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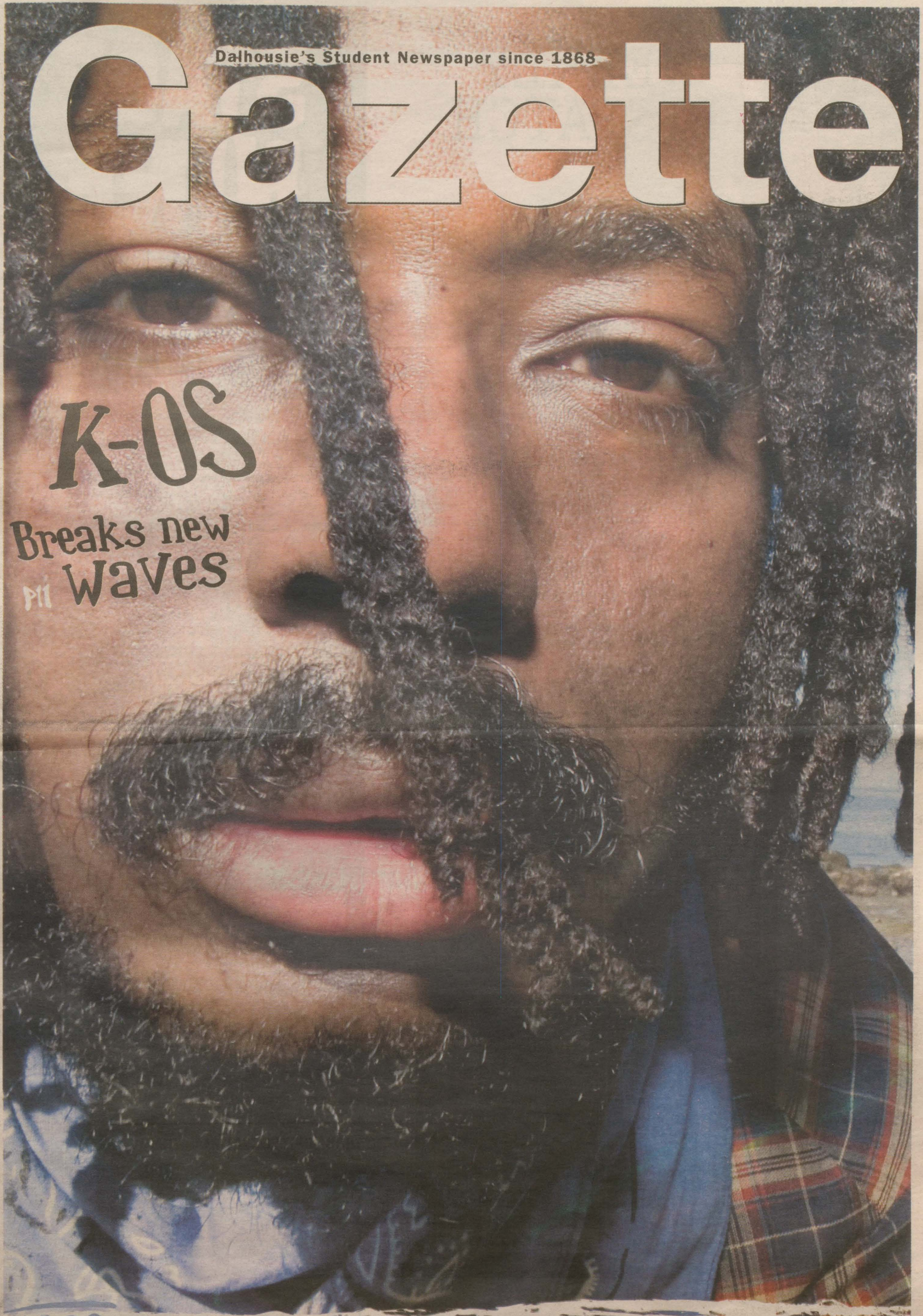
139-07 / October 19 - October 26

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

K-OS

Breaks new
PII waves



ALSO

**SEX WITH
HUGH** P14

**BIKING IN
HALIFAX** P7

**EATING FOR
CASH** P15

**SUFFERING
SUNDAYS** P5



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DSU Council and Committee Positions:

If you are looking for a way to get involved with the DSU we have a number of positions available. We are currently starting to recruit for a Chief Returning Officer to run the DSU annual general elections. This position is paid an honourarium as the work load around the election is significant. If you are interested in this position please submit a cover letter and resume to Chris McCluskey in room 222 of the SUB or dsuvpsl@dal.ca.

If you are looking for something that won't take up quite as much time we are recruiting for students to sit on the DSU Diversity Committee. The mandate of the Diversity Council is to coordinate events staged by traditionally underrepresented Dalhousie student groups. This year the committee will organize awareness days on campus that focus on such topics as LGBTQ issues, gender discrimination, health topics, sustainability initiatives, tolerance, sexual harassment in residence, etc. If you feel passionate about one or many of these causes contact Chris Ide, DSU VP Internal at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

We are also looking for three law students to sit on the Judicial Board of the DSU. The Chair must be in their third year of Law, and the other two preferably in their second year. If you are interested in any of these positions please contact Ezra Edelstein at dsupres@dal.ca.

Lastly, we are starting to recruit for a first year member at large to start in November. Applications for this position, consisting of a cover letter and resume, should be sent to Chris McCluskey.

The next meeting of the DSU Council is October 25th at 6:45. Council meetings are held in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building. All are welcome.

CASA's Website Contest:

A few weeks ago I wrote about CASA's Campaign, "Education: Our National Priority." In conjunction with this campaign CASA is running a contest on their website www.casa.ca. To enter click on the campaign logo on the front page and answer the question: "After graduation, what do you hope to contribute to Canadian society?" Winners will be drawn each month. This month's prize is a Fujifilm FinPix A510 digital camera.

Grawood and T-Room:

This past summer *illScarlet* became the first independent band to play on the Edgefest Main stage. They also performed on the Warped Tour, have just wrapped up a cross Canada tour with the All-American Rejects and have been nominated for a pair of CASBYS on Edge 103. On October 25th they will be playing at the Grawood along with Dalhousie's *The Chronicles*. On October 26th *illScarlett* plays at the T-Room. Cover is \$2.

See you around campus. Stop by, or call anytime,

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

www.dsu.ca



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FRIDAY, OCT 27, \$6

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SATURDAY, OCT 28, \$6

HALLOWEEN PARTY WITH **THE GRASS** + **THE WHISKEY KISSES**
\$1 OF COVER GOES TO CKDU'S FUNDING DRIVE

SUNDAY, OCT 29, \$2

Slidow/Play 7th Annual Halloween Masquerade - prizes for best costume -

TUESDAY, OCT 31, \$5

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Gazette

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THE FINE PRINT

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.

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

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

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 in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba. 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.

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All contributions in this issue of *The Gazette* were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors: Adam Miller, Susan Zakaib, Brittany Curran, Gordon Miller, Kate Robertson, Hugh Wallace, Magen Powell, Erin MacDonald, Hugh Switzer, Catherine Holloway, Jimmy Kapches, Brendan Osberg, John Hillman, Anna Fong, Josh Boyter, Kaley Kennedy, Jen Bond, Chris LaRoche, Christie Conway and Aaron MacLean.

Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB starting the first week of the academic year. We need writers, photographers, illustrators, readers and ideas. If you can contribute any of these, please drop us a line or come by the office.

No seed ever grew from the outside in...

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

Balancing a bucket of water on one's head is not as difficult as it sounds — it's much, much harder. Try it with a book; a heavy, hardcover textbook is ideal. Walk with the book balanced on your head.

Now imagine a bucket holding several litres of sloshing water. Imagine that you have to walk six kilometres like this every day, carrying water home so your family has something to drink and cook with.

Dalhousie students attempted to replicate this daily routine, common throughout sub-Saharan Africa, by walking from the Student Union Building to Province House carrying buckets of water in a march for the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on Oct. 17. They carried posters and signs that pointed out the dire condition of drinking water in Africa and how much water North Americans waste.

Only a few students were able to balance the water containers on their heads. Others resorted to resting the pails on their shoulders or just carrying them. And even then, the water inside the buckets swilled and splashed out.

The progressively wetter procession of chanting students, precariously balancing ever-emptier buckets of water and brandishing posters with slogans such as "Make Poverty History" arrived downtown on Spring Garden Rd.

Here, the group met with some criticism. Chanting, "Hey hey, ho ho, poverty has to go!" they passed by a panhandler on the street, his ragged Tim Hortons cup clinking with a little loose change.

"Hey, why don't you help me out," he muttered as the group walked past his outstretched hand. "I'm in poverty right here."

Another homeless man I spoke to had a similar reaction.

Jeff has lived on the streets of Halifax for about a year. Originally from Newfoundland, he says he can't get a job, and without one, he has no money to rent an apartment. He has no where else to go.

"You walk down this street, and there are 10 panhandlers with no where to go and no money," he says,

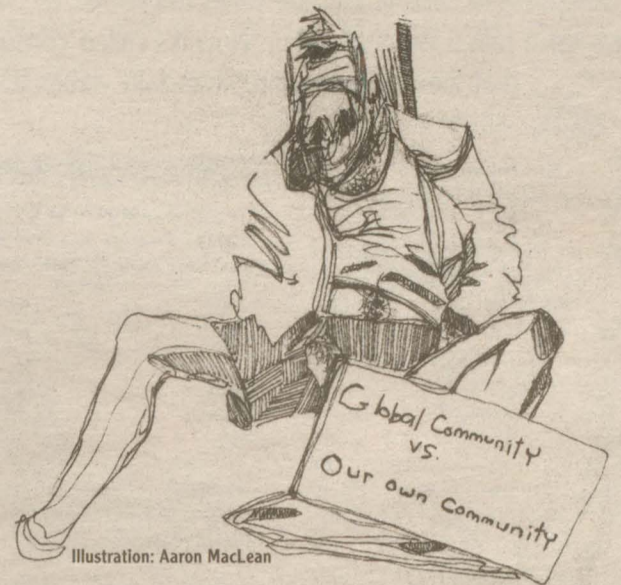


Illustration: Aaron MacLean

standing in front of Shoppers Drug Mart, a cardboard sign and battered knapsack at his feet. "And they're walking down the street asking people for money for Africa. Fuck Africa."

While the number of poor is far higher in Third World countries, such as those in sub-Saharan Africa, than in Canada or the United States, we have our own share of problems. And poverty is one of them.

According to a 2000 study by the Canadian Council on Social Development, 18 per cent of metropolitan Halifax's population is considered impoverished. Of the estimated 58,300 impoverished persons, 39 per cent are between the ages of 15 and 34.

But aren't there shelters and programs to help those impoverished and those who live on Halifax's streets?

A quick google search for "Halifax" and "poverty" turns up over 500,000 results, confirming both the existence of the problem, and of resources, programs and activist groups working to reduce poverty and homelessness in the city. Among the top hits are such groups as the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty and Make Poverty History.

"There are only two shelters [in Halifax]," says Craig, who has been panhandling on Spring Garden Rd. for two years to pay his medical bills for treatment of osteoporosis and bowel cancer. He says providing ground-level resources and information is the most important thing that can be done to reduce poverty and homelessness and shelters are

the primary location where people from the street get their information.

There is another shelter that opens in winter, he says. It might not this year. Nobody is quite sure what will happen, as the shelter was closed last year due to "problems."

"There are no other resources," Craig says.

I am taken aback. I had just walked alongside students who passionately believe in helping those in need. And yet, as they walked past the trembling hands and hopeful eyes of Halifax's impoverished, the signs they held high cried for help in countries far away.

There are millions of people around the world who require all the aid and assistance we can provide. Raising awareness and enlisting the necessary help are essential steps in eradicating poverty worldwide. The fact that so many students in Halifax and across Canada are so passionate in promoting international aid bodes well for the global future.

But we must not forget about our own doorstep.

People we see everyday and who live among us are in desperate need of help. There is no need to travel halfway across the globe to make a difference. Plus, all the aid money that would be used for the necessary international travel can be input directly into our communities.

Let's start locally and work our way up. Use the business model — start small, just one location, build it up, grow, expand. No company ever started big and made it small.

Corrections

- In 139-06, we mistakenly reported that Leave the Pack Behind's anti-smoking contest starts in November. The real start date is in January 2007.
- We also reported "a crowd of roughly ### people" attended the United Nations Association of Canada panel held at King's College. The correct phrasing should read "a crowd of people."

Gazette

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University consolidation a hard sell

It was once called 'rationalization.' Now it's called 'consolidation.' But no matter the dressing, the idea is the same: Nova Scotia's universities should be downsized so that they become more financially viable. It's politically difficult to implement — but it may make Nova Scotia universities more competitive.

CHRIS LAROCHE
Special to The Gazette

On the surface, Peter Marshall Butler is not a man you'd expect to be an expert on Nova Scotia's university infrastructure. A quick glance at his recent publications doesn't reveal as much. But the Dalhousie sociology professor, who specializes in political behaviour and methodology, acted as an adviser to the provincial Department of Education between 1980 and 1991. And, among the issues he dealt with, the prospect of merging Nova Scotia's universities was a big one.

"My job, primarily, was to be the person on hand in the government who assessed the way in which the universities could be rationalized," says Butler.

"When I came in, the issue was all about a shortage of money... we had more universities than Nova Scotia could afford."

The reasoning behind university rationalization, Butler says, is that overlap in the Nova Scotia university system makes the province's universities less cost effective — and therefore less competitive — than larger systems with fewer universities. Essentially, economies of scale play a large role in determining how effective university departments are. Nova Scotia, endowed with many small universities offering many of the same degrees, is bound to have a lot of overlap.

During Butler's years, cuts in the federal government's transfer payments to the provinces turned the N.S. government's attention to reducing overlap in post-secondary education, culminating in a Royal Commission report tabled in 1986, says Butler. In a province with more students per capita than any other, and therefore with much less money to spend per student, these cuts made a big difference.

"In the 80's, we certainly weren't flush with money," he says. "And there was no doubt that what [the government] wanted to do was deal with questions of amalgamating bits of Nova Scotia post-secondary education."

Under Butler's watch, the N.S. government divvied up various university departments between post-secondary institutions across the province, sometimes closing entire universities. This was the case when the Atlantic Institute of Education, which offered education degrees, was broken up, its degree-granting powers distributed to Mount St. Vincent, Saint Mary's and Dalhousie.

