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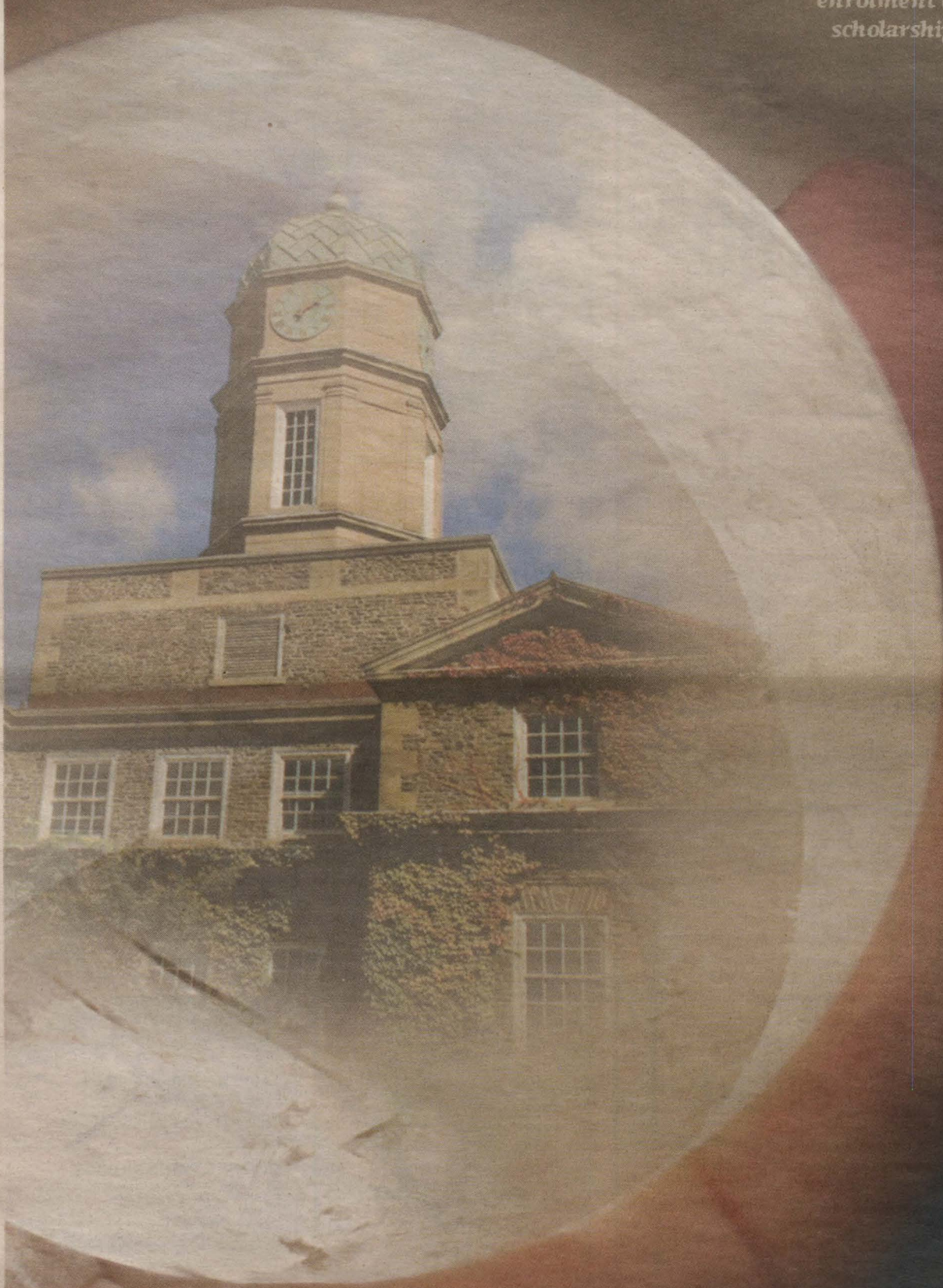
141-11 / Nov. 13, 2008

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE

What will Dal's future hold?

As more students choose Dal after steady enrolment decline, funds drop in the market crash and scholarships may dip, university leaders map out visions for a new master plan. P. 4



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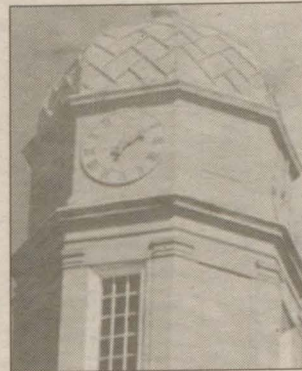
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THE FINE PRINT

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

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

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year. Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. 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.

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The plan to end all plans

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What is the future of Dalhousie University? Where will this institution be in the next five or 10 years? Structurally, the university may not look the same. Currently the university administration is embarking on the Dal Master Plan, a project in which consultants are busy developing plans for a newer, brighter campus.

In the future, the Grad House will be demolished and replaced by a structure that will not appease students. The Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS) is unclear on how to save the Grad House. At this point, attempts to save the structure are almost too little, too late. The university clearly wants to get rid of the cafe and replace it with a shiny, soulless structure. The main argument to get rid of the Grad House is cost. According to university figures from 2006, it would take up to \$400,000 to renovate the building, the same cost as putting up a new building. If students would rather keep the Grad House, then why not spend the

money to renovate it? Give students what they want, especially since the building is intended for student usage. Maybe last year's campus make-over plan will be resurrected but for now I see no hope for the building.

In the future, Dalhousie will still have its small, outdated, disgusting facilities for recreational use. The Dalplex should have gone through a complete overhaul 10 years ago. I wonder how Dal successfully recruits talented athletes considering the poor condition of the university's athletic facilities. I wish university administration would recognize the need for new recreational facilities by putting money into athletics. Students, faculty, alumni, staff and other community members use the Dalplex daily for recreational use. Ironically, Dal recently announced its bid to host the 2010-2011 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) national hockey championships. How can a school with sub-par facilities bid for a high-profile sporting event? If Dal is truly committed to sports, the master plan would include drawings of a new sporting complex.

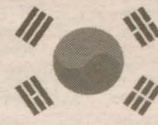
In the future, Dal will have less green space on campus to make way for new buildings. After a dip in enrolment for the past few years, Dal has more students on campus. New students means more faculty and staff are needed. This means new buildings for facilities and student groups. Residence spots will be tough to grab with the sale of Fenwick. Dal can't afford to lose the thousands of residence rooms and apartments in Fenwick and most likely will either buy a new building or build their own as a new residence. With little room to move beyond existing borders, Dal will have to build on existing free land or demolish old buildings. Where does this leave ideas for green space on campus? I don't expect any additional urban gardens or fields to open up on campus anytime soon. Instead, we'll get more construction and destruction of old buildings.

Despite my pessimistic views of the master plan process, I look forward to the public forum process of re-designing Dal. I hope this master plan will have some good ideas.

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Market crash may cut Dal scholarships

RUTH MESTECHKIN
NEWS EDITOR

Dalhousie may not have as much cash to dole out for scholarships in a few years' time, thanks to the global financial crisis.

The economic meltdown is striking university endowments, which are financial donations to institutions invested in the market. Many schools, like Dal, use the money primarily for scholarships. But if the market suffers, the investment value of the endowment fund drops.

Dalhousie's vice president (finance and administration) says the university's endowments aren't what they used to be.

"It's down, there's no question about it," says Ken Burt. "I suspect that we're down in the 15 per cent range at the moment."

As of last December, Dal had the ninth largest endowment fund of Canadian universities with \$349.5 million, according to *The Globe and Mail*. Burt says in August Dal's to-

tal endowment was valued at \$341 million. In September, the figure dropped to \$315 million. For this year, the university's endowment fund was budgeted at \$18.4 million, with roughly \$8 million going toward student assistance and around \$6 million to endowed chairs, positions paid for with endowment money.

Burt doesn't anticipate any changes to scholarships this year because Dal calculates the total endowment average for July, August and September to determine the trading range the spending must fall between. This year, the endowment spending falls between the range of \$12.4 million to \$19 million, so he says current market activity won't hurt the fund.

But if the stock market exchange continues to crumble, there could be trouble in the 2010-11 budget year.

"That's the year when we're going to have to look at the budget a little closer," says Burt. "It just reduces the amount of money that's available for scholarships and those sorts of things."

The association of Atlantic Universities executive director, Peter Halpin, says universities aren't immune to the crisis.

Halpin was in Ottawa a few weeks ago at the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada annual fall meeting. He says although the financial meltdown issue wasn't penciled into the formal program, it was clearly a concern at the meeting.

"There was a lot of hallway discussion about the impact of the economy on university finances," he says. "Presidents are talking about it because it does have an impact, not just on endowments but on university pension plans as well."

Halpin explains each university will be affected and each will cope differently because universities are independent of each other and some have larger endowments than others. He says he's certain they'll be strategizing with their boards to discuss the impact of the world economy on finances and future paths to take.

Some schools such as the Nova

Scotia College of Art and Design (NSCAD) are already seeing the dip.

Peter Flemming, NSCAD vice-president (finance and administration), says the school's scholarships have been sliced in half — from \$100,000 last year to \$50,000 this year.

"The market value of securities has of course dropped in the last year or so because of the economic crisis, so it makes it difficult for us to maintain the scholarship level we had before," he explains. "We'll have to decrease the amount of scholarships because the fund won't have as much money to give out."

Flemming says NSCAD's fund, currently worth \$2 million, has decreased by roughly less than 10 per cent. He says although the dive in funds won't affect university operations, students won't be receiving as much in scholarship money.

"There's nothing we can do about it," says Flemming. "We have no other resources we can put into it. Our board of governors is looking

at maybe making some donations to help out, but there's nothing firm in place right now."

Kaley Kennedy, the N.S. representative for national lobby group the Canadian Federation of Students, has a different take on the state of scholarships, says she doesn't think it's correct to blame the current economic crisis for endowment woes. She says the government's at fault for not funding more needs-based grants.

"The reason why universities rely on endowment funds is because they're not adequately funded by the government," she says.

Kennedy says it's the government's duty to provide essential public services — such as education and healthcare — to people.

"If the government were to guarantee those things for all people," says Kennedy, "when there was an impending financial crisis there would be those services and that social safety net to ensure that people were not shut out of the system."



Men working behind the Killam Library on Oct. 10

JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE



Men working next to the Killam on Oct. 10.

JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal enrolments surge

KRISTINA MARTIN
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

For the first time in three years, Dalhousie's enrolment has gone up.

Presently, Dal has a total of 13,139 full-time students: 10,336 undergraduate and 2,803 graduate students. There are 92 more full-time undergraduate and graduate students than in 2007 — a 0.7 per cent increase.

Of these, 82 more undergraduate students are enrolled this year at Dal compared to last year, according to the Association of Atlantic Universities (AAU) 2008-2009 Preliminary Survey of Enrolments released on Oct. 14.

Dal spokesperson Charles Crosby says these numbers came as a surprise.

"With last year as (one of) the largest graduating years at Dal, we were looking at the possibility of lower enrolment," he says.

Crosby says Ontario's June 2003 double-cohort year — when Grade 12 and OAC students graduated at the same time — saw a surplus of students. Now, those students have come and gone.

"First-year (students) are important because schools are still dealing with the aftermath of the double-cohort," says Crosby.

He suggests the increase in first-year undergraduate enrolment could be a result of the Dal recruitment team's re-designed outreach program.

To help attract more first-year students, Dal's recruitment team is travelling worldwide and moving away from traditional print promotion methods, such as pamphlets, in high schools. Instead, the team launched Dal's "Discover the Unexpected" campaign, placing the ads in areas where younger students spend their leisure time, like movie theatres and ski hills. Dal is also seeing an increase of students from overseas.

Such a diverse student body is unique to Dal, explains Crosby.

"Other schools in the region tend to rely on students from within Nova Scotia," he explains.

About half of Dal students come from outside Nova Scotia, most from Ontario, along with pockets of students from the Prairies and British Columbia, says Crosby.

Brittany Tozer has lived in Howe Hall for two years. She has seen a noticeable increase in student occupancy.

"Last year I could go to the cafeteria at certain times and know it wouldn't be busy," she says. "Every time I go now there's a line-up and people bumping each other's trays. I'm scared I'll spill my food," she says.

Although residences may be a little more crowded, Verity Turpin, Associate Director of Marketing and Conferences at Dal says students don't have to worry about it.

"Our residence occupancy has not been an issue for the last several years, meaning our inventory meets the current demand for students," she says.

Crosby says if the numbers of enrolment keep rising, the university will address the issue in the future. For now, space is OK, he says, and selling Fenwick will be an opportunity to bring students closer to Dal's main campus.

