. Sachs
Behold former World Bank maestro Jeffrey Sachs' grand formula for global development: liberalize markets, forgive debt, break down trade barriers and increase aid to the developing world. It is gallant, it can be easily summarized and, in principle, it is simple.

And although it has all been heard before (mostly out of the many mouths of Bono and the UN choirs of development debates), a platform for global poverty reduction has perhaps never been presented this clearly, concisely and comprehensively. Sachs' vision may not work, and it probably won't be realized anytime in the near future — but the sheer conviction of his optimism makes for a tantalizing daydream. -CLR

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Jonathan Safran Foer
A brief introduction: when Oskar gets stressed out, he invents. He also likes to send letters to scientists. He's nine years old.

Continued on next page

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Bring on the popcorn

Gazette staffers reel through the films released in 2005 and choose a few favourites

LINDSAY DOBBIN, CHRIS LA ROCHE,
BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN,
SARAH VANDERWOLF
Film Junkies

Batman Begins

Directed by Christopher Nolan
Sure, it wasn't the best film of 2005 — but Christopher Nolan's stab at capturing the Batman universe on celluloid is the venerated comic's best film treatment yet. Combining the colourful, larger-than-life images of comic lore with a storyline firmly rooted in the psychology of a biopic, *Batman Begins* rightly emphasizes Bruce Wayne's backstory and character development over action and special effects.

The film skirts many dangerous chasms without going over the edge: it's often campy, but never delves so far into fantasy that the delicate premise becomes shtick (this is a movie about a man in giant bat costume, remember); the film's secondary characters are thinly developed, but this gives Bruce Wayne's character more room to grow; the 'end-of-the-humanity' plot is a little hokey, but not nearly as bad as those found in the latest string of James Bond films; and so on.

All in all, *Batman Begins* is action entertainment that does its best to avoid being the superficial, action-driven explosion-fest normally churned out of Hollywood. The film takes great pains to develop its main protagonist as a human being — not just a man in a mask.

And although the results aren't perfect, *Batman Begins* gets there with just enough pieces intact to warrant a rental or two. —CLR

Brokeback Mountain

Directed by Ang Lee
The fact a western about two homosexual cowboys could ever be realized, produced, filmed and distributed in the socially conservative climate gripping the United States is a wonder. So are the results. —CLR

Cinderella Man

Directed by Ron Howard
Boxing movies and Hollywood studios are like old rivals in the ring: they know each other's gaze and swagger well, and although they're both long past their due, they can still create a few sparks now and then. *Cinderella Man* is one of those sparks.



Nothing presented here is new: our protagonist (real-life boxing legend James J. Braddock, played by real life phone-tossing legend Russell Crowe) has his faults, but he's good at heart; our antagonist (real-life skull-crusher Max Baer) is, of course, depicted as thoroughly evil.

Grabbing the attention of both of these men is a shot at fame, a place in history and, of course, a large sum of cash. Because this is a boxing movie, this involves a lot of fighting. And, because this is Ron Howard, that fighting beautifully evokes depression-era U.S., plunging audiences into the hardships of the lower class.

But *Cinderella Man* really succeeds not because of its technical credentials, but because of the likeability of its characters — Howard masterfully draws us into the lives of Braddock and his family, and links success in the ring with their survival.

When Braddock takes up his gloves, we feel every punch as if it were an extension of our own. And we can't help but cheer for him. —CLR

Comme une image

Directed by Agnes Jaoui
Teenage Lolita is starved for attention from her father, a famous author, who seems to have time for everyone but her. Lolita struggles to find happiness in this emotionally poignant film, beat down by the realization that those who profess to care for her are using her to get to her father. —BS

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Directed by Mike Newell
Harry Potter books and movies are always highly anticipated, and this year's offerings are sure to fulfill the expectations of millions of fans. While some critics claim that this movie "tries to do too much," I argue that it's simply keeping with the spirit of J.K. Rowling's books, which are action-packed.

While the movie eliminates some of the novel's subplots — such as Hermione's crusade to improve the working conditions of house elves with her organization S.P.E.W. — the movie includes awe-inspiring scenes in which Harry battles a fierce dragon, swims to the depths of a lake inhabited by unfriendly merpeople, and duels with Lord Voldemort himself.

The film also explores the maturing relationships between many of the characters and is well worth seeing. —SV

Memoirs of a Geisha

Directed by Rob Marshall
Although *Memoirs of a Geisha* has a generous running time, the two-and-a-half-hours-plus film never leaves its audience feeling bored or restless.

