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THE JUICE IS LOOSE

Future MBA students will get 'straight to the juicy' with new corporate work term p. 3&4

Yo Rodeo artists move into a new dimension p. 12
Dal alumnus swims into hall of fame p. 14



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Hello, Dalhousie students!

The DSU Council is made up of 40 members that represent all Dalhousie students. The DSU council provides guidance to the Executive and makes a number of important decisions about the direction of the Union. Council meets every two weeks during the school year and meetings are open to all students, although only councilors are able to vote. DSU council meetings will resume after the Christmas break on **Wednesday January 7, 2009 at 6:30pm** in Council Chambers (second floor of the SUB). The agenda and all meeting documents are posted on the Monday previous to the meeting, and can be found online under About Us/Council at www.dsu.ca. The DSU Council is a great way to get involved in enhancing your university experience. For more information on Council, please contact the Council Chair, Mat Brectel, mat.brectel@gmail.com.

On Monday, December 1, join us at the Grawood for the **Last Class Bash with Signal Hill**. Whether you bid the semester a sorrowful farewell or celebrate your upcoming holiday freedom, this party will be for everyone.

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The Dalhousie Student Advocacy Service is available to help students receive fair and reasonable decisions on issues dealing with academic appeals and disciplinary matters. The DSAS strives to provide supportive advocacy services to students involved in all such situations and all inquiries are confidential. For more information, visit [services/studentadvocacy at www.dsu.ca](http://services/studentadvocacy.dsu.ca) or contact the DSAS at dsas@dal.ca.

As the days get shorter and homework gets more plentiful, you may find yourself studying around campus until longer and longer after sunset. Available on all three campuses, **Tiger Patrol** is a student-staffed, walk-home and patrol service that operates on University property. A prescheduled shuttle bus service also operates between the campuses and designated locations in the Halifax Regional Municipality. Stay safe and call Tiger Patrol at (902) 494-6400. Visit www.dsu.ca for more information and route schedule.

As always, the **Grawood** is a great place to stop for lunch throughout the week, and both the Grawood and T-Room provide fantastic programming for your evenings. Check out this week's details online at www.dsu.ca.

Just a reminder: the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) has retained the services of Hill Law to provide **legal assistance** to Dalhousie students. The DSU Legal Assistance Program is available for any legal problem, regardless of whether or not it is University related. Consultations are provided to students free of charge. A lawyer will be available most Friday afternoons after 2:00 pm. All consultations are confidential and made by appointment only. Appointments must be made before noon on Thursdays. Visit www.dsu.ca for more information or call: 494-1106 to make an appointment.

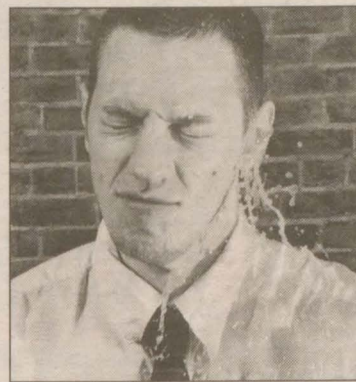
Check back next week for more news, and as always, contact us with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



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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 Stretcher 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. All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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Where do self-starters start?

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

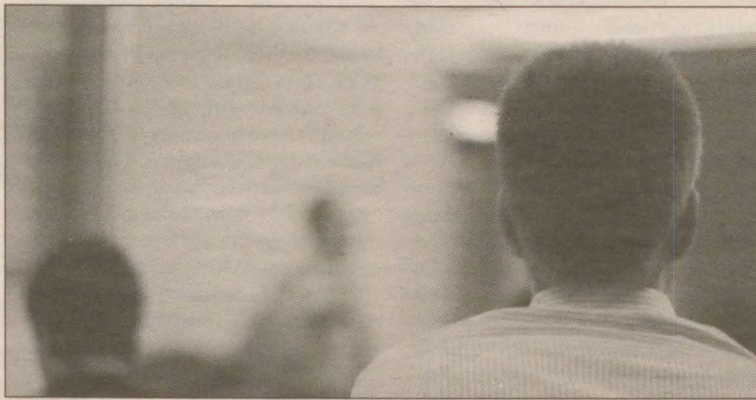
How does a university develop a marketing campaign to attract students? Well, ours looks to local advertisers to create sexually suggestive phrases and then promotes, promotes, promotes.

The Dalhousie Faculty of Management launched its campaign in September for the new Masters of Business Administration (MBA) program. Since the program is a complete re-vamp of the existing structure, the faculty of management wanted to create an edgy campaign to attract students. After months of focus groups, research and consultation, they came up with a catchy slogan: "Straight to the Juicy."

Take a moment to think about the words and images coming into your mind when you consider the slogan. What is juicy? And what does it mean to get straight to it? Maybe "juicy" refers to getting to the heart of a MBA education: practical experience and knowledge about business and management. Or maybe it implies getting into something else.

Let's put the words into context. The Corporate Residency MBA program is a first for Canadian schools. The program consists of an eight-month internship with potential future employers and can be completed in 22 months. The appeal of the program is students straight from their undergraduate studies have the opportunity to complete their MBAs and get work experience. The faculty of management has major employers signed up, such as TD Canada Trust and Procter and Gamble.

Colin Craig, the management faculty's manager of marketing and communications, says the school is focused on third- and fourth-year undergraduate students as its target market. The faculty of management hired Colour, the Halifax-based advertising company, to develop the



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal should've asked students for feedback about the new MBA program's ad campaign before choosing an unprofessional slogan.

campaign. Craig wouldn't disclose how much Dal paid for the ad agency, only that it was a "suitable number." Craig says Dal wants to focus on social media, such as Facebook and MySpace, to reach the school's target audience. With Colour, Dal conducted focus groups in the spring to determine who to target for the program, and they went through the creative process in the summer. After months of work, Colour delivered the "juicy" and other taglines for the print campaign: "No Waiting," "Get What You Want, Faster," and "Where Self-Starters Start."

I'm all for getting attention through an edgy campaign, but this "juicy" stuff is irresponsible. Do students want to come to a university that likes "the juicy"? I assume the administration, with its extensive marketing expertise, understands the potential sexual and drug use connotations of the phrase. The administration must have weighed the pros and cons of how the campaign would reflect Dal on a professional level, particularly with employers and alumni. I also assume the administration spent tens of thousands of dollars or maybe hundreds of

thousands of dollars towards creating the campaign.

As a second-year MBA student, I'm puzzled by the administration's actions. I love my program, my school and my classmates. But I don't like this haphazard campaign. My faculty can push the boundaries without looking crude. Why couldn't the current MBA students be involved in the process? Town hall meetings were held in February and September about program changes but students were not consulted in the process of developing the campaign. Why not create a competition where MBA students develop a marketing campaign for the new program? Wouldn't this enhance the social media marketing push by getting students involved in the process?

But now that the juicy is out, all this hindsight is in vain. So far the faculty of management received positive feedback from the students. Craig says recruiters are hearing lots of excitement from prospective students. I'm not surprised. The program itself is appealing. I'm left to wonder how this campaign will reflect on Dal.

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New MBA program garners mixed reviews

RUTH MESTECHKIN
NEWS EDITOR

Dalhousie University is overhauling its Master of Business Administration (MBA) program next year. The major selling point is its new corporate residency program, branded as the only one of its kind in the country.

JoAnne Akerboom, the director of external affairs of the MBA program, explains this residency is an eight-month internship period with an employer.

"It is a little different than other co-op or internship opportunities in that this is really an integrative process that is going to take place from the beginning of the program right through to the end," says Akerboom.

Plans for the program have been in the works for the past two years. This is the first time the Dal MBA program is offering work experience built into it. The university modelled this approach after its Bachelor of Commerce program, which offers three shorter co-op work terms in four years.

The two-year MBA begins July 2009. After six months of classes, students will leave on their work placements, where they'll continue taking two on-line courses. Dal has already secured partnerships with corporations such as

BMO Financial Group and IBM.

Akerboom says the program aims to make finding employment easier for students.

"The intent is once they finish that corporate residency the employer is so hooked on them they're going to make a job offer," says Akerboom.

The program comes with a larger price tag. Two-year total tuition will spike from roughly \$15,000 to \$38,000. Akerboom says part of the rise is to put Dal in line with other schools' tuition across the country. The Queen's University MBA program costs close to \$60,000, while the University of Western Ontario's Richard Ivey MBA tuition costs roughly \$62,000.

Even with the tuition hike, Akerboom says the program's not a hard sell - with the corporate residency period, students will end up earning back at least \$30,000 of that \$38,000.

According to Akerboom, Dal has already received 397 inquiries from prospective students about the program and has already got 28 partial applications out of a maximum of 50 spots. The final deadline's not until March 15.

Adam Marsh, president of Dal's MBA society, says the new internship portion of the program is appealing. His biggest concern with the current program was students' difficulty in

finding summer internships and placements, especially because Dal, unlike schools like the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Business, doesn't require work experience prior to enrolment.

"About three-fourths of students who entered the MBA program had no work experience at all," says Marsh. "So when they leave the program they're not getting as good jobs as a student that's leaving another program which requires work experience. So I think it prepares people a little better, working in the outside world and gaining industry experience."

Marsh says he thinks the revamped program will boost the school of business's reputation.

"Dalhousie on the whole has a very good reputation across Canada, but the MBA program seems to lack that a little bit," he says. "It basically just uses the Dalhousie school reputation on a whole as opposed to the MBA program reputation. So I think this would definitely bolster the reputation a little bit."

In *Maclean's* 2008 national reputational university rankings, Dal landed the 14th spot out of 48 schools for the best overall category. But it didn't make the cut for the *Financial Times* Global MBA 2008 rankings, which included six Canadian universities.

Marsh says there are some drawbacks to the program. Because the work term starts only six months after classes start, he says students wouldn't have been able to build solid relationships, which could hinder the development of student societies.

He also says current students didn't play as big of a role in the planning process as he would have liked.

"Most of the planning is done by the administrative staff," says Marsh. "So other than opinion polls and asking what we'd like to see different in this program as opposed to the program we're in now, we're not actively involved in the planning process."

Marsh says an MBA student is sitting on the corporate residency planning committee but the faculty primarily calls the shots.

"Other than our opinions of what we'd like to see, what we didn't like with this program, what we felt they could improve upon, we really don't hold much weight in the planning process as far as going out and recruiting companies for students to have internships with -- a lot of the class preparations," he says.

Employers can't seem to agree on the merits of a work term either.

Lee Bragg, the co-CEO of Eastlink, says students graduating from the eight-month program would have a leg up on students who had

shorter co-op work terms.

"I almost wouldn't mind if it was actually longer," says Bragg. "Some of the shorter ones are actually a challenge for the organization to find a meaningful role.... But in eight months at least you can say, 'well, I can invest some time.'"

Bragg adds a longer work term gives co-op students two to three months to understand the organization and show employers how they can contribute to the company. Then they have a longer period of time to become valuable to the organization.

But Simon Vaysman, associate vice-president of treasury and balance sheet management at the TD Bank Financial Group, doesn't see it the same way.

"From my perspective, if somebody was a co-op versus a full-time student, I cannot say that one is better than another," he says.

Vaysman explains the company he works for has hired co-op students from Canadian universities and there is a big chance these students will be offered full-time employment later on. But he says he sees a problem with scheduling work terms in the middle of studying.

"They may lose focus a little bit and their academic knowledge may not be as solid as the people from full-time (studying)," he says.

CASA report stirs DSU

ANDREW ROBINSON
DSU REPORTER

A campaign from the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) during last month's federal election has irritated the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU).