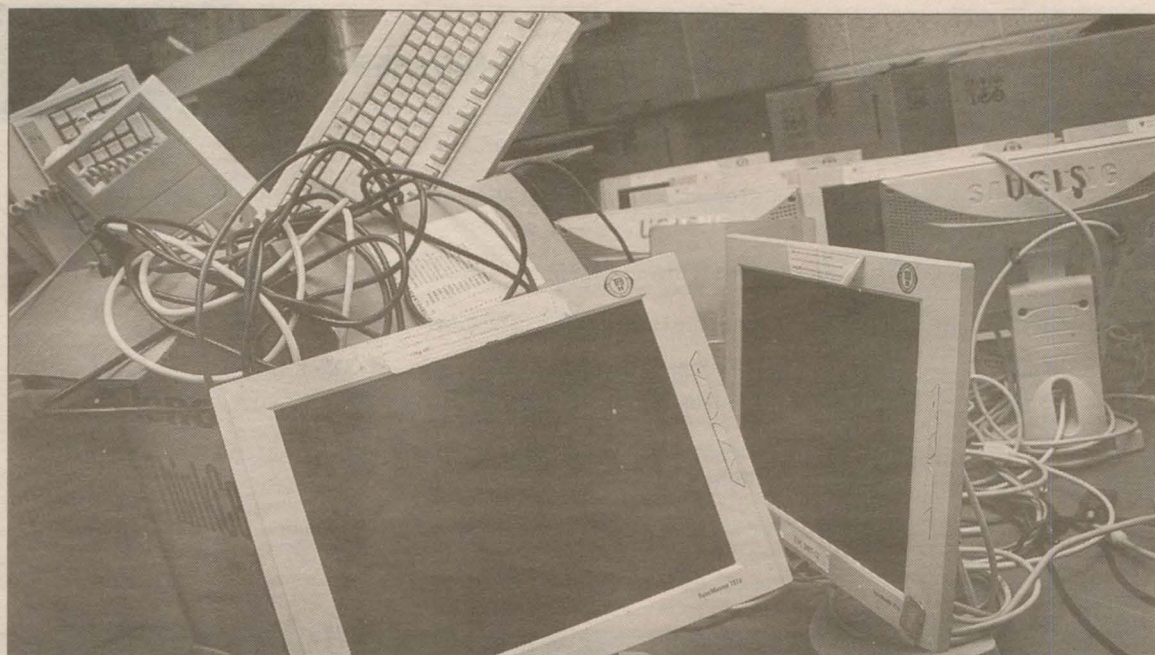
According to the AAU 2008 enrolment survey, Dal places second to Memorial University, which has the largest full-time student enrolment in Nova Scotia, at 14,295 full-time students.

Dal's neighbour, Saint Mary's University saw 249 fewer full-time students enrol this year, with a total enrolment of 6,233.

Out of the province's 13 post-secondary institutions, Dal is one of the six schools whose enrolment increased.

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PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal's e-recycling program is one of the university's sustainability projects.

E-recycling comes to Dal

DAVID REID
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie recently began an electronic waste recycling program to ensure unwanted electronics no longer end up in the landfill.

Under the program, which started Oct. 20, electronic equipment such as laptops, televisions and computers are collected, wiped of data and transported to a provincial e-waste recycling depot. Once there, the waste is sorted and broken down for recycling into new electronic equipment.

Rochelle Owen, director of Dal's sustainability office, explains the program is part of an effort to stop wasteful practices on campus.

"It's important for us to get our own house in order," says Owen.

Owen says the program makes sense because Dal already has an extensive six-stream recycling program including corrugated cardboard and batteries, and the provincial e-waste program provides an opportunity to see more recycling on campus. The program is free for students and costs the university a small amount, covering only the price of removing the data and transporting it to the depot.

Students and faculty can fill out an electronics recycling form on the Facilities Management website to arrange pickup from a designated collection point. Dal plans to extend the program to include equipment such as cell phones, scanners and tele-

phons next year.

Dal's program takes advantage of a province-wide e-waste recycling plan started in February, which accepts end-of-life electronics for free at a number of drop-off points across Nova Scotia. Consumers pay for the provincial program through an environment handling fee, applied to the sale of new electronics since Feb. 1. The fee ranges from \$5 for a laptop computer to \$45 for a 46-inch TV.

The recycling program is meant for electronics that are too old or worn out to be functional. Owen says 96 to 99 per cent of waste can be recycled into new equipment. The process prevents toxic materials and metals from contaminating the environment.

Several Dal departments, including Computing Services, which purges data from the machines, and Facility Services Management, which handles the pickup of waste and delivers it to the depots, helped the sustainability office organize the program.

Dal student Kristyn Macmillan was not aware of the program, but she says she's impressed by the idea.

"That's actually pretty cool," she says. "It's a good idea."

She says the fee charged to consumers is low enough to make the program worthwhile.

"I can't see why it would be a problem," she says.

That's the attitude of most stu-

dents, says Personal Computer Purchase Centre employee Ryan Murphy. They're not aware of the provincial program, but they don't mind paying the laptop disposal fee.

"If they're spending thousands of dollars on a computer, \$5 will not break the bank," he says.

In spite of its benefits, Owen cautions the program is not an ideal solution for the problem of electronic waste. The manufacturer of electronic goods requires large amounts of energy and involves toxic chemicals which are harmful to the environment. Technological advances and mass production have also made electronics increasingly affordable. The pace of technological change also means some equipment rapidly becomes obsolete - before the machine has actually reached the end of its life.

While recycling reduces the amount of waste entering the environment, the recycling process is complicated and consumes energy.

"Reduction is still the first goal of any waste reduction strategy," says Owen, adding the program will prevent the non-functional electronics we do use from entering landfills.

She urges consumers to buy more durable, efficient products and use them longer. She says unwanted but still usable equipment should be donated to friends or to charity, rather than recycled.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The N.S. public interest research group now has access to its \$5,000 of student levies.

NSPIRG gets ratified

ANDREW ROBINSON
DSU REPORTER

After months of negotiation and discussion, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has approved the ratification of the Nova Scotia Public Interest Group (NSPIRG).

The DSU's society review committee, which handles all applications for ratification, made the ratification official after its meeting on Nov. 7. NSPIRG will now be able to access \$5,000 in student levies owed to the group since last summer. Levies from the fall semester will be collected later this month, totaling approximately \$25,000. The funds will settle debts of approximately \$16,000 that have accumulated with the DSU since last winter.

NSPIRG campaigns coordinator Asaf Rashid is pleased his organization can move on from this process.

"On one hand we're really relieved that we don't have to put so much time into trying to deal with this. At the same time, all the time we did put into it, we can't forget that. That's time taken out of our actual organizing," he says, adding they have not been able to properly invest their time in campaigns, research and other work typically undertaken by the group relating to social and environmental justice matters.

Ratification has been delayed because of changes the DSU required to NSPIRG's constitution. The most contentious amendment was for community members serving on NSPIRG's board of directors to lose their voting privileges. The original referendum question from 1990 that led to the formation of NSPIRG called for "the establishment of a Public Interest Research Group at Dalhousie University (Dal-PIRG), which will operate as a student-run" organization.

Under the DSU's interpretation, letting community members have a vote in NSPIRG's decision-making process was a violation of the original referendum question. NSPIRG disagreed and came close in early October to asking the DSU that students vote on a new referendum question. It eventually decided against this option to avoid taking time away from the work NSPIRG is supposed to do and instead worked with the DSU's NSPIRG committee to create amendments to its constitution.

NSPIRG held its annual general meeting Nov. 4, where members voted on the proposed changes. Rashid says several Dal students opposed the changes to the constitution that affect community members serving on the board, but the amendment was passed. He sympathizes with their resistance to the change and would prefer community members retain their voting privileges on the NSPIRG board.

"They're there to add input. They're there to do everything except fully participate in the decision making. So they're kind of subservient in some ways," he says.

One bylaw dealing with NSPIRG's

desire to have at least six members of its board come from marginalized groups - including women, aboriginal, racially visible and disabled people - is still under consultation with the Nova Scotia Human Rights Commission and the DSU's lawyers.

NSPIRG's Angela Day said at the Nov. 5 meeting that this constitutional amendment falls firmly in line with the group's mandate.

"The NSPIRG recognizes discrimination in society. Therefore we have clauses in our constitution to help ensure that there is a diverse representation of voices on our board of directors, ie. not just white men," she said.

DSU vice-president (internal) Daniel Boyle says the DSU had to make changes to get NSPIRG in line with society policy. At the same time, Boyle says it was important for the DSU to recognize society policy has to serve the needs of groups like NSPIRG.

"Society policy has to work for our societies and if it doesn't then we need to find a way - as we have here - to fit it in somehow. Referendum mandated societies are in a unique position where they have a direct mandate from students, so we can't pigeonhole them. We have to allow for exemptions to the rules," says Boyle. Thus community members - while they have lost voting privileges - can remain on NSPIRG's board.

The NSPIRG constitution became a hot button issue for DSU in recent weeks. The two council meetings in October were largely devoted to the dilemma and sometimes played host to heated discussion coming from both council and representatives of NSPIRG.

"It did take a lot of time from council business, but this issue has taken a lot of time from all parties involved, from my office to NSPIRG's. It needed a resolution, so it's important council realize that and I think they got to see how big of an issue this was over the last couple of meetings. I don't think anything has been as time consuming in meetings in recent memory," says Boyle.

Council voted unanimously - with two abstentions - to approve the amendments to NSPIRG's constitution at their Nov. 5 meeting.

"There was no opposition, so that's a good conclusion to a very long story," says Boyle.

Isaac Saney was a student at Dal when NSPIRG was formed in 1990 and addressed council on the community members issue several times during its Oct. 22 meeting. He says putting limits on the involvement of community members with NSPIRG is detrimental to the group's founding principles.

"(NSPIRG) was formed as providing an interface between the university community and the broader community, particularly on issues of social justice and historical disadvantage," he says. "I think this defeats the purpose of having Dalhousie as part of the broader community. Dalhousie doesn't exist in a vacuum or in a cocoon."

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NEWS BITES

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

Queen's makes unionizing tough for staff

Some employees at Queen's University who have attempted to join the United Steelworkers' union complain that administrators are making it hard for them to meet, reported *The Queen's Journal*. These staff members are non-teaching technical and support staff.

The administrator of the Queen's Centre for International

Relations, Maureen Bartram, is participating in the unionization effort. She said some senior administrators told organizers not to distribute flyers on campus or discuss the union with co-workers through the university's e-mail system.

Bartram explained staff is following the university's requests. She added the employees want security from a collective agreement regarding benefits and pensions.

Source: *The Queen's Journal*

\$100,000 grant given to McGill prof

Timothy Geary, director of the McGill Institute of Parasitology, has been given a \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, reported *The McGill Tribune*.

The grant was given to help institute a sustainable drug development program in Africa.

"Over the years, (pharmaceutical) companies and (other) orga-

nizations have gone and collected African resources and sometimes used the Africans to collect them ... (but) the Africans were cut out from the process at that point," said Geary.

Geary said he was shocked when he found out he received the grant. He said the grant provides a compliment to international work done at McGill.

Source: *The McGill Daily*

NATIONAL HEADLINES:

More Halifax surgeries spike deficit

To reduce waiting times, hospitals in the Halifax area performed 1,000 more surgeries this year compared to last year, but this has put the health region in deficit.

CBC reported the Capital District Health Authority (CDHA) will run a deficit of \$7 million for this fiscal year. The authority super-

vises hospitals in the metro Halifax region.

Chris d'Entremont, Nova Scotia's Health minister, said the large figure is concerning.

CDHA wants to cut spending in areas deemed "non-essential," aside from mental health. It has to reduce costs by two per cent before early December.

Source: *CBC*

Liberal policy meet turned into leadership convention

The national executive of the federal Liberal party is turning a policy meeting into a leadership convention slated for next April, reported *CBC*.

Candidate entry fee will be almost doubled: \$90,000 from \$50,000 in 2006. Each candidate can only spend \$1.5 million and will have to give 10 per cent of the money they

raise to the Liberal Party.

The convention will be held from April 30 to May 3 in Vancouver and will choose a successor to Stéphane Dion.

Potential contenders for the race include Toronto MP Martha Hall Findlay, Montreal MP Denis Coderre, Ottawa MP David McGuinty and Brampton MP Ruby Dhalla.

Source: *CBC*

Journalist released from captivity in Afghanistan

CBC journalist Mellissa Fung was released from her captives Saturday after being kidnapped in Afghanistan for roughly four weeks, reported *CTV*.

Three people who took part in the kidnapping were arrested shortly after. Officials have said the journalist's kidnappers were likely not Taliban insurgents but criminals.

Fung was kidnapped after in-

terviewing refugees on the edge of Kabul at a United Nations Camp. She said her captors held her in a small underground cave. She was kept blindfolded and was left alone for the last week of her abduction, but was unharmed.

Media kept the kidnapping under wraps to avoid compromising the release during negotiations between CBC, Afghan and Canadian officials and her captors.

Source: *CTV*

Troop pullout in 2011 still a go

Despite U.S. President-elect Barack Obama's promise to increase American military operations in Afghanistan, Canada will still be pulling out troops in 2011, reported *CTV*.

Foreign Affairs Minister Lawrence Cannon said Canada will begin to remove soldiers as planned. The date was decided on in Parliament last March.

"While we welcome the Americans' renewed interest in Afghanistan, particularly President-elect Obama's position during the campaign, we nonetheless want to make it perfectly clear that the U.S. position will not change Canada's position as defined in our parliamentary resolution," Cannon said in an interview on *CTV's Question Period*.

Source: *CTV*

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

1: number of Osama Bin Laden's sons deported to Qatar after failed asylum attempts in Egypt and Spain.

\$586 billion USD: how much China is investing in infrastructure and social welfare by the end of 2010.

240,000: how many jobs were cut in the United States in October.

\$5 billion USD: the amount of a U.S. aid package called Plan Colombia, which, according to a U.S. congressional report, has failed to meet its goal of cutting illegal narcotics production in Colombia.

2: number of directors of large foreign exchange company in Pakistan arrested after a probe regarding the illegal transfer of millions of dollars.

37: number of children recruited as child soldiers in the Congo a few weeks ago.

Sources: BBC, CBC, CBC, CBC, BBC, CBC

Medical Musings

What women don't want



RACHEL SUNTER
HEALTH COLUMNIST

Within the vast realm of my common medical vernacular, I cannot find better descriptive words for urinary tract infections (UTIs) than "bloody bastard demons from hell."