Having read Arthur Golden's best-selling novel in high school, I was excited to see this film. Every actor gives an excellent portrayal of the character in the book: Gong Li gives an Oscar-worthy performance as the beautiful, rebellious geisha Hatsumomo, who attempts to sabotage young Sayuri's career as a geisha in pre-World War II Kyoto.

The movie portrays a world unknown to most Westerners, and evokes a bygone era of white-faced, kimono-wearing, fan-toting geisha whose careers consist of entertain-

ing and beguiling powerful men.

Memoirs of a Geisha is a riveting movie you won't want to miss. —SV

Me and You and Everyone We Know

Directed by Miranda July
This film has been reviewed and hyped up the ying-yang, and for good reason. The heart of *Me and You and Everyone We Know* is a scene in which the two lead characters, Christine (July) and Richard (John Hawkes), reflect on their possible future life together while walking one street block. At the halfway point, the couple realizes that before long, they will have to part ways.

Every scene in July's first film — which she wrote, directed and starred in — is like this scene: simple moments are profound metaphors. Laced with innocence and sharp wit, *Me and You and Everyone We Know* is homage to the beautifully awkward and the struggles all of us have to communicate. —LD

Red Eye

Directed by Wes Craven
Airplane thrillers are finally back after a four-year hiatus. Rachel McAdams plays Lisa, a young hotel manager held captive at 30,000 feet in the atmosphere. Cillian Murphy is a hauntingly convincing villain. —BS

Seven Swords

Directed by Tsui Hark
As far as epic Chinese historical dramas go, this one takes the cake. It's the 17th century, and the Manchurian emperor has outlawed the practice of martial art. Seven warriors must protect a village from a bloodthirsty general intent on erasing it. —BS

Sin City

Directed by Frank Miller
Really three films in one, *Sin City* is daring, original, and really, really violent. While the middle act drags and might scare some viewers off, the bookending acts are pure pulp, delivered so well you'll be able to feel the grit under Mickey Rourke's fingernails even though they're digital. There has been no shortage of press praise for this film, and it has become impossible to say anything new or insightful about it. Rent it. Watch it. Simple enough. —CLR

Syriana

Directed by Stephen Gaghan
Texas oil tycoons, a war in the Middle East, George Clooney's dreamy eyes — there are plenty of reasons to go see this brainbuster of a flick. The plot is far too complicated to explain here. The premise fares no better.

But in a year of high oil prices, ongoing wars, petrol profits and Baghdad bombs, the confusing, complex nature of *Syriana* is perhaps an apt description of reality. Watch it, step outside the theatre, and weep when you realize you've never really left. —CLR

Unleashed

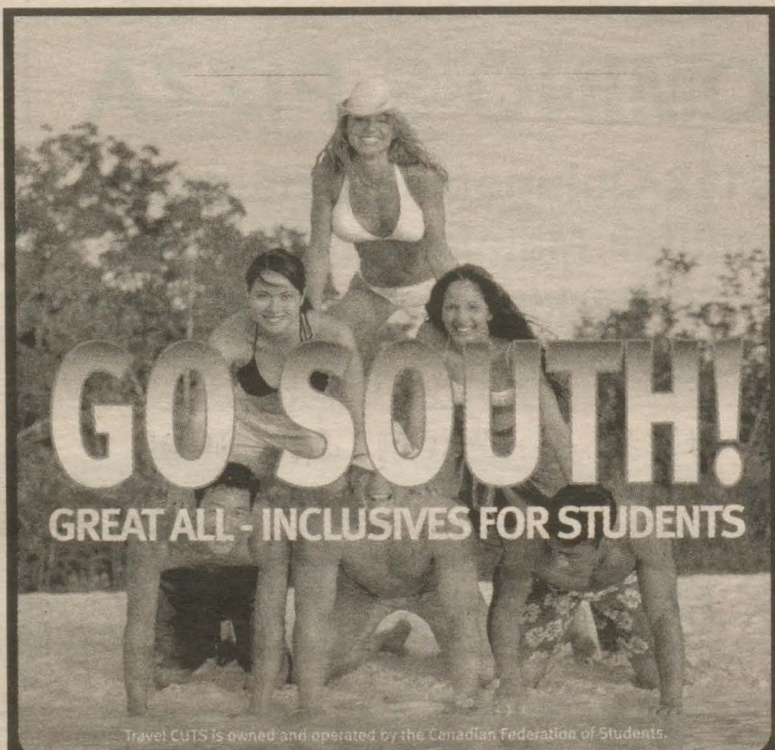
Directed by Louis Leterrier
In this thoughtful film, Jet Li plays Danny, a small time gangster's secret weapon, who is treated like a dog. Jet Li delivers an excellent performance as downtrodden Danny and, as expected, Li does not disappoint as an exceptionally skilled martial artist. —BS

Walk the Line

Directed by James Mangold
Neither Joaquin Phoenix nor Reese Witherspoon had any previous singing experience before making this film, but you'd never know it from the wonderful musical numbers the two perform unaided — including "Time's A-Wasting" and "Walk the Line."