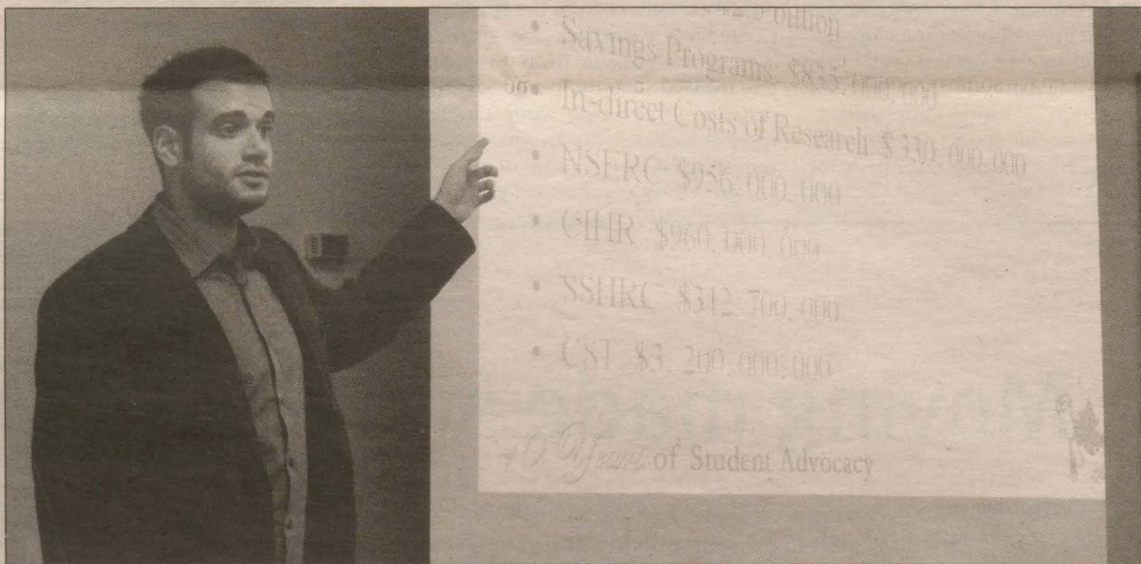
CASA - an organization advocating for improved post-secondary education, and of which the DSU is a member - released a Party Education Platform Report Card during the election. The document applied letter grades to parties based on their post-secondary education platforms. The grading system goes from A to F, an A denoting a "platform makes clear promise to implement" post-secondary education proposals. An F shows a "platform does not mention" any proposed changes.

The Liberals received the highest grade with an A-, the NDP received a B+ and the Green Party a B. The Conservatives received the lowest grade with a B- and did not release any platform dealing with post-secondary education. Instead, the Conservatives chose to run on their governing record.

The document highlights a few of the Conservatives' governing policies, which included a new grants program to replace the Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation and a new scholarship program aimed at graduate students. However, it does not mention any promises for the future.

DSU vice-president (education) Mark Coffin was immediately surprised by the results of the report card - released Oct. 9, five days before voting day. He wondered why CASA didn't give the Conservatives a lower grade.

The Liberal plan included a \$25



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Zach Churchill, national director of CASA, says maintaining a good relationship with the Conservative government wasn't a consideration in the grading scheme for the organization's report card.

billion increase in non-repayable student aid for high-need students to be spread over 20 years. On the post-graduation side of the coin, the Liberals promised a two-point interest rate reduction on federal student loans and an extension of the grace period on repayment after graduation from six months to two years.

"The difference between a B- and an A- doesn't really capture the essence of how much the Liberals actually promised compared to what the Conservatives promised - practically nothing," says Coffin.

Given platforms can be a major selling point for political parties, Coffin wonders why the Conservatives avoided making significant promises on post-secondary education.

"The platform is your place to reaffirm any commitments you've

made to make yourself look good. So why wouldn't the Conservatives take that opportunity to highlight what they've done for post-secondary education?" he says.

Coffin raised the matter in his bi-weekly report to council at its Oct. 22 meeting. It came up again when staff from CASA - including the organization's national director, Zach Churchill - made a presentation to council on the organization's most recent activities at the Nov. 5 council meeting. Council member Lisa Buchanan expressed bewilderment as to how the Conservatives were given a B- without offering a platform.

To the amusement of council, Buchanan compared the situation to not passing in an assignment for a class.

"Normally if you don't hand in a

paper, you get an F," she said at the meeting.

Churchill, speaking on the phone from his office in Ottawa, says CASA staff compiled the report card to inform potential voters on what to expect from each of the parties on post-secondary education matters.

"We've found it's been a very helpful way to inform students and the public on what they'll be getting depending on which party gets elected," he says.

Because the Conservatives chose to run on their governing record, Churchill says basing their grade on their prior commitments was the only fair way to judge the party.

"We thought the only honest and responsible way to approach that question was to include those com-

mitments in the report card," says Churchill.

Coffin says he called Churchill the day he first saw the report card and was told CASA was wary of being too harsh on the party most likely to win the election for the sake of maintaining a good working relationship.

"My response was 'well, if there's a party out there that's promising a lot more with regards to education then we should be highlighting that to possibly affect which party gets in, instead of trying to gussy up to whatever party will get in based on polls,'" Coffin says.

Churchill says maintaining a good relationship with the government was not a consideration in the grading, adding that CASA handled the Conservatives with soft gloves.

"Did we want to slam them based on the fact they didn't discuss education to the extent they should have during the election, or did we want to be honest and forthright with what they'd actually committed and what would be implemented when they got into government? We decided that the responsible decision would be to inform people what they would get if they elected a Conservative government," says Churchill.

Churchill was pleased with the report card and what it was able to achieve, but he does appreciate the critical feedback coming from Coffin and others.

"We're receiving constructive criticism coming out of the whole federal election campaign, so we're taking that into consideration and making sure we have a plan that's better next time around. We can only get better," he says.

Coffin and other members of CASA will discuss the federal election campaign and other education

WRITE FOR THE DAL GAZETTE
Contributor meetings are held every Monday at 5:30pm. in room 312 of the SUB

Dal president not ready to retire

Student feedback needed in presidential review

KATIE MAY
COPY EDITOR

Tom Traves thought he'd be bored by now.

With 12 years already under his belt as president of Dalhousie University, Traves decided last year to stay on for only half of another six-year term. Fifteen years, he thought, would be "a fairly good run" as head of the Maritimes' largest school.

When Dal's board of governors asked him last spring if he wouldn't mind staying on a bit longer, the 60-year-old said he'd sleep on it.

"So I thought about it through the summer, just sort of chewed it over: what do I want to do when I grow up?" he explains, deadpan. "And (I) came to the conclusion that I'd love to continue doing some of the things I'm doing now for just a little longer."

As Dal enters its 190th year, Traves has committed to his third and final full term as president. He's already the longest serving university president in Atlantic Canada. He'll keep the job for four and a half more years, pending official approval from the administration when it finishes its contract renewal process in the coming months.

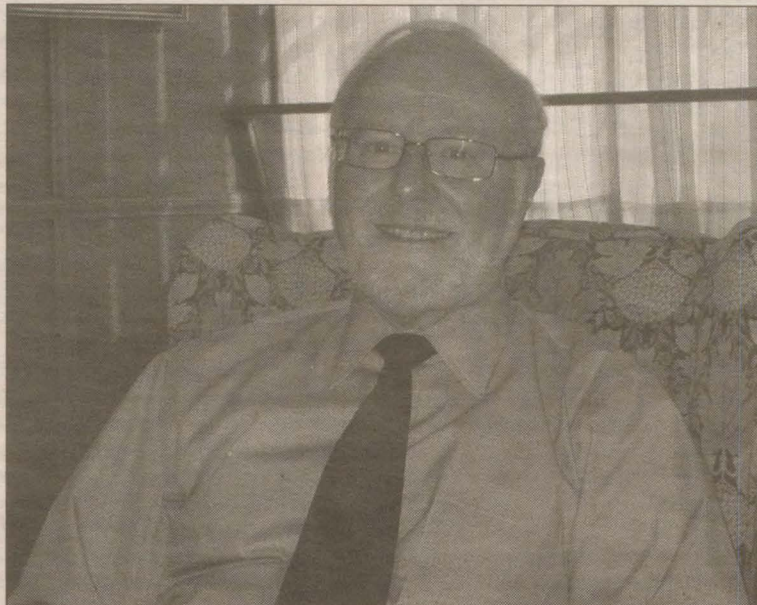
Dal Student Union President Courtney Larkin is the student representative on the presidential review committee, which also includes three university senators and three members from the board of governors. The committee will hold its first meeting at the end of this month and Larkin is responsible for finding out what students, faculty and staff think of their president.

"There's going to be a wide range of opinions," she says, opting not to share her own opinion of Traves' work as she starts to collect feedback from the student council.

There's too much going on in the university community for Traves to retire early. He won't get special benefits for staying in the job longer, apart from standard annual increases to his \$349,311 salary. But he says he wants to help see Dal through the sudden financial fallout that's affecting enrolments and endowments at universities across the country.

"From the time I thought about this in the summer months to today, we have the intervention of a global economic crisis that has come down," he says. "I think the university will be in a good position to manage our way through that butwith my experience I might be in a better place to deal with those and see the university past those concerns before I leave."

He also wants to see through a



KATIE MAY/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Tom Traves anticipates he'll be ready to retire in four and a half years – he's got a golf game "that needs improving."

funding agreement Nova Scotia universities signed with the province last March that promised to freeze tuition for all students for three years. It's Traves' "single most important priority" to make sure the agreement works out the way it's supposed to and that Dal benefits from a new financial distribution plan when this one expires in 2011.

Then there are campus construction projects, new academic programs and fundraising plans all on the go.

"For me this is very energizing," Traves says. "I have a new job but it just happens to be in the same place. And the 'new job' is a product of the fact that I have some terrific new colleagues."

While his key administrative team has changed frequently over the years, Traves has remained at the helm of the institution for nearly 13 years – many of them marked with tuition hikes and university pleas to the government for more funding.

Last year he was elected chair of the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada in addition to serving as chair of the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents.

His institutional memory will help him guide other Atlantic universities through new challenges, says Saint Mary's University (SMU) President Colin Dodds.

Dodds, SMU's president of nearly nine years, says the financial crisis is crunching endowments and enrolments in a way universities haven't seen since the 1987 stock market crash. Schools are also worried about

faculty retention and labour discussions and they need a steady hand to keep them going, Dodds says.

"We're going into uncharted waters, uncertain waters, and it's always good to have somebody who's been around for a long time," Dodds says, adding Traves brings "stability and confidence to people beyond Dal as well."

Traves says Dal has changed a lot – particularly in employee morale – since he's been here. He took the job when he was 47 with a resume including York University dean of arts and University of New Brunswick academic vice-president.

"When I came, Dalhousie was a depressed institution and now it's a very optimistic institution," Traves says.

"Over time you kind of get to the point where you feel you know what makes things happen, what makes people tick and you're ready to go to the next level. I think the challenge for people in my position is to get to that point as quickly as they can."

Traves plans to stay in Nova Scotia with his family when he retires – "I have a grandson and I have a golf game that needs improving" – but he doesn't have his retirement mapped out yet.

"Four and a half years is a long time. Who knows where I'll be. Let's hope I'm alive – that's the first hurdle to clear. And the second is – we'll see what's out there. But I can't see myself going on to start another full-time career with something else."

PRESIDENCY AT A GLANCE: HIGHLIGHTS OF TRAVES' TIME AT DAL



- **July 1, 1995:** Thomas Donald Traves is appointed as Dalhousie's 10th president.
- **April 1997:** Traves oversees Dal's merger with the Technical University of Nova Scotia (TUNS), now associated with Dal's Sexton campus.
- **March 25, 1998 – April 2, 1998:** Faculty strikes at Dal for the first time since 1988 over faculty union demands for salary increases and guaranteed staffing levels. About 25 students sue Traves and the Dalhousie Faculty Association for lost class time but drop their lawsuits when the strike ends.
- **March 4, 2002 – April 3, 2002:** Faculty strikes for the second time in four years over the Dalhousie Faculty Association's previous concerns: wages and guaranteed professor replacement after retirement. Students hold an overnight sit-in in Traves' office to protest the strike before both parties reach a deal.
- **Sept. 1, 2003:** Dal becomes the first university in Canada to ban smoking on campus, a policy Traves helped push for.
- **Aug. 14, 2006:** Dal announces it will opt out of the annual Maclean's university survey after Traves, along with other university leaders across Canada, signed a letter to the magazine citing flaws in its ranking system.
- **Jan. – March 2007:** Traves heads a university campaign urging Dal students to approve a \$25 million campus makeover plan that promises new buildings for student space in exchange for a hike in student fees. Students shut down the plan in a referendum, with 57.3 per cent of voters against it.
- **March 31, 2008:** As chair of the Council of Nova Scotia University Presidents, Traves helps negotiate funding agreements with the province to provide more student bursaries and freeze tuition for all students until 2011 – the first tuition freeze in Nova Scotia after years of steady increases.