They sneak up like shortened sunlight days, they burn slowly and steadily like embers pressed against your urethra. They stand between school, friends, parties, sex and you.

These infections are the bane of my existence. I find small-to-moderate comfort in knowing they're a common ailment for many sexually active young women.

Caused by a bacterial infection in the urinary tract, UTI symptoms include a sudden, strong urge to urinate - often resulting in an infuriatingly small quantity of urine - intense pain during and after urination, and cloudy urine caused by a heightened presence of red and white blood cells.

Approximately 50 per cent of women will experience a UTI in their lifetime. Many of these women will experience more than one. Although numerous bacterial strands have been found to cause UTIs, the most common of these are bacteria that come from our own bowels and sit on the skin of

the pelvic region. Sexual intercourse is known to sometimes massage these bacteria into the urethra, triggering a UTI.

If left untreated, UTIs can spread up to the kidneys, causing lower and mid-back pain, nausea and fever. Kidney infections are dangerous - they'll land you a hospital visit with IV-antibiotics.

Fortunately, prescription antibiotics work miraculously quickly to eradicate UTI symptoms in usually less than 24 hours, so kidney-related infections are easily avoided.

At Dalhousie Health Services, UTIs are classified as urgent needs, so you can walk in to see the nurse, give a urine sample and see the on-call doctor without making an appointment. You'll get antibiotics and, if you ask for one, a doctor's note.

But for women who experience recurrent UTIs, these intense antibiotic treatments can ravage our internal bacterial balance, destroying the "healthy" probiotic bacteria we need for proper digestion, liver health and to prevent yeast infections.

It's helpful to know what we can do to treat and avoid UTIs - without causing ourselves more harm.

Drinking plenty of water is the first step. Allowing urine to sit too long in the bladder can cause long-term bladder damage and also allows bacteria time to fester. Doctors advise to look in the toilet, especially in the morning: if your urine colour is dark yellow, it's been sitting in your bladder too long. I've heard contradictory articles concerning proper fluid consumption, but when speaking for UTI prevention alone, doctors advise

eight large glasses every day.

Cranberry juice is a natural UTI remedy. It coats the urinary tract walls, allowing the urine passage to flush out bacterial growth. Cranberry extract pills (available at most drug stores) offer a tasteless yet potent alternative to cranberry juice.

But it's important to know that sometimes UTI symptoms are actually caused by bladder conditions, which can be aggravated by urine acidity. Fruit juices - especially cranberry and apple juice - are, in this case, a bad thing and will worsen painful symptoms.

Another UTI-inhibitory technique is urinating immediately after sexual intercourse to flush out bad bacteria before they can multiply.

Also, if you have recurrent infections, try taking mental note of which sexual positions result in UTIs, and simply avoid these positions. Don't be secretive; your partner will appreciate knowing, because if you get a UTI, every position will be a no-go until you're cured.

When natural resources fail you and antibiotics are the most attractive solution, buy a bottle of acidophilus pills (the healthy bacteria found in natural yogurt) and take a couple alongside and after your antibiotic treatment to minimize irritating side effects like yeast infections and an upset stomach.

Most of all, talk to your doctor if you're getting recurrent UTIs, because together you can identify your particular long-term causes and their solutions.

E-mail Rachel your health questions at vega_of_the_lyra@hotmail.com.

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The future is old

KATIE INGRAM
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie University is one of Atlantic's Canada's most recognizable institutions, and not just for our impressive list of alumni. One of the most memorable parts of Dal is "that building with the clock," the Henry Hicks Arts and Administration Building. The Hicks and the other colonial-style buildings are the ones highlighted in pictures on the university's website and information packets. With the recent news that Dal plans to add to Studley Campus by constructing a new building on Coburg Road, I started to wonder what it should look like. If the ivy-covered stone is what is advertised as the quintessential image of our school, we should stick to this traditional design when planning new additions.

For many years, all of the buildings on campus were constructed using a colonial or "Georgian" style. Starting with Chemistry Building in 1915, the buildings seemed to reflect an image of highest esteem and knowledge.

The Dal Archives and Special collections website says this style "would lend an inviting, 'domestic' appearance to the campus."

As enrolment grew and more departmental, study, office and class space was needed, Dal naturally had to expand. To do so the school departed from its architectural tradition.

In the 1970s, three new concrete structures were added to the growing campus: the Life Sciences Centre (LSC), the Killam library and the Arts Centre. Although in the 1970s this architectural style was popular, it doesn't have the same symbolic value as the older buildings.

Planners did not realize their designs did not connect to the educational feel of the colonial style. In hindsight, these three buildings are cultural eyesores from a time when architecture was hurting.

Although the LSC's tunnels keep us out of the harsh weather, how many people have felt depressed wandering through the dank windowless hallways? This building looks

like Fred Flintstone piled a bunch of rocks on top of each other and then called it quits. The library and Arts Centre are equally appalling. They are bereft of the intellectual associations the colonial buildings possess: they do not look academic.

The Killam Library is a cube. Not only does the building not look like a library, it does not reflect the knowledge that it holds on within the walls. There isn't even any creativity visible in the architecture. The building doesn't reflect the scholarly aspects of the university.

The Arts Centre, although not as misshapen as the others, could have been designed more aesthetically. If the school prides itself on having astounding music and theatre departments, as well as live entertainment, why doesn't the building reflect this? The cold, hard concrete isn't even the building's worst attribute. The neon sign that says "Dalhousie Arts Centre" does not present an "artsy" image; it reminds me more of a drive-in wedding chapel than of Shakespeare and Beethoven.

The newest editions to the Studley campus are the Rowe, McCain and Goldberg Computer Science buildings. These buildings are more attractive than those of the 1970s, but they look more like businesses that should be located downtown, rather than on a university campus. Although, they are newer and reflect their disciplines, they do not match the colonial buildings that define the older parts of campus.

The Sept. 11 edition of *The Gazette*, displayed an image of the designs for the planned academic building at the corner of Coburg Road and LeMarchant Street. From the picture, the building mirrors the Computer Science and Rowe. It looks more like it is home to a high scale business than to classrooms or professors' offices.

If the University of King's College can design its modern buildings in the same style as their older ones, Dal could too. The colonial design not only will make the buildings match, but showcase the school's intellectual history and postcard image.

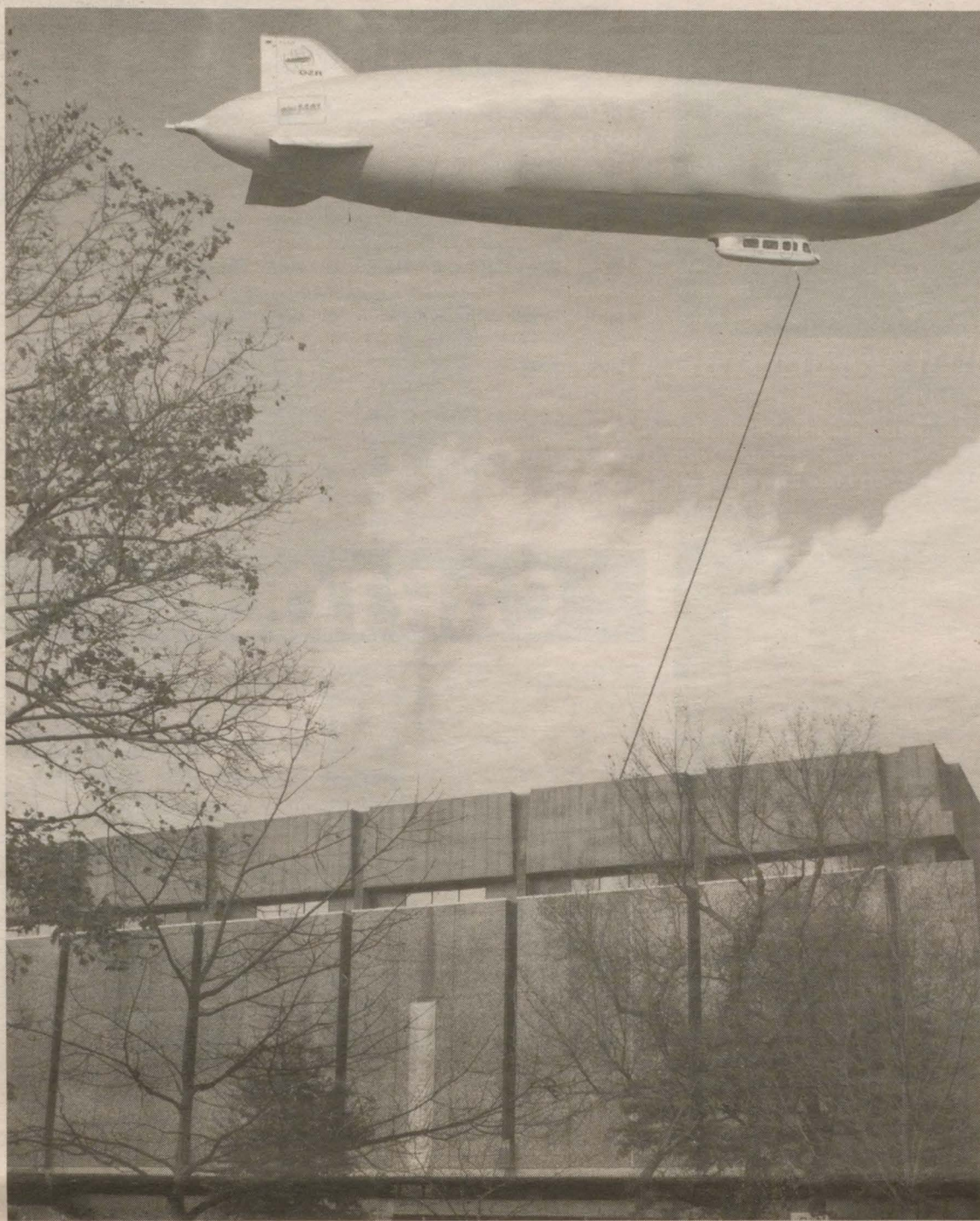


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

It's about time someone had the vision tackle the gruelling 100-metre odyssey between the Killam and the SUB.

Who knew nap time was so important?

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

If you are reading this paper in the Student Union Building, you may want to make a run for the exit. I have reason to suspect that the political elite of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) were abducted and lobotomized by alien forces at some point over the summer.

Last week, DSU President Courtney Larkin released her report summarizing the student input she received at the most recent Imagine DSU event, held on Sept. 23. Attendees at this event were requested to provide suggestions for what they would like to see included in the campus Master Plan so Larkin could more effectively represent student interests when the time came for the administration to decide how best to move ahead with future development projects.

As I wrote several weeks ago, regular students avoided this event with an abhorrence usually reserved for a Friday tutorial before Thanksgiving weekend. The meeting was comprised almost entirely of the upper echelon DSU political insiders, with a sprinkling of *Gazette* reporters and myself thrown in the mix.

We all have professors who reassure us at the start of the year that there's no such thing as a stupid question. The truth, however, is that there are certain minimum standards that input must meet before it can be considered productive, or at least comprehensible. One look at the Imagine DSU report is enough to raise trou-

bling questions about the participants' abilities to put posters up on their bedroom walls with out stopping to snack on the multi-coloured tacks in the process, let alone offer meaningful direction for a long-term campus development plan.

Under the first heading, "transportation," one participant suggested that Dal should invest in "travel from library to SUB."

It's about time someone finally had the vision to suggest tackling the hardships posed by the gruelling 100-metre odyssey that is travel between the Killam Library and the Student Union Building. Can any of us even count the number of times we've almost been grazed by a raindrop or a snowflake while making that trek during inclement weather?

I mean, sure, some of those who may have missed the Imagine event because they were stuck at the bridge terminal might have suggested that the hour or more that it takes many students to reach campus each day due to an increasingly strained bus system poses a more serious long-term problem, but at least our union leaders have their priorities straight. I'm not sure exactly how they would propose we improve travel service between the library and the SUB, but whether it involves a monorail, a gyrocopter, or a hydrogen-filled dirigible, we clearly have nothing to fear if we leave it in the capable hands of the DSU executive.