Provincial Expenditures on Post-Secondary Education as a Proportion of Total Expenditures, 2004/2005

N.S.	5.3%
N.B.	5.7%
Quebec	6.0%
Ontario	4.7%
Alberta	6.1%
B.C.	6.1%

Provincial Government Transfers to Colleges and Universities per FTE Student Enrolments, 2004/2005

N.S.	\$5,010
N.B.	\$5,562
Quebec	\$11,584
Ontario	\$7,080
Alberta	\$12,648
B.C.	\$14,689

Tuition as a Percentage of University Operating Revenue, 2004/2005

N.S.	41.0%
N.B.	38.0%
Quebec	16.0%
Ontario	38.9%
Alberta	27.3%
B.C.	29.6%

Source: Statistics Canada/Canadian Association of University Teachers Almanac of Post-Secondary Education

sie. This was also the case when the Technical University of Nova Scotia merged with Dalhousie University in 1997, creating DalTech.

And this may be the case again. During a Sept. 21 press conference, N.S. Education Minister Karen Casey said her government might push universities toward further "consolidating" their administrations or programs if enrolment in N.S. post-secondary institutions continues to decline.

Although David Finch, a spokesperson for the Department of Education, later told The Gazette that talk of future consolidation is still "very preliminary," some ideas he mentioned included collapsing each university's admissions department into a central office and further re-allocating departments within the university system.

"Maybe every university doesn't have to have a Bachelor of Arts English program," says Finch. "It would make more sense for three universities to have full English programs, as opposed to five universities with two-thirds of a program each."

Provincial universities are already strapped for cash because federal funding for education is based on a per-capita formula — and Nova Scotia, with less than

Why are Nova Scotia universities so poor?

The plight of Nova Scotia's 11 universities is long and complex, but essentially entails a lack of funding from the federal government and a lack of priority from the provincial government. Here's a step-by-step look at why you pay the second-highest tuition in the country:

First, Ottawa sends Canada Social Transfers (CSTs) to the provinces based on how many residents each province has. These lump sums of cash are aimed at closing the gap between funds raised by the federal and provincial governments and their respective spending responsibilities.

(Generally speaking, the federal government has more taxing powers than the provinces, but the provinces are responsible for the implementation of more programs.)

Second, the provinces are responsible for divvying up the CST sums so that they fund the various social programs the provincial governments are responsible for administering. Among these programs are public education and post-secondary education.

Problem #1: Nova Scotia has too many students. While a per-capita CST transfer would make sense if everyone in Canada went to a university in his or her home province, they don't. In fact, Nova Scotia has many more students per resident than the national average. So while the Nova Scotia government gets a CST transfer proportionate to Nova Scotia's population, the post-secondary portion of that lump must cover many more students than it should.

a million residents but 11 small-to-medium-sized universities, has far more students per capita than any other province in Canada.

Politically difficult

But while university consolidation in the province could improve its PSE infrastructure from a financial standpoint, it is "a very, very difficult thing to do," Butler says, pointing out that a major barrier to university consolidation is university constituencies. Mount St. Vincent University, Université St. Anne and Cape Breton University all act

Problem #2: The Nova Scotia government does not prioritize PSE in its budget. The provincial government can divide a CST transfer in whatever way it pleases. Even if the Nova Scotia government divided the post-secondary education portion of the CST on par with every other province, this amount would not cover the high number of out-of-province students enrolled in post-secondary institutions. But it doesn't, and the provincial government has prioritized health care and other social programs much higher than PSE. As a result, a smaller proportion of the CST transfer goes to PSE than in other provinces. To make up the difference, Nova Scotia universities charge more for tuition.

Solution #1: Revamp PSE funding formulas. As a first step, CST transfers from the federal government could be divided so that a portion is specifically marked for PSE. A second step would be to alter the PSE transfers from a per-capita basis to a per-student basis. Nova Scotia would therefore get federal funding for the precise number of students it has, rather than how many students it "should" have according to its population.

Solution #2: Reinvest in PSE. The provincial government, which is ultimately responsible for PSE funding, could reinvest in direct PSE funding, regardless of federal funding formulas.

Solution #3: Cut university costs. The provinces and universities can downsize, lay off staff, hire more part-time professors and reduce waste to improve their existing finances.

as community centres, Butler says — and attempting to amalgamate portions of these institutions with other universities or close them completely was, and is, politically difficult.

"What do you do about a very small place, Université St. Anne, that is culturally and politically symbolic?" Butler asks. "Nobody has a particular axe to grind [with downsizing] these institutions."

Small universities do not present the only barrier to consolidation. Butler says one of the areas he explored while acting as an adviser was to "work out an arrangement"

between Dalhousie and Saint Mary's regarding the universities' business schools. "Boy, was that controversial," he says, mentioning that both universities now have brand-new management buildings, effectively sparing them from any future program amalgamation.

"As good an idea as [rationalization] was, it's not an idea that is politically acceptable."

Dalhousie: bearing the brunt?

The significance of N.S. university downsizing is not lost on Dalhousie, which, although it's the largest university in the province, could suffer from any government-enforced downsizing because of the breadth of degrees it offers.

Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby acknowledges that discussion of departmental or administrative amalgamations "hasn't happened yet." But he says he's concerned that such a discussion would focus only on university downsizing, rather than the benefits universities bring to their communities.

"If we're going to have that discussion, it should be a broader, more holistic process," says Crosby.

But with enrolment down for the last two years, and a looming demographic change that will reduce the number of Canadian citizens entering university, PSE downsizing may soon become a reality in Nova Scotia.

Dalhousie Student Union President Ezra Edelstein says Dal's unique funding scenario makes consolidation a unique challenge. The university houses a larger proportion of high-cost students than other universities in the province, says Edelstein, and this means that downsizing could be both bad and good.

According to Edelstein, Dal offers research-intensive graduate degrees and programs such as engineering, where upper-year students must study at Dal but can do their first two years elsewhere. So, while Dal must pay high costs for lab infrastructure and faculty to support these programs, other universities can specialize in low-cost degrees.

"We're stuck carrying the burden for the more expensive students," Edelstein says. "But there's also a benefit to Dal for having some overlaps in programs, especially the cheaper ones, such as arts degrees, non-lab degree, math, etcetera."

"Program offering contributes to the problem, but it's also a very positive aspect of how Dal works."

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Dal accessibility services face increased demand

KALEY KENNEDY
Staff Contributor

This story is part of a series on student services at Dalhousie

The Dalplex appears to be an accessible building for students with physical disabilities, featuring an elevator and ramps. But those who try to use the elevator notice they face a major barrier the moment they walk through the door.

"The elevator is locked," says Meagan Hasek-Watt, commissioner of the Student Accessibility Fund Committee (SAFC). "You basically have to yell down to the reception desk to get them to unlock it. Where's the dignity in that?"

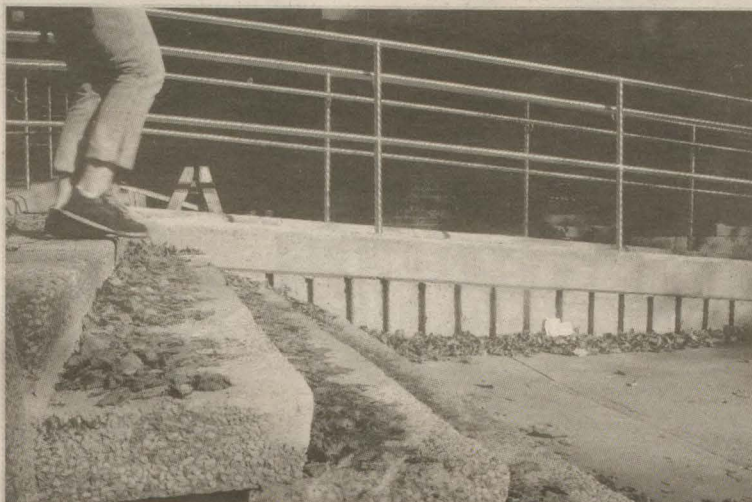
Dal currently faces several problems with accessibility services on campus. Hasek-Watt, who teaches a course on disabilities, recently asked her students to perform accessibility audits on some of the university's newer buildings. She says students found many problems, including faulty automatic doors and a lack of signs.

But Hasek-Watt says identifying other accessibility service demands on campus is a difficult task because affected students need a great deal of confidence to voice concerns. This often means that problems go unrecognized by the university's accessibility offices.

When Hasek-Watt approached former SFAC chair Phil Duguay with her concern about the Dalplex elevator, she says he had no idea it was an issue. Similarly, she says she didn't realize that Dal's campus doesn't have enough railings until another student told her about the problem.

Paul Szymanowski, Student Accessibility Services (SAS) manager and advisor, says it's important for students with disabilities to voice their concerns about the lack of services on campus. But he says this can be a problem for students who have invisible disabilities, such as Attention Deficit Disorder, mental illness and learning disabilities. These students account for nearly 80 per cent of the roughly 500 students registered with SAS.

A recent surge in the demand for accessibility services has prompted the SAFC and SAS to increase services for affected students.



Paul Szymanowski, Student Accessibility Services manager and advisor, says his department has seen an annual growth in the number of registered students over the past four years by as much as 20 per cent. / Photo: John Packman

Szymanowski says his department, which provides students with advising, note-taking services, exam accommodations, help with grant applications and other administrative support, has seen an annual growth in the number of registered students over the past four years by as much as 20 per cent. This growth has allowed the department to expand its services, he says.

The Student Accessibility Fund, which receives a student levy, also broadened its mandate due to the increase in demand, says Chris Ide, DSU vice president (internal) and current SAFC chair.

"[The fund's] primary mandate in the past has been to evaluate student accessibility in the Student Union Building and the other properties the DSU owns," says Ide. "Its secondary mandate, which was adopted this year, is to lobby the university on behalf of students dealing with accessibility issues about areas of improvement on campus."

The committee is currently working on making the bathrooms on the fourth floor of the Student Union Building fully accessible and setting up a study carol for students with disabilities at Campus Copy. The SAFC also wants to add lights to fire alarms for hearing-impaired students and is lobbying the university for changes, such as installing a buzzer or phone line near the Dalplex elevator.

Hasek-Watt says while there is definitely room for improvement, the university and the student union

Students may register with Student Accessibility Services if they:

- Have a medically diagnosed disability and need accommodations in their classes
- Have a disability and need advising or help applying for government grants
- Need accommodations because of a temporary injury or illness that prevents them from fully participating in class

To register, e-mail Paul Szymanowski, SAS advisor & manager: access@dal.ca

To apply for DSU accessibility scholarships, inquire about accessibility accommodations in the SUB and/or get involved with accessibility advocacy, contact Chris Ide, chair of the Student Accessibility Fund Committee: 494-1276, dsvupi@dal.ca

Accessibility websites

Student Accessibility Services:
<http://studentaccessibility.dal.ca/>

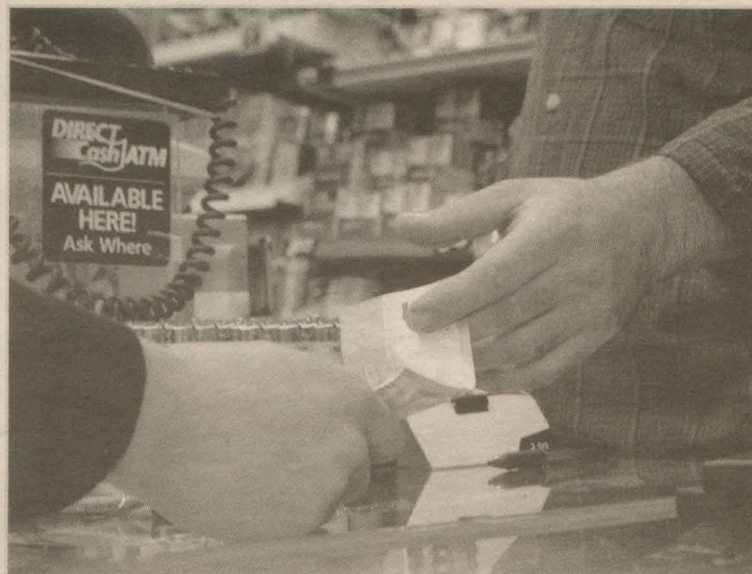
Student Accessibility Fund:
<http://dsu.ca/>

The National Educational Association of Disabled Students
<http://www.neads.ca/>

Universal Instructional Design
<http://www.tss.uoguelph.ca/uid/>

are both working toward a more accessible campus.

"We've got the idea, we're just slightly off the mark," she says.



"Sunday shopping can be a pain because it is our day to catch up on studies and recuperate," says Dal student Jenna Williams. / Photo: Josh Boyter

Sunday shopping a 'pain' for some students

JOSH BOYTER
Staff Contributor

Jenna Williams works for roughly 25 hours per week in a big box store in the Halifax Shopping Centre. As a third-year kinesiology student at Dalhousie, she already has to balance her work commitments with demanding school requirements in order to make ends meet.

But now that new laws allow stores to open on Sundays, she may face an even greater challenge.

"Sunday shopping can be a pain because it is our day to catch up on studies and recuperate," says Williams.

The Supreme Court of Nova Scotia ruled on Oct. 4 that the law barring Sunday shopping was invalid, allowing all stores in the province to open seven days a week. Currently the stores have made working on Sundays voluntary. But some stores are considering imposing mandatory shifts.

On the first Sunday after the ruling, only six Wal-Mart employees were available to work the shift. The following Sunday, management was able to fully staff the store. But the higher-ups have no guarantee that workers will continue to cooperate, suggesting the corporation may force employees to work the shift.

Williams says her employer, who she fears her comments may get her fired, is considering imposing mandatory shifts on Sundays. But she says having Sundays off allowed her to recuperate from a week at school, catch up on her assignments and

study for exams. She says she understands that businesses need a full staff to stay open on Sundays, but she's concerned she might be scheduled to work mandatory shifts. Williams says students should be able to choose whether they will work on Sundays.

"For first-year students, it may be a blessing because they have nothing to do on Sundays. But for third-year students, it may become a pain in the butt," she says. "If you have a midterm or exam on Monday, you want Sunday off, you want the whole day to make up for days during the week you could not study because you had other things due."