New
Offering

Attention all aspiring Creative Writers

Writer In Residence Carol Bruneau



Critically acclaimed fiction writer Carol Bruneau has been praised by *The Globe and Mail* as "a first-class storyteller who uses words magically." Her novel *Purple for Sky* made the top 100 list of *The Globe and Mail's* "Best Books of 2000."

During her residency (January 12-March 20), Carol will be available for individual consultation. She is also offering two different biweekly non-credit workshops for those wishing to pursue the craft of writing fiction:

Workshop One

Got a tale itching to be told (or a voice yelling to be heard) but don't know how to start getting it down on paper? If you're a closet writer—or just curious—come and explore ways of kick-starting the creative-writing process in five informal, bi-weekly workshops, **January 19, February 1, 15, March 1, 15; Monday evenings 6–9 p.m.**, King's College Senior Common Room.

Workshop Two

Got a story that still needs work, but you're not sure what to fix or how to fix it? To help you explore and get feedback on the secret life of your piece, our four informal, bi-weekly workshops on revising will offer tips on successfully weaving fiction's web while considering the ideal reader/editor/publisher. **January 26, February 8, 22, March 8, Monday evenings 6–9 p.m.** King's College Senior Common Room.

Enrolment is limited to 15 per workshop,
so please sign up early!

Register for either workshop by Friday December 12, 2008:
By email: Carole.Poirier@dal.ca or by telephone: 494.3387
For more information check out: english.dal.ca



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NEWS BITES

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

York U. staff still striking

York University teaching assistants, graduate assistants and contract faculty, part of the union CUPE 3903, are still on strike as of Nov. 18. They're refusing to budge on issues including job security and the reinstatement of funding and benefit packages.

Staff rejected the university's most recent offer and both groups are blaming each other for not working out a deal, reported *Ex-*

calibur.

Dean of arts and spokesperson for the university, Robert Drummond, says the administration doesn't want to be the first to make concessions until it knows the union will be moving to settle and compromise.

Christina Rousseau, chair of the union, said the group was in discussions with a mediator to decide how to improve its proposal.

Source: *Excalibur*

New elective policy options for UBC students

If it is passed in the University of British Columbia's senate, undergraduate students at UBC may have a pass/D/fail elective policy, reported *The Ubysey.*

This means students will be able to take an elective on a pass or fail basis, but can choose not to include the grade in their final GPA. If they get a D or higher in

the course, they will pass, and will not be assigned a letter grade or a percentage.

Blake Frederick, Alma Mater Society associate vice-president external, said the purpose of this policy is to give students the opportunity to pursue education in any field they choose.

The policy has a deadline to be passed by early 2009.

Source: *The Ubysey*

NATIONAL HEADLINES:

U. of Ottawa prof arrested for ties to Paris bombing

Hassan Diab, a sociology professor at the University of Ottawa, was arrested last week for having ties to a bombing in Paris, France.

CBC reported Diab is a suspect in the bombing that killed four people on Oct. 3, 1980 outside a synagogue.

French police believe Diab

built the device and hid it inside a motorcycle, which was parked close to the building.

The RCMP is helping French police with the investigation, said RCMP Cpl. J.J. Hainey. An international warrant was released for the suspect's arrest.

Diab said he's innocent and was accused under mistaken identity.

Source: *CBC*

Canadian-U.S. auto bailout project under investigation

Industry Minister Tony Clement is investigating a potential joint Canada-U.S. bailout of North America's auto industry, reported *CBC.*

Clement will travel to Detroit and Washington for the week of Nov. 17 to "fact-find."

On the trip, he'll be talking with executives from Ford, Gen-

eral Motors and Chrysler, as well as American lawmakers.

Automakers have said they require about \$1 billion in loan guarantees.

The Conservative government has already pledged about \$450 million to restore the auto industry, said Finance Minister Jim Flaherty. But it's not clear how the money will be used.

Source: *CBC*

Staff and budget smaller in Dion's office

Eleven staff members have been laid off in Stéphane Dion's office, reported *CBC.*

Sarah Bain, a spokesperson for Dion, said the outcome of the Oct. 14 election prompted the opposition leader to cut positions.

Quebec advisor André Lamarre was one member of staff who was laid off. Other members include

staff who made tour arrangements and developed policy.

The Liberals won 77 seats on the Oct. 14 election, compared to 103 seats in 2006.

The loss of seats also means a loss of \$1 million of funding to the party.

The budget from the leader's office was also slashed from \$3.8 million to \$3.1 million.

Source: *CBC*

Canwest makes nationwide cuts

The downturn in the global economy has forced Canwest to cut 560 jobs across Canada, reported *CBC.*

The broadcaster and newspaper publisher said it plans to decrease annual operating costs by roughly \$61 million.

The company has already reduced web operations of some newspapers. It also plans to focus on

The National Post's profitable markets and cut discounted circulation.

CEO and President Leonard Asper said the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) is partly to blame for the company's problems. He said this was due to the CRTC's refusal to oblige broadcast distributors to pay broadcasters for carrying over-the-air signals.

Source: *CBC*

Students shut out of drive home program

JENNIFER CASEY
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

The Insurance Bureau of Canada gave \$250,000 to the Nova Scotia to help stop drunk driving over the holidays this year.

Bill Adams, the Atlantic vice-president of the bureau, says drinking and driving crosses all boundaries in politics and our community.

"Drinking and driving is not something we should be dealing with in the twenty-first century," says Adams.

Operation Red Nose, a program that runs during the four weekends leading up to Christmas, is the recipient of the money. The drive home service, in its fourth year in Halifax, picks people up and drives their cars home for them if they are too drunk to drive.

The volunteer-run program launched its 2008 campaign on Nov. 12 at Province House. In attendance were politicians, members of the Halifax Regional Police and the RCMP and all were quick to praise the program.

"Programs like Operation Red Nose are extremely important in preventing these completely avoid-

able tragedies," said Murray Scott, N.S. Minister of Transportation and Public Works.

But there is a catch: the service only drives home people who have brought their cars with them. This doesn't help most students much. Many students either don't have cars, or don't bother to bring them downtown, knowing they won't be able to drive home.

Dalhousie student Jayme MacMillan says she thinks Red Nose is an excuse for not planning ahead.

"I don't have a car, and I wish someone would drive me home for free, but I have to pay a taxi," said MacMillan.

But, for many, driving to the downtown area is their only option. Sgt. Mike Spearns of the Halifax Regional Police says there are many places on the outskirts of the city that don't have buses or reliable taxi service.

Leonard Preyra, Member of the Legislative Assembly for the Citadel Halifax riding, was at the kickoff event with antlers and a red nose. He supports Operation Red Nose as a good way to keep drunk drivers off the road. But he also thinks more could be done. He'd like to see some-

thing that could get non-drivers home safely.

"The late-night scene in Halifax is often a very dangerous scene," said Preyra. "It's a terrible brew for drunk drivers and people milling around not knowing how to get home because there's no late night bus service in downtown Halifax."

But it has to start somewhere. Spearns says the person who makes the decision to get behind the wheel drunk isn't the only one affected.

"It's like a plane crash: fly a thousand times without a single accident. But one plane crashes and how many people die?" says Spearns. "It's the same thing with a drunk. If you have 50,000 vehicles on the road on a given weekend one drunk can cause so much pain and suffering that's needless."

Spearns says he's seen his fair share of pain and suffering over his 32-year career.

"No family should have to receive the calls that we've delivered," he says. "Bringing a family to an emergency ward or a morgue to explain that their son or daughter has been badly injured, or worse...dead because of drunk driving."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

120 km/h: how fast winds fanned fires in the Sylmar area (close to the San Fernando Valley) in California.

1,500 years: dates back to largest ancient church, recently discovered in Syria.

15 days: how long the Space Shuttle Endeavour is spending in space to remodel the International Space Station.

14 pages: length of spoof New York Times issue,

including a story reporting the end of the Iraq war.

18 per cent: amount of new developing cancer drugs that have proved successful.

\$7.6 billion: how much Pakistan is borrowing from the International Monetary Fund in an attempt to stabilize its economy.

Sources: *CTV, BBC, CBC, BBC, BBC, Toronto Star*

Medical Musings

Get SMART with goal-setting



RACHEL SUNTER
HEALTH COLUMNIST

From kindergarten on, mainstream Canadian education spoon-feeds us tidbits from the plentiful, diverse academic pantry. Counting blocks and apples switches to timetables and long division. Amid anticipatory groans, we're introduced to algebraic equations and must memorize elemental charts and our language's funky grammatical rules and exceptions.

I remember asking myself what it was all for, and I got my answer in Grade 11 and 12, as I honed my academic skills into life skills - math to budgeting and bills, English to resumes, science to "common sense" we can use in the kitchen, outside and even psychology for our heads.

But a crucial piece is missing from this ornate puzzle of how-to-live-our-life. Too many of us have no idea how to set and reach our goals - daily goals, New Year's resolutions, and long-term dreams.

Without the right goal-setting skills, all the brains in the world will still land you behind lesser mortals who can organize themselves.

Too many people our age fly

from the nest without knowing how simple ways we can organize our activities to maximize productivity and overall happiness.

I've come across two excellent sources that break down the goal-setting procedures into a set of rational and scientifically proven steps. The psychology textbook, a veritable bible for a wide area of contemporary psychological studies, validates its goal-setting strategies with a slew of recent psychological experiments.

Research aside, it's really worth trying to implement these goal-setting guidelines into your own life. It's simple and effective.

All goals should be SMART. This is an acronym and a witty pun, see?

S - specific in all areas of how, when and what the goal is. For example, instead of vowing to eat healthier, try eating fruits, vegetables and whole grain products every day.

M - measurable, so you know when you have or haven't reached your goal. A goal to eat two fruits every day is measurable. Immeasurable goals can leave you with a false sense of failure or give you room to convince yourself you've done something you really haven't.

A - action-oriented toward what you will do, not what you wish for. Setting a goal and simply using the words, "I will do ..." instead of "I'm going to try" or "I should" will do wonders for both the reasonable setting and accomplishment of your goal.

R - realistic, but a challenge. This one's a little tricky, because

there is a real art to knowing how far you can push yourself before you risk giving up altogether. I'm sure you've experienced how easy it is to get so discouraged by one failure you let all your other goals slide too. So it's critical to set goals you actually can and will achieve. Otherwise you're setting yourself up for disappointment.

T - time limited, so that it actually gets done. It really helps not just to set a deadline, but a date, or window, for your action. If it's a weekly goal to write to your family, take a moment to visualize your week, figure out the most sensible time and place to write, and make that part of the goal, like "I will write to my family Friday morning before lunch."

And thanks to Notes From The Universe, a mailing website that sends subscribers motivational messages (www.tut.com), I've learned the most important thing you can do to set and reach your goals is visualization.

Visualize not only the act of achieving your goal, but how you will feel afterward. This anticipated sense of success can drive you through the harder parts of completing goals.

Do not underestimate the power of knowing exactly how to work yourself through life. We are not machines - living and working is so much more complicated than turning a switch on or off. But with realistic planning and an optimistic outlook, you can be at your best.

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

Prop the vote

JOHN HILLMAN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Our latest federal election fiasco makes it clear that this country needs a serious electoral makeover.

Our current system discounts the opinions of a disturbing number of Canadians. Due to some intensely partisan regional loyalties, many Canadians are forced to accept that unless their local incumbent is found in a compromising position with a barnyard animal, their vote will not make a lick of difference to the outcome of the election. Is it any wonder that our voter turnout is so low?