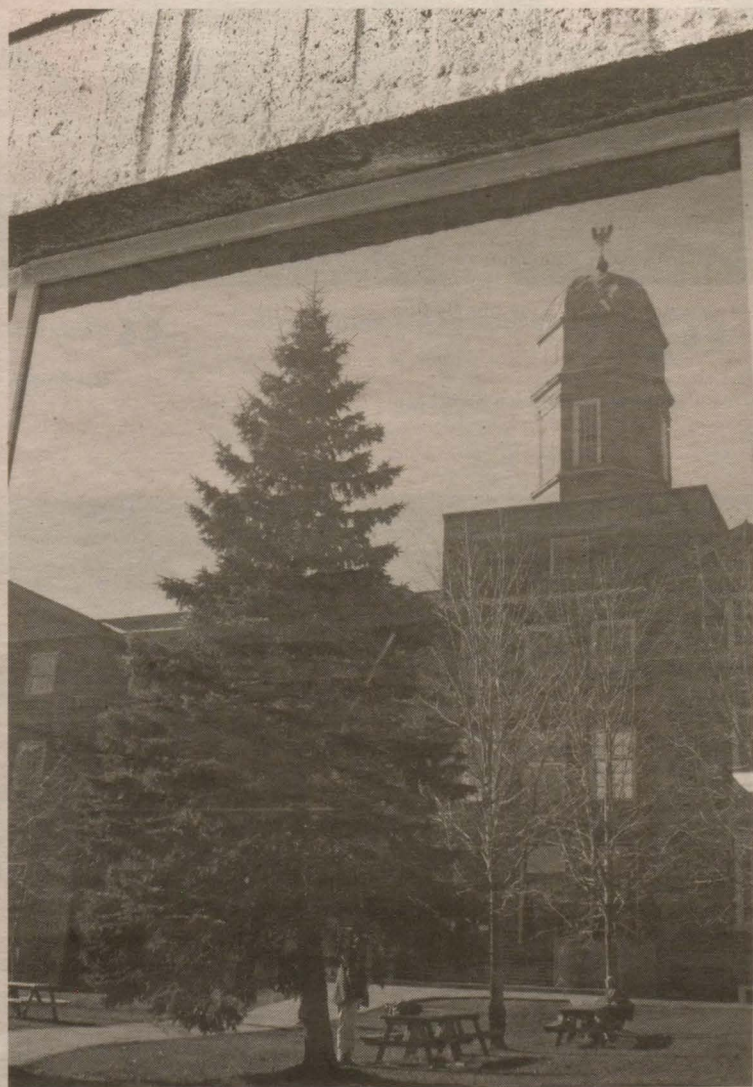
The visionary ideas aren't just limited to transportation, either. When it comes to planning how best to improve communication

on campus, one suggestion in the report says "have *The Gazette* publish everything." Everything! I'm not sure what sort of a levy increase the paper would need to carry out that mandate, but I'm willing to bet that it would be higher than the \$5 per full-time student we currently need to cover the more restricted field of things people might conceivably care about.

But the most profoundly troubling aspect of the whole report is that the section entitled "Nap Space" is longer than the sections dealing with sustainability or housing. Yes, rather than waste time addressing the trivial questions of where future students will live and how the university will fulfill its sustainability objectives, contributors made it clear that Dal must take whatever means necessary to address the most pressing issue of our time – the disturbing lack of "beds in the halls." I wish I were kidding.

You can check out the full report on the DSU website by clicking on "About Us", "Council", then "Council Documents." I'm sure many of you will have strong opinions of your own that are not touched upon in the report, and I encourage you to e-mail your concerns to your student representatives. Assuming the aliens have left them with enough grey matter to turn on their computers.

John Hillman is a graduate history student. He is mildly concerned that his ideas were considered too dumb to make the Imagine report.

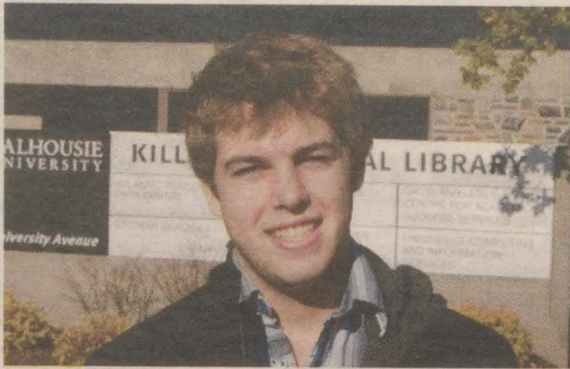


JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal should construct more buildings in colonial style, like the Henry Hicks.

STREETER

What's your hardest course this year?"



"Introduction to European History because it's really boring."

Brodie Robbins, first-year arts



"Calculus because I didn't take it in high school and it's a tough course to begin with."

Derek Stotz, first-year science



"Natural Disasters because it's really early in the morning and I'm not so strong in math either."

Colden Denman, first-year arts



"Philosophy of Language, both for the material and for the prof - real messed up shit."

Chris Coleman, fourth-year philosophy



"Psychology because it has a lot of science."

Laura Westhaver, first-year arts



"Calculus because I'm just not very good at it."

Stephanie Beckett, third-year science



"Advanced Latin because Latin poetry is pretty hard."

Peter Bullerwell, fourth-year classics



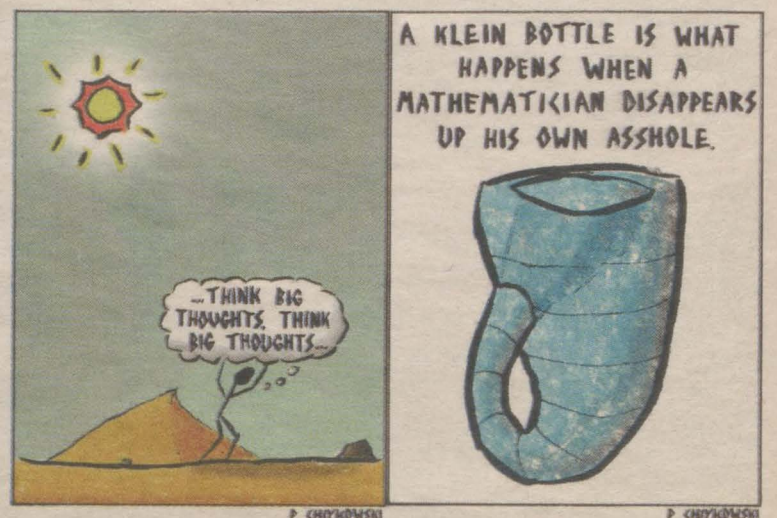
"History of Rock. I misinterpreted the name."

Nick Khattar, fourth-year geology

HOT OR NOT

- | | |
|--|---|
| HOT: Thinking you got an A | NOT: Knowing you got an F |
| HOT: Starting a Christmas countdown | NOT: Counting backwards from 3,628,800 |
| HOT: Regular prostate exams | NOT: Unlicensed amateur physicians |
| HOT: Monistat | NOT: Mistaking it for toothpaste |
| HOT: Grey's Anatomy | NOT: Greg's anatomy |
| HOT: Doing what I want | NOT: The Geneva Convention |
| HOT: Potable water | NOT: Edible water |
| HOT: 2009 | NOT: 2012 |
| HOT: Laughing through the pain | NOT: Screaming through the humour |
| HOT: Submitting to Beaver Hunt | NOT: Rejection letters |

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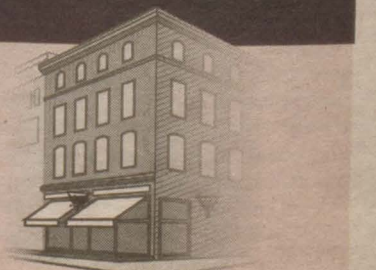
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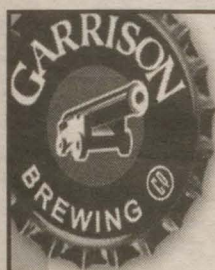
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The importance of memory

KATIE INGRAM
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Every year on Nov. 11 at 11 a.m., we stand at attention – theoretically – to pay tribute to those who fought in wars and gave their lives to secure our freedom. But our generation is disconnected from the importance of Remembrance Day.

A lot of my classmates mentioned in a class discussion they do not go to ceremonies or even think about the day. Many said they did not have a relative who served and thus they do not understand or were not taught in school why the day is important. This presents a problem because as the future of this country we should always keep in mind the sacrifice veterans made.

Trinda Dunlop, a third-year student, said sometimes Remembrance Day “was just a wreath laying ceremony and a moment of silence.”

There wasn't a lot that really stood out for her.

Cassandra Lilley, also a third-year, agreed.

“I find that people my age that have grandparents who were involved in (the Second World War), or at least have close connections to veterans, tend to pay more attention to Remembrance Day,” she said.

For many people Remembrance Day has become a robotic motion. We wear poppies and stand quietly during “The Last Post” – if we hear it at all. As students, we get the war highlights and are supposed to understand the importance of the day. As a result, for many our age, Remembrance Day has become more of an obligation than an occasion we want to respect.

It's not with intentional igno-

rance that Remembrance Day has become such a small factor in our lives. Some of us never learned about it, were never taught. Other than history experts, how many really knew about the First World War battle of Passchendaele before the movie was released? Remembrance Day has not been ingrained in us correctly: it's not just another day.

In recent years, organizations such as Canada Remembers, a division of Veterans Affairs, have made it their mission to ensure Canada's youth maintain the Remembrance Day legacy.

John Desrosiers, regional director of Canada Remembers, says people are starting to realize their forgetful mistakes.

He says there are various media outlets, such as Facebook groups in which “youth have gone on to create their own message to the community” and that “more and more parents are taking their children to ceremonies.”

Although the Veterans Affairs website and other outlets provide the information, he said, they can only go so far.

“It's up to us to provide the message with activities and events to engage youth in remembrance,” he said, adding that since so many people have started to independently preserve the day, it will continue to be remembered.

Remembrance Day is something that shouldn't become a faded memory, it's our history and I believe that everyone should take to heart the lines of Laurence Binyon's poem For the Fallen that are spoken during many remembrance ceremonies: “At the going down of the sun and in the morning: We will remember them.”



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Angela Day speaks at DSU council and stands her democratic ground.

DSU can't stand the heat

GREGORY DEBOGORSKI
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

There have been interesting developments within the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) recently. The Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) has pushed a discriminatory anti-discriminatory clause in their constitution; the council secretary has been forced to choose between writing minutes for the union or working at Campus Copy; a battle has occurred between a faction of the council and the executive.

I initially had a problem with the NSPIRG executive board having a 60 per cent minority representation clause in the group's constitution. But after learning this society's whole purpose is to help investigate and support of the problems of minorities, I fully agree with the clause. There is a section of the DSU constitution that allows for it, and considering the purpose of the society, I feel that the majority of students would support it. Council and executives seemed to believe that NSPIRG were a bunch of troublemakers for pushing the clause vocally in council meetings, but I applaud NSPIRG members for standing their democratic ground even if it

was slightly disruptive. Bravo!

The second development seems full of political deceit and conspiracy. Our council secretary, who takes minutes at every council meeting, has been forced to choose between her part-time job at Campus Copy and her position on council. Although the executives are looking at amending the constitution to create an exclusionary clause to the “conflict of interest” section of the constitution, it is said that this will take at least until 2009 to be finalized. If it takes this long for the DSU to react to such a relatively minuscule problem, how long would it take to confront a larger one? Is our union's decision-making process efficient if it cannot react in a timely fashion to problems that it faces?

The third development puts a grin on my face every time I think about. Call me a political junkie, but to see a quasi-opposition party emerge from the Eric Snow/Shannon Zimmerman corners of council thrills me. This is how representative democracy should operate. The troubling thing is how irritated the executive is by this forced accountability. This irritability is starting to spread to their dealings with students. At the last council meeting, Matt Golding, DSU vice-president

(finance), asked me crossly, “why are you glaring at me?” Later, when I tried to see what the issue was, he refused to even acknowledge me. Further, every time senators, board of governors members, or general council representatives feel that a particular item on the agenda needs to be seriously debated, the executive comes across as being annoyed that they have to use their time in this way. I admit that DSU execs have a lot on their plate, but that's no excuse to be irritable while doing their jobs.

On a final note, I would like to say that the DSU is run much better this year than in previous years. Golding has found errors in our books, Daniel Boyle, vice-president (internal) has appointed an excellent commissioner, and the union seems to have higher levels of accountability through non-executive members pressing for a job well done. Perhaps it is this heightened level of effectiveness that is causing the stress levels to increase amongst union executives. If executives are finding life as a public servant too difficult, maybe they should resign and let somebody else step up to the plate. Like my mother would say, if the oven is too hot, you should get out of the kitchen.

A new age of American optimism

BEN PORTA
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Four years ago I sat in my American history class in Portland, Maine, depressed and disheartened: President George W. Bush had been re-elected.

My teacher had listed a column of percentages on the whiteboard. At the top was 20 per cent: those who voted for George Bush because they opposed gay marriage.

The majority of Bush voters in 2004 based their decision on this socially conservative issue. Never mind the Iraq war and the lies that had been revealed about it, never mind Bush's failed domestic policies. These voters changed world history because they could not stomach the notion of homosexual marriage.

It took four more years of this polarizing and petty politics, but America has finally risen above the deception and placation of the Bush era. President-elect Barack Obama

may not be a savior, but compared to Bush, it is as if the sun has finally risen after eight years of unrelenting darkness.

Obama has inspired my generation to get involved. The idea of changing American politics has become a source of hope.

By supporting Obama I am not identifying with a certain ideology, or rallying against any particular enemies. My goal is to absorb Obama's youthful inspiration to help myself and others unite in health and prosperity as fellow human beings.

He reminds me why it is enjoyable to be growing up at this time in history. The president-elect implores his citizens to unite based on transcendent ideals that the founding fathers forged: that all men are created equal.

As I stand on the verge of professionalism after four years of university, I feel blessed to connect, although abstractly through an absentee ballot, to a great man I can call my leader, my mentor.

Obama reminds me of why it is I have spent this time – and my parents' money – to enlighten my mind with liberal arts knowledge. While I near the end of a self-centered portion of my life, a time for self-discovery and personal fulfillment, Obama inspires me to step up, get out there and to change this world with what I have established within myself these past four years.

I am an American, lucky to be born into the upper-middle class and its privileges, which many of my Canadian classmates share. However, human conditions in the rest of the world at large are astronomically different from our experiences.

I argue that the importance of Obama's symbol is his break from Bush politics. The world needs change. While Obama will not be the miracle worker he seems to become every time he steps onto a stage, the feelings he incites in young people such as myself can and will change our planet for the better.



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High hopes for Obama

LEYLAND CECCO
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

On Nov. 4, students congregated to watch the American election results. History was made between bites of cheese and crackers, between sips of red wine. When the last key states fell to Democrat Barack Obama, cheers erupted and grins readily replaced the taut faces of anticipation. Change had come at last.