American Eagle, another major employer in the shopping mall, is entirely staffed by students with the exception of management. Assistant manager Courtney Harris says she understands that students already face significant time constraints imposed by education commitments.

"If there is a serious conflict that does not allow the student to work Sunday, we will accommodate them as much as possible. Students will not be fired if they are not able to work," says Harris. "We do encourage all of the students working here to be available a minimum of one Sunday a month."

Harris says that while students may have to work extra hours on Sundays, the increase will be marginal — an average of five hours.

"I don't think that anyone [in N.S.] wanted Sunday shopping, but the province has had to come to accept it," says Harris.

TRAVEL TALKS

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Thursday, October 26, 7 pm
Halifax Regional Library
5381 Spring Garden Road

THAILAND, VIETNAM & CAMBODIA
Thursday, November 16, 7pm
Travel CUTS/Adventure Travel Company Office
1589 Barrington Street

Please RSVP: visit www.travelcuts.com and click "Travel Talks" on the menu.

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Gazette

Volunteer Meetings
Every Monday at 5:30,
Room 312, Dal SUB

Words: Reid Southwick / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Researcher speaks out

North Americans are victims of public brainwashing by corporations and government officials, said a disgruntled independent researcher.

"Everyone of you out there is a victim... a victim of bureaucracy gone mad, stopping us from having at least a little bit of human dignity," Jon Erb said during a speech outside the Killam Library on Oct. 13.

Erb is the author of *The Slow Poisoning of America*, a book that makes several allegations against food inspection agencies and corporations for allowing the sale of what he claims are harmful products. He said publishers have refused to print his book and that mainstream news organizations have been prevented from broadcasting his interviews.

To publicize his message, Erb hired an independent camera crew to film him telling his story on Dalhousie campus. Wearing a bathrobe and pyjamas, and sitting on top of a rock outside the Killam, Erb recalled how he "learned" that monosodium glutamate (MSG)



causes obesity and diabetes, and that melatonin, a substance extracted from the human pineal gland, "cures" breast and prostate cancer. He said all of his research comes from abstracts he found online at pubmed.com.

Kaleigh Dunlop, a third-year Dal neuroscience student who was one of Erb's six audience members, said she was concerned about the quality of his information.

"It's hard to take a man seriously in a bathrobe," she said. "I'm sure he's a really passionate guy, but he should try to do more research, other than abstracts, before writing a book."

Erb's speech will be posted on YouTube in the near future.



Elizabeth May said she hopes more women will run for political office. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Green party leader calls for more women in parliament

JEN BOND
Staff Contributor

The Canadian Parliament resembles a locker room more than a place of national decision-making, said the leader of the federal Green Party.

"The reality of the current House of Commons is that it's out of balance," Elizabeth May told a crowd of roughly 100 people seated in an auditorium at the Weldon Law Building on Oct. 10.

The Dalhousie law graduate was elected party leader on Aug. 26, 2006, though she's not a Member of Parliament. Instead, she sits in the speaker's gallery to observe House proceedings. She said she has realized the House faces disproportion of gender representation, resulting in a "boorish" environment that erupts during question period and debates.

MPs are especially rude when female members stand up to speak, said May. Members regularly engage in catcalling, she said, and the newly elected Conservative members are some of the worst offenders.

"The heckling when Belinda Stronach stands up is appalling," she said, referring to the Liberal MP for Newmarket-Aurora, Ont., who has also been criticized for leaving the Conservative Party after the 2004 general election.

May, who worked as a senior policy advisor to the minister of environment from 1986 to 1988, said the behavior of MPs is now much worse.

May also said the three sitting parties cooperate less on important issues. During the 1987 vote on capital punishment, for example, the two key players on the opposing side of the debate were a female Pro-

Women in the Canadian House of Commons Since 1984

Year	Total Number of Seats Held		Proportion of Seats Held by Women
	Seats	by Women	
1984	282	27	9.6
1988	295	39	13.3(4)
1993	295	53	18.0
1997	301	62	20.6
2000	301	62	20.6
2004	308	65	21.1
2006	308	64	20.8

Source: Parliament of Canada

gressive Conservative Party member and a male New Democratic Party member.

"I don't know that we'll ever see again the day where someone... in the government cabinet would work so closely with someone in the NDP on an issue like capital punishment... the House is becoming increasingly partisan," said May.

May said she hopes the House of Commons will follow the example of some European countries and increase the representation of women to 50 per cent. She said she would like to see more socially progressive women running for office, adding that all women, regardless of political stripe, should feel that they are able to run.

Jennifer Keeling, a fourth-year international development studies student, agreed with May and said she is the right woman to be speaking out against the lack of female representation in the House.

"We don't have enough effective Canadian women in Canadian Parliament, and she herself is one of those effective women," said Keeling.



Dennis Top, a fifth-year PhD student, and his team are trying to find a way to introduce chemotherapy drugs into the body more effectively. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Student research to improve chemotherapy

ANNA FONG
Staff Contributor

A Dalhousie student was awarded \$40,000 to fund his cancer research over the next two years.

In September, Deniz Top, a fifth-year microbiology and immunology PhD student, received a Nova Scotia Health Research Foundation grant to advance his studies on the delivery of cancer therapy drugs.

Top and his colleagues are working on developing a way to transport drugs to cancerous cells more effectively.

Chemotherapy drugs currently use an oily solution to deliver the medication to diseased tissues. But the solution is often more harmful to the patient than the drug itself,

and researchers are struggling to find an alternative.

Top and his team are studying the behaviour of reptilian reoviruses (RRVs), which are isolated from pythons. Unlike common viruses, RRVs infect the inside of a cell and then spread throughout the body. By learning how RRVs are able to enter the cell before releasing their contents, Top hopes to package and deliver chemotherapy drugs to cancerous tissues in a similar way. He says this will reduce both the dosage required and potential toxic effects on healthy tissues.

"If we can package the drugs... we can target them to specific parts of the body," he says.

Top says there's a risk the human

body would reject RRVs, since they come from pythons, not humans.

But studies show that RRVs don't cause a high immune response, which means the chance of rejection would be low, says Top.

Top's research has not yet reached the level where human testing is appropriate.

"Others in my lab will likely take this project further to the point [where] we can talk about human trials," says Top.

Dalhousie is nationally recognized for having "exceptional students" and a strong group of cancer researchers, says Meg McCallum, Director of Programs for the N.S. division of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Levy boosts international student society funding

DAWN MACPHEE
Assistant News Editor

Money from a new student levy promises bigger and better events for international students at Dalhousie.

"International students don't have the same social net as everybody else. They speak a different language, they have different customs and the easiest way to help them is to give them a little taste of home," says Ann Beringer, president of the Dalhousie International Student Association (DISA). "Our main mandate is to make sure that money goes to events that will help international students."

The Dal Board of Governors approved a \$5-per-term levy for all international students on April 18, 2006. Over 1200 of these students are enrolled at Dal this year, and DISA estimates it will receive more than \$5,000 from the levy.

Now that DISA is an A-level society, the Dalhousie Student Union must approve its budget and complete an audit before handing over the cash, which the society expects by Nov. 15.

With its new funding, DISA plans to hold a rally on International Students Day, a soccer tournament at Wickwire field and a cricket tournament in addition to its annual big ticket event, International Night.

"In the past, we've had one focused event, which is International Night. And then aside from that, all we do are potlucks, because it's the only thing we can afford," says Beringer. "For the first time ever we're actually sitting here saying, 'Yeah, we might actually be able to afford something awesome.'"

When DISA held a referendum last spring, 82 per cent of participating international students voted in favour of the levy. Beringer says most foreign students don't notice the \$5



DISA President Ann Beringer says she hopes to attract a broader range of international students with this year's slate of events made possible by new funding. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

charge because it's a small amount compared to differential fees, which range up to \$3,000 per term for full-time students.

Margaret Wood, a student advisor at the International Student Exchange Services (ISES), says the levy will allow DISA to hold more events and take some of the onus off ISES.

"We all love to be doing stuff with our peers without a bunch of old ladies being involved," says Wood. "Just those absolutely wonderful chances to just do things on their own without having to be feeling like they're

being coached or otherwise."

Beringer says she encourages students to share their concerns and help make DISA events better. Now that DISA has this funding, international students can hold DISA accounts and have a say in how we spend their money, she says.

Beringer says DISA hopes to attract a broader range of international students with this year's expanded slate of events.

"It's really about being able to provide as much activity and camaraderie for people as possible."

Dal improves community relations

CHRISTIE CONWAY
Staff Contributor

A recent survey conducted by the Dalhousie University Community Committee (DUCC) suggests the relationship between the university, students and community members is improving.

The 2006 Neighbourhood Survey, which involved a random sample of 225 homes in the Dal and King's College community, found that nearly 90 per cent of participants have noticed an improvement in the universities' ability to listen to community concerns and in the level of communication between neighbours and students.

"When neighbours tell you that in 36 years of living in this community, this is the best year they can recall in terms of noise, that's a real sign of positive growth and we're really proud of our students for stepping up like that," says Dal spokes-



The Dalhousie community has seen an increase of cooperation between students and local residents on decreasing the amount of late-night noise and loud parties. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

person Charles Crosby.

Adam Rochweg, a second-year history student at Dal who has received complaints from several of his neighbours about noise and parties, says he's taken steps to ease the tension.

"We went up and talked to the people upstairs and to our neighbours and just told them, 'If we're being too loud, come and talk to us. We will actually listen and turn it down,'" he says.

And while Rochweg says local

residents should be more understanding of the student way of life, he sees the benefits of living in a mixed community.

"It's good because you get the quality housing and you get to meet these families and you get the quiet

if you want it," he says.

Tensions within the university community began to escalate several years ago. As a greater number of students moved into homes converted to rooming houses, the atmosphere began to change, says Mary Somers, DUCC member and senior communications advisor for Dal.

The influx of students into residential communities raised major concerns with late night noise, loud parties, littering and a lack of property upkeep by landlords.

"There's really been a kind of 'them-and-us' attitude, and that's what we're trying to break down," says Somers.

While police handle noise complaints, the DUCC provides information to students to remind them that they are a part of a much broader community. Crosby says he hopes students will offer their neighbours the respect that they would also like to receive.

Uni-briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Suspected Norwalk virus strikes Mt. A.

Mount Allison University cancelled all classes and extra-curricular events on Oct. 13 after more than 100 students and staff reported symptoms of what officials suspect is the Norwalk virus. By Oct. 17, more than 300 people had fallen ill and many were admitted to hospital.

New Brunswick public health officials asked the school to close all of its buildings and limit public gatherings. Mount Allison cancelled all society meetings and sporting events for the weekend in an effort to limit the spread of the illness.

The virus is highly infectious. It usually lasts 24 to 48 hours with symptoms that include nausea, frequent vomiting and diarrhea, abdominal pain, fever and headaches. Any contact with an infected person, or a surface he/she has touched, is enough to lead to infection.

Most of the victims are students living in residence but some cases have been reported by students living off campus and local residents.

Rumours of food poisoning were dismissed after the campus meal hall passed a public health test "with flying colours." Shared residence bathrooms are the more likely sources of the outbreak.

The New Brunswick Department of Public Health is conducting interviews with all of those infected, asking for recent diet and activity information. Hospital administrators will not reveal how many infected patients have been admitted, but a university official reported that at least 50 had arrived at the emergency department with symptoms.

Schools sign reserves agreement

More than half of Canada's 301 universities, colleges and school boards have signed a statement of support for the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves.

The statement asks schools to defer exams that conflict with student reservists' training and that they accept students back into their programs if they leave for an active

duty assignment.

The Canadian Forces Liaison Council has received signatures of 157 institutions since it began its Education Outreach Initiative in February of last year. The Canadian Forces is especially concerned by its relationship with schools because 40 per cent of reserves members are students.

All institutions in Québec, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador have signed, as have many in British Columbia and Ontario. The University of Alberta and the University of Winnipeg have also signed.

ACROSS THE POND

U.K. schools to spy on Muslims

British university staff members will be asked to identify "Asian-looking" and Muslim students who they believe support terrorism or Islamic extremism, reports *The Guardian*.

The Department of Education will ask staff to report suspicious students to the national security arm of the British police because terrorists may seek out potential extremists in the country's universities.

An 18-page document obtained by the British newspaper details the government's fear that campuses have become "fertile recruiting grounds" for extremists. The document expects post-secondary institutions will be wary of handing over student information, but insists that the special police branch is accountable and not a "secret police."

"They are going to treat everyone Muslim with suspicion on the basis of their faith," Gemma Tumelty, president of the National Union of Students, told *The Guardian*. "It's bearing on the side of McCarthyism."

The document says Muslims from "segregated" backgrounds are more likely to believe radical ideas than those who have "integrated into wider society." The report urges schools to closely monitor Islamic societies.

From The Gazette archives

30 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK...

National day of protest

Roughly 100 Dalhousie students marched from the Student Union Building to the Grand Parade to protest the Trudeau government's policy on wage and price controls. Oct. 14 was deemed a National Day of Protest by the Canadian Labour Congress, and was supported by the National Union of Students.

Dal students were especially supportive of their university's local CUPE maintenance workers, who were forced to return \$400 in wages under the new law.

20 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK...

Sex, drugs and hot dogs

Several vendors said a rival company was dealing drugs, using prostitutes to sell hotdogs and threatening violence against competitors.

The business owners said their competitor was selling hash out of his cart and peddling LSD in front of the Seahorse Tavern. Long-time vending business owner Ray Romano said the suspect had "little rats from prison" selling the narcotic on the street.

Romano said the alleged drug-dealing company used young prostitutes to sell hotdogs and that he had been threatened by their pimp.

Larry Chippin, another local vender, said a 15-year-old girl who worked for the suspect company attacked him with a knife.

"We're locking our gas tanks because someone put sugar in one of them," said Chippin. "At the end of the night, between 3 and 4 [a.m.], is when there's trouble."

UofA hires stripper

The Canadian University Press reported that the University of Alberta Students' Union used student funds to hire a stripper for a council party in April 1986.

"I noticed the men at the party were disappearing... so I ran downstairs to see what was happening," said former Vice President (Ac-

demic) Connie Uzwyshyn. "I barged into the room to find Bambi rubbing ointment all over herself."

Bambi admitted to receiving \$130 from either the president or a vice president for her performance.