This biopic traces Johnny Cash's tumultuous life from his humble beginnings on a cotton farm in Arkansas to icon of the music world. Despite his professional success, Johnny's life is marred by an unsuccessful marriage, drug abuse, and an unstable relationship with fellow singer June Carter.

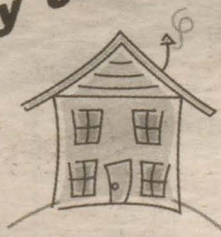
Both Phoenix and Witherspoon give excellent performances as two talented musicians who try to find happiness despite many hardships, trials, and failed relationships. The end result is pure country magic! —SV



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Ondrej Pavelec has saved the Eagles more than once this year.

Goaltenders play key role in Screaming Eagles' success

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

For the past five and a half seasons, the Cape Breton Screaming Eagles has been one of the better clubs in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL). With a record of 192 wins, 150 losses, 33 ties and 19 overtime losses during this time frame, the team can credit much of its good fortune to the outstanding play of goaltenders Marc-Andre Fleury, Martin Houle and Ondrej Pavelec.

The three net-minders have been among the top goaltenders in the QMJHL and possess the necessary skills for promising professional careers.

At 15 years of age, Marc-Andre Fleury arrived in Cape Breton in September 2000. In his first season with the Eagles, he was the back-up to Daniel Boisclair. The following year, Fleury improved at a rapid pace and took over the number one position around the halfway point of the season. He posted a 2.78 goals-against average, a 0.915 save percentage and led the Eagles to the QMJHL's Dilio Conference final.

Fleury's dominant play continued in the 2002/2003 season and he earned the starting goaltending spot for the Canadian World Junior Hockey team. At the World Junior Tournament held in Halifax, N.S., Fleury showcased his goaltending ability. He received first-team all-star honours, was named the tournament's top goaltender and MVP and helped Canada win a silver medal.

Fleury was selected first overall by the Pittsburgh Penguins in the 2003 NHL Draft. The Sorel, Que., native played the first-half of the 2003/2004 season with Pittsburgh before he was released to Cape Breton. He played in the 2003/2004 World Junior Hockey Championship and earned his second silver medal.

Fleury played last season with the AHL's Wilkes-Barre Scranton Penguins during the NHL lockout and posted a 2.52 goals-against average

and a 0.901 save percentage. He had a brief stint with that team this year and has since rejoined the Pittsburgh Penguins.

For the better part of two seasons in Cape Breton, Martin Houle played in Fleury's shadow, but benefited from increased playing time when Fleury was away at the World Junior's and with Pittsburgh. In 2003/2004, Houle was named the QMJHL's top goaltender. He had a 2.32 goals-against average, a 0.921 save percentage and was selected by the Philadelphia Flyers in the eighth-round of the 2004 NHL Draft.

In 2004/2005, he helped the young Screaming Eagles achieve a winning record. The Laval, Que., native posted a 2.52 goals-against average, a 0.911 save percentage and was named team MVP.

This year, the 20-year-old started the season with the Trenton Titans of the ECHL and played seven games. He then joined the AHL's Philadelphia Phantoms in November and sports a 2.29 goals-against average and a 0.917 save percentage in 14 games.

Ondrej Pavelec is guarding the Cape Breton goal this season. Pavelec was selected in the second-round by the Atlanta Thrashers in the 2005 NHL Draft. He was the Eagles first-round pick in the 2005 CHL Import Draft.

Pavelec has been stellar this season. He boasts a 2.51 goals-against average and a 0.927 save percentage. His solid and consistent play has helped the inexperienced Eagles earn third spot in the east division. Pavelec suited up for the Czech Republic at this year's World Junior Tournament.

With Pavelec in goal and the forwards and defence at the top of their games, the Eagles look poised to continue the winning ways in 2006. Who will replace Pavelec in the next year or two remains to be seen, but if head coach and general manager Pascal Vincent does his homework like he has in the past, another star net-minder will be in Cape Breton in the near future.

Veterans dominate men's Olympic hockey team

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

The roster for the 2006 men's Olympic hockey team, announced on Dec. 21 at GM Place in Vancouver, B.C., boasts a line-up of NHL veterans with such international experience as the 2002 Olympics, the World Cup and the World Championships.

The goaltending, however, might be a weak link on the team since Canada currently has minimal depth when it comes to great goaltenders. Team Canada executives Wayne Gretzky, Kevin Lowe and Steve Tambellini have chosen Martin Brodeur, Roberto Luongo and Marty Turco.