Unwilling to repeat the mistakes of the 2000 and 2004 elections, political analysts on mainstream networks were hesitant to name a winner. Yet as the night progressed, and states toppled like dominoes, it became evident that there was little hope left for Republican candidate John McCain, the senator from Arizona. Pennsylvania was the lid to the coffin of his presidential aspirations, and Ohio the nails that sealed it.

Obama's triumph is historic not only because he will be the first African-American president, but it's historic because multilateral diplomacy will make a comeback and America will get a chance to regain the respectable position they once held on the world stage. Dialogues with nations, both foes and allies, will be opened with renewed vigor. Obama's ascent

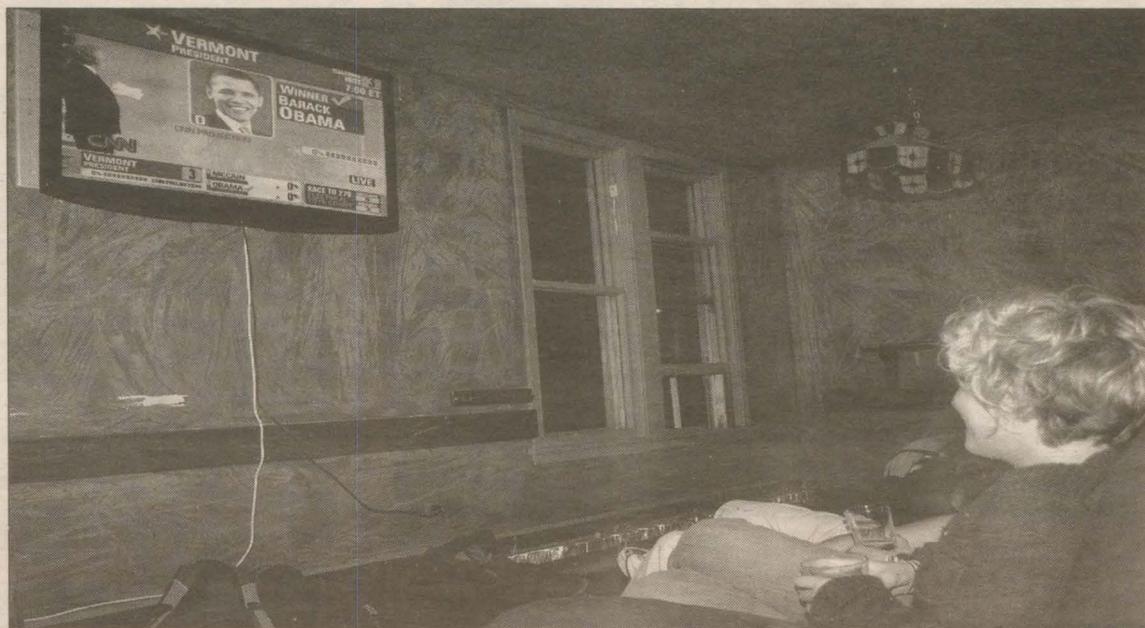
to office allows those who remain bitter over the aggressive, hawkish and unilateral approach of the George W. Bush administration to gaze upon a new and better horizon.

The new president does not find himself in an enviable position. He inherits a national debt of more than \$11 trillion, a vastly unpopular war in Iraq, the threat of a strengthening al-Qaida in Afghanistan, a crumbling credit market, insolvent banks, an economy teetering on the brink of recession, a rapidly deteriorating planet through global climate change, the prospect of skyrocketing energy prices and a failing healthcare system. If this is enough to make one cower in fear, consider that once he has tackled these looming issues, he still has to address education reform, social security and immigration.

Perhaps we expect too much of him. Maybe the revolution that swept him into office places the young president on too high a pedestal.

If Obama can become the change he markets himself as, if he rewards the hope he asked Americans to have in him, and if he voices the concerns of the people, he will be a great president. Times of despair bring about great leaders.

In his victory speech, Obama



COLIN PARROTT PHOTO

Students gathered in bars and living rooms on election night to cheer for President-elect Barack Obama.

invoked words former President Abraham Lincoln had used when he sought to unite a divided country. The tasks at hand for the 44th president seem daunting and insurmountable. And so, with Lincoln in mind, I offer Obama words from his

1862 message to Congress: "The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present. The occasion is piled high with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so we must think anew and act anew."

Good luck, Obama.

Leyland Cecco is a third-year philosophy major. He dressed up as Obama for Halloween.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Letters

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

Articles

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

Sick of all the butts

I am sick and tired of having to hold my breath and grit my teeth as I make my way into the Killam Library. Time and time again, despite efforts from concerned students making complaints to security services at Dal, smokers continue to huddle around the Killam Library doors and create discomfort for passers-by. To add to this fury, anyone looking down at the ground to hide their face and avoid the toxic smoke would become even more infuriated by the sheer number of cigarette butts coating the library courtyard and green space surrounding it.

It can take up to 12 years for cigarette butts to completely break down and in doing so chemicals such as cadmium, lead and arsenic can leach into our marine environment. Cigarette butts have been found in

the stomachs of fish, birds and other marine animals, causing ingestion of hazardous chemicals and digestive blockages. With recent bans on indoor smoking and limited outdoor public smoking areas, cigarette butt litter is dramatically on the rise. However, by placing cigarette litterbins near public buildings, smokers are encouraged to be closer to the public buildings, breaking provincial and municipal bylaws and inflicting secondhand smoke on innocent bystanders.

What is the solution here? It's a disgrace to see our city streets and green spaces littered with such harmful, disgusting pieces of trash. Perhaps we should follow the example taken by the government in Nairobi. It successfully banned of smoking in all public spaces.

Julia Keech

University of Ottawa

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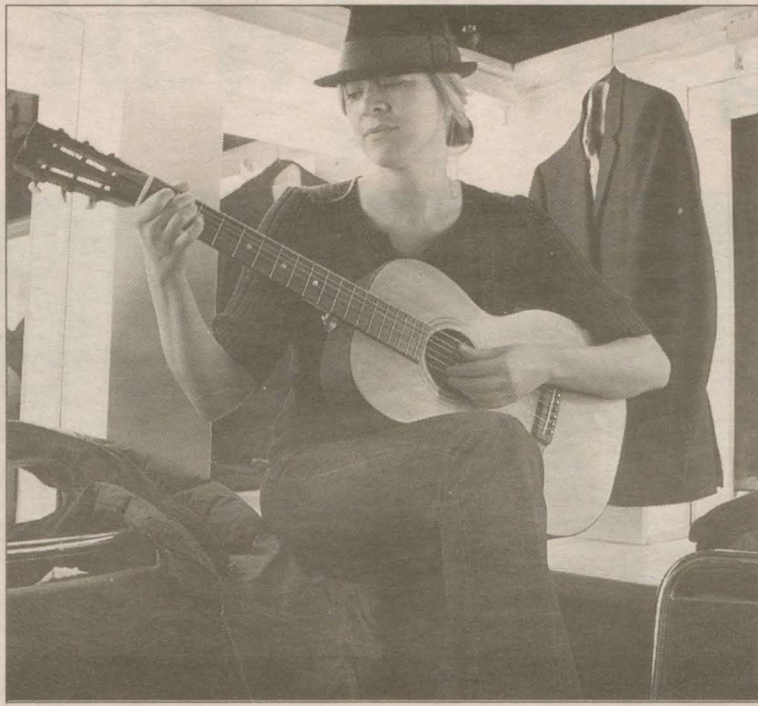
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HILARY BEAUMONT/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Songwriter Jill Barber strums backstage at the Cohn.

The East Coast says farewell to Jill Barber

What are the *Chances* we'll see you again?

HILARY BEAUMONT
ARTS EDITOR

In the Halifax music scene, Jill Barber is one of the staple songwriters. She's been a successful singer in this city for so long her roots have turned hazy. Barber is from Ontario but she says the support she received in Nova Scotia made her the star she is today.

"I feel eternally grateful for all of the support that I've received in this community and the East Coast," Barber says while backstage at the Rebecca Cohn. "When I moved from Ontario to Nova Scotia six years ago, it seemingly was a really counter-intuitive move to come here to pursue a career in music, but it turned out to be the best move I ever made."

But as of September, Barber has a new address in Vancouver. Her sweetheart, a Vancouverite who treats her like a queen, is the reason Barber says she recently packed up her strings and frets and moved west. Despite her new permanent location, she says she calls three places home: her house in Vancouver, her old haunts in Halifax, and her origins in Ontario.

"I grew up in Toronto," she says. "That's where my family still lives, so I feel like I'm going home when I go to Toronto. But also Halifax has been kind of my adopted home, and Vancouver's my brand new home. So I can't narrow it down to one place. I'm really lucky. There are a few places spread out across the country that feel like home."

On the night before Halloween, Barber began her final farewell to Nova Scotia.

Short and sweet in a bright blue dress and sparkling heels, she stood centre stage under ironic red lights at the Rebecca Cohn. With the sass of *Chicago's* Roxie Hart in her voice, Barber sang potent ballads from her new album, *Chances*. The dark silhouettes filling the Cohn seats were silent and still as she sang but they broke into loud cheers and shrill whistles at the end of each tune.

After Halifax, Barber tuned her guitar for eight additional N.S. shows, including her final goodbye last weekend in Port Hawkesbury and Glace Bay. On Friday night she'll be saying hello to Calgary. Then she'll travel east through the Prairies, ending her *Chances* tour with family and fans in Ontario.

Barber's fifth album is a musical love letter from her grandmother's generation. It's clear from her lyrics that Barber nurses a serious addiction to love. Her affecting songs are

all about the many loves of her life: old flames and new romance.

Somehow the singer has translated her message of timeless love into a relevant record that retains an intimate connection with her listeners.

She says it's because she listens to classic music and old standards.

"I've tried to put my finger on that very quality," she says. "What is it about that music that makes it so timeless? It's old music. It was written a long time ago, performed a long time ago, but it hasn't aged a day."

Barber doesn't take cues from anything newer than the 1950s. The innocent string arrangements on *Chances* were inspired by classic Disney movies. Barber says she tried to emulate the whimsical feel of exaggerated reality by adding "a delicate, beautiful string swell" to some songs.

In the middle of recording in the studio, she would stop singing and say, "this is the part in the song when the birds would come and pick me up by my sleeves and carry me away."

Unfortunately Barber's lyrics, mainly focusing on her one true love, sometimes taste like a full bottle of syrup dumped too thickly over one pancake. She truly sounds like a lady in love.

"I'm trying to bring back the romance that's been lost in modern music," the singer says.

The saccharine sweetness of *Chances* takes a break at track four, with the quick beat of "Oh My My." Barber says she recorded the track a cappella in about 20 minutes after waking up from an animated black and white dream. Tapping her foot to the beat in her head, she scribbled down the story of a mad doctor trying to mend her broken heart.

The result was the ballad Barber sang sans instruments during her encore at the Cohn. The audience echoed the catchy chorus with the singer's guidance - a fun finale for her local fans.

Barber says she'll miss many things about the East Coast, especially the people and Halifax's cafes. She says she not only needs to move from place to place, she also needs to move on creatively.

"I embraced this place so much, and in turn the people of the east coast really embraced my music and really supported me," she says. "I just felt like a part of it. It will always, always be a special place for me. I feel like my heart is here in many ways, even if I'm not living here anymore."

Never Had I Ever:

Gone to a concert with my mom

MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It's hard to be jaded when you're 17. That's what it felt like growing up in the Toronto music scene. By the time I was in art school, my friends and I were constantly looking out for newer and better bands. It's entirely disheartening to think bands like Slowdive and Codeine aren't obscure/indie/cool enough. But one group that everybody I knew loved was Broken Social Scene, especially sassy temptress Feist, who added some wicked vocals and radical guitar playing into the mix. When I was in high school I may have tried to be cool, but as I got older I realized the coolest people of all are the ones who don't even try.

Now you're probably thinking, "oh I get it, he'll say liking Feist is cool because she doesn't try to be cool and just is," which is true. But I'm not talking about her. I'm talking about my mom. My mom is one rad lady. She loves Neil Young and has seen more concerts than any mother over 55 that I have ever met. She's so cool she used to calm me down as a baby by putting on Bruce Springsteen's *Nebraska* album. You read that correctly. She used to put me to sleep by listening to Springsteen. I wonder what she put on to wake me

up. Black Sabbath?

One thing I've always shared with my mom is a love of female singers. Joni Mitchell, Lucinda Williams and Feist are just a few. That's why I took her to see her new favourite singer last Friday, and boy, were we both blown away.

It's rare that a singer sounds better live than recorded and I always imagined Feist was heavily produced. After the first song, in which she messed around with multiple looping stations to perform simply using her voice, it was clear why she was nominated for a Grammy. Feist is the best female singer of this generation.

She played all of the best songs off of her last two albums, including beautiful renditions of "My Moon My Man", "I Feel It All" and "Past and Present", all while displaying alt-country guitar skills that would make Jeff Tweedy look like a little bitch.

Speaking of little bitches, this show would have been so much better if several people in the audience hadn't been talking during quiet songs.

"Those guys won't shut up," my mom whispered loudly in my ear during "1234."

I stood up and started to say "Shut the fuc-" but my mom pulled me down. She wanted to avoid confrontation while sharing a nice evening together.

The set created an intimate atmosphere. Stagehands manipulated the backdrop using a projector to display cute pictures of suns, waves, and sexy dancing legs that made more than one girl in the audience go "Awwwww!"