One of the performance's attendees, who was drunk at the time, said the vice president (internal) had collected money to pay for the stripper. "I assume that is why he took money from everyone there."

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK...

Y2K paranoia

Canadian universities faced a ticking time bomb that could have

destroyed university computer systems when clocks struck midnight on Jan. 1, 2000, according to a Canadian University Press report.

"At many campuses, library databases, student registration software and administration systems will either malfunction or die," reported the university wire service.

Many older computers were only capable of changing the last two digits of the year, meaning that when 2000 arrived, computers would either switch to 1900 or simply crash.

"The 2000 problem is going to cost universities across the country millions of dollars," said Jim Clark, a computer science professor at the University of Toronto.

We need more bike lanes in Halifax

(Yes, more than one)

BRENDAN OSBERG
Opinions Contributor

I've lived in Halifax most of my life. When I need to get somewhere, I ride a bike. Of course I can't afford to drive a car. Even if I could, I'd still ride my bike, for a lot of reasons: I like the fact that I don't contribute to traffic, parking or pollution problems in my city and I enjoy the exercise.

Furthermore, the geography of Halifax is well suited to it. The peninsula is compact enough to make everything accessible in less than 20 minutes and the hills are just steep enough to get the blood running. It would seem that bicycles are the perfect option for Halifax. The problem is the unaccommodating municipal government.

Does it seem comical to anybody else that we have *one* bike lane on Brunswick St. that runs for one block and ends nowhere? Don't tell me the bike path on University Ave. counts as a lane — a "lane" requires lines on the road, and University Ave. only has signs advertising some magical area that's supposed to be safe for bikes.

Is it absurd that the only other bike lanes are out in Cole Harbour and on the bridge? A sensible person might ask the question, "Who the hell is going to use a bike lane out here if it leads to nothing?"

"Why do we need bike lanes?" you may ask. If you *do* ask that question, it's probably because you've never been doored and probably don't know what the word means. So I'll paint you a picture.

Imagine riding your bike down the road, sticking to the right side of the lane as cars whiz past you,



You're on your ass on the street in a world of pain, the handlebars on your bike are a mangled mess and all you recall is a split-second when you thought you saw a driver's side door open from the car parked on the side of the road. / Photo: John Packman

sometimes with drivers yelling at you to get on the sidewalk. You're late for class so you're going about 50 km/h while keeping an eye out for anything that might turn and cut you off, hoping the driver of one of these two-tonne behemoths doesn't decide to take you out.

All of a sudden — wham! You're on your ass on the street in a world of pain, the handlebars on your bike are a mangled mess and all you recall is a split-second when you thought you saw a driver's side door open from the car parked on the side of the road.

Getting doored is an intensely painful experience that I have now

gone through twice — and there's nothing I can do to prevent it from happening again.

And then last week, a cop pulled me over for riding on the sidewalk and threatened to fine me. What I should have said to him was, "Look, if the city wants me to ride on the road, then they have an obligation to make it safe for me. The harm I will do to someone in the unlikely event that I hit them on the sidewalk is nothing compared to the harm that can result when bikers get hit by dumb-ass motorists."

Then I should have told him to shove it and that I'd fight the ticket in court.

Unfortunately, I could see that this would just boil over into a huge confrontation I wasn't going to win and that I would waste a lot of time and energy in the process. So I took the warning, got back on the road and continued on my way, grumbling all the way home.

Why are honest citizens threatened with fines for trying to stay safe in lieu of government action? There must be some logical reason why the city hasn't implemented bike lanes already, right?

You might think that either the roads aren't big enough or it would be too expensive to plan how to reorganize the infrastructure of the

city for it. The city must have a reason, right?

Nope. At the Halifax Regional Municipality's website, you can go to a link at <http://www.halifax.ca/cycling/bikeplan.html> to see the bike plan that was commissioned in 2002 — with your tax dollars — to figure out a solution that could accommodate bike lanes in Halifax.

These professional urban planners meticulously detailed routes that could provide room for bikes in order to cut down traffic and parking problems in the city, all without disrupting vehicles.

Now that the city has already invested the money to plan it, the only remaining financial burden of the project is putting some paint down on the road.

I'm not sure exactly how much paint costs these days, but I'm pretty sure this is a trivial expense compared to the money already spent, and even more trivial compared to a typical municipal transportation budget.

So what has the city done in the four years since this project was commissioned? Nothing. The blueprints have sat on a desk, collecting dust, for four years.

We deserve better. Even if you're not a cyclist, you would benefit from bike lanes because they would decrease congestion on the roads and competition for parking. But the real reason this plan needs to come into effect has nothing to do with congestion or parking. The real reason is safety.

The next time I read in the paper about a cyclist killed by a car on a major road in Halifax, I will consider the city council directly responsible.

Ticket to ride

Space travel not just for smart people and monkeys

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
Staff Contributor

Anousheh Ansari should be used to being first. On Sept. 18, she became the first female space tourist, as well as the first female Muslim in space, the first Iranian in space and the first person to update a blog from space.

The cost of her 10-day space ticket is undisclosed, but judging on the price other space tourists have paid — Dennis Tito, Mark Shuttleworth and Gregory Olsen all paid around \$20 million — it couldn't have been cheap.

Anousheh was born in Iran and later immigrated with her family to America to escape the Islamic revolution. She learned English as a teenager and went on to earn a degree in electrical engineering from George Washington University. Afterward, she poured everything she had into founding Telecom Technologies Inc. It was worth it — in 2000 her company was bought for \$550 million.

She hasn't wasted her money. Her family is the sponsor of the \$10-million Ansari X Prize to promote non-governmental space travel. She's given to the Make a Wish foundation and Sally Ride, an organization that aims to develop girls' interest in science and mathematics.

Space tourism has had its critics. Shouldn't those more fit or intelligent be the ones to go, instead of the

wealthy? Although Lance Bass and Paris Hilton have tried to go, all four space tourists to date have had some background in science and have conducted experiments while on the space station.

There are some who object to the whole idea of government-run space program. Why should we spend billions of dollars sending people to space when there are still many people on earth left homeless and hungry?

But the \$6 billion NASA spends each year on space flight seems minute compared to the \$9 billion spent on a missile defence shield that has yet prove effective, or the \$5.6 billion spent every month on the war in Iraq.

Perhaps there's an argument for non-governmental space flight. Earth-bound politics are constantly interfering with our exploration of the sky. The first rockets, after all, were developed during the Cold War, and were designed not as vehicles, but as weapons.

NASA is plagued with heavy bureaucracy and unrealistic goals. With the creation of more and more commercial space flight enterprises, a new space race may develop, one that's driven by efficiency and lower prices.

Space tourism is a hot ticket for many reasons. A trip includes weightlessness, 32 sunsets per day, crystal clear stars and the chance to see Earth from thousands of miles up. Who wouldn't want to sign up for a trip that is truly out of this world?

What's a pope to do?

JIMMY KAPCHES
Staff Contributor

As you sit there sipping coffee from a mug with Pope John Paul II's mischievous grin staring back at you, you can only help but wonder, what's a pope to do?

Barely out of the conclave and promptly into the hot water that has epitomized Benedict XVI (a.k.a. Ratzinger)'s rule over the Holy See, this pope can't seem to restrain himself.

It seems to be rather miraculous for him that he can't be fired or deposed, considering he's not making many friends in a world already filled with ruthless enemies.

Take his careless use of ancient references as an example. President Bush should take note — if you want to enrage the whole Muslim world, you should make a point of quoting long-dead Christian emperors who didn't know how to mince their words.

Nothing makes enemies faster than trash-talking people's beliefs and strong-held convictions in a scholarly context and then not even personally apologizing for your behaviour. To his holiness' credit, he did eventually say he was sorry, but not until after getting particularly strong-worded letters from countries such as Morocco, which actually pulled their ambassador from the Vatican. It's a wonder of the modern world that someone so important can be so shortsighted when they're

tongue-wagging.

And then there are those pesky Canadians. Having long given up on the Dutch, who have been friends of gay marriage for a while already, the Pope turned his eyes onto our humble ex-colony. In an act of exceptional browbeating, Benedict invited some bishops from Ontario to come to the Vatican for tea. According to CBC.ca on Sept. 8, Benedict reminded them that "in the name of tolerance, your country has had to endure the folly of the redefinition of spouse."

God forbid we allow tolerance to govern our government. What must really rankle Benny is the fact that Paul Martin, a Roman Catholic himself, led the government that recognized same-sex marriage. The Pope's disappointment that "ephemeral social trends and the spurious demands of opinion polls" influenced the consciences of Catholic politicians demonstrates the Vatican's utter incapability to comprehend a clear separation between church and state.

Benedict isn't going to send the Swiss Guard over to tell the Mounties that it's not appropriate for men to marry men in full uniform, is he? It sounds convincingly like a father who can't get any respect from children who, for better or for worse, are changing faster than he is.

It would be inappropriate to forget the nine women who were unofficially ordained as deacons and priests on the St. Lawrence river

on July 24, 2005, considering that they're being ignored quite competently by the Vatican. It would be equally unfair to ignore the seven women who then-Cardinal Ratzinger *excommunicated* in 2002 after they were unofficially ordained but claimed legitimacy.

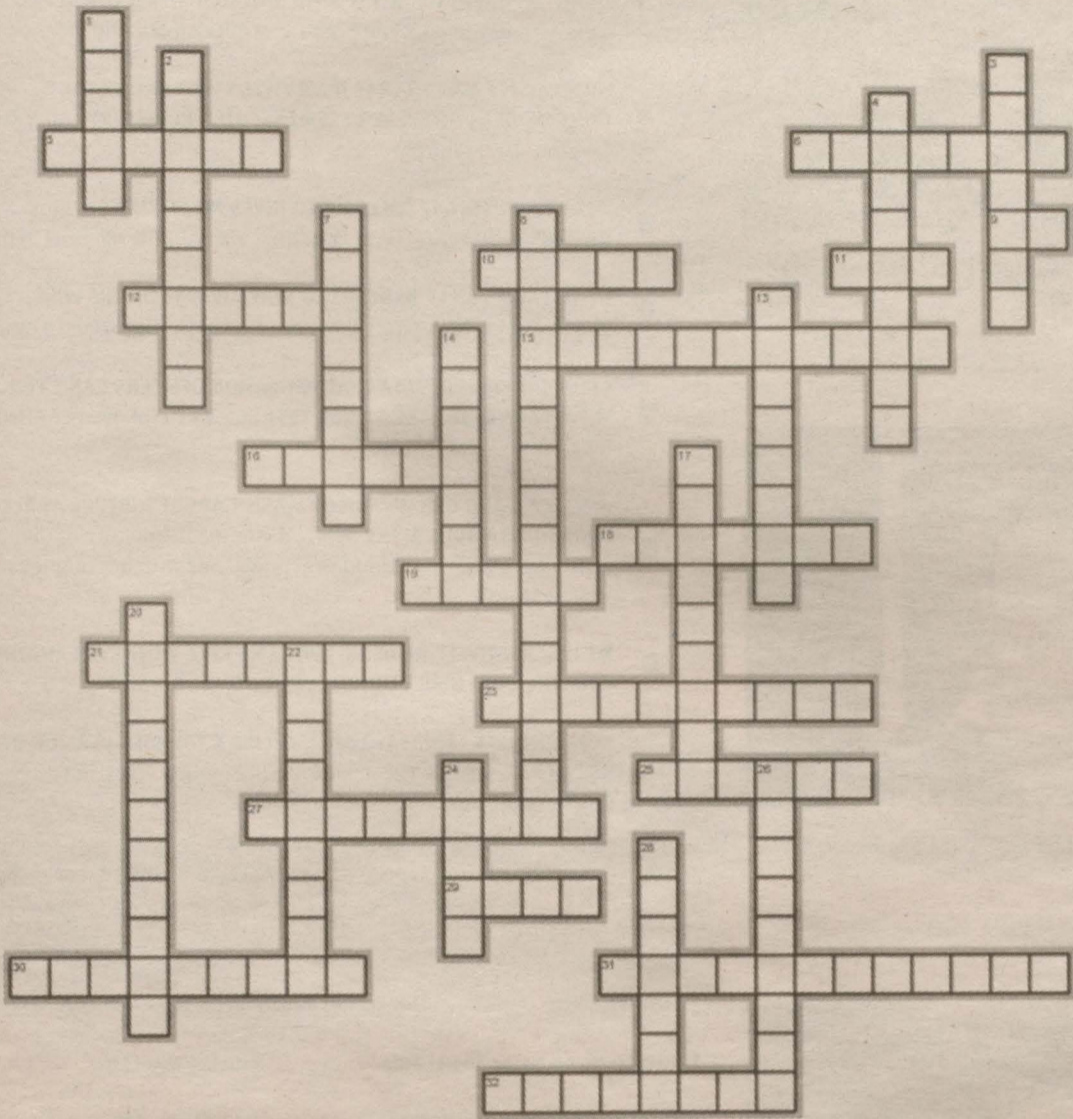
What must really rankle Benny is the fact that Paul Martin, a Roman Catholic himself, led the government that recognised same-sex marriage.

The reigns of power are hard to release and tradition is a particularly demanding creature, but faith is faith, isn't it? Apparently Mother Church has a bit of a Father Figure complex, something that will become either an insurmountable hurdle or a high hope in the future.

The point behind all this is the utter inflexibility belied by a fresh face in the papacy. If the Vatican wants to move forward and forge itself a new future, it's going to have to do so with intelligence, compassion and, dare we mention it again, *tolerance*. Otherwise, we're left telling the story about the ancient tree that refused to bend with the wind and was broken, while the tiny little reed just danced about on the riverbank.

Dal-ifax Mix and Match

A crossword by Ted Mirsky & Adeline MacNaughton



ACROSS

- 5. Des _____, Iowa (6)
- 6. Recent \$1.65-billion Google acquisition (3,4)
- 9. Alright (2)
- 10. Seinfeld lingo for a ditzzy man (5)
- 11. Church bench (3)
- 12. Pearl Jam front man (6)
- 15. Carpe Diem (5,3,3)
- 16. Marijuana cigarette; joint (6)
- 18. A beer in Sevilla (7)
- 19. Crooked (5)
- 21. Inventor of basketball (8)
- 23. Marty McFly and Doc Brown's hometown (4,6)
- 25. Primary colour (6)
- 27. Romanian capital (9)
- 29. Wolf [French] (4)
- 30. YVR; _____ International Airport (9)
- 31. Mighty Morphin' _____ (5,7)
- 32. Mixed drink (8)

DOWN

- 1. Big breasted (5)
- 2. Liberal leadership race front-runner (9)
- 3. Canada's current Minister of Environment (7)
- 4. Central America's biggest coffee producer (9)
- 7. Halifax brewery (8)
- 8. Original title of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (5,11)
- 13. Game of acting (8)
- 14. Thinks highly of (7)
- 17. Rubin ' _____ ' Carter (9)
- 20. The real OC (6,5)
- 22. Clout (9)
- 24. Golf with a frisbee (5)
- 26. Father of Manitoba (5,4)
- 28. Angela's Ashes author (7)

Eco-lies

Where's my week off school?