Hockey analysts say that Brodeur is a lock for the starting position even though he hasn't played to his usual standards this season. Brodeur played most of the games at the 2002 Olympics and the 2004 World Cup and has proven he can make the big saves in international competition.

Roberto Luongo was Brodeur's back-up at the World Cup. He hasn't put up stellar numbers this year, but the Team Canada executives were looking for past international experience, and this played to Luongo's advantage.

Marty Turco is having a fantastic year with the Dallas Stars and has the best numbers of the three net-minders selected. Although Turco doesn't have much international experience, his outstanding play this season in the NHL couldn't be ignored and he was rewarded with the third spot.

There weren't any surprises on defence: Chris Pronger, Rob Blake, Scott Niedermayer, Wade Redden, Robin Regehr, Ed Jovanoski and Adam Foote will suit up for Canada's blue-line. Some hockey analysts thought Foote may have been the odd man out in favour of Dion Phaneuf or the offensively talented Bryan McCabe.

As a former member of the 2002 Olympic team, Foote was chosen primarily for his leadership ability. The Team Canada executive felt this



Men's hockey will go for back-to-back gold medals at the 2006 Olympics.

year's squad was lacking leadership because Mario Lemieux and Steve Yzerman had left the team — and so they made sure to scoop up Foote.

The seven rearguards selected give Canada a solid defensive core and will provide Canada with an added boost if the goaltending is not up to scratch.

The selection of the 13 forwards caused the most controversy among hockey analysts. Canada has tremendous depth at forward, which is good and bad at the same time. It was a blessing to have so much talent, but it was very difficult to omit some guys from the roster.

In the end, the executive chose Joe Sakic, Joe Thornton, Simon Gagne, Brad Richards, Vincent Lecavalier, Martin St. Louis, Ryan Smyth, Jerome Iginla, Dany Heatly, Todd Bertuzzi, Kris Draper, Shane Doan and Rick Nash.

Many sports commentators and fans were upset with the exclusion of Jason Spezza and Eric Staal and question the inclusion of Draper, Doan, Nash and Bertuzzi.

Presently, Spezza and Staal are having excellent seasons. Each of these players has 47 points and they

definitely deserved to be on the team.

Nash has been injured for most of the season and has only played six games, but he was a standout at the 2005 World Championship and that helped him to ice his spot on the team.

Many people say they think that Bertuzzi shouldn't be on the team because he doesn't present the right image for Canadian hockey. When people say this, they are referring to the infamous incident where Bertuzzi sucker-punched Steve Moore in the back of the head. Moore was severely injured and Bertuzzi was suspended indefinitely, but has been reinstated.

Some fans say Draper and Doan shouldn't be on the team because they're not the most offensively gifted players. Draper and Doan were picked for their defensive abilities, which will come in handy when the best players in the world compete.

Overall, I think it's a great team and I expect them to win gold. Instead of Nash and St. Louis, however, I would have chosen Staal and Spezza because they're lighting up the NHL this year and they'd be exciting to watch on the bigger ice surface.

Varsity action returns to Dal

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

The second-half of the Atlantic University Sport season starts this weekend. If the second-half is anything like the first, Tiger fans should be in store for an exciting winter of sports action.

Games get underway this Friday, Jan. 6 at Dalplex when the men's and women's basketball teams take on Acadia. Tip-off time for the women's is 6 p.m. and the men's, 8 p.m. Both teams have identical records of 3-3 and sit in fifth-place.

The men's and women's swim-

ming teams are hosting the Snowflake Invitational swimming meet. The meet starts Friday and runs through to Sunday.

The men's and women's hockey teams return to action at the Dal Arena in just over a week. The men battle UPEI and UNB on Friday, Jan. 13 and Saturday, Jan. 14, respectively. Both games are at 7 p.m. The women will hit the ice on Saturday against UNB at 3 p.m. and Sunday against UdeM at 2 p.m.

The men are in seventh place and women are in third, one point out of first. The women's team is the strongest in years and aims to get to the

CIs hosted by St. EX.

The men's and women's volleyball teams hit the court at Dalplex in just over a week as well. The women take on SMU on Friday, Jan. 13, at 6 p.m. and the men battle UdeM on Saturday, Jan. 14 and UNB on Sunday, January 15. Game times are 2 p.m. and 1 p.m., respectively. The men's team is in first-place and the women are in second, two points out of first. Both teams hope to have solid second-halves in the AUS and to make some noise at CIs.

Track and field also starts this month. Check *The Gazette* and www.athletics.dal.ca for event times.

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