Feist held a great stage presence. She bopped to the beat in a beautiful white frilly dress and danced to her tunes. She also started numerous hand claps trying to get the shy audience to interact at the concert. This was to little avail as the Halifax crowd barely sung along. Some even left during her last song because she described it as "a slow dance song."

As the crowd dispersed, flocks of young girls walked down the misty Metro Centre steps, talking admiringly about the beautiful stage show and saying they wanted to start a band of their own. And there was my mom, holding my arm as we navigated the wet streets down to the bus stop.

"I had fun tonight," she said, giving me a hug. "Thanks for taking me to the concert, that was fun. Her hair looked really pretty tonight."

At first I thought maybe it would be un-cool to take my mom to a concert. But when you enjoy an artist so much, why wouldn't you want to share that experience with someone as cool as your mom?

Verb my adjective noun

Venus Envy holds dirty talk workshop

CANDICE CASCANETTE
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Feeling a mixture of shyness and curiosity, I dragged two of my girlfriends out with me to a workshop called "Erotic Talk: talking dirty for women" put on at Venus Envy on Oct. 29. Dirty talk was the name of the game, and what a fun game it would be.

The aim of the workshop was to help women get comfortable with talking openly about their sexual desires to get exactly what they want between the sheets. We took a seat in the back of the store. Surrounded by sex toys, pornography, sexual literature and dildos galore, it looked as though the possibilities for sexual experimentation were endless. Shannon Pringle, the sexpert who conducted the workshop, offered some motivations for why the gathered women - young and old - had chosen to attend the workshop: "to turn yourself and men on," "to get attention," "to spice up your sex life" and, my personal favorite, "to end the boring sex you've been having because you've had the same boyfriend for too long."

Pringle says being able to comfortably and confidently talk dirty is important in order to establish your boundaries, feel safe, have fun, and respect yourself.

She says many females have been brought up thinking that sex is a bad word and therefore have "zero

vocabulary" to express themselves sexually. Because porn is now just a click away, Pringle says, many curious youngsters rely on mainstream porn to learn about sex. This creates misconceptions about sexual pleasure because porn is meant to turn on the audience, not the participants. The actors are having sex for show and not for their own pleasure. Sorry gentlemen, but if you've been using porn as your crash course in pleasure 101, you are at high risk of being a less stellar lover.

The dominance of Internet porn has also created a false standard for regular women who are being compared to the fake, perfectly waxed, bleached and implanted females represented in the videos.

Pringle says talking dirty and communicating openly about sex can help women take charge of their own pleasure and confront the misunderstandings of what their partners think they want. By using dirty talk, says Pringle, women can give themselves permission to explore, making their experiences more positive and enjoyable.

At one point in the workshop the group played "verb my adjective noun," a very self-explanatory, yet highly effective game. You simply insert a dirty verb, followed by sexual adjective. Finish it off with a dirty noun, and you've got yourself a recipe for erotic talk.

The exercise had us formulating

simple dirty phrases and commands to help us feel comfortable saying them aloud. For anyone who had trouble saying their dirty mad libs, it was suggested that you try saying them over and over in your head first. Then try saying them aloud while looking in to a mirror. It was also suggested women try recording their licentious lingo and playing it back in order to become comfortable hearing themselves get down and dirty.

A good piece of advice that was given was to try to talk to your partner about how you like being touched sexually outside of the bedroom, in a non-sexual setting; while you're on a walk, eating breakfast or out for drinks. This helps to eliminate bedroom pressure later on.

"It's okay to lie a little bit too," Pringle says.

Saying something like "you're the best fuck I've ever had," can really get someone turned on and feeling very confident about his or her abilities. Whether or not it is actually true is a different story.

The Venus Envy store created a very open minded and comfortable atmosphere although I couldn't help but let out a few awkward laughs as a few dildos fell off the wall display and came flying toward me.

Talking about sex can be just as fun as doing it. And as Pringle says, "you can say just about anything, as long as you own it and feel comfortable."

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THE DAL GAZETTE**
Contributor meetings are held every Monday
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Eat your way to free songs, shows and mp3 players

LEYLAND CECCO
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

When I was about seven years old, I saved up for weeks to buy a set of walkie-talkies. When I showed them to my dad, he said "that's a waste. Those things will be in cereal boxes a few years down the road."

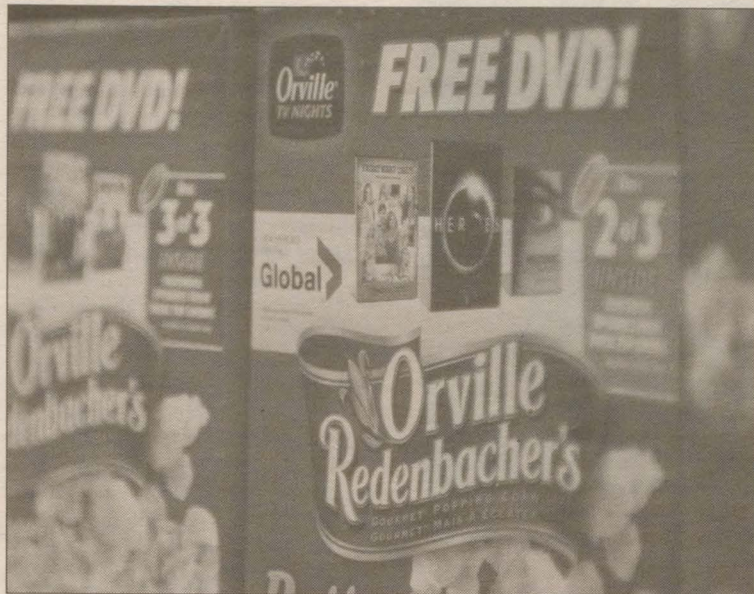
Well, not quite, dad. But even though he was wrong, you can benefit from his cost-saving idea to make your bank account breathe a sigh of relief.

If you've already spent the money set aside for January on beer, you're probably wondering how to get through the rest of the year. There's no point contemplating dropping television, sacrificing your social life or giving up expanding your music collection. With these cost-saving tips to take the pain out of living expenses, you'll get through this year - albeit with a few raised eyebrows.

The necessity that hits your wallet the hardest will actually end up being your biggest ally in the fight against expenses. Grocery stores might eat up a lot of your monthly budget, but if you look carefully, you can find some pretty amazing deals.

If you can't scrape together 99 cents for a song on iTunes, you can always download, I guess. But that really defeats the whole point of this article, so we'll assume you're a decent person who gasps at the thought of pulling a few dollars out of the gold-lined pockets of mega-selling artists. In that case, Taste of India instant curry packages offer a free CD of classic Indian music in each of their meals. That's 12 tracks of sweet, delicious tunes by the masters, with microwavable curry as an added bonus. You'll get hits by legends like Dr. Ghitti Babu and Dr. Ghitti Babu.

Cable these days seems pretty useless, given that most shows are



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Orville Redenbacher's has your TV show hookup.

online. But let's assume the same decent person who won't download music is horrified to hear that people watch shows without paying for them. Can't afford cable, but still want updates on the Jim and Pam situation? Thank Orville Redenbacher for hooking you up with this next one. The company is throwing in hit TV shows in each box of popcorn. Each box has different shows including Heroes, The Office and 30 Rock packed in nicely with plastic bags of popcorn. If you like popcorn with your curry, you've got a good night shaping up.

I'm not sure if anyone really eats Hamburger Helper anymore, but I'm assuming those who do also love bowling. Hamburger Helper has decided to treat to you a night out on the lanes wearing clown shoes. Even though inebriation might be necessary for this one, it might be a fun

thing to try out after the popcorn and curry.

Cereal boxes are pretty much the gold mine of the whole store when it comes to free stuff. Expect to find some good junk packed into your Cheerios: movie tickets, watches, and, believe it or not, mp3 players. So you can fight conformity and listen to Dr. Ghitti Babus' killer tunes, all while saving money. Unfortunately, you'll have to drop the \$5 it costs for brand name cereal, since the generic Toasted Oat O's don't give free stuff to the discerning consumer.

If you wake up feeling like some Shreddies, or salivate at the thought of Hamburger Helper and Taste of India and know that the only way to top it all of is with a huge bowl of Orville's, you're pretty much set for the year. Enjoy!

Pier 21: a piece of Canadian history

KATIE INGRAM
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

One in five Canadians has a connection to Halifax's Pier 21. For those who don't know, the pier was immigrant central from the late 1920s until its closure in 1971. Before air travel, anyone who wanted to be Canadian had to pass through this building. The museum has done an excellent job of preserving that history, and that's what makes visiting Pier 21 a worthwhile experience.

At first glance the exhibits, located on the top floor, aren't amazing. There's a large collection of memorabilia from suitcases and clothing to immigration papers and children's toys. With the vast collection of aged memorabilia, it's easy to see the hardships suffered by many people when they entered Canada for the first time.

In correspondence with the memorabilia, the audio and visual interviews are touching. The museum is divided into categories that correspond with each decade, such as the first immigrants in the 1920s. At each informational panel there is either an audio segment or a video that describes a particular story told by an actor or the actual person. Either way, the stories present a touching and realistic tribute to the trials and tribulations of those who passed through Pier 21's doors.

Opposite the exhibit hall is the Second World War deck. This section of the museum follows the same format as the exhibit room with video accounts from museum alumni and informational displays, but it's the view that makes this room astound-



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Visit Pier 21 for the view, stay for the stories.

ing. It overlooks the Halifax Harbour and George's Island, on which a tiny lighthouse still stands.

During the wars, every person in the Canadian military left from Pier 21. On its deck they waited to leave and stay goodbye to loved ones. Although the view is beautiful, it captures the foreboding nature of war.

On the other side of the exhibit hall is the train simulation. In this structure you can travel from Halifax to Vancouver, experiencing the sights that many of Canada's newest citizens saw 50 years ago. In each cabin you can hear a personal story, or if you have a connection to the

pier, you can record your own. But the museum saved the best for last. The multimedia presentation, Oceans of Hope, is a heartfelt tribute filled with a range of emotional and true stories about the people who travelled through the pier. The actors portrayed each experience realistically and I felt as if I were right there with them.

If you don't like museums, it doesn't matter. This presentation is worth the admission price - \$6 with a student ID.

For more information visit www.pier21.ca or call 425-7770.

MUSIC FEELINGS

Cut Copy: *In Ghost Colours*

JESSE SHARRATT
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR



Just as Seattle was once the hot bed for exciting new acts, it appears that Australia is quickly reclaiming that title. The music coming out of Melbourne and Sydney is becoming a popular sound globally. Bands such as The Presets, Sam Sparro and Cut Copy are leading this new electro-pop genre.

Cut Copy is made up of Dan Whitford (lead vocals/guitar/keys), Tim Hoey (bass/guitar) and Mitchell Scott (drums). Retro bands including Kraftwerk and New Order are some of the trio's influences.

In 2004 Cut Copy released its first album, *Bright Like Neon Love*. It was well received but failed to garner international recognition. The same is not true for the band's follow-up album, *In Ghost Colours*, released earlier this year.

The first song on the album is aptly named "Feel the Love." From the first listen, I was completely and utterly hooked. With their pounding beats and soaring melodies, Cut Copy meshes electro-dance music with up-beat pop. The blend is flawless.

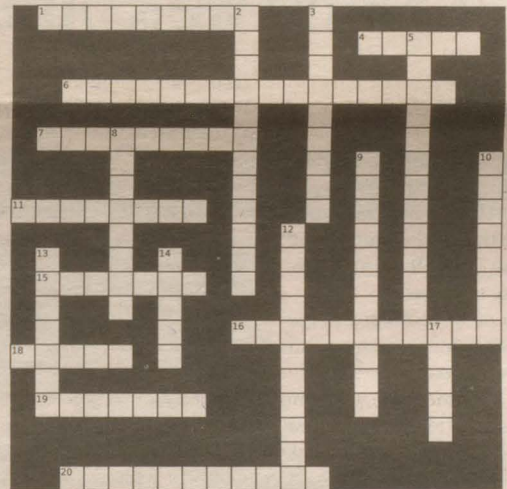
As the album picks up momentum, it moves seamlessly into the

band's first single "Lights and Music." This song is one of the best on the album. From there on, the album continues to flourish into a true work of art.

As the tracks roll by, I couldn't help but enjoy the spectacular beats more and more. At the inevitable end, I expected it to wane, but surprisingly it doesn't. One of the last tunes on the album, "Hearts on Fire", is everything I wanted it to be. It recreates all of those retro-Kraftwerk hooks but with the intensity and excitement of Daft Punk.

If you are searching for your new favourite band, look no further. From the moment I bought this album I have not been able to turn it off. Every song is in the right place and it doesn't get old.

Sweet Tooth



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 Break me off a piece of that | 2 Down |
| 4 Mrs. Big's husband | 3 E.T.'s favourite candy |
| 6 Made of Butterscotch, probably eaten by your Grandfather | 4 It's literally a straw filled with sugar |
| 7 Peanut butter, chocolate...delicious | 5 Tastes like Sambuca |
| 11 Do you eat the red ones last? | 6 Taste the rainbow |
| 15 Kind of looks like poop | 7 Chewy chocolate/69 Boyz hip hop classic |
| 16 Laid by bunnies | 8 Mix with coke, drink, die |
| 18 The only candy in the chess club | 9 What would you do? Would you kill a man? |
| 19 Hungry? | 10 In America, they're Smarties |
| 20 Warned James Fitzgibbon/Makes a great truffle | 11 How do you like your coffee? |
| | 12 Colour of the girl M&M |

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- 2. Black Licorice
 - 3. Peanut Butter
 - 5. Black Licorice
 - 8. Down
 - 9. Weather's Original
 - 10. Pop Rocks
 - 12. Lamin Second
 - 13. Salties
 - 14. Crap
 - 17. Green
 - 18. Nerds
 - 19. Pop Rocks
 - 20. Thomas Ball

Tigers pound Sea Hawks

SCOTT MONEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie's men's volleyball team started its season this weekend and looked to begin just where the team left off last year. The Tigers ended at 15-3 last year, which earned them the division title. Guiding the Tigers once again this year is 10-year veteran coach Dan Ota. Ota has 10 players returning to his team and highlighting this list are the three men upfront: Erik Montgomery, Sander Ratsep and Max Burt.