JOHN HILLMAN
Staff Contributor

Eco-hippies: you have some explaining to do.

It's been over three years since hurricane Juan hit our fair city. I remember it like it was yesterday. One hundred mile-per-hour winds, tidal surges, idiots going out to Peggy's Cove to watch it come in (if that wasn't an argument for natural selection...).

But most of all, I remember the week off school. I had two essays and a midterm due that week but they were blessedly postponed by Juan's divine gusts. Life was good.

As I put another three midterms behind me, I recall a promise tree-huggers made in the aftermath of the storm. "This is the result of global warming," they assured us all. "And if we don't take action now, things will only get worse."

I believed it, I really did. I've done my part. Though I can't afford a king-sized SUV anyway, I try to take the few gas-guzzling, Cold War-era tank-buses that Metro Transit still has in service. I know there's not much that a single person like me can do, but I really think we Canadians have made an impact through our collective efforts.

Together we elected the pro-hurricane party in the last national election, sending a message to Ottawa that we want nothing to do with the Kyoto accord, no matter how ineffective it might be. We just couldn't take the chance that somehow, in some small way, it might actually improve the environment.

As I look out my window at the crisp, clear October morning, however, I can't help but notice the lack of catastrophic debris. See, the thing is, we have now gone through three painfully hurricane-free years. In spite of all the promises, in spite of all our best efforts, there hasn't been so much as a decent storm surge. The closest we came was last year when "hurricane" Ophelia "ravaged" us with a stiff breeze and 15 minutes of drizzle.

Despite global efforts to heat this planet, the year was remarkably slow for hurricanes. Regionally, the Avalon peninsula in Newfoundland

was the only place that even came close to a tropical storm. What did they do that we didn't? We produced hundreds of times more pollution than they did. Unless hurricanes are now fueled by the souls of baby seals, there's no reason that they should have all the action.

Something has to be done about these smooth-talking environmentalists and their snake-oil promises. They'll tell anything to anyone. Remember "White Juan" in the winter of 2004? Ninety-five-and-a-half-centimetres of snow in 24 hours and another week off school. What was the cause? You guessed it, global warming.

Global warming was also the reason for the frigid, stormy 2005 winter. I'd begun to think that maybe we were making some headway when all of a sudden, the 2006 winter turned out to be a complete bust.

Coming back to school last January was like stepping onto the set of an MTV Spring Break special (only hairier...we Canadians aren't exactly prepared to wear revealing clothes in the middle of the winter).

The lack of days off was disappointing but the explanation from the environmentalists was far more infuriating. "These are the effects of global warming," they declared proudly, exuberantly slapping each other on their hemp-clad backs. "We told you it was coming!"

So let me get this straight:

- 1) Cold winters are the product of global warming.
- 2) Warm winters are the product of global warming.

I'm not a scientist but it seems to me that I know another term for the phenomenon of changing meteorological conditions... it's called the "weather."

I say it's high time we all start conducting our own investigations into climate change, rather than letting pushy Planetarians continue to sell us their slick Hollywood propaganda.

If we strive together as a society to become more aware about this great big planet that we all call home, then perhaps we'll be able to pass on to future generations the greatest gift of all: a world in which midterm exams are regularly postponed to a slightly later date.

Letters@dalgazette.ca

RE: NSPIRG Representation
Dear Editor,

I am glad to see that NSPIRG has finally succeeded in establishing itself as an organization worthy of a feature story at *The Gazette*. Media has the ability to shape the reality of a given situation based on not only what story it decides to depict and how that portrait is painted, but what it omits from the picture frame as well.

I recognize that *The Gazette* is volunteer-based, under-staffed and unable to investigate many of the countless stories that come its way. However, I am still uncertain as to why *The Gazette* opted to not cover a single one of the 32 diverse events NSPIRG coordinated as part of the month-long series of activities throughout September's Alternative Orientation. NSPIRG sent media advisories, checked in with *The Gazette* staff on a weekly basis, and even went to the trouble of arranging for staff to meet with one of our community-based campaign coordinators.

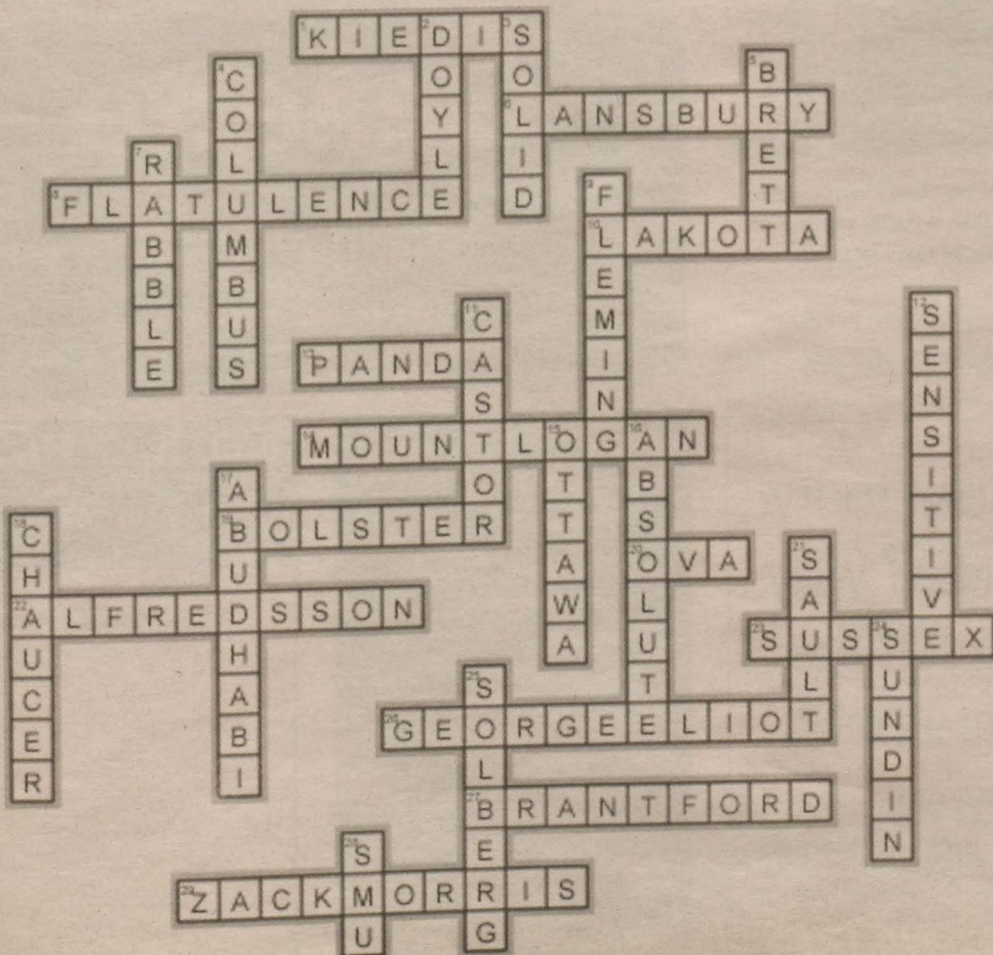
It's easy to see why an organiza-

tion such as NSPIRG, which is abidingly criticized for its lack of visibility and promotion on campus, is set back only further when the sole campus student newspaper fails to latch onto a single story of the multitude that emanate from its walls. Could this be based on crossed wires or a lack of communication? The irony is that *The Gazette* office shares these same walls.

Sincerely,
Dave Ron
NSPIRG

Editor's note: We either assigned or tried to assign several of the stories Dave Ron writes about. But the writers were either unable to complete the assignments or they weren't interested in the topics. We don't have the time or resources to ensure every event on campus is covered. NSPIRG is just one of countless groups that hold events. But we appreciate Ron's concerns and will try to address them promptly.

LAST WEEK'S SOLVED



STREETER

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE FOR HALLOWEEN?



"I want to wear a box with an alarm clock and lamp on top of it and be a 'one night stand.'"

John Landry, first-year law



"I'm going to wear a plastic bum with a phone attached to it and be a 'booty call.'"

Amanda Rennick, third-year biology and English



"I'm Peter Pan, and this is my Tinkerbell."

Ian Sinclair and Andrea Levans, first-year law



"My friends and I might go as Jem and the Holograms."

Thea Lowry, second-year law



"My friends and I are going as the American Gladiators."

Patrick Miller, fourth-year history and political science



"I want to be a South American 'Freedom Fighter.'"

Farid Karimpour, second-year engineering



"Possibly another can of spam."

Sabrina Mager, fourth-year political science and law



"I'm going tape a giant ass to my chest like it's farting me out then have a George Bush lookalike chasing me around all night and tell everyone that I'm 'gas.'"

Joey Ryba, Nineteenth-year Bleu Nuit production assistant

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

TOP 10

- 1 **PETITION FOR DALPLEX TO TREAT THE WEIGHT ROOM MORE LIKE NOAH'S ARK** God wants you to have two of each weight.
- 2 **THE GIRL ON THE DAL WEBSITE DOESN'T EVEN GO TO DALHOUSIE ANYMORE** And we're certainly inspiring minds... to leave.
- 3 **DIDDY TRYING TO GET AWAY WITH SAYING "I NEVER LOVED J-LO"** That's what we said when *Gigli* came out and nobody believed us.
- 4 **NICK LACHEY ADMITS THAT *NEWLYWEDS* WAS ONE OF THE DUMBER IDEAS HE'S "EVER SEEN EXECUTED IN HISTORY"** Take that, communist manifesto!
- 5 **THE NEW PUSSYCAT DOLLS VIDEO GIVES ME SEIZURES** Seriously, this isn't an obscure Asian cartoon, stop with the flashing lights.
- 6 **K-FED WANTS MALE DANCERS TO STAY AWAY FROM HIS WIFE** He's just trying to run from those deadly words: "Oops, I did it again."
- 7 **CANADIAN COURTS RULE THAT PROBATION OFFICERS CAN'T FORCE THEIR CLIENTS TO TAKE A DRUG TEST** Smoked a lot of weed? Urine luck!
- 8 **AMERICA'S ABU GHRAIB PRISON WASN'T ABOUT TORTURE AT ALL, IT WAS JUST ABOUT KINKY SEX** Did you see the picture of that woman pointing at the dude's genitals? Sex with her might as well be torture.
- 9 **ME UN-CREATIVELY RE-USING THE SAME JOKE WHENEVER ANOTHER COUNTRY GOES NUCLEAR** North Korea is "da bomb!"
- 10 **TARA REID SAYS LINDSAY LOHAN IS LIKE A YOUNGER VERSION OF HERSELF** This is like the most sobering reality check since a punch in the face.

HOT / NOT

- HOT: The Killers / NOT: That number band with the Blink 182 guys
- HOT: Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip / NOT: Saturday Night Live
- HOT: Greek and Roman mythology / NOT: Lost mythology (it's just a show)
- HOT: Maneaters / NOT: Playas
- HOT: "On" is the new "cool" / NOT: "That is so fetch"
- HOT: Leather Jackets / NOT: Camo (unless it's BAPE)
- HOT: Giving advice / NOT: Taking it
- HOT: Getting over trends / NOT: T-shirts that say stuff on them
- HOT: Pockets / NOT: Man-purses
- HOT: Acting "morally bankrupt" / NOT: Being "wealthy on the inside" (barf)

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. The quotes said by Joey Ryba in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and are do not necessarily represent views held by Joey Ryba himself, *The Gazette* and or its staff.

Gazette

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Shedding the shroud

K-OS reinvents his music — and himself

ADAM MILLER
Arts Contributor

"I only make music that expresses who I am as a person and defines me as a person," says Kevin Brereton, better known as the Canadian hip-hop artist K-OS.

His newest album, *Atlantis: Hymns for Disco*, reveals a personal and emotionally open side of Brereton the person, rather than the former, shrouded life of K-OS the artist.

"I like to protect myself," he says. "I don't like doing interviews, and if I do, I always wear shades."

New city

When he came to Halifax on tour last year, he says so many beautiful women turned up at his shows that he decided to stick around to "investigate."

K-OS befriended local musicians and fell in love with the friendly atmosphere, the "blue energy" and the tranquility he feels while looking out at the ocean — not to mention the constant supply of music. "There is always a band playing," he says.