Under our current system, entire parties with considerable national support, such as the Green Party, are denied seats at the table simply because they lack regional strongholds. On the flip side of this problem are "majority" governments that need only win 40 per cent of national popular vote. The 2008 federal election saw a 59 per cent voter turnout – the lowest in Canadian history – meaning that somewhere between 20 to 25 per cent of the registered electorate could theoretically provide a party with a majority mandate. That puts our democracy on a roughly equal footing with the original Icelandic parliament of the 10th century – though to be fair to the Vikings, they did count all freemen's votes equally, regardless of what part of the nation they came from.

Transforming our Senate into an elected, proportionally representative body would go far to rectify these institutional and electoral shortcomings. Rather than discard our

first-past-the-post system entirely, the Canadian thing to do would be to enjoy the best of both worlds by leaving the House of Commons unchanged and reforming the Senate to be more representative.

The Canadian Senate is an antiquated institution that originates from the philosophy that the common masses could not be completely trusted with the responsibility of selecting a government. It was intended as a branch of "sober second thought," populated by members of the landed elite who were appointed for the remainder of their careers rather than elected.

These illustrious figures were entrusted with overseeing the decisions made by the democratically elected House of Commons in case the House tried to do something crazy, like let women vote. Given that its structure has remained largely unchanged for the last 141 years, reform of the Senate is long overdue.

According to current laws, Quebec, Ontario, the Maritime provinces and the Western provinces each get 24 seats in the Senate, leaving other territories and provinces to split up the remaining 17. We could keep this distribution intact so we don't endanger the representation of smaller provinces and still make the Senate represent the popular vote. In one potential model, during the election campaign every party could propose a prioritized slate of candidates they would send to the Senate assuming they won 100 per cent of the vote, ensuring they meet all of the regional quotas in the process. At election time, voters could cast a vote for the

party they would choose to control the Senate. Following the election, each party that won the right to hold at least a single senatorial seat could take turns appointing their representatives one at a time. Once a region's seat quota was filled, all of the parties would be forced to skip over any representatives on their slate from that region. This process would continue until all of the seats were filled.

Allowing citizens to cast one vote for their local member of parliament and a separate vote for the party that they would like to see control the Senate would empower the votes of Canadians regardless of geographic bias. This system would give the Senate a mandate to do more than rubberstamp legislation at tax-payer expense and it would put limits on the powers of so-called majority governments that fall short of securing 50 per cent plus one in the popular vote. It would also likely improve voter turnout and would go a long way to easing the dilemma many voters face when deciding whether to cast their vote based on the policies of the national parties or on the qualifications of local candidates.

It is time to take this discussion seriously. There are surely quirks in the process we will need to work out along the way. Instead of letting that discourage us, though, let's consider one key question: even if we actively, passionately tried, could we possibly come up with a worse system than the one we already have?

John Hillman is a graduate history student.

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.

Remember nothing

On the eve of Remembrance Day, one Halifax bar crossed the line. Peddlers Pub held a "Remembrance Day Special" under the title "No school Tuesday, let's party Monday!" The bar made sure the 223 confirmed guests would remember nothing the following morning, least of all Canada's veterans.

Not only did the bar use Remembrance Day as an excuse, they also used a kissy-faced blonde in a military uniform on the event poster. Sex sells, even at this disrespectful level.

With every passing year, our generation becomes more disconnected from the idea of respect for veterans. The men and women who fought in the past and who are currently fighting overseas are not doing so for our right to party.

The pub made it acceptable for "The Dalhousie Class of 2012" to drink on this sad day. The only ones who have an excuse for drinking on Remembrance Day are veterans who are trying to forget.

Hillary Beaumont
Arts Editor

NSPIRG should better reflect students' views

When I discovered last year the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) received a levy directly from the students, I was pretty upset. Why was it that I was expected to pay for an activist group that I didn't necessarily agree with? Like many others who come to think this way, I just forgot about it eventually. It's such a small amount of money, after all. Until I realized that NSPIRG sometimes supports agendas that are actually counterproductive to student's interests.

I was particularly upset about the Atlantica Resiste event they are

holding with the Beehive Collective on Nov. 22. The event is a protest of Atlantica, a movement toward better co-operation between Atlantic Canada and the northeast U.S. and promises to open up a slew of new jobs in logistics and transportation. It aims to bring new life into a dying port and offer great jobs for Halifax students. This is something that I'm sure many students would support. That is not to say that NSPIRG is not sometimes working for the students' interest but if NSPIRG is to collect a student levy, it should at least reflect the interests of students first, rather than those of the Beehive Collective.

Colin Conrad

Clones on campus

SCHENLEY BROWN
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

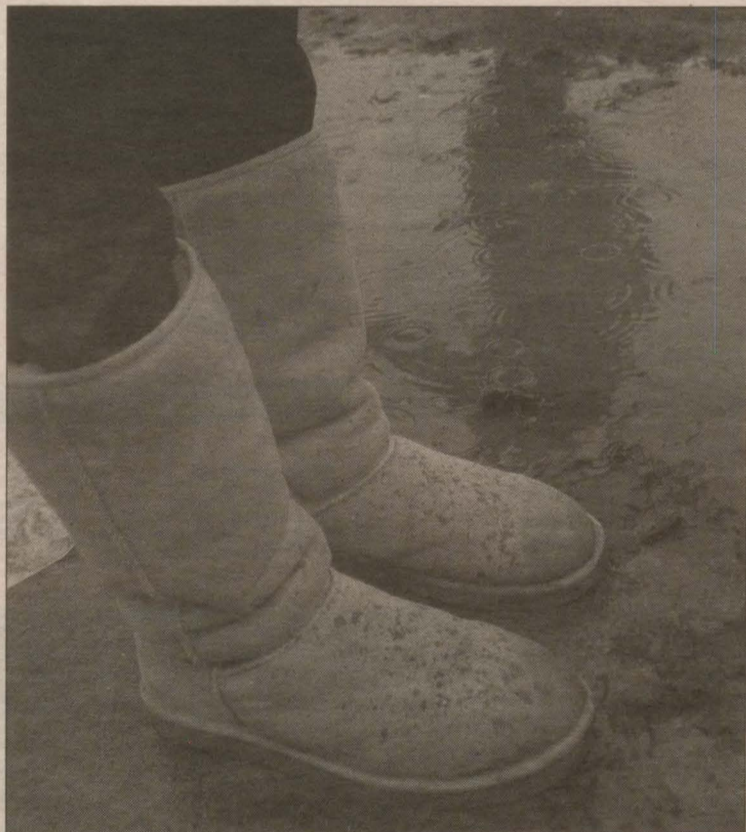
Where do trends come from? They all start with someone's attempt at individuality and become commonplace when everyone follows them.

I have watched many of these movements evolve: lamb boots, arctic-style jackets, leggings, pashminas, iPods, Crocs footwear and the latest trend: huge shoulder bags. Do people like following their peers mindlessly, or is this just an effect of consumerism?

It seems women are most susceptible to this desire to be identical. I find it amusing that we learn so much about diversity in university but we do not translate this appreciation into the way we present ourselves. Diversity is not just about ethnic background; it is about thinking differently and encouraging creativity.

If we all shop at the same stores, we all wear the same clothes, watch the same television programs, have the same ideals about what is "in" and what is not, how are we supposed to contribute to the world – or even to our communities – when we get out of university? No one is able to think outside of the box if they are content to be inside it.

People feel safe if they are alike. When I look at any social clique, I do see similarities. Clothing is a physiological necessity. According to Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs, it is one of the first and most basic needs a human wants to fulfil. Fitting with Maslow's studies, it would make sense that we find clothing that not only satisfies our immediate physiological needs, but that satisfies the next level of motivation: safety. It's too bad we find safety in being the same.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Do you wear Ugg boots because they make you feel safe?

It's not so much about conforming to the norm, but about how doing so affects our underlying values. Unfortunately, I can't say I have always stood up for my values but I know I felt like less of a person when I changed because other people thought I should. As a society, if we value uniformity, how does this affect our perceptions of ourselves? People are able to exist without even knowing who they are. Are you a fashionista? Do you wear Ugg boots and leggings because you feel more confident? If we all base our "personalities"

on the latest trends, we aren't paying attention to how our personalities are developing. It's like we're all meshing into the same clone.

If enough people like something, it's trendy. How about being who you are? Why not ask yourself if you really know what you like and seriously try to see if your answers coincide with your values, or if they follow your clique's ideals. And for the love of God, what is with the huge sunglasses?

Schenley Brown is a second-year management student.



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STREETER

Where would you be if you weren't at Dal?



"In the States, going to school. I just didn't want to write the SATs."

Desiree MacDonald, fourth-year psychology



"The third level of Inferno. Or else in bed, asleep."

Mike Beall, fifth-year psychology



"I'd be in South America, just chilling out on the beaches."

Laura Dixon, second-year community design



"I'd be stargazing on the moon."

Jessie Kushner, second-year business management



"Living in a hut on a beach in New Zealand."

Stephanie Kerzner, second-year undeclared



"Riding Free Willy in the great beyond."

Megan Gelmon, first-year undeclared



"I'd be at McGill because I have a lot of friends there and they have a really good dance program there."

Sarah Copeland, first-year arts



"Probably back in that godforsaken cave."

Nick Khattar, Not presently enrolled

CARTOONS

"WHAT'S THAT HOLE IN YOUR HEART?" SHE ASKED, AND WHERE DID IT COME FROM?"



"OH, I SAID, 'THAT'S JUST WHERE I KEEP MY PORN.'"

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WHY SO SERIOUS?



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House of Voltage shorts out

ROSIE JACOBS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

For an exhibit called House of Voltage, Eyelevel Gallery fails to live up to the excitement of its name.

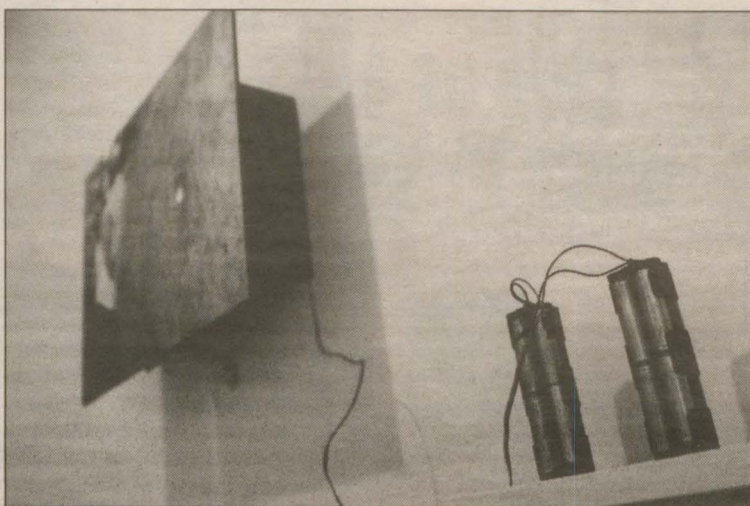
The House of Voltage is a joint effort between the Centre for Art Tapes and Eyelevel Gallery to give local artists the chance to develop new media artwork that requires technical training. The exhibit features five artists from Atlantic Canada: Robert Zingone, Terry Piercey, Adriana Kuiper, Ryan Suter and Annie Macmillan, who have all recently participated in workshops using electric circuits, programmable microprocessors and audio and video sensors at the Centre for Art Tapes' Electronics Residency Program.

As I entered the tiny gallery, I felt as if it wasn't set up yet. The white walls were grim with old paint and the wooden floors were covered in paint stains. It looked like an abandoned storage unit containing a few objects arranged awkwardly against the sparse background.

Despite my initial disappointment, I was determined to make the most of this exhibit. I mean how dull could a wooden bench swing with an attached hose and battery be?

Pretty dull, as it turns out, especially when the battery is dead.

The rest of the exhibit was equally disappointing. For an art exhibit that branded electricity as a media, the artists failed to electrify. I was surprised at the lack of artistic experimentation with such an experimental medium.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

There's so much more you can do with electricity.

With the range the theme of electricity as art offers, I was disappointed to discover two of the five artists featured in this exhibit limited its use to simply playing with coloured lights.

The aim of the exhibit, says Michelle Jacques, an assistant curator at the Art Gallery of Ontario and former programming director at the centre, is to show "creative individuals coming together to invent new and innovative things, (with) their aims directed at artistic expression rather than monetary achievement."

Only Piercey, an artist based in Sackville, N.B., moved toward a refreshing new look at the role of electricity among more stagnant pieces.

His work, entitled "The Egg-Slicer Ensemble," moved beyond the

obvious light-electricity relationship and explored how electricity manipulates sound. His instrument, as he calls it, is constructed out of the steel frame and wire of an egg slicer that are "tuned" by everyday trinkets such as a green bouncy ball, a screw and a paper holder.

His interactive piece invites the viewer to twist and switch various knobs and switches to release varying amounts of voltage surging to the motors, allowing the viewer to explore their own creative side.

Although the spirit behind this show is in the right place, in such an intimate setting as the Eyelevel Gallery, the artists' inexperience with electricity as a medium is disappointingly obvious.

Life as art

Adventures of Ghostbee Sari Lightman

LAURA DAWE
ARTS BEAT REPORTER

Sari Lightman is known for being a tiny dark-eyed intellect. She is known for being one-half of a magical, identical union with her twin sister Romy. She is known for her harmonies, for her small hands on the mandolin, for her lyrics about vampires, fetuses and the past: she is known as a Ghost Bee.

What is not known about Sari Lightman, however, could fill a book. At 24, she has lived 24 lives or more. She has been and she has seen. Often when Sari or her sister are interviewed, which they are frequently for the many weeklies of the many cities they visit on their many tours, the focus of the resultant writing is, appropriately, about their music.

Music is for listening to and consequently writing about music is a tricky task. Lives are, of course, for living. But, conveniently, writing about interesting lives is a little less tricky. The following are a few of many stories from Sari's extensive travels. They aim to inform her music instead of describing it.

Sari and Romy Lightman survived the tsunami caused by the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake but 225,000 people were not as lucky as the twins and their parents. The girls were in northern Thailand on an exchange from Trent University. Sari was living in a sustainable agricultural Buddhist community. Romy was in the mountains, learning to weave. Their parents joined them for Christmas. The family travelled south to Railay Beach.

On Boxing Day they were on the ocean in a glorified canoe with a motor. Romy and Sari are always late for everything, so their family's boat was trailing behind the others on the day trip. The water began to get really choppy.

"All of the sudden I just sort of felt like we were ascending into the sky," says Lightman.

The limestone cliffs surrounding them started to disappear and Lightman realized they were rising on "this giant gentle mountain of a swell." They were slowly let down and watched the swell violently crash on the shore. They asked their driver in Thai what was going on. He was terrified.

Rounding the cliff's corner to where they were supposed to meet the others, they came across wreckage. The boats had been dashed against the rocks. People were in the water, dead or calling to one another.

"We didn't even have any life jackets," says Sari. "Nobody had any life jackets."

The girls' boat attempted to go to shore for help. The water was trying to pull their boat toward the rocks. They kept calling the coast guard, not realizing there had been an earthquake. Others were heading further out to sea, trying to protect themselves. The Lightmans saw a double-decker ferry with about 300 people on the top level. They later found out the ferry had capsized.

When the girls finally reached the shore they were told that another wave was headed toward the coast and no one knew how large it would be.

The family waited on a hill in the middle of the island, clinging to one another. The wave didn't hit them. They flew back to Canada using tickets of the dead.

This spring Sari visited Israel through a program called Birthright, which says that it is every Jewish person's birthright to go to the homeland. The concept makes her a little uncomfortable.

"I felt really torn about going on that trip, but at the same time I wanted to see what's going on," Lightman says. "When you get off at the airport there's someone hugging you like 'welcome home!' It was strange. I didn't feel like I was home."

She was hoping to take part in a program called Birthright Unplugged, where North American Jews can see what it's really like in that area, free of Zionist rhetoric. The dates didn't line up, but that didn't stop Sari from visiting the West Bank. After smoking a bong with a Grateful Dead-loving rabbi, she made friends with a muscle-building, middle-aged Palestinian cabbie who acted as her tour guide.

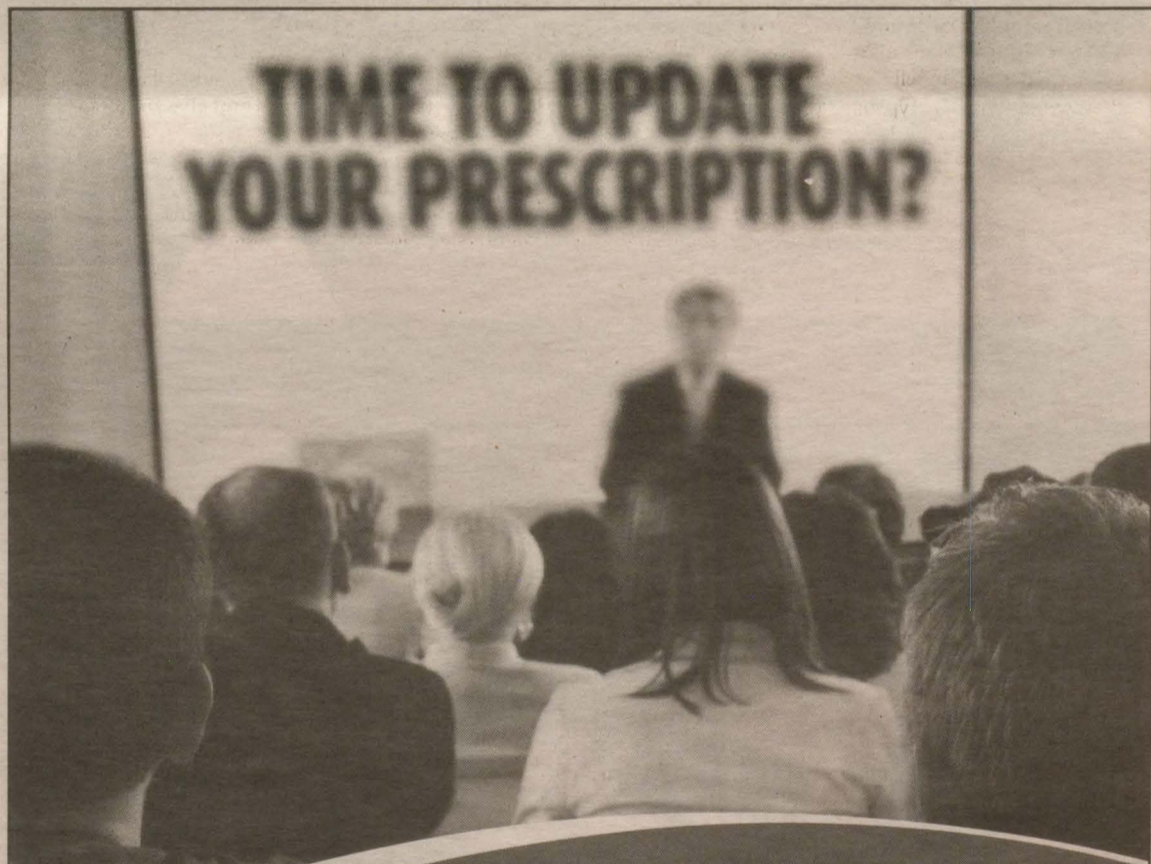
"I was on this bus with 15 Arab men and I'm just this little Canadian girl," she says. "Obviously I look Jewish. Being kind of completely naïve to cultural sensitivities (I'm) offering people bites of my bread and people are just kind of looking at me like 'you don't know what's going on.' I didn't."

Sari's travels, when not the North End delivery service Burrito Bike, are often with her band, the Ghost Bees. This summer the band toured Canada and the United States. In New York, where the glut of musical acts seems to have given promoters the impression that they are doing musicians a favour by having them play there, the Ghost Bees came up with a term for what happened to them. They got "Big-Appled."

Booked to play a show in Manhattan's lower east side, they arrived to weird news from the promoter, who refused to look them in the eye. There was some sort of Guitar Hero tournament upstairs, so their 8 p.m. set was going to have to wait. He handed them each an arm's length string of beer tickets, so the sisters didn't take it too hard at first. But hours passed. The girls became angry, as tiny mystical girls are wont to do in a terrible bar filled with terrible people. They also got loaded. By the time they got on stage at three in the morning - seven hours later than they were booked - Sari had forgotten how to play her mandolin. With hair in her face, she tried to sing the songs while her friend Maya smashed the drums behind her, screaming something about hating New York.

"I ended up falling asleep on stage. That was it," Sari says. "And I just remember waking up and I know Laura (Barrett, a fellow musician) at one point was kind of like on the floor trying to project my harmonies, pretending to be me. I remember waking up and feeling so relieved that the show was over."

When pressed, Sari admits, "I passed out. I think it sounds more gentle if I say fell asleep."



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Tooth be told

SAMANTHA RIDEOUT
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Museum of Natural History on Summer Street is not aimed exclusively at children, but it would be fair to say that the under 12 crowd is its core audience. I was thus prepared to invoke my inner child when I went to see an exhibit titled "Smile: the Tooth and Nothing but the Tooth."

When my inner child saw the giant mouth-shaped entrance archway, she started imagining she had shrunk to a miniature size and was going to take a Magic School Bus field trip inside the human mouth.

The exhibit is every bit as cute as the name sounds. Some of the features, such as talking cartoon character cutouts and giant tooth-shaped showcases, are perhaps even sweet enough to cause a cavity. Although the main emphasis is on tooth care, there's material from other disciplines as well. One booth explains the role of teeth in forensics, while another showcases the evolution of

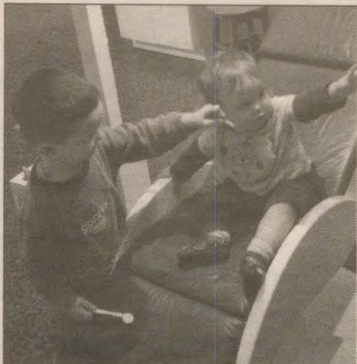
human teeth and jaws.

The museum heavily emphasized the teeth of the animal kingdom, featuring the narwhal tusk and the swordfish snout. The centrepiece of the exhibit is a detailed kid-sized dentist's office, complete with waiting room literature and a drill that makes scary sound effects.

The child in me enjoyed pretending to torture patients at the dentist's office. She also liked playing guessing games about animal teeth and celebrity smiles. But the adult in me wished the exhibit provided more detailed information.

Even the showcases, which were rated at an adult reading level, were tersely written. It's interesting to see toothbrushes from various times and places, but the five lines accompanying them did not explain when and where each one was from or how they were used.

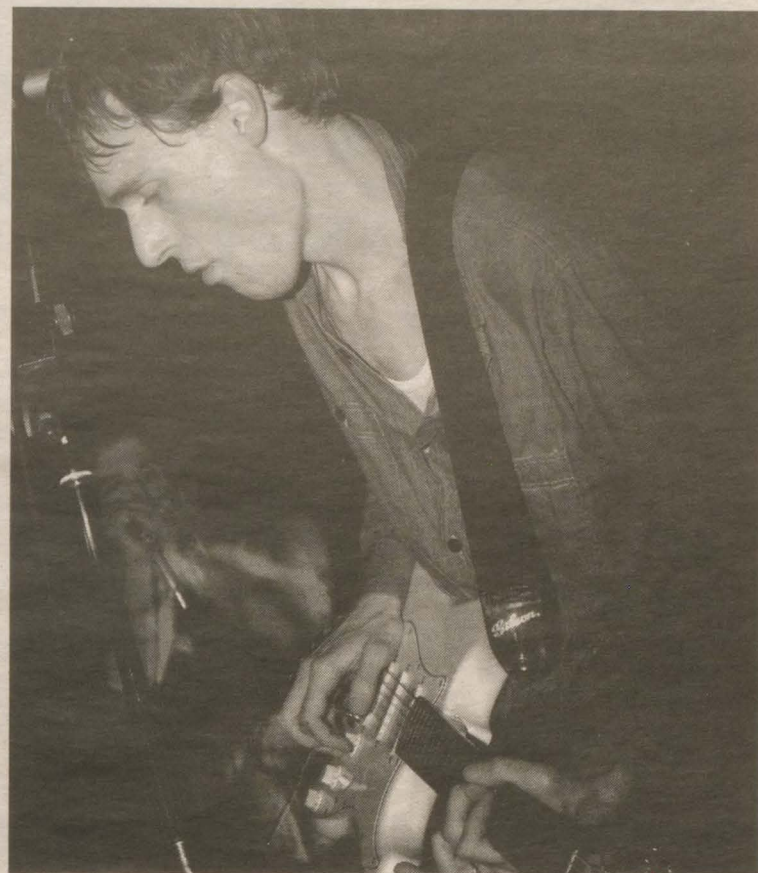
If you are accompanying a child, or if your childhood self feels like coming out to play, the Museum of Natural History is a good place to



SAGAR JHA/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
This tooth exhibit is for kids.

be. In between rapping on the glass to tease the honeybees in one permanent exhibit and gawking at the kraken gorging itself on a whale in the Sea Monsters exhibit, you should pay a visit to "Smile." Just don't expect to find reading material that you can really sink your teeth into.

"Smile" will be featured at the Museum of Natural History until Jan. 18.



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Joel Plaskett shakes down in his hometown at the Grawood Nov. 12.

Long lines for Plaskett

JASON COHANIM
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It's no secret Joel Plaskett is Halifax's hometown hero. Born in Lunenburg, N.S., he has been touted as one of the best Canadian songwriters around today. Since his days in alternative rock band Thrush Hermit, Plaskett has continuously banged out solid Maritime rock and roll tunes and earned a loyal fan base along the way. Judging by the hundreds of people lining up for hours to get into the Telus/MySpace secret show at the Dalhousie Student Union Building on Nov. 12, a few of his fans are Dal students. Dal won the national secret show contest and the Joel Plaskett Emergency put on a free show at the Grawood on a first-

come, first served basis for audience members up to 450 audience members.

Plaskett's performance was nothing short of stellar. The band rocked through a solid lineup of classic tunes while audience members sang their hearts out to every song. After the show the band members all hung around to talk with their fans, take pictures and give some hugs.

For his upcoming album, Plaskett plans on touring with his father, Bill Plaskett.

"My dad and I started playing shows together a few years back. I thought that it was time to involve him in a record," says Plaskett. "My dad was the one who taught me guitar when I first wanted to learn."

Dal musicians tuned to play AIDS benefit

ANNA DEMELLO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

The Society of Dalhousie Music Students plans to host a benefit concert on Nov. 21 in support of World AIDS Day. The society will donate all of the proceeds to the Nova Scotia Gambia Association's HIV/AIDS programs in The Gambia and Sierra Leone. It will be the first benefit concert held in support of the local non-governmental organization.

"I chose them as the result of a lot of research earlier in the summer," says event co-ordinator and music society vice-president William Horne. "It was a well-thought-out choice."

Last year, the organization established a voluntary HIV testing program in the rural areas of Sierra Leone, Africa. The program aims

to slow the spread of HIV by focusing on voluntary testing, counselling programs and health education.

Horne, a music and international development studies student, says the combination of music and fundraising sends a positive message.

"Music has that ability," Horne says. "I'm a musician, but I'm also heavily involved in international development studies. This benefit concert seemed like a good way to bridge this disparity between what I'm learning."

The concert will showcase diverse talent from the music students, graduates and professors, including piano teacher Peter Allen. In September Allen garnered a lot of media attention when his Hurricane Juan Concerto was broadcast live on CBC radio.

Dal graduate Ben Duinker will also showcase his work. Music students

will perform his original piece called "Dream", based on a poem by Edgar Allan Poe. It's the second time the piece will be performed for a large audience.

"It's cool to have students performing an original piece," Horne says.

He benefit show would not be possible without the voluntary efforts of some passionate people in and around the Dal community.

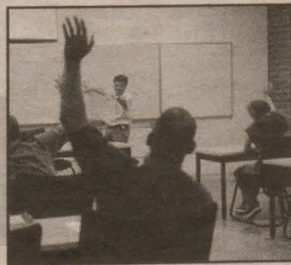
"As far as student attendance is concerned, I want to tell students that their stereotype of a typical classical music concert will be blown away," Horne says. "This concert has such a variety, from 17th century until now."

The benefit concert will take place at First Baptist Church, 1300 Oxford St., on Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Student tickets are \$6 and are available at the door.

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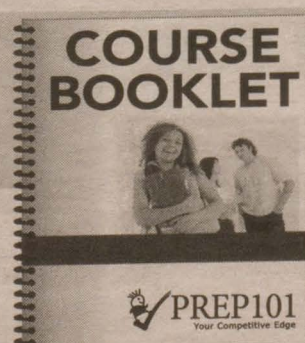
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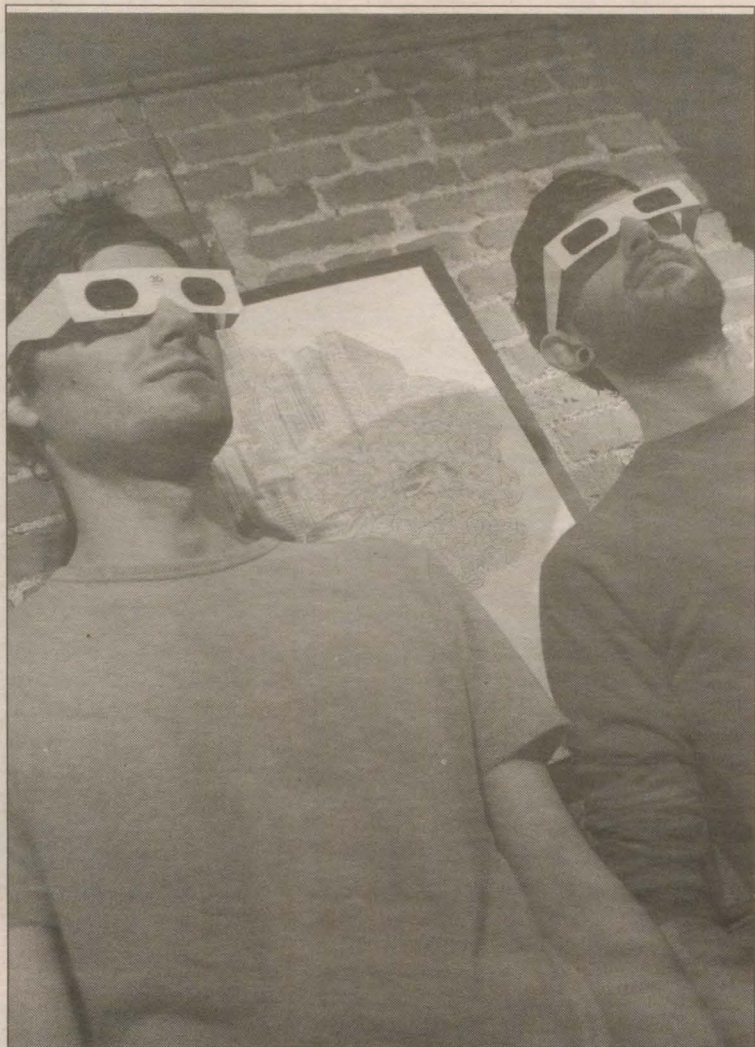
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JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Yo Rodeo is more than just a dynamic art duo.

Life in 3-D

Yo Rodeo's new art show moves to Argyle

JASON COHANIM
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Yo Rodeo is a collaborative art team of Paul Hammond and Seth Smith. Their work is everywhere and whether you're aware of it or not, you've probably seen Yo Rodeo art. It may have been that super-colourful show poster plastered to a telephone pole or an interesting T-shirt you saw someone wearing. Chances are also good that you've spent some time examining one of their large prints on the wall of your buddy's apartment.

"We just like to make stuff and always have our hands on something," Hammond says.

A glance at their portfolio shows these guys have their hands on everything. They create posters, band tees, album art, screen prints, paintings and photography with a client list of top names such as Two Hours Traffic, Ron Sexsmith, Death From Above 1979 and The Unicorns.

As if the pair weren't diverse enough, they're now creating in three dimensions. Their new art show, 3-D Realms, has moved into Argyle Fine Art Gallery.

The 3-D Realms show is a journey into a fantasy world, with images that jump out at you from the silk-screened 3-D prints lining the walls. Originally displayed at the Blink! Gallery in Historic Properties, this showing was less of an art show and more of a fantastical voyage. Check reality at the door, put on a pair of red and blue glasses and grab one of the hand drawn maps to guide you toward each destination.

There are nine stops on this ride and each one sends you on a new cosmic mind trip. Explore worlds where humans take a back seat to giant wildlife, flying cities and layers upon layers of galaxies and stars.

Judging from the reception at Nocturne Art at Night's opening last month, this show definitely has staying power.

Up until 3-D realms, Yo Rodeo had geared its work mainly toward the young indie demographic. But everyone from small kids to elderly couples experienced their new

prints at Historic Properties.

"The 3-D work was great for us because it allowed for our work to cross boundaries," Smith says.

This has given the boys the confidence to keep moving forward into the future. They're concentrating more on larger scale art showings instead of smaller scale work for bands.

But with all the art these guys pump out, they aren't a one-horse rodeo. On top of their design work as a team, both Hammond and Smith have a myriad of projects on the side. Smith is a member of Halifax band Dog Day and is in the middle of mastering the band's recent record. Hammond has been getting his feet wet in the independent film scene. He was on the production team for the recently released local music documentary *6015 Willow*.

If Yo Rodeo's local artwork and side projects haven't spoken loudly enough to convince people of their talents, look no further than the official recognition the pair has received.

They have been voted 'Best Visual Artist' for the past three years running by *The Coast's* Best of Halifax Readers Survey. They've also been featured in *Gasoline*, *Ion* magazine and the *Chronicle Herald*.

All of this is just the tip of the iceberg for Yo Rodeo. These guys have some grand ideas for the future. They've always wanted to make it into the *Guinness Book of World Records* for the largest hand-pulled screen-print.

Yo Rodeo has proven to be much more than just a dynamic mixed media arts duo. They've taken Halifax by storm and have no intentions on slowing down. So whether it's posters, music or a new art print series, get ready to be "punched in the face" with more art than you can handle.

3-D Realms is at the Argyle Fine Art Gallery, 1869 Upper Water St. in Historic Properties, and is showing through December. Check out www.yorodeo.com to see their full portfolio.

Canada by thumb

18-year-old hitchhikes across the country

DELIA MACPHERSON
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Nick Everett, an 18-year-old high school graduate, hitchhiked from Victoria, B.C. to St. John's, Nfld.

After travelling alone across Canada, Everett is now visiting Halifax for a few weeks. Over his travels in the past three months, he guesses he's met about 2,000 people.

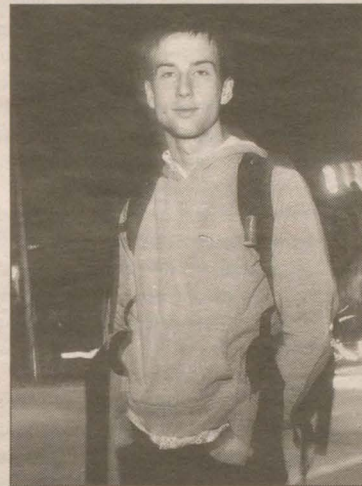
"I meet at least 10 people a day!" says Everett.

His two backpacks, one for his back and the other for his front, are swollen with everything from a journal to a personal stove. His small, decorative ukulele rests near by along with his current read, *The Satanic Versus*.

"I hated high school," says Everett. "I switched schools three times trying to find one I liked. That's why I decided to hitchhike; to escape from my prison town."

While popular culture portrays hitchhiking as a dangerous gamble with murderers straight out of a bad horror movie, Everett does not consider it a dangerous activity.

"If I didn't think it was safe, I wouldn't be doing it," he says.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Make room for Nick Everett on your couch.

Everett says he's met girls who hitchhike, including one who was on her way to Truro after travelling by herself across Canada and back again.

To save money while travelling by thumb, Everett checked out Willing Workers on Organic Farms (WWOOF), an organization that allows travellers to work on farms and

live with farmers.

"Couch surfing is also an option," he says.

Couchsurfing.com is a worldwide online network where people can sign up and volunteer your couch to anyone who needs it for a couple of nights.

"It's really nice to have a couch to sleep on once and a while," says Everett, who spent seven weeks this past summer living outside. According to the website, there are currently 25,287 available couches in Canada alone.

"I've never had a bad experience hitchhiking," Everett continues. "The worst encounter I had was with a chain smoker who didn't say much, but he bought me food and gave me money," he chuckles.

Everett's plans for the future are uncertain but he does know that he will be staying in Halifax a little while longer.

"I'm going to play music and read all of the books on the reading list for the Foundation Year Program at King's College," says Everett. The list includes Homer's *The Odyssey*, Dante's *The Divine Comedy* and Plato's *The Republic*.

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A lovely treat from Love, Me Boutique

DELIA MACPHERSON
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Local store-owner Chara Kingston isn't trying to compete with Wal-Mart prices.

The displays in Kingston's Love, Me boutique at 1539 Birmingham St. are intricate and decorative. Twenty-seven old-fashioned keys she's collected in her travels hang above the light switch. Ancient suitcases sit around the store, cupboards made by her husband out of broken doors and a ladder serve as a crafty shelving unit.

"The idea of the boutique is for people to find special, unique and ethereal treasures. All of the products in the shop tell a story," Kingston says.

The shop, which features artwork and products from Canadian artists only, offers everything from handmade clothing to porcelain tableware.

The arts and crafts found within the red-, white- and black-themed

boutique are mostly made in or around Nova Scotia. Lara Martina, a local painter, has at least four large pieces for sale. Stephen Bishop, also from the Halifax area, sells handmade T-shirts.

Kingston, born in California, is able to offer countless details about the art and the artists as she helps her customers around the store.

"I'm lucky enough to enjoy the art and business side of things," she says. "And I love sharing ideas with other artists."

Kingston has always enjoyed making art and attending shows and farmers markets but it took her a little while to figure out she wanted to open her own shop.

"I used to spend more time talking to people about other artists' work at my own exhibits!" she exclaims.

The store's photography and paintings are \$30 and up while the clothes are \$40 and up.

There are handmade ponytail holders, cork bookmarks, magnets

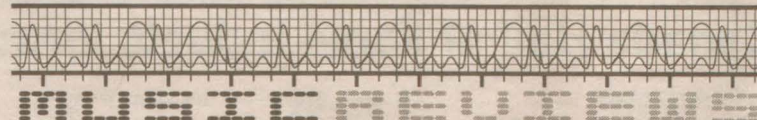
and other smaller gifts as cheap as \$2.

Love, Me also offers workshops to local artists. Kingston has planned a workshop for late spring that will show participants how to make inexpensive tags for their products, how to sell their art online and other tips for turning crafts into profit, even for students.

"If there's nothing on campus, get involved in a group like the Halifax Crafters," Kingston advises. "They are a great bunch and the renting price of a table at one of their exhibits is usually reasonable. I started out selling local art at the Halifax Farmer's Market."

If you are looking to get your art on display and for sale in the Love, Me boutique, contact Kingston through her website www.lovemeboutique.wordpress.com.

"If you e-mail me images of your work or contact a time to show me your art, I'll take a look at it," says Kingston. "I try to let each body of art stand on its own, so I keep my picks varied."



The Maynards: *Date and Destroy*

MATT RITCHIE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR



Does anybody remember when dance punk came back five years ago? It was around 2003 and it seemed like every band and their little brothers were rocking out on the hi-hats and playing guitar poorly on purpose. Bands such as Bloc Party, Editors, and Electric Six made careers for themselves by sounding like indie versions of disco. It was cool for a bit, but basically all these bands sounded like Gang of Four. Everybody forgets that Gang of Four actually sucked.

Around this time I was also swept up in this indie dance scene and bought myself Gang of Four's best of on vinyl and to be honest I would much rather listen to that again than The Maynards' new album, *Date and Destroy*.

The Maynards have been performing in Halifax for almost 10 years. The band has unleashed on the indie-rock masses its brand of artsy and minimalist songs of dating and love. Apparently the previous generation of *Gazette* reviewers praised their first album for its catchy hooks. Well, I am here to say I don't find anything spectacular about this record.

The record isn't bad - it's actually aesthetically good. Tracks such

as "Do You Wanna Dance" actually make you want to dance, which is rare for a three-piece band.

Songs such as "Date and Destroy" and "Eggs in a Basket" show the band creatively exploring its minimal garage rock setting. But the problem lies in the genre. This album feels very boxed-in by the sound the band has created. I know this band is taking a low-fi approach, but can we please get some guitars up in our grillz? The drums sound superb in comparison to the faint trickle of bass and vocals nodding at the back of my skull.

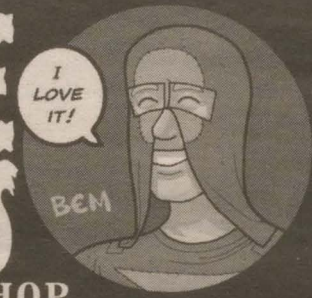
If you like the pop garage rock of Franz Ferdinand and songs about short-term relationships, this record is for you. But if you're like the rest of us who want some more complex arrangements, maybe it's time you picked up the new Deerhunter record.

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Applications for the MSc (Clinic Vision Science) program beginning in September 2009 are now being accepted. Applicants must hold a four-year bachelor's degree with a minimum B average (GPA 3.0), with at least one undergraduate class in human anatomy and/or physiology, and a class in psychology with a laboratory component. Exceptional students may be accepted without these prerequisites on the condition that they are fulfilled either prior to or concurrent with the program. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field is considered an asset.

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JASON COHANIM
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Oh, wine. The nectar of the gods; the warmer of cheeks; the solver of problems. I, like so many of you, love wine. I am in a long-term relationship with the taste, the aroma and the classy feeling I get whenever it touches my lips.

You can take wine out dancing or you can share a quiet night in. With wine, the conversation is never dull and there is always something new to learn.

There is a place for wine-lovers like me: the Dalhousie University Wine Society.

"We're essentially a group of people who get together who are interested in wine, and of course in drinking wine," says society chairman Will Demers. "We try to educate people and have a good time."

The Wine Society tries to organize a couple events a month, always

based around tasting and trying new wines, keeping it fun and refined the whole time.

"People like to dress up and feel classy," says Demers. "It's a good opportunity for people who don't know that much about wines to come out and learn all about it."

By the time that you read this article, their first event of the year, a tasting with Carmichael Wallace, a professor of biochemistry, will have passed.

But Demers and the rest of the society is optimistic about attracting new members and hosting frequent events in the winter semester.

As a lover of wine, I must warn all those that this is not a society that is promoting the excessive consumption of wine; it's about the love of the grape.

If you want to receive e-mails from the Dal Wine Society, send an e-mail to willdemers@dal.ca

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Canada Hall of Fame inducts former Dal swimmer

TYLER BROWN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

One of Dalhousie's brightest former stars was honoured with an induction into the Canadian Sports Hall of Fame on Nov. 5. The hall welcomed Halifax swimmer Nancy Garapick into its class of 2008 alongside Canadian sports icons Steve Yzerman, Marc Gagnon, Lennox Lewis, and the 1996 gold medal winning 4x100 metre relay team anchored by Donovan Bailey.

Garapick was only 11 years old when she set her first Canadian swimming record and 14 when she broke her first world record in the 200-metre backstroke as a relatively unknown swimmer at the Eastern Canadian Swim Championships in Brantford, Ont. She followed up that performance with a string of victories at international events, finishing the year with a double bronze in the 100-

and 200-metre backstroke events at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. The silver and gold medals in those races went to East German swimmers who were later accused of using steroids, though they were never stripped of their medals.

Garapick followed up her Olympic performance with a successful career at the University of Southern California, where she set many U.S. college records before coming back to Halifax to finish her graduate degree at Dalhousie.

Here she capped off her competitive swimming career by winning five gold medals at the 1983 Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union championships.

Garapick won 60 medals for Canada in international competition between 1975 and 1981.

"In '76 I don't think we felt that much pressure because most of the girls on the team were very young,"

Garapick says. "We just went out to have a good time and swim our best. That attitude really helped because we were all relaxed."

She still holds or shares four Dal records and is an inspiration in Dal's swimming program, which she helped build. Coach David Fry says she raised the bar for swimming in Nova Scotia.

"There were several noteworthy swimmers in her age group and Nancy pushed them all to the next level," Fry says. "She was a wonderful personality for swimming and an inspiration for the sport. She was a great mentor who would always go out of her way to give a hand to the younger swimmers."

Though she has retired from competitive swimming, Nancy is still a fixture at the pool in her new home of Surrey, B.C., where she works as a teacher.

Tigers teams get wet to prep for AUS meet

TYLER BROWN
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Dal's swimming program has maintained its reputation as a national powerhouse through smart recruitment, hard work and the guidance of coach David Fry over the past 10 years. As this year's season starts, the men look for their 11th consecutive Atlantic University Sport (AUS) title, and the women go for their ninth.

Bryce Tung, who holds a Dal record in the 50-metre freestyle race,

will lead the men's team this year. Tung should do well in that event and in the 50-metre backstroke, in which he has excelled nationally. Team support will come from Brannyn Hale, who won several 200-metre and 400-metre AUS titles last year, and the versatile Dmitry Shulga. Highly touted newcomers Kit Moran and Matt Piggott may add to Dal's podiums and give the team a base to work on for seasons to come. With contenders in every distance and style event, the men's side may

again take AUS gold.

On the women's side, the Tigers welcome six new faces to bolster an already impressive roster. Led by captain Lauren Dorrington, the team should be strong in sprint freestyle, breaststroke and the individual medley. Helping to carry the load will be the 2007 AUS rookie of the year, Chantelle Percival, and 200-metre backstroke champ Maggie Jones.

The Tigers hope to attend the AUS invitational meet on Nov. 22 and 23 at the Dalplex.

Snowboarders take on Truro

NICK KHATTAR
SPORTS EDITOR

Even though it wasn't snowing on Saturday Nov. 8, Zero Gravity Snow and Skate Shop held its second annual snowboard jam called Ground Zero.

The event took place at Victoria Park in Truro, N.S. and about 30 or so dedicated snowboarders came out for the fun.

About 30 truckloads of snow and 25 feet of scaffolding later, the landscape was ready.

The action began at 2 p.m. and eventually 10 of the day's top riders were selected for the finals, including Sam Rodgers, a Truro hero and Zero Gravity team rider, and Anne Gilbert, both Dalhousie students.

Gilbert, 22, is a fourth-year in-

ternational development studies student and has been snowboarding for 10 years. Her favourite thing about snowboarding is "everything from the thrill of not knowing if I'm in over my head to the lifestyle and friends that come with it."

Rodgers, who's been featured in snowboarding magazines and movies, recently returned to Nova Scotia to pursue his studies after living in Whistler, B.C. for almost 10 years. The finals were heated and fast, with the riders only getting half an hour or so to impress the crowd and the judges. Jon Stevenson from Moncton, N.B. greased the features like a comb through a carpet salesman's hair.

Rodgers took third place in the men's division for his smooth switch frontside boardslide 270 out and

switch front 360s over a picnic table-mounted barrel.

Gilbert took home third place for the ladies, impressing the judges with her solid 50-50 backside 180 out and 50-50 to frontside boardslide.

"It was good," Gilbert said after the event. "I had a great time and the guys did an awesome job setting it up. My landings could have been better - I guess I was a little rusty."

Gilbert said she's fortunate snowboarding is big in the Maritimes.

"I'm stoked there is such a sweet scene out here," she said. "There's shit going on like every weekend."

For those interested in checking out Halifax's snowboard action, the second annual Urban Butter snowboarding showcase is set for Nov. 29 downtown at Grand Parade.

Used sporting goods

Sports in brief

Basketball teams break even

The women's Tigers basketball team lost 76-65 to the University of Cape Breton Capers in Atlantic University Basketball action on Nov. 14. Kelsey Hodgson had 16 points for the Capers while Kari Everett had 13 points and eight rebounds. Brianna Orr and Laurie Girdwood both had 18 points for Dal, which is now 1-4 in regular season play. The Tigers went on to beat the St. Francis Xavier X-Women 71-62 on Nov. 15. Tony Anderson had 11 points for the X-Women while Girdwood had 14 points with four rebounds. The women play against UPEI at home on Nov. 21 at 6 p.m.

The men's Tigers basketball team is 2-2 after splitting a pair of games on the weekend of Nov. 14 to 16. On Nov. 14 the Tigers managed to edge out the Cape Breton Capers 74-63. Simon Farine had 18 points while Scott Beattie had 17. For the Capers, Philip Nkrumah had 22 points with 12 rebounds and Germain Bendegue had 16 points.

On Nov. 15 the Tigers lost to the Atlantic University Sport's first-place St. FX. X-Men, 77-61, at home. Christian Upshaw had 14 points for the X-Men while Josh Beattie had 21 points for the Tigers. Farine had 14 points in that game, going 0-3 for three point attempts, and 8-10 total from the field.

The Tigers' basketball games can be heard live on CKDU radio. Check www.athletics.dal.ca for a quick link under the men's basketball schedule. The men play at home again on Nov. 21 at 8 p.m.

Women's hockey breaks losing streak

The Tigers women's hockey team picked up a couple of wins on the weekend of Nov. 14-16, breaking a three-game winless streak. The women beat the UPEI Panthers 4-2 in Atlantic University Sport women's hockey play at Dal on Nov. 15. Scoring for the Tigers, who are now 5-4, were Jocelyn LeBlanc, Robyn Nicholson, Jayne Knowles and Kim Carcary each getting a goal. Jamielynn Donaldson and Kelsey O'Donnell scored for the Panthers while Katie Read made an impressive 39 saves on 43 shots from Dal. The Tigers went on

to beat Mount Allison University 3-1 on Nov. 16 at their home Memorial Arena. The Tiger's don't play at home again until Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. against the Saint Mary's Huskies.

Hockey men fall to Huskies

The men's Tigers hockey team stands with three wins and seven losses in the Atlantic University Sport league after its loss to the Saint Mary's Huskies on Nov. 15. The Tigers took an early lead when captain Tyler Dyck scored just 1:30 into the first period. The Huskies came back strong when Andrew Hotham, Colin Power and Cam Fergus scored three straight unanswered goals in the second period. Kenzie Sheppard responded for the Tigers at 19:17 of the second period, bringing Dal within one of the Huskies. In the third period, early goals from Cody Thorton and Justin Munden put the Huskies ahead by three. At 14:51, Dalhousie's new addition from Sweden, Robert Ahlander, scored for the Tigers, but that's as close as they came to a comeback, losing 6-3 after a late goal in the third from the Huskies' Scott Hotham. The Huskies out shot the Tiger 33-19, and scored twice on power plays while Dal went 1-6 with the man advantage. The men play at home again on Nov. 28 against Acadia.

Rainmen lose fan favourite

The Rainmen's fan-favoured Kadiri Richard, a six-foot-seven forward, won't be back in the lineup for the 2009 season. Instead Richard decided to sign with the Wilmington Sea Dawgs from the Premier Basketball League. Richard was known for big blocks and heavy dunks as well as appearances at charity events.

Curlers up and down

Mark Dacey and his Nova Scotia Mayflower Curling Club team were eliminated from the Canadian mixed curling championship in Iqaluit, Nunavut on Nov. 14. Dacey and his team lost a tiebreaker 8-4 to Ontario's Wayne Tuck last Friday afternoon.

At the Masters of Curling Grand Slam event in Waterloo, Ont. from Nov. 14 to 16, the Mayflower's Shawn Adams won his final game. Adams and his team of Paul Flemming, Craig Burgess and Kelly Mittelstadt beat B.C.'s Bob Ursel 7-4 to finish regular round robin play.




TIGERS ACTION!

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20
WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs SMU, 6PM

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21
BASKETBALL vs UPEI, W 6PM, M 8PM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22
AUS INVITATIONAL SWIM MEET, 10AM/5PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23
AUS INVITATIONAL SWIM MEET, 10AM/4PM

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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER



Nov. 20 - Water Polo Society Night and Movember
Moustache Mania
Nov. 21 - Trivia
Nov. 27 - 100 days till Iron Ring
Nov. 28 - Last Class Beach Party Bash

December 6th Alana Robertson

On December 6th, 1989, fourteen women's lives came to a horrific halt at Ecole Polytechnique, an engineering school, much like Dalhousie's Sexton Campus, in Montreal; Quebec. Just like today, it was exam and graduation time for some, and there was anticipation for the coming holidays.

A gunman, who doesn't even deserve the credit of being named, enraged about his rejection to attend classes at the school and fueled by his chauvinistic views toward women, especially those that were able to attend the school that he was rejected from, separated female students from male students, shooting, and even brutally stabbing one female student. In total, he shot twenty eight people, killing fourteen, all of which were women.

The entire country, and even the world, felt the pain, shock and anger of the people of Montreal, Quebec. Gun laws were changed because of the events of this day, women's groups have dedicated this time of the year to the end of violence against women, and even groups of men have banded together to end all acts of violence

toward women.

From November 25 to December 10th, people around the world will wear a purple ribbon as part of the Purple Ribbon Campaign, to remember those who died in Montreal on December 6th, and all those that have been abused and even died as a result of male violence. The White Ribbon Campaign was also by a group of men in Canada in response to the Montreal Massacre, a world network of men who are also working toward achieving the end of violence against women.

While one might imagine that this tragedy may dissuade women to choose the field of engineering, enrollment of women actually increased in the years after the tragedy, a protest to the violence and a collective voice of women refusing to let one man's views and actions stop their basic human rights. However, less than 30% of engineering students at Dalhousie today are women. The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation was formed in 1990 as a collective voice of women in engineering, to attract women into the profession of engineering and strive for equality among both women and men in this profession and provide women in engineering with financial support, all while remembering those

that lost their lives on December 6th, 1989.

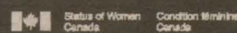
The gunman of December 6th, 1989 believed that by eliminating these women, he was working to fight feminism, and bring down women. However, in reality, his actions have resulted in numerous movements to promote the end of violence toward women. Funds raised from the Purple and White Ribbon campaign go directly toward women who have been affected by violence toward women. His actions have encouraged even more women into the profession of engineering, and even help for those who are having financial trouble. Rather than sit quietly and let this gunman and others have their way, we have, as a society stood up and taken action against them.

On Saturday, December 6th, in the Alumni Lounge at Dalhousie's Sexton Campus at 6:30pm, there will be a ceremony to remember those whose lives were lost on December 6th, 1989 and all those that have been affected through violence against women. All students and staff are encouraged to attend. Take a break from studying and come to remember.

DECEMBER 6

NATIONAL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE
AND ACTION
ON
VIOLENCE
AGAINST
WOMEN

www.dec6.gc.ca



Canada

Choose your own moralizing pitch

Thulasy Balasubramaniam
Engineers Without Borders

Today, I wandered into the market in search of a lady selling roasted peanuts.

When I lived in Kalomo, small town Zambia, I knew exactly where to find the ladies hawking their little bags of salty goodness. I also knew with 96% certainty that the nuts were grown locally - so a hard-working small scale farmer got a cut, the struggling market lady got a cut, and I got me some peanuts. It felt like I was having a bit of direct impact in this world. (Aw, shucks.)

But now I'm in big city Zambia. Lusaka. The market has lots to offer but no roasted peanut ladies. So I headed to the grocery store and found some roasted peanuts at the counter. The not-so-impressive label stamped on the not-so-fancy plastic bag said these nuts were grown, roasted, and packaged in Mongu, Zambia.

"Locally grown, locally processed. I'm going to buy local. That seems like a good thing to do." But before I could pat myself on the back, I hesitated:

Did a village farmer grow these nuts? Probably. Was the farmer given a fair price for the nuts? Maybe. Is the processing company good to their workers? Gulp.

I was suddenly reminded of the anxiety I'd feel back in the supermarket in Canada. How could I know that farmers half way around the world were getting a good deal? Now,

here I am, in country, and I still don't know for sure!

This is where you, kind reader, roll your eyes into the back of your head and think, "Buy the peanuts already, you self-righteous, melodramatic hack. While you're at it, take that patronizing bleeding heart of yours and shove it up your..."

I'm aware that you're aware of the food crisis. The energy, financial, and climate crises. You're likely tired of the barrage of pleas to eat less meat or buy a Prius. Plant a tree. Exercise. Talk to old people. I'm not trying to convince you of any of this. Here is where you get to choose your own adventure:

Go to A) if you want to hear a didactic rant about why you should think about your food.

Go to B) if you want to hear why I bought the packaged peanuts.

A) The world is going to hell in a hand basket, and you - YOU - should care more about it. You should be worried about where your food comes from, how the environment and people get hurt all along the way. You should be worried about the long term effects of fertilizers and pesticides on your pituitary gland. Or those of your unborn children.

Maybe you should consider that 100-mile diet. Or maybe you should think about the farmers in nowheresville Zambia that would rather get something from YOU than nothing. Think about sweat shops. Think about the bird flu. Think about bird flu inoculated terrorist bombs. Think about what-

ever it takes to make you ACT, because let's face it, if we don't act soon, Chernobyl won't look all that bad.

B) I bought the peanuts. I bought them because this isn't an either-or kind of thing. It isn't about thinking global and acting local, about being guilty or being noble. This isn't about us and them and it.

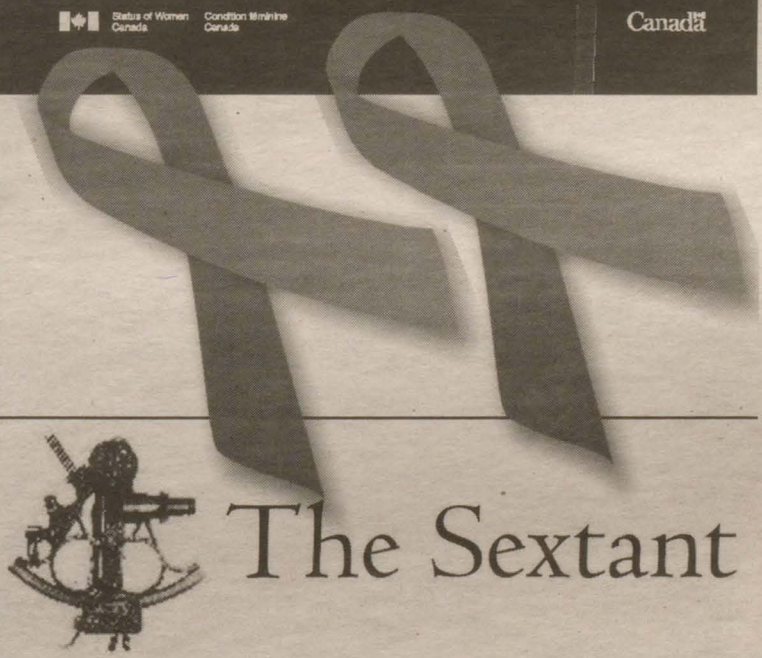
I bought the peanuts because I had a hankering for them. And when I bought them, I appreciated the work of the farmers, processors, and transporters that brought them to me, and how those people have as much a right to make a living as I do.

At some point you have to put your stake in the ground and say, "I think I'm ok with this." This world is wrought with complexities beyond my comprehension. I don't claim to have answers.

All I know is that change is possible as long as good, sensible people around the world (like you) are allowed to make decisions not from fear or anxiety but from prudence and sincerity. (Aw, shucks.)

Or maybe we should just buy Fair Trade. It's easier.

For the past year, Thulasy has been working to increase the participation of small scale farmers in fair and sustainable agricultural markets in Zambia.



The Sextant

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

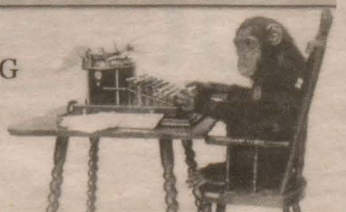
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