After a modest preseason, the Tigers wanted to continue their Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league domination. They would be facing the Memorial University Sea Hawks. The bleachers were packed at the Dalplex Saturday night and the Tigers would not disappoint, taking the match in straight sets. The first set was close, but the Tigers were able to take advantage of some Sea Hawk errors and take the score to 26-24. Dal would heat up in the second set and win 25-19. Dal would go through the motions in the third set and would win the match in front of a standing ovation at the Dalplex, 25-22. Although it was a great team effort, Devon Parkinson stuck out as the player of the game. The rematch on Sunday was similar. Dal showed why its team continually wins the division. With superior height and skill, the Tigers delivered Memorial its second loss in as many days in straight



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Memorial's volleyball team made a lot of game errors last weekend.

sets once again (25-14, 25-21, 25-17). The Sea Hawks simply couldn't deal with Dal's relentless spiking offence by Burt, Ratsep and Montgomery. The Sea Hawks lacked the powerful spiking front men that Dal relies on so heavily. After an impressive showing this weekend, coach Ota was not quick to celebrate.

"It was our first real match in a month and the guys looked a bit restless," he said after the game.

He pointed out that Memorial made a lot of errors and Dal was able to take advantage. Burt, a six-foot-

10 middle blocker from Newfoundland, always enjoys playing against his home school.

"I know all those guys, so it's always fun," he said, adding he was happy with this weekend's results and is looking forward to a strong season.

The men's volleyball team, ranked fifth in the country, will have plenty of time to show what kind of team players they are this season as they head to Quebec and Ontario for tournaments, not set to play another home game until the new year.

Intramural intensity

TIM VAN DER KOOI
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

In Dalhousie intramural hockey, team Miramichi Poleher's undefeated season ended last Tuesday night after a 5-3 loss to team Molson Muscle. The two teams are now tied for second place in the men's Competitive 'B' hockey league standings.

Both teams struggled to find goaltenders for the matchup. The Polehers looked to Conor Stuart, goaltender for last year's finalist team Heavy Flow. Stuart didn't think twice about the offer to play after receiving the phone call on Monday night, the day before the game.

"I was like, finally, a chance to relive my glory days," said Stuart.

Stuart displayed shades of former Philadelphia Flyer goaltender Roman Cechmanek, infamous for his unconventional style. Stuart's first save came as the result of a courageous poke check at the hash marks, deflecting the puck into the corner after what could have been a potential breakaway for a Molson Muscle forward.

The Muscles scored an early goal on the Polehers when a shot deflected off of Stuart's trapper and into the net. Muscle player Derek Hooper scored the second goal during his team's two-man advantage.

The Polehers crashed the net for a goal near the end of the first period, but the referee, Matt Abrams, disallowed it after a controversial review. Abrams initially pointed toward the net indicating a goal for the Polehers

and then waved it off after minutes of discussion with another referee.

"I saw it was in, even the Muscle goalie said it was in," said Poleher winger Zack Wilson, who was on the ice during the controversy.

After the game, Abrams said "the puck was not clearly over the line."

Molson Muscle continued its dominating trend into the second period, scoring 3-0. Poleher forward Tyler Brown snapped the shutout with a top corner goal, which awakened the dormant Poleher offence.

"After that goal, I thought we had a chance to win," said Poleher forward Matt MacTavish, who later added, "we could have really used that disallowed goal in the first."

Minutes of end-to-end hockey continued through most of the second period. The two teams exchanged goals within minutes of each other. Brown stepped up to score his second goal of the game with 10 minutes left in the second, putting Polehers within one of the 4-3 lead.

Brown was injured with four minutes left in the game after pulling his groin in an attempt for a breakaway. Brown raced toward the puck against a Muscle player who tried to slow him down. Brown pulled his groin in the process and, without any assistance, struggled to limp into the bench.

The Polehers pulled Stuart with one minute left in the period, but the Muscle foiled any attempt at a scoring opportunity and scored an empty net goal with one second left on the clock.

Hall of Fame welcomes Dal alumni

DYLAN MATTHIAS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie University inducted its third class of alumni into the school's Sport Hall of Fame last Saturday, Nov. 8. Three individual athletes, one builder, and the 1978-79 men's hockey team were all inducted.

Around 200 people gathered in the Studley Gymnasium for a reception and short ceremony. Chronicle Herald reporter and Dal alumnus Joel Jacobsen read off the stories of all the inductees before interviewing them on stage.

Perhaps most significant amongst the inductees was Lucy Smith, a former world silver medalist in track and field. She was the only inductee who is still a professional athlete.

Smith, from Victoria, B.C., has an impressive trophy cabinet, racking awards at both the national and international level. She's won 19 national championships, two national university championships and two

open championships, where she competed against Olympians.

As a Dal student she ran in Point Pleasant Park for training and on her trip back this weekend, she went for a run there again.

Tom Lynch is a name few current-day Dal students will recognize, but he left a lasting mark during his time at the university and his legacy is one every student can still be thankful for.

Lynch was the driving force behind Wickwire Field, a label he shared with Ted Wickwire until the latter died. Lynch not only kept up the push to build Wickwire Field, he also established the policy of free admission for Dal students at home games. He also created the Dal Golf Classic and the Black and Gold club.

Interestingly, many of the inductees remembered not just their sporting careers but also their classes.

"Dr. Guy MacLean was probably my favourite professor of all time," said Lynch. "He is a history professor

and went on to become president of Dalhousie University, just a fine, fine individual."

Lynch himself became a Dal administrator. Dr. Albrow McKeen got Lynch involved in the board of governors, a position which helped Lynch push for the Wickwire field project.

Star presence wasn't lacking at the ceremony, as Dal's first athlete to have his name engraved on the Stanley Cup was inducted. Paul McLean wasn't at the ceremony because his Detroit Red Wings, who won the cup last year, were playing the New Jersey Devils later that night.

McLean was the centre of attention himself while at Dal, serving as a star forward on the only men's hockey team to make it to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) finals.

This is only the third induction into Dal's relatively new Hall of Fame. A Wall of Fame has also been set up in the DalPlex, full of pictures of past Tigers champions.

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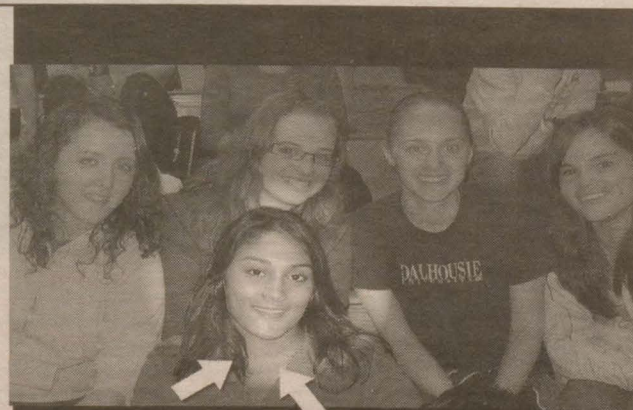
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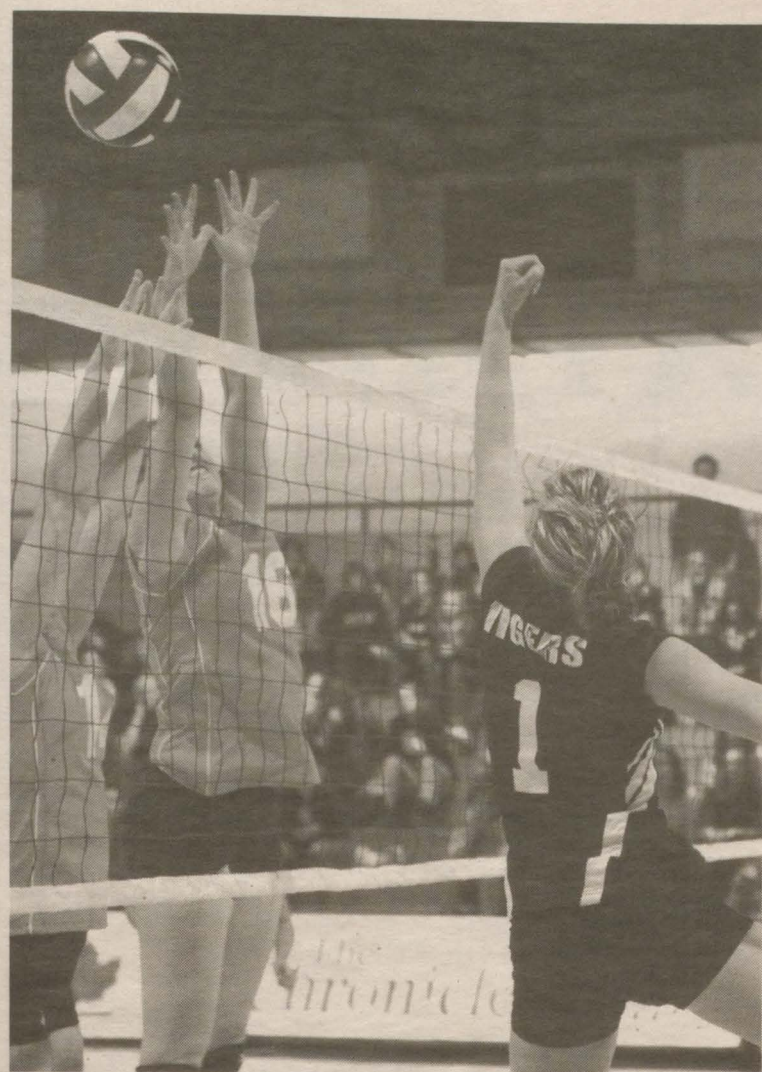
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Dal outside hitter Courtney Giesbrecht tips the ball past a Capers block.

Dal women serve up two wins in two days

SCOTT MONEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The women's volleyball team is now step closer to their ultimate goal of finishing in the top five thus qualifying for the Atlantic University Sport playoffs.

New head coach Rick Scott now leads the team, bringing with him a wealth of experience. Before coming to Dal, Scott took his Selkirk Royals to consecutive national championships in 2007 and 2008 at the Canadian women's volleyball open. Scott hopes to bring this success to Dal and help the women qualify for the playoffs for the first time since the 2005-06 season. There are nine new players on this year's team, including third-year outside hitter Sue Butler, second-year Tisha Evison and five first years: Kirstie Shepherd, Courtney Giesbrecht, Lauren Schinkel, Megan Stymiest, Roslyn Tait, Lauren Smith and Danielle Blinn. This young group looks to bring energy to the court in support of fourth-year middle Maggie Morrison and second-year setter Robyn West.

This was shown as the women started their pre-season with a lengthy roadtrip and dropped their first four exhibition games, losing 12 out of 13 overall to start the pre-season. Fortunately for them the pre-season games don't count in the overall standings. Looking to turn the page and start the season on a winning note, the Tigers beat UPEI and St. Francis Xavier University to start the Atlantic University Sport regular season, which opened at the beginning of the month.

This would set the stage for last weekend's games versus Acadia University and Cape Breton University. On Nov. 7 at the Dalplex the Tigers were looking keep their momentum and show their home fans they are legitimate contenders. They accomplished this feat by doing away with the last place Acadia Axewomen in three straight sets. Dal

was constantly leading and showed superior talent. With her timely kills and superb blocking, Maggie Morrison earned herself the player of the game title.

After the game, coach Scott said he was pleased with his team's effort.

"We have a skilled young team and I'm happy with tonight's game." He went on to say that the Nov. 8 game against Cape Breton would be a tougher contest and he looked forward to it. Right from the beginning the Cape Breton Capers showed they would not be an easy team to beat. The two teams would split the first two sets 25-22, 29-26. It looked as though Dal was taking control by winning the third set 25-21.

Lauren Schinkel was dominating the Capers with her attacks throughout the entire match. Dal would see the fourth set slip away after some sloppy defence. The final set was extremely exciting. The stands were almost entirely full and the crowd was getting into the game. Dal began the final set by accumulating an early lead and would never look back. The Tigers would win the nail-biter 15-12. It was an overall great team effort with the line up of: Giesbrecht, Morrison, Shepherd, West and Schinkel as Dal's most effective. To cap off Schinkel's impressive performance, she was given the much-deserved player of the game award. After the match, a modest Schinkel said she was very impressed with her team's effort and gave her opponents credit.

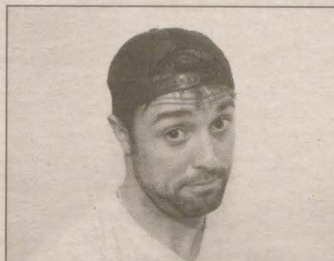
"They are a much different team than Acadia," she said. "They're bigger than us and they are really talented."

Coach Scott agreed.

"I really enjoyed tonight's game," he said afterward. "We had a few defensive breakdowns but we were able to overcome that and get a big win."