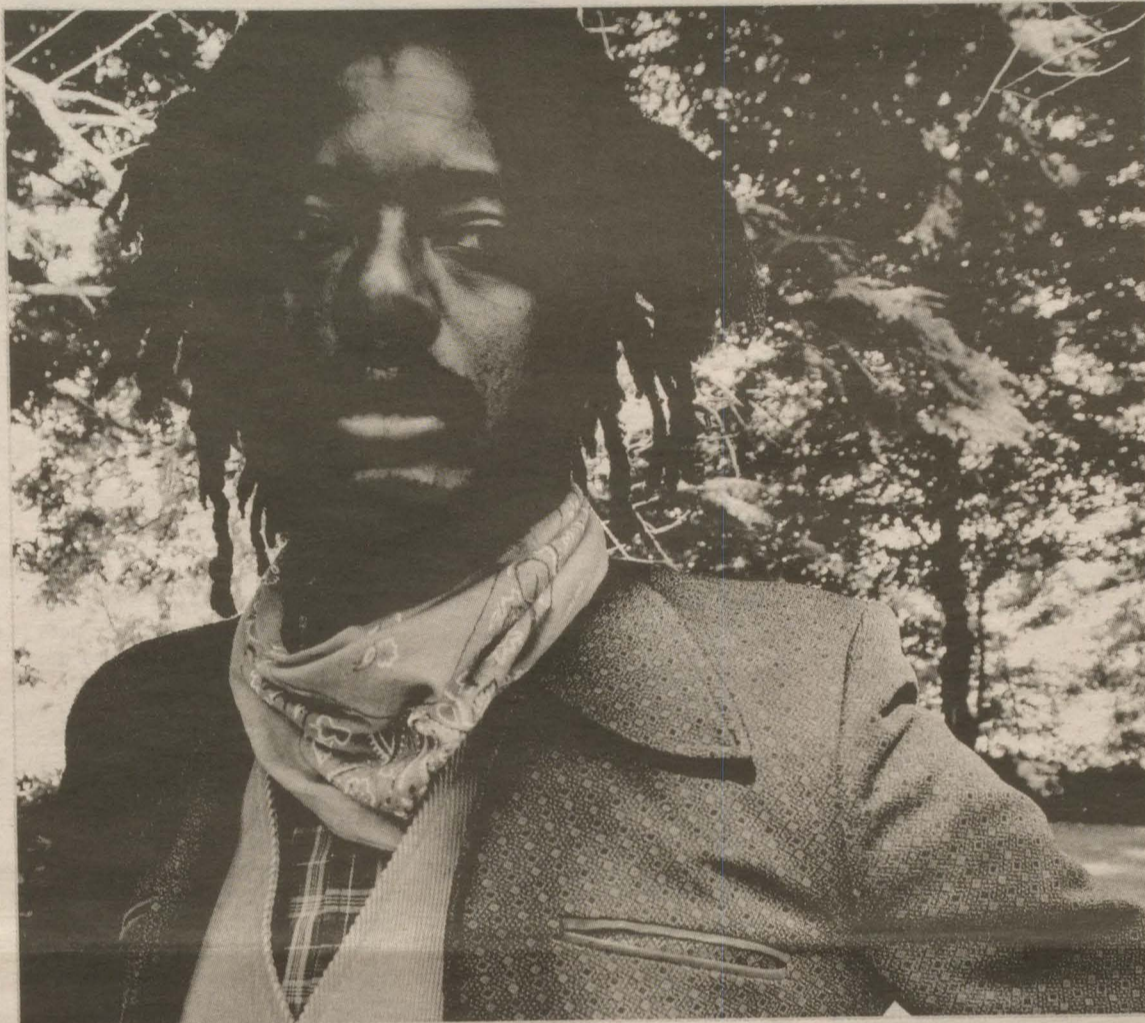
He discovered a deep connection to the city, deciding to assemble some of his next album in Halifax. K-OS recorded all the strings at the Sonic Temple studio, as well as songs such as "CatDiesel," "The Rain" and "Equilizer."

He also collaborated with many Canadian musicians, including Sam Roberts, Broken Social Scene's Kevin Drew, Sebastien Gainger from the now-defunct DFA 1979 and local artist Buck 65. "I wanted to put Joel Plaskett on the album as well," says K-OS. "But he was recording his own stuff at the time."

But despite new friends making appearances on his album, K-OS says he "only wishes" they'd appear at his Oct. 21 show at Dal.

"Kevin Drew is on tour and Sam Roberts is recording," says K-OS. "But I talked to Buck 65 about it the other day. You never know with these guys. You can get a text message the day of the show and everything changes, but hopefully Buck will make it out."

Chris McCluskey, Dalhousie Student Union vice president (student life), booked the Dal show. He can't confirm if Buck 65 will make an ap-



pearance, but says Uncut will definitely open the show.

McCluskey says Dal students have always "been into" what K-OS is doing, and that's why the union booked the hip-hop artist again.

K-OS has a history of supporting smaller acts, says McCluskey, who has booked the Toronto native for both shows and speeches.

"He's a musician with a lot of substance and he has a lot of integrity," he says. "He has been really good to Halifax and Dal."

New album

K-OS says he chose the album's title because of the city's symbolic connection to water and because *Atlantis* was "an ancient, beautiful city," which is similar to how he sees his soul. He says the album reflects where he is in life right now.

"It's definitely loosened up and is more fun than my last album."

With songs like "The Rain" and "Sunday Morning," K-OS shed the manacles of mainstream hip hop to make independent and powerful music that deals with love, loss, family and personal and spiritual growth.

In the past, he says he wasn't sure whether people would appreciate the vulnerability expressed in his music. He also didn't know if fans of his old-school style would appreciate the depth of his new musical direction.

"I'm not too worried about making such vulnerable music," he says. "I didn't get in this to follow rules. If I wanted to follow rules, I would've become a teacher."

He says that now he focuses on making new material and removing any remnants of previous albums

from his music.

"It got to the point where I walked into a pizza place downtown and heard one of my songs playing, so I turned around and left," he says.

I like to protect myself.
I don't like doing
interviews, and if I do, I
always wear shades.

"Or if I heard a store playing my music, I would cross the street."

While K-OS was determined to produce fresh material, he says he felt the need to update one of his most recognizable songs. He re-

mixed *Joyful Rebellion's* "Crabucket" to create "Fly Paper," an upbeat, jazzy song featured on *Atlantis*.

Yet K-OS says he still finds faults in his music. "I already want to change the album," he says. "I'm always thinking about things I could've done differently."

New man

K-OS says he hasn't grown musically with each album — he's grown as a human.

But he still says he may not be the easiest person to be around. "My band puts up with a lot of my shit, and I love them for it. I've been hanging with these guys for a long time and I would not be able to do this without them."

K-OS emphasizes that collaborations with other musicians and the support of his house band keeps integrity and innovation in his music.

"You're only as good as the people around you," he says. "My mother used to say, 'Show me your company and I'll show you who you are.'"

The idea of friendship and family within his music has clearly stuck with K-OS, though he says that at one point in his career, he felt guilty for his success.

"I know now that I shouldn't feel guilty for having chose this as a career and having a good life," he says. "I now feel happy, not guilty, for being a successful musician. But I admit I've disrespected this in the past."

Gone is the sheltered prophet of Canadian hip hop who quietly answered questions from interviewers with blunt, one word answers. In his place, there is a man who says he's more comfortable with himself than he has ever been, both musically and spiritually.

He says he's looking toward the future.

"There are many more places I can go, and many more things I can do, as long as I surround myself and connect with other talented musicians and songwriters that I respect."

K-OS plays at the McInnes Room Saturday, Oct. 21. Tickets are \$26 in advance, available at the info desk in the SUB.

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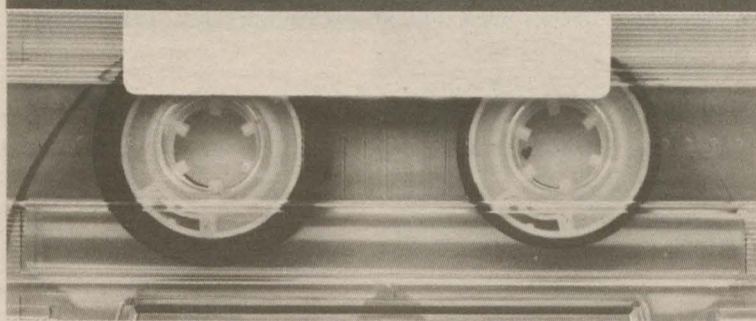
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Nov 8
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SUB, Room 302

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Inspiring Minds

Bum Baby Bum



Songs from the 1980's

SIDE A: Saman Jafarian / Arts Editor

Some people may say that two 1980's-themed Bum Baby Burns in two months is overkill. These people are wrong.

Here's one song per year from the most "totally excellent" decade ever. (Party on.)

Blondie – "Call Me"
 The Police – "Every Little Thing She Does is Magic"
 Michael Jackson – "Thriller"
 Sonic Youth – "Kill Yr Idols"
 U2 – "Pride (In the Name of Love)"
 New Order – "The Perfect Kiss"
 The Smiths – "Frankly Mr. Shankly"
 The Cure – "Just Like Heaven"
 The Pixies – "Cactus"
 Neneh Cherry – "Buffalo Stance"

SIDE B: Joey Ryba / Sports Editor

The Rock 'n' Roll Joey Ryba (RNRJR) CD is a compilation of rock 'n' roll-style 80's songs.

Baltimore – "Tarzan Boy"
 Wang Chung – "Dance Hall Days"
 ABC – "When Smokey Sings"
 The Box – "Closer Together"
 Fine Young Cannibals – "She Drives Me Crazy"
 Steve Winwood – "Valerie"
 Eurythmics – "Here's comes the rain again"
 Men without Hats – "Safety Dance"
 T'Pau – "Heart and Souls"
 INXS – "New Sensation"

Local Crop

Susan Zakaib / Arts Contributor



Hourglass Class

The members of Halifax band Hourglass Class feel their days as "pupils of music for life" are limited, leading to the group's name. The sound of Hourglass Class's first, self-titled recording is indicative of this existential, yet joyful, feeling.

Using mandolins, harps, violins, cellos, banjos and shakers on top of the usual rock band staples of guitars, basses and drums, the band sounds like a group of music students who decided to relax and have some fun.

The mood is occasionally sombre, but there's something about this record that makes it seem like this music would be best enjoyed

dancing around with friends in a small Nova Scotian bar.

Unfortunately, this is also a weakness of the album — the songs feel as if they would work better in a live setting. The vocals, too, sound like they would be better performed live and perhaps more integrated with the rest of the music.

That said, many albums fall prey to production that doesn't entirely suit the needs of the band's sound, especially when the finances aren't available.

One of the advantages to having a variety of instruments in a band is that a lot of noise can be made and a lot can be done with dynamics, which is not to suggest that this record should be louder. The potential variety within these songs doesn't come out in this recording.

This album is certainly worth a listen — the songs are fairly strong. If nothing else, *Hourglass Class* should encourage you to see the band live.

Yuk it up with Elias

Q&A with Joey Elias

BRITTANY CURRAN
 Staff Contributor
 SAMAN JAFARIAN
 Arts Editor

The Rebecca Cohn Auditorium is the seventh stop on Just for Laughs' 24-city circuit. Among the talent sure to shine is Montreal-born comedian Joey Elias, who will host the Atlantic coast shows.

In an interview with *The Gazette*, Elias revealed that there's more to being a comic than doing it just for laughs — you really have to love what you do.

Gazette: How did you decide that doing stand-up comedy could be a viable living?

Elias: I still don't know if it's a viable living. I did the stand-up thing the first time because I lost a bet and the manager of the club I was at said, 'Listen, come back next week.'

But at the same time I was doing other jobs.

I thought that I would give this a good run. I just hope it's not an elaborate dream and I wake up one morning and I'm late for Grade 10 math.

If anybody wants to do this, it's just patience. That term 'overnight success' is such a load of crap. The only overnight success is if you win the lottery and become a zillionaire and say, 'OK, I've been a struggling musician, but now I have \$3 million in the bank. I'm gonna produce my own CD and screw everybody who laughed.'

You're gonna play tiny, crappy bars, but you know what? They're fun.

Gazette: Is there a particular circuit that starting out comedians should do?

Elias: Amateur nights. If there are talent nights at university, or a bar with open mic, go down. Open mic at a bar doesn't mean you have to bring your guitar and bongos.

You gotta love it though. So many people go into it as, 'You know, I'm funny. My friends think I'm funny.' Don't do anything in life if you're gonna go half-assed.

If you think you're gonna get rich off it, good luck. Not now. [Canada]



Joey Elias still makes a living off of a dare.

is such a big country and the population doesn't have a star system like the U.S. or England, which is good and bad.

It's good because we can still maintain a private life, for the most part. Unless you're a politician hooking up with a hockey player.

I hope she reads this paper, Belinda. I find her very attractive. Let's get in on my little Liberal, cross the floor over to Elias.

Gazette: What do you think is the proper place for politics and social commentary in comedy?

Elias: There are guys who make a living off being a political comic like, in this country, Rick Mercer, who's brilliant at it.

I used to want to go into politics. I thought when I was young and stupid that I could make a difference.

I didn't realize that unless you like giving it to people in their rear end, there's no point in being a politician. Because that's all you do. When you pay taxes, you should walk into the Canada revenue office and just drop trow and say, 'Here's my cheque, just give it to me. I'm gonna take it like a man.' And then they fist you.

But you can talk about pretty much anything. Just don't be racist or stereotype and don't promote violence.

But that's the beautiful thing, if something really gets my goat, I'll

come out and say it.

I'm a big supporter of our troops overseas. Now, whether you support the fact that Canada has sent military to Afghanistan does not matter. They're there and we have to support them. They have come out and said to the government that they need more help. The government says, 'OK, here's a Tim Hortons.' That's asinine.

Gazette: What's it like being on tour?

Elias: With Just For Laughs, it's great. It's rock 'n' roll. And we never get to do rock 'n' roll. We do shows all the time, but it's not like, 'Hey, by the way, backstage there's catering.' The first [tour] was the best experience of my life for those five weeks. And then it was the worst month after that. I just went into depression.

When it ends, you realize the guys that you've just been in battle with are all going separate ways.

If anybody ever went to summer camp, that's what it is. You eat together, you're staying in the same hotel and that's your bunk. You wake up in the morning and you're like, 'OK road trip!'

I'm going crazy, I can't wait. And of course doing the PR tours, all you're doing is talking about the tour. It's like being on a diet and all you're talking about is burgers. It's self torture.

I'm very excited. This lineup's amazing.

Review: The Science of Sleep

LAURA TRETHERWEY
 Assistant Arts Editor

One could describe *The Science of Sleep* with a simplistic epitaph: *Amélie*, but with boys. This describes the basic plot: a spacey, creative man, Stéphane, has an obsessive crush on the girl of his dreams, Stéphanie. The film, luckily, is not so simple.

Michel Gondry, the wonderful tactician of such visually arresting music videos as the White Stripes's "Fell in Love with a Girl," is *The Science of Sleep*'s director and screenwriter. As Gondry is responsible for many of the most innovative music videos to date, it's difficult to depreciate the actual look of his latest feature film.

His familiar, motley world of oversized hands and sundry objects that move of their own volition continues to flourish in *The Science of Sleep*. The art design of Stéphane's dream sequences, in particular, shows Gondry's flair for the fantastic.

In fact, the dreams in the film are far more fascinating than ordinary ones: cardboard houses undulate in the watery background while



a typewriter grows feathered arms and types Stéphane's pseudo-love letters to Stéphanie.

The dream team of Gael García Bernal and Charlotte Gainsbourg play the potential lovers. Bernal is most known for his role as Ché Guevara in *The Motorcycle Diaries* and Gainsbourg for her famous parents, Serge Gainsbourg and Jane Birkin.

Although both actors are incredibly talented, neither surpasses the technical difficulties of Gondry's script. *The Science of Sleep* is Gondry's first encounter with screen-

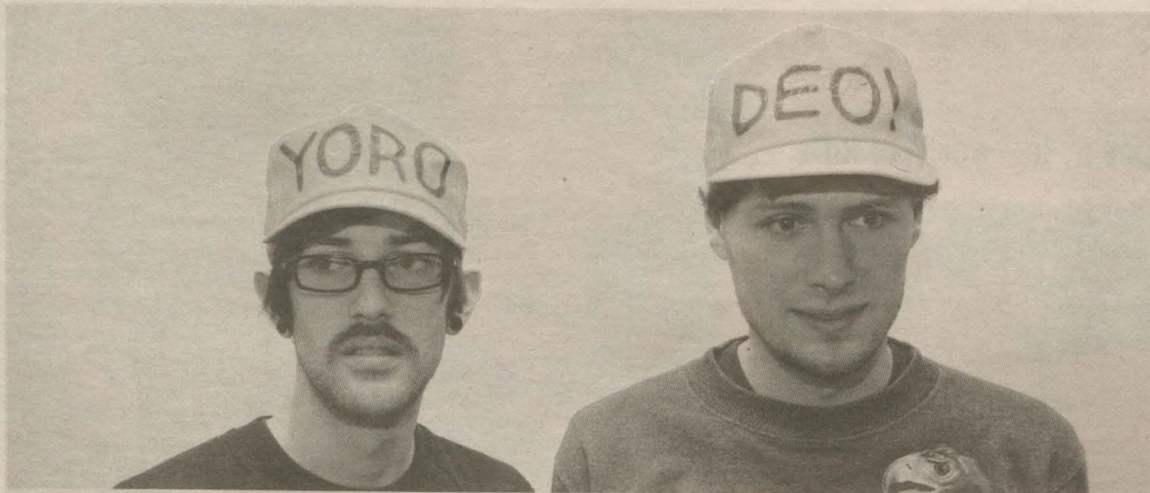
writing and it shows. The story never develops past Stéphane's confusion between reality and fantasy, not to mention the numerous plot holes and inexplicable events the viewer simply has to chalk up to the dreamy nature of the film.

The film feels like Gondry's personal dream journal, and only the fact that his dreams are especially interesting saves *The Science of Sleep*. Perhaps after a few more attempts at screenwriting, Gondry will deliver a film that can rival his astounding music video repertoire.

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The art, process and semantics of gig posters with Halifax's Yo Rodeo!

A Gig Poster Round Up

The creative duo behind Yo Rodeo! reflects with its retrospective exhibit.

SAMAN JAFARIAN
Arts Editor

Yo Rodeo!'s first official concert poster was for local musician Jon Epworth. Capturing the poster design company's sense of humour, the poster depicted members of the press interviewing an ass that was emerging from a cloud.

Yo Rodeo! is comprised of Halifax musicians Paul Hammond and Seth Smith, who were roommates when they started their business. At the time, Smith worked as a screen-printer for pub crawl T-shirts and Hammond studied printmaking at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. Both had experience creating posters for their bands and decided to combine their efforts.

"We both had the same love for punk rock, animal illustrations, distressed text and bad drawings and it was easy to collaborate," Smith wrote in an e-mail interview with The Gazette. "I don't remember how we decided on Yo Rodeo! but 'yo' was a big part of my vocabulary back then."

Since its inception, Yo Rodeo! has evolved from creating gig posters solely for Smith and Hammond's bands to designing album covers, T-shirts, screen prints and posters. A retrospective art show is currently on display at the eyelevelgallery in conjunction with this year's Halifax Pop Explosion.

Exhibiting old gig posters in an art gallery demands the question of just how artful a concert poster is —

naturally, the duo's answer is "very."

"Seth and I are basically print-makers/artists and we've focused our energies into gig posters and rock design," said Hammond via e-mail. "The fact that we handprint everything says something about it too. It's very process-based. It's totally art."

Gig posters, said Smith, have always been art, regardless of their location. "When we first started, before we could get shows in a gallery, a gig poster was an awesome way to show off your art to the public," he said.

The process of creating a poster suggests the same.

Occasionally the duo is approached by an artist who already has a design idea. But most of the time, said Smith, Yo Rodeo! is hired because of the creative ideas it comes up with.

Incorporating at least three elements in each poster — a pattern, a drawing and parts of already existing imagery — the duo builds upon a base idea until it gets a bit weird, a sign that the image is complete.

The design is then screen-printed by hand, which Hammond said is a time-consuming and labour-intensive process, but ultimately a necessary one. "You can actually see and feel the ink raised on the paper, it has a texture," he said. "Not every poster is exactly the same. You try to get them the same, but there's always a few little mistakes, and that sort of adds to the charm. They're all unique because of the process."

As with many forms of art, public reaction plays an important role in concert posters and their creation. Last year, a local band came under fire for using a well-known image by an artist from the 1960's, changing only its text.

"That's a touchy subject," said Hammond. "On one hand, I think re-appropriating imagery is a totally valid way to make art, and can result in some interesting results."

Smith agreed saying while Yo Rodeo! includes parts of drawings or typefaces from old books, that's far from taking an artist's work and putting a band name on it.

"If I see an interesting poster, I think, 'This band looks interesting. If they care this much about how they are represented visually, they must put the same care into their music,'" said Smith.

"I think a lot of people have grown to not notice posters unless they are somewhat provocative or creative."

The prevalence of band posters has decreased due to anti-postering bylaws in Halifax. "The shitty part is that they actually are enforcing it," said Hammond.

But Smith said he hasn't noticed any effect on Yo Rodeo!'s work. "I've heard of people having run-ins with the authorities," he says. "But it always seems to end up as a slap on the wrist."

Yo Rodeo!'s exhibit runs at the eyelevelgallery (2128 Gottingen St.) until Oct. 25th.

Report Card

THE SUNDAY NIGHT COMEDY SPECTACULAR

Ginger's Tavern/ Sunday, Oct. 15/ Reporter: Gordon Miller

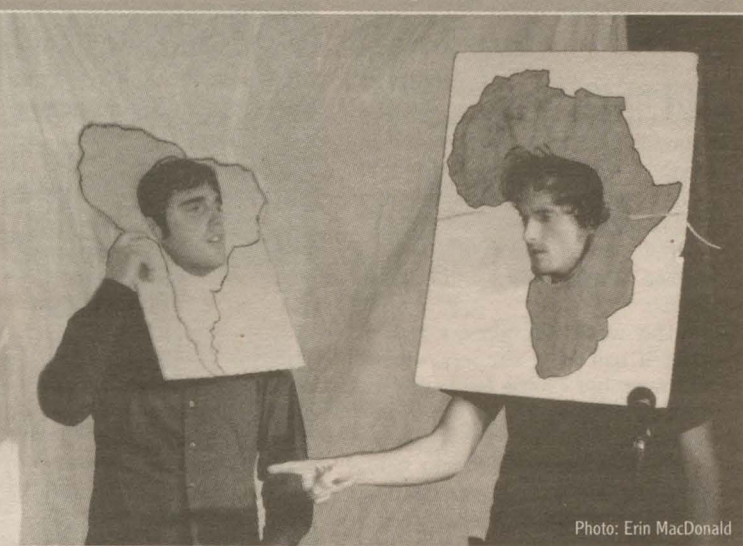


Photo: Erin MacDonald

Sketch/Stand-up: A-
Improv: A
Audience Reaction: A
Sights and Sound: B+
That Joy Joy Joy Joy down in your heart: A+

Regis Philbin ruined the word "spectacular." Somehow. He also hates rainbows.

This was the substance of my inner monologue before a comedy-a-vaganza erupted at Ginger's last Sunday.

By the intermission, most of the audience had shamelessly giggled its way through the 14-legged troupe's 11 sketches. The humour is a blend of quirk and cutesy-controversial comedy that is near impossible to paraphrase, but pure delight to watch.

Former *Streetscents* host Andrew Bush parodied himself while fellow comedian Mark Little did a stand-up set highlighted with World War II jokes (everyone's favourite). Kyle Dooley and Cheryl Han perfected

the smiling sexist, and somewhere in there was a charming lilt about Wyatt Earp and a catchy rap that might turn the word "monster" into the new "gangsta."

The strength of the first half of the show was its contrived chaos. The comedy troupe is so comfortable as a unit that the players figuratively wink at you as they let their sketches deftly self-destruct and collapse slickly into one another.

The infamous Picnicface, a duo comprised of Little and Dooley, with Bush for the night, started the latter portion of the show by asking the audience for a book suggestion.

From there, the trio set a nearly incomprehensible pace, with *Green Eggs and Ham* segueing into a hilarious cop scene.

A guy behind me who remarked, "They're alright, but they're no Chris Rock," certainly couldn't keep up. He should try. Trust me, and forgive me this: it's Regis-cide.

GEORGE W. BUSH

1946 - 2007

Death Of A President
In Theatres October 27

The Pita Pit

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Sex! Drugs! Marketing!

CHRIS SMITH discusses the art of photography

KATE ROBERTSON
Staff Contributor

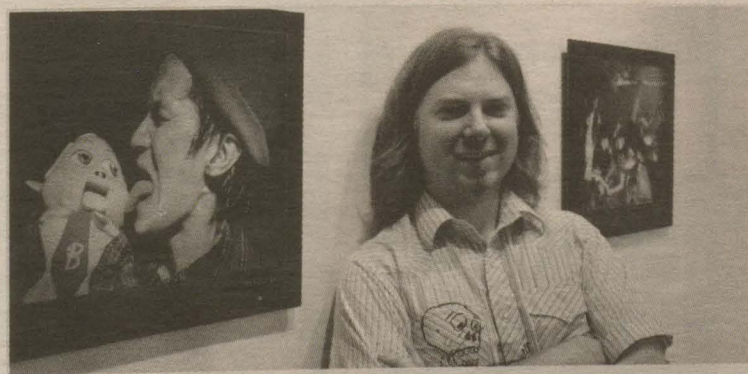
Local band photographer Chris Smith (a.k.a. CHRIS SMITH) is a busy guy. He runs Funkfactor, a graphic design company, and his photography exhibition *Sex, Drugs & Marketing* at the ViewPoint Gallery is part of the Halifax Pop Explosion. And he just returned from a photography show at the NEMO music festival in Boston three weeks ago.

"The show was right in the heart of downtown Cambridge, which really helped out," Smith says. "There were bands playing on every side of us, so we had a good flow of people coming in."

"It was definitely a party, and I have the photos to prove it."

Smith's photos, which include live performances and staged promotional shots of local and international bands, are an innovative and playful take on marketing and documenting music.

"I like photos to have a narrative," says Smith. "I like to take something that's actually relevant to the band, and put that in the photo." In one shot, for instance, St. John's rockers the Novaks are posed in a storefront window in a self-deprecating acknowledgement of the



Smithsonian advice: the power of a photo is in its story. / Photo: Hugh Switzer

necessity of marketing a band.

Smith considers himself more of an artist than anything else, but he also has a head for business. "When I wanted to do the show I purposely booked it during the Pop Explosion, knowing that I could probably tie it in, if not officially," he says.

While creating a show about marketing and advertising — art's so-called nemeses — may seem odd, Smith says photographs of music are one art form capturing another, and there's a lot of thought behind it.

"There's a big difference between pressing a button on a camera and knowing why you pressed the button," he says. "And in every form of art, I'm always drawn to the people

who have a purpose. If you ask them why they did it, they can tell you. I can certainly do that with the vast majority of the photos here."

Smith has been in the music business for nearly 15 years, doing everything from booking bands to radio broadcasting. Photography, he says, is another step in a long chain.

"I just enjoy it," he says. "There's no other reason why I do it. But it's cool, I think, that years down the road, I'll have this stuff. Maybe it's not that important today, but it will be in 20 years."

Sex, Drugs & Marketing shows at the ViewPoint Gallery, 2050 Gottingen St., until Oct. 29.

The Gazette likes you.

We especially like you if you enjoy to writing or taking pictures. Why don't you come and hang out with us every Monday at 5:30 in Room 312 in the SUB. You hopefully won't regret it.

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Sex with Hugh

New sex column in *The Gazette*... and slippery slopes in the world of lube

HUGH WALLACE
Sex Contributor

Much like the walk home from the Palace, *The Gazette's* sex column has been wandering aimlessly — and sometimes not at all — over the course of my three years at Dalhousie.

But I hope that's all going to change and I'll impress the pants off you.

This week, I'm taking a look at lube. It can be a slippery subject for some, but I hope to shed some light on the importance of this fine product.

There are many different kinds of lubricant (man, I love Wikipedia). Its use is pretty obvious. Varieties have different bases, ranging from oil and water to silicone, but all are designed for the same purpose — to reduce *ahem* friction.

Never use oil-based lubricants. Not only do they weaken latex in condoms, but they also can cause irritation, which no one wants to experience. Silicone-based lubes are also not to your advantage, as they damage the surface of most sex toys.

The biggest advantage to water-based lubes, according to AskMen.com, is that they're completely compatible with both latex and non-latex condoms. But when considering a nice romp in the shower or hot tub, don't rely on water-based lube because it will disperse.

Variations of lube have been developed to suit any fancy. There's flavoured lube, heating lube, cooling lube, even crackling lube, which comes highly recommended. The use of these kinds of lube can stimulate more than your genitals. But many people have poor reactions to heating lube. So, if you're a sensitive-skinned excitement enthusiast



Hugh Wallace encourages the slickest guys and gals to use lube. / Photo: John Packman

like me, stick with regular unscented, unflavoured lube — this can be equally thrilling.

Lube can add spice to your love life, or reinvent it entirely. Bring it into the bedroom. Have your partner apply it for you or vice versa, and don't be embarrassed — confidence is totally sexy. Be inventive. Lube can also help out those hopeless partners that don't understand the importance of foreplay.

The best thing about lube is that it can be used by any gender and any sexual orientation. Lube is non-discriminating. So students of Dalhousie, rush to your local drug-store or sex store, grab a bottle of wholesome water-based lube, slip and slide, and forget the spit.

Sex with Hugh will appear each week in The Gazette. Comments or questions? E-mail sex@dalgazette.ca



Expect crowds to fawn at Stage Nine on Saturday.

Raising the Fawn... together

BRITTANY CURRAN
Staff Contributor

its various touring partners.

Raising the Fawn's name derives from the classic film *Green Mansions*, in which Audrey Hepburn's character raises a baby deer.

The band, which will play the Halifax Pop Explosion, consists of John Crossingham on lead vocals and guitar, Scott Remila on vocals and bass, and Dylan Green on drums. Remila says Raising the Fawn is excited to come back out East and promote its most recent album, *The Maginot Line*.

Crossingham is the principal lyricist, but writing and composing the music is definitely a team effort, says Remila.

The band has eclectic musical tastes. "Everything from Tchaikovsky to Public Enemy, it's really all wrapped up in there."

As a bassist, Remila names musicians such as Chris Murphy, Paul McCartney and Rheostatics' Tim Vessely as personal influences.

Over the last few years, Raising the Fawn has toured with the Stills, In-Flight Safety and Broken Social Scene, which Crossingham plays guitar in. Remila says he's happy the band has remained friends with all

Even after playing many memorable venues, such as the Troubadour in Los Angeles, Remila says he still gets stage fright. "It goes from show to show," he says. "Some shows I get pretty nervous and some shows I don't get nervous at all."

But without butterflies in his stomach, Remila says he might become bored and uninspired.

This past summer was slower than most since Crossingham toured with Broken Social Scene. Remila says a break was necessary for the band. "We took that time to kind of rejuvenate," he says. "It's good to have that extra project or downtime you can spend time with your family or just read or take it easy."

For now, however, promoting its newest CD feels right for Raising the Fawn. "We feel so good about the record because we really worked at it and picked apart every part until we were 100 per cent satisfied."

The band is working on new songs, which it hopes to record in December.

Raising the Fawn plays with Golden Dogs & Establishment Saturday, Oct. 21 @ Stage Nine. Show starts 10 p.m., tickets are \$8.

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Review: DJ Olympics

Saturday, Oct. 15 @ The Marquee / Megan Powell / Staff Contributor

The night began with DJs from the drum & bass/jungle category warming up the tables and psyching up the crowd. Mathias Trouble (Mat Claridge) dexterously eradicated others in his division, raising the bar out of reach. 420Jenny (Jen Carmichael) chose sick tracks, but couldn't keep up with Mathias' undefeatable tactics.

Second-time winner Logan Hudak once again taught the 4/4 (techno, house, breaks, trance) class a lesson, though DJ DVD (Steve Mackenzie) was close on his

heels. Ghettosocks (Darren Poyer) and Quake (Matt Arab) ended up at each other's throat, as usual. Many of Quake's punch-lines made little sense, which was no match for Ghettosocks, the king of metaphors and remarkable rhyming schemes.

Y-Rush (Kevin Bryden) received the most enthusiastic crowd reaction of the evening, repeating his victory from last year with a fresh new set. Despite sound problems for the hip-hop DJ category, the night was extravagant.

Double take Competitive eating

LI DONG
Opinions Editor
JEN BOND
Staff Contributor

If you look through your standard online dictionaries, most of them will loosely define "sport" as physical activity that is engaged in competitively and governed by a set of rules.

Competitive eating embodies all of the elements necessary to make it a legitimate sport, one that is growing in popularity and is practiced worldwide.

Like other sports, there are several athletes who are definitively the best in the world. Japan's Takeru Kobayashi has set several world records for eating lobster rolls, dumplings, cow brains, etc., and has dominated Nathan's Famous Hotdog Eating Competition, held annually in Brooklyn, for six years straight.

As a matter of fact, Kobayashi's most notable loss occurred when he went toe-to-toe with a bear. In 2003, the gentle Kodiak beast slaughtered Kobayashi — not literally — by eating 50 bun-less hotdogs in just over two-and-a-half minutes to the human's 31. Despite losing to the bear, Kobayashi is still viewed as the top eater on earth, though he weighs in at only 165 pounds.

Training regimens are also prevalent in competitive eating. Despite popular belief, it's actually more advantageous to be skinny in eating contests — a ring of fat surrounds the stomach in obese people and prevents the stomach from expanding as much as it could. To ward off this hindrance, Korean-born eater Sonya Thomas walks on a Stairmaster for at least two hours per day to keep her 105-pound frame fatless.

There is also plenty of strategy in these contests. Kobayashi baffled the world when, during the Nathan's competition, he split the wiener in half, swallowed both halves whole, then dipped his bread in water and swallowed that. While Kobayashi refers to this as the "Solomon" method, other eaters have dubbed it "Asian-style" for its revolutionary unorthodoxy.

Finally, what sport would be complete without nicknames? With monikers like "the Tsunami" and "the Black Widow," it's clear that competitive eating has a passionate and loyal fan base that is here to stay.

— Li Dong

There are few things that exemplify the Western ideals of greed, consumption and excess more than competitive eating.

Now, I'm not talking about the odd watermelon-eating contest at the local fall fair. The competitive eating that I take umbrage with is the type that's gaining widespread popularity in places like the U.S., the U.K. and Japan — the "sanctioned" type that involves sponsored, orchestrated events with contenders who have trained to compete.

These events are the equivalent of a modern day freak show, with 105-pound women eating 10 pounds of baked beans in under three minutes. Add some Siamese twins and P.T. Barnum himself would come back from the grave to be the promoter.

There are rankings, rivalries and huge cash prizes, all in the name of gorging oneself. Kilos and kilos of food are wasted so that these competitors can revel in a title that means nothing to the outside world. Meanwhile, according to the Food Research and Action Centre, over 12 million households in the U.S. are food-insecure and over 25 million individuals participate in the federal food stamp program.

A quick look at the International Federation of Competitive Eating (IFOCE) website shows the last event was a hamburger-eating contest in Tennessee. The event's fast-food sponsor put up \$30,000 for top prize, which eventually went to a man who ate 53 hamburgers, presumably in some ridiculous amount of time.

Imagine how much could be done if, instead of spending money on competitive eating events, these corporate sponsors donated all those funds to school breakfast programs or those that aid low-income families? I would wager that the \$30,000 prize alone would go quite far to help those in need.

The disparity between the rich and poor, between excess and extreme need, isn't decreasing, and competitive eating is a shining example of this. Not everything that's difficult to do needs to be dubbed a sport, and most certainly not something that's ultimately an insult to all those that have to go without.

— Jen Bond



Kim Carcary will be one of the returnees helping to keep Dal ranked in the CIS top 10. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Bench bosses rank Dal in top 10

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Assistant Sports Editor

The Dalhousie women's hockey team has a spot to call its own in the season-opening Canadian Inter-university Sport (CIS) top 10 coaches' poll as the team's stellar performance last year put the long-forgotten Tigers back on the radar.

"It's a great place to start the season and I just hope we can keep moving up from there," says head coach Lesley Jordan.

The poll is a weekly anonymous vote by coaches of CIS teams across Canada who take a variety of things into account, from statistics to overall improvement and play. Dal ranked in the number 10 spot in the first week of October, moving up to ninth last week.

Jordan says the team's breakthrough performance last season, which included a monumental pre-season win over favourite Concordia, put Dal in the rankings.

With 12 rookies, the team has a unique roster this year, but Jordan says she's confident the young team has what it takes to keep its place in the top 10.

"Adding this many rookies to the team was a surprise for us all," says Jordan. "But they are all impressive players with a lot to offer. Things are flowing really well on the ice and I am excited to see how the year progresses."

The Tigers kicked off the season with two exhibition matches against Saint Mary's Huskies. The girls didn't walk away with a win in either match, and Jordan says while it would have been nice to win the first home game, the results are far from indicative of how the Tigers will fare in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) conference.

With the season starting Oct. 21, Jordan says it's difficult to know what teams in the AUS will be the ones to beat.

"Saint Mary's is definitely look-

ing the best on paper," says Jordan. "But every team in the AUS is getting stronger and stronger... it's way too early to tell."

While Dal isn't off to the best start, the beauty of exhibition games is the opportunity they provide to iron out kinks and early season jitters before a loss counts in the standings.

The CIS championship moves to Ottawa this year, which poses another challenge for the Tigers, because only one Atlantic team can attend when the competition is outside the region. Last year, Dal was runner-up in the conference, but still attended the finals at St. EX.

"We will just have to work harder and gradually work on improving our rankings in the CIS and move up the poll," says Jordan.

The Tigers host UNB on Saturday, Oct. 21 @ 3 p.m. and UdeM on Sunday, Oct. 22 @ 2 p.m. Admission is free with Dal ID.

Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE



KATIE HOLLINSHEAD
SOCCER

For the second time this season, Katie Hollinshead's determination and leadership has helped the Tigers. On Oct. 14, the team captain was the driving force behind the Tigers' domination of the UPEI Panthers. But, despite playing most of the game in UPEI's end, the Panthers managed to squeak out a 1-0 win over Dal. On Oct. 15, Hollinshead scored a goal that helped the Tigers earn a 1-1 road tie versus the X-Women in Antigonish, N.S. Hollinshead is a fourth-year science student from Calgary, Alta.



MALE ATHLETE



CHAD McCAFFREY
HOCKEY

The Tigers men's hockey team opened up its regular season at home with Chad McCaffrey leading the way. Despite a 6-3 loss at the season opener Oct. 13, McCaffrey put two goals between the posts and helped keep the Tigers in the game. The veteran forward displayed a high standard of play, lighting the lamp twice more on Oct. 14 to lead the Tigers to a 7-5 win over the UPEI Panthers. McCaffrey is a second-year management student from Kitchener, Ont.



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Dalendar

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

Thursday, Oct. 19

Scrabble Night

9 p.m. @ The Gradhouse
The Dalhousie Undergraduate English Society is hosting their second Scrabble Night this week. Bring your own board (if possible). You do not have to be a member of the English society, or an English major, to come.
Free

Canada-France Relations: Common History, Shared Future

10 a.m. @ Lord Dalhousie Room
Featuring speaker, Ambassador Claude Laverdue, presented by the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies
Free

Friday, Oct. 20

Noontime concert with Shad K

12 p.m. @ The Grawood
Shad K will be performing a noontime showcase, followed by a speaking engagement on the impact the Rwandan genocide had on his family and how it has influenced his art. Part of Fall Fest '06.
Free

Written Word Coming to Life, Donna Morrissey special reading

1:30 p.m. @ Killam Library University Archives & Special Collections Reading Room
Winner of the 2005 "Canada Reads" contest this Halifax-based writer will be giving a special reading.
Free

Subway Centennial Women's Basketball Tournament

Ongoing action @ Dalplex
Free with Dal ID

CSPWC Atlantic Associates' Juried Watercolour Show

7 p.m. @ Nova Scotias Public Archives
Watercolours galore!
Free

The Bears

10 p.m. @ The Gradhouse
Fundraiser for the Dalhousie German Society, come out and support Deutsch.
\$5

Friday Film Screening

5 p.m. @ The Grawood
This week's film: *A Scanner Darkly*.
Part of Fall Fest '06.
Free

Sherriff Hall presents, Party for the Cure

9 p.m. @ The Grawood
A benefit event for Breast Cancer Research.
Price TBA

Saturday, Oct. 21

Subway Centennial Women's Basketball Tournament

Ongoing action @ Dalplex
Free with Dal ID

Women's soccer, Dal vs Mt. A.

1 p.m. @ Wickwire Field
Free with Dal ID

Men's soccer, Dal vs Mt. A.

3 p.m. @ Wickwire Field
Free with Dal ID

Women's hockey, Dal vs UNB

3 p.m. @ Dal Arena
Free with Dal ID

Men's hockey, Dal vs SMU

7 p.m. @ Dal Arena
Free with Dal ID

K-OS

8 p.m. @ The McInnes Room
Tickets on sale at the SUB info desk
Part of Fall Fest '06.
\$26

Midnight Movie Fundraiser

12 p.m. @ The Oxford Theatre
Showing: *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, all proceeds go to the local chapter of the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada.
\$5

Sunday, Oct. 22

Shameless: The Art of Disability

1 p.m. @ Room 303, Dalhousie SUB
A film about art, activism, and disability, with guest speaker Catherine Frazee.
Free

Women's hockey, Dal vs UdeM

2 p.m. @ Dal Arena
Free with Dal ID

Subway Centennial Women's Basketball Tournament

Ongoing action @ Dalplex
Free with Dal ID

Sunday Night Comedy

8 p.m. @ Ginger's Tavern
Halifax's best weekly comedy show, featuring sketch, stand-up and improv.
\$4

Wednesday, Oct. 25

NSPIRG Volunteer-In

7 p.m. @ Room 314, Dal SUB
The purpose of this meeting is to provide a forum for NSPIRG volunteers, working group members, staff and boardmembers to vocalize their needs and have the campaigns, projects and working group initiatives of NSPIRG be more concerted.
Free

Thursday, Oct. 26

King's College to host Trust in Science Lecture Series

7:30 p.m. @ University of King's College Alumni Hall
The first lecture, titled "Setting the Scene: From Magician to Miracle Worker," featuring Dr. Steven Shapin and Professor Franklin L. Ford (Harvard).
Free

DASS/DSS Annual Ball

7 p.m. @ The MacInnes Room
This is a wet/dry formal event. Featuring a dinner and a live performance by The Eddie Fisher Band. Tickets available in Room 314, Dal SUB.
\$20

Classifieds

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AT HOME THIS WEEKEND



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	DAL VS. MCGILL	7:00 PM
SATURDAY	UPEI VS. MT. ROYAL	3:00 PM
	CBU VS. MCGILL	5:00 PM
	DAL VS. BISHOP'S	7:00 PM
SUNDAY	MT. ROYAL VS. MCGILL	9:00 AM
	CBU VS. BISHOP'S	11:00 AM
	DAL VS. UPEI	1:00 PM

OCT 21	SOC VS. MIA	1 & 3:00 PM
	WHOC VS. UNB	3:00 PM
	MHOC VS. SMU	7:00 PM
OCT 22	WHOC VS. UdeM	2:00 PM

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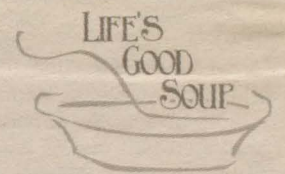
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