

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE

Love needs no labels

Couple grows stronger
through gender transition

Pg. 15



Inside the sex issue:

- Students share what sex means to them Pg. 15
- Peer ally reaches out to LGBT students Pg. 5
- Is the HPV vaccine worth it? Pg. 10



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Important Dates

- March 2nd** - Deadline for applications for position of Vice-president Finance and Operations (contact dsupres@dal.ca for info)
- March 2nd** - Deadline for applications for positions on the Board of Operations (contact dsuvpfo@dal.ca for info)
- March 13th** - Student Appreciation Night
- March 15th** - Deadline for Society winter audit

Fill out our survey for a chance to win!

It's 'Imagine' time again, and that means the DSU is looking for feedback on issues that affect you!

Fill out the survey at www.dsu.ca for a chance to win fabulous prizes - like a \$250 gift certificate for Future Shop!

DFA supports DSU Food Bank

The Dalhousie Student Union is proud to announce a generous donation for the DSU Food Bank from the Dalhousie Faculty Association.

For more information, see <http://www.dsu.ca/news/dfa-supports-dsu-food-bank>.

Teaching Awards - February 13th

To nominate a professor or instructor for a teaching award, please fill out the nomination form available online or at the DSU information centre in the Student Union Building. Please remember to attach a cover letter supporting the nomination. Applications must be submitted by February 13th 2009. Forms can be addressed to Amy Florian and may be dropped off at room 222 in the Student Union Building or emailed to am476210@dal.ca.

Bring Death Cab for Cutie to Dalhousie! - March 1st

Help the DSU bring Death Cab for Cutie to Dalhousie! Just log onto Facebook.com/campusbattle or text "BATTLE" to 4869 from a Rogers phone and vote for DAL. We're currently in the lead by a large margin, but the contest doesn't close until March 1st, so keep voting!

Tech Ball - February 13th

On Friday, February 13th come out to the Sexton Campus Gym for Tech Ball: "Fly Me To The Moon". Featuring The Mellotones, tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Tickets are available at the Undergraduate Engineering Office on Sexton Campus or the information desk in the Student Union Building. Semi-Formal Dress. Wet/dry. All DAL students welcome

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

Student Accessibility Bursaries - March 13th

Each year the DSU offers two \$1000 bursaries open to all Dalhousie students with disabilities. The DSU recognizes that there are additional financial burdens associated with having a disability. These scholarships will help students defray these costs. All Dalhousie students are encouraged to apply, regardless of whether or not they have a student loan, or receive outside funding.

Applications are available at www.dsu.ca, or can be picked up at the info desk or room 222 of the SUB. All questions should be directed to the Daniel Boyle at dsuvpi@dal.ca. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



Happy Valentine's Day!

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CORRECTIONS POLICY

The Gazette is steadfastly committed to accuracy and always strives to provide correct information to students. We are human, though, and we do make mistakes. We promise to correct them as promptly as possible. If you spot an error in *The Gazette* in print or online, please report it to copy@dalgazette.ca.

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 Streeter 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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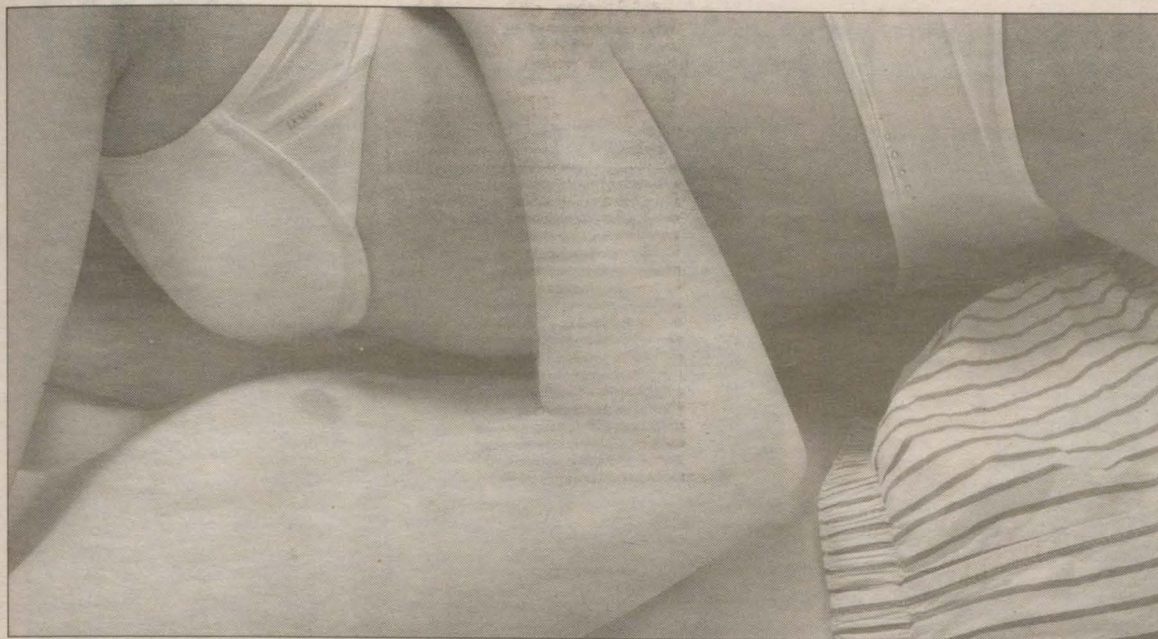
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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR... GAZETTE



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sex is one of the few things in world people are expected to know how to do without formal training.

Chocolate sex on a stick

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Girlfriends, boyfriends, husbands, wives and casual lovers all await goodies they will receive for Valentine's Day. I could quip for hours about a holiday during which single people are ignored and the idea of romance is successfully commercialized into Hallmark cards. Instead, I want to share a tale about the chocolate vagina pop.

Those familiar with the Dalhousie Women's Centre and its outspoken coordinator, Elizabeth McCormack - a friend of mine - know the fabled tale of this chocolate vagina-shaped lollipop. Created to bring awareness about violence against women, the pop's recent adventure involved *The Daily Show's* Jon Stewart. When McCormack and

the women's centre's student assistant, Nessa Trenton, went to a taping of the show, they naturally brought a pop along for Stewart's enjoyment. The comedian joked in his opening monologue that his throat was sore due to a cold, not because he was snacking on sex-related candy. When he failed to mention what female part he'd been munching on, Trenton shouted "vagina" in the background. Stewart was speechless but his smile said it all.

Sex is funny, silly, nasty and exciting. It's one of the few things in world people are expected to know how to do without an instruction manual or formal training. Even though people in every nation of the world do it, the words to describe sex can be spun to make people uncomfortable or bring out a good laugh. Why wouldn't Stew-

art happily proclaim he's been chomping on a chocolate vagina? Perhaps maintaining the mystery for viewers was the best part.

The Gazette has tried to get away from clichés in our annual sex issue, because sexuality is more than printing the words "vagina" and "penis" over and over again. While knowing which body parts are involved is a good first step in talking about sex, there's more to the topic than the biology. This is probably the reason why Valentine's Day cards are more cutesy than sexually suggestive.

So as you're putting the finishing touches on your Valentine's Day plans, consider sex as more than the ultimate gift. Or maybe just skip the sex and give the guy or girl some sexual chocolate.

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

THE GAZETTE ELECTIONS

Come out Feb 19th at 6 p.m. Rm 303 of the SUB to vote for the editors next year.

Food Provided

Any Dalhousie student can vote

Anyone who has published articles or photos in three different issues can apply for any of the section editor positions. Just drop off a cover letter, resume and clippings to The Gazette office by Feb 18 at 4 p.m.

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

Pro-life group inflames protestors at SMU

LEILANI GRAHAM-LAIDLAW
AND LAUREN NAISH
NEWS CONTRIBUTORS

Abortion often stirs up controversy. Especially when it's compared to genocide and the Holocaust.

A lecture entitled "Echoes of the Holocaust" caused an uproar on the Saint Mary's University (SMU) campus Feb. 4.

Jose Ruba, a representative of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, was invited to the university by a group of students and the chaplaincy to make a presentation, which had incited violent reactions, such as riots, on various university campuses in the past.

The Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform is a pro-life organization whose goal, in its own words, is to "make abortion unthinkable." Its pamphlet, "Why Abortion is Genocide," states its Genocide Awareness Project (GAP) exhibits large photo murals that show aborted babies alongside Jewish holocaust victims and African Americans killed in racist lynchings. That project - or the images involved - is why some SMU students felt the centre's presentation had no place on their campus.

"We're students here too," shouted one girl in an exchange with Ruba. "We're disinviting you."

The group promised not to employ the GAP technique with large photo murals, but at the beginning of the presentation it displayed a warning that graphic imagery may be used. The group compared abortion to the Cambodian and Bosnian genocides, the Holocaust and the recent guilty plea of Penny Boudreau to killing her 12-year-old daughter, among other comparisons.

"I was told I was allowed to do a presentation and I wasn't planning on doing GAP," said Ruba.

Ruba said he showed the images



DWAYNE MCINTOSH/U-NEWS.CA

Jose Ruba, a rep. of the Canadian Centre for Bio-Ethical Reform, wants to make abortion "unthinkable."

for a purpose similar to the government forcing cigarette companies to show graphic images on the cigarette boxes.