Their next match will be Saturday Nov. 15 at the University of New Brunswick.

Holla fame



NICK KHATTAR
SPORTS EDITOR

Geez, a guy can hardly find a newspaper to soak up his own barf without coming across five articles about hall of fame inductees or high profile sporting tournaments. That seems to have been the main focus of media within the Halifax Regional Municipality last week.

Dalhousie President Tom Traves held a cozy luncheon last Wednesday, Nov. 5, to unveil his wacky and wild news: Dal has submitted a bid to host the 2011-2012 Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Men's Hockey Championships. Also bidding for the tournament is the University of New Brunswick (UNB), who hosted it in 2003-04. But this would be Dal's very first time.

In a press release concerning the CIS bid, Traves said Dal will "roll out the red carpet, and given recent history in Halifax, I have no doubt the event will be a huge success." Yes, the recent history in Halifax. The history I recall is the greasy ball-drop the municipality pulled during the bid for the 2014

Commonwealth Games. I wouldn't call that a "success", unless the intention was to fuck up. If that was the case, then yes, city officials were successful!

Despite those shortcomings, Halifax has managed to secure the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) "Final 8" basketball tournament for 2011-12. No one else bid for it after Carleton University got taken to the cleaners hosting the event last year.

Dal's basketball teams are actually good now. In two years the Tigers could be holding open try-outs like the Halifax Rainmen.

Mind you, Halifax has hosted the CIS basketball nationals since I was born, and it has traditionally been the only Canadian basketball championship I get excited for. I guess it could be worse - we could be wasting our money on a tournament for some silly sport, like, say, curling.

Oh, that's right. The Canadian Curling Association announced last Tuesday that in 2010 Halifax is again set to host the Tim Hortons Brier Cup.

The Brier is apparently worth \$25 million in economic spin-offs. I can just see the thought bubble over Mayor Peter Kelly's head: "Twenty-five million dollars... imagine how many heritage buildings I could knock over with that."

It's hard to say exactly how much it costs to host The Brier Cup, but it must be pricey. At this year's Brier Cup in Calgary, volun-

teers working at the tournament have to pay \$100 to "cover the cost of clothing and volunteer parties" - that's what Brier organizers told CTV Calgary.

Well I tell ya, it's a good thing there isn't an economic crisis in the world right now, or committing to something as financially unpredictable as the inflated price tag of the Final 8 basketball tournament could pose some serious risk. Oh well, just tell Mayor Kelly and Premier Rodney MacDonald the citizens of HRM think it's a super-duper-awesome plan, and they will find some leftover surplus to ease the anxieties of the CIS tournament.

In an article that appeared in the Nov. 6 edition of the Chronicle Herald, AUS director Phil Currie was quoted as saying it is "interesting that we were the only bid."

His explanation was that it must be a message from the rest of the country.

The message is that no one wants to sink money into these tournaments anymore. It's time to expand and look to other events or worthwhile causes in which to invest our money. If you can't convince them the Commonwealth Games is a good investment, good luck pushing Lilith Fair.

On a brighter note, all these fiscal tournaments in Halifax should put us in the running for a spot in a sports hall of fame somewhere for the category of "Most Money Squandered on Mediocre Tournaments."

Dal rowers keep sport's history alive

JOEL TICHINOFF
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

A heavy fog hangs over Halifax's Northwest Arm on a warm November morning as the members of the Halifax Rowing Club gather to wash down the boats and close up shop at the St. Mary's Boat Club. Another season has come and gone. The rowers' passion for their sport is plain to see in the careful attention to detail in disassembling and cleaning the boats right down to the smallest nuts and bolts. It's hard to imagine these waters were home to some of the greatest races in the history of rowing. Crowds of up to 20,000 Halifax rowers in competition against the world's best; the Oxford and Cambridge rowers, the rowing clubs of London and Paris, Boston and Manhattan. At its height in the late 19th century, rowing was one of the most popular spectator sports in the world and rowers from the Arm regularly competed and won in international competitions. World champion Halifax rowers such as George Brown, Warren Smith and the Lynch brothers were household names across the British Empire. Those days have passed. The Halifax Rowing Club is all that remains of the Northwest Arm's former glory. With them on this early Saturday morning are Dalhousie rowing team members who've

come out to help the municipal club shut down the season.

The Dal rowers are coming off a huge win at the first ever Atlantic University Rowing Championships hosted by the team last weekend. Dal beat teams from St. Francis Xavier University, University of New Brunswick, Mount St. Vincent University. They also beat the University of King's College by 35 points. King's was the only other team that managed to score any points against Dal, registering five points to Dal's 40.

"A ridiculous amount of points," commented team president Dan Murray.

The championships were the third regatta Dal has hosted this season, down from four regattas last year due to lack of funds. Murray, a fifth-year English student with a degree in history, has done his best to make rowing feasible despite Dal Athletics' pinched purse.

Dal Rowing enjoyed its biggest turnout ever this season with 40 members, up from 11 last year, attending the team's first meeting. That number dropped to 28 when the new members were told how much it would cost them to participate: \$350 basic fees plus expenses. That's down from the 2007 season's fee of more than \$600. Rowing does receive minimal funding from the school: \$1,000 from the Athletics Department and a \$500 grant from the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU).

The Dal Alumni Association also provides an annual \$1,000 donation from an anonymous alumnus.

In a sport where one boat alone costs upwards of \$30,000, the funding doesn't go far, especially with the rapid increase in the team's membership.

The history of rowing at Dal has been plagued by funding issues dating back to the club's formation about 50 years ago. Dalhousie did purchase two sculls for its rowers in the 1960s when a fierce rivalry burned between the Dal rowers and their counterparts at King's. Those boats were ultimately given away as a result of a long standoff between the rowers and the school over the university's reluctance to properly fund the team. The boats were left on the shore of the Northwest Arm until taken up by local rowing enthusiast and Dal alumnus Chipman Hall with help from Dr. Mai Riives, who graduated from Dal's medical school in 1985. Hall used the boats to found what is now the Halifax Rowing Club.

While team president Murray will most likely be departing after this season, he is certain the club will pass into good hands and will continue to grow and promote the sport at Dal. Ontario remains the home of strong varsity rowing programs, but there is a drive from athletes across the country to qualify rowing in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport league.

WRITE FOR THE DAL GAZETTE
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THE SEXTANT



Nov. 13 - Rich Aucoin
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Nov. 20 - Open Mic and Movember Moustache Mania
Nov. 21 - Trivia

Engineers Without Borders

Emily Stewart

No When I told people I would be working in Malawi for four months as an Engineers Without Borders (EWB) short-term volunteer, the first question people always asked was inevitably, "So what are you building?" I think part of this skewed perception of what engineers do is in part due to the misunderstandings of what engineers do here in Canada. Most engineers in Canada are not directly "building things", and likewise, as a volunteer I was not building physical things either. Rather, EWB likes to think of its volunteers as *building capacity* within the development organizations it partners with. Rather than implementing EWB-designed projects as solutions for the many challenges that root people in a cycle of poverty, EWB sends its volunteers to work within local organizations that have much deeper understandings of what is needed in communities than any western outsider. Thus, volunteers try to effect change by making the organization do what it does even better. So no, I wasn't exactly getting covered in cement while constructing latrines and boreholes.



The difficulties of considering the local cultural context in international development

That being said, I did get to witness some actual sanitation facility construction throughout my placement while working with the largest water and sanitation-project-implementing organization in Malawi. While doing an assessment of the project's monitoring and evaluation system, I began to ask myself, "To what extent does an organization have to adhere to a western ideal of a solution to poverty in order to secure donor funding?" Specifically, I was observing that despite working in a locally based organization with Malawian managers and field workers, I was still seeing evidence of culturally inappropriate solutions to the problem of poor sanitation practices. I realized that even for a local organization, taking the local cultural context into consideration when implementing development projects is very challenging for two major reasons. First, it is not necessarily practical on a large-scale basis where project activities are spread across a wide area; the project I was with, included 513 villages, and because the project had been drastically scaled up from previous years, it was impossible to tailor hygiene promotion and training activities to each and every village. Second, while working towards one of project outcomes (i.e. improving hygiene behaviour), the project approach ignored some critical cultural norms because its donors wanted to see certain indicators that didn't mesh with existing hygiene practices in Malawi.

To clarify, I will briefly explain the sanitation aspect of the organization's large water and sanitation project. At the village level, households are strongly encouraged to construct sanitation facilities, from covered latrines to prevent flies from transmitting water-borne disease (i.e. cholera) to "hand washing facilities" (HWFs) to encourage post-latrine hygiene practices. These are made of a tree branch, an upside-

down tripod of sorts, with the three-prong holding an open basin of water. A handled cup with a hole in the bottom hangs off one of the prongs by a wire loop. People are instructed to scoop some water, hang the cup and rinse their hands beneath the dribble of water from the cup-hole. Some HWFs even have a small flowering plant below to monitor whether people are actually using these HWFs. In all, a pretty nifty little system made from local materials, both cheaply and easily. A perfect idea, so it would seem. Unfortunately, from my experience observing people and from asking many villagers and project staff who visit villages regularly, nobody uses these HWFs, despite their attractiveness to western eyes.

Digging deeper: understanding and questioning

But did anyone question the cultural context behind this? No. I sat by as we continued to promote these HWFs in village after village, while few people, if any, used them. I began to feel discouraged and cynical, and wondered whether "cultural context consideration" was simply more development jargon tossed around casually. How would we, as Canadians, feel if an organization told us we should adopt a whole new hand washing system? It would not go over very well. Should we thus expect Malawians to adopt a western-style hand washing practice? Perhaps, instead of focusing on their sanitation weaknesses, we could build on what Malawians do well already. While overseas, I observed that Malawians take *before-eating* hand washing very seriously, while Canadians place higher value on *after-toilet* hand washing. Instead of wasting time and resources building HWFs at every household, why not encourage people to start communally using soap before meals as they rinse their hands? Using soap would be a simple addition to an already established routine that kids and adults actually value as being an important hygiene measure (perhaps even more than Canadians value washing their hands

before eating), rather than trying to drastically change the behaviour of an entire culture altogether.

As Canadians, we can start to tackle these issues

Poverty is caused and sustained by a multitude of complex factors (water and sanitation being just one of them) that are interlinked in an even more complicated way. We have a responsibility to facilitate development organizations' capacity to do their work as effectively as possible. As Canadians, we have the ability to remove barriers to development, such as donor stipulations placed on development projects (e.g. requiring hand-washing facilities). Larger examples of barriers to development include governmental Tied Aid, which means that donor governments require development project money to be spent on goods or services from their own country. Canada is very guilty of this, with over 1/3 of our official development aid (over \$1 billion in funding) tied by strings back to Canada. EWB members have been working to stop tied aid for over four years, through mass street-wide campaigns, public outreach events, petitions to the federal government, and by asking uncomfortable questions to local politicians. The Canadian government has just announced a few weeks ago that it will completely untie aid, which is an incredible step forward. Canada has made aid spending go \$100-180 million further without actually increasing our development expenditures, by simply removing tied aid inefficiencies. This shows that with some effort, patience, and dedication, we can continue to work towards making poverty history and removing some cynicism towards international development. To get involved with the EWB chapter at Dalhousie (which is open to engineers and non-engineers), email dal@ewb.ca and ask to be put on our mailing list, so you can find out about the activities happening this year and across the country at other universities.



The Sextant

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Top 3 - Things I Like About TV

JF Nowlan
Sextant Contributor Extraordinaire

As promised, this week's Top 3 is about what is good on TV. Although all television is riddled with sensationalism, there are some instances when they are acceptable to broadcast and document.

3) **Nature** - I've always been fascinated by nature. But this fascination has only increased with the introduction of nature in high-definition. Documentaries such as the BBC's "Planet Earth" demonstrate some of the most astonishing videos of Earth's animals and natural disasters. These shows document and illustrate the importance of balance in any ecosystem. It also educates the audience of current events and conservation efforts being conducted world wide. These shows serve as an educational tool for anyone caught admiring the beauty of our planet.

2) **Sports** - About a month ago, I was watching, as I typically do, the "ESPN Reporters". During that episode John Saunders, a reporter for ESPN and ABC, talked about his analysis of sport's effect on the then upcoming election. He stated golf and tennis are still white dominated sports, yet the public's acceptance of Tiger Woods and the Williams sister's dominance may aid Senator Barack Obama in making history. It is in this spirit why I love sports. It is where, although not perfect, talent deter-

mines who plays and who coaches; where individuals are truly judged by the contents of their character, to steal a phrase. There is also a passion and emotion associated with watching a sporting event. In this country, Hockey Night in Canada is an institution in most house holds. It is no wonder 40% of the NHL's revenue comes from the 6 Canadian teams. How many of you watch the World Juniors every boxing day?

1) **South Park** - In my opinion, this is the best show currently on television. Currently in its twelfth season, the show ridicules almost anything in current events. Some of the shows critics point to its obvious slant for being "preachy", but using comedy as a tool, it illustrates the often knee-jerk reaction of the American public. The creators will occasionally make light of other countries mannerisms. Topics from ManBearPig, 9/11, World of Warcraft, Guitar Hero, Oprah and the Internet are all explored to why they are relevant in our existence. Humiliating public figures and often discrediting themselves with their own characters, South Park is a show which keeps reality honest... with cardboard cutouts.

No matter what, TV is made for entertainment. It will always be ruled by rich corporations who are interested in bottom line revenues rather than content. However, as someone somewhere once said: "Variety is the spice of life". TV does have something for everyone.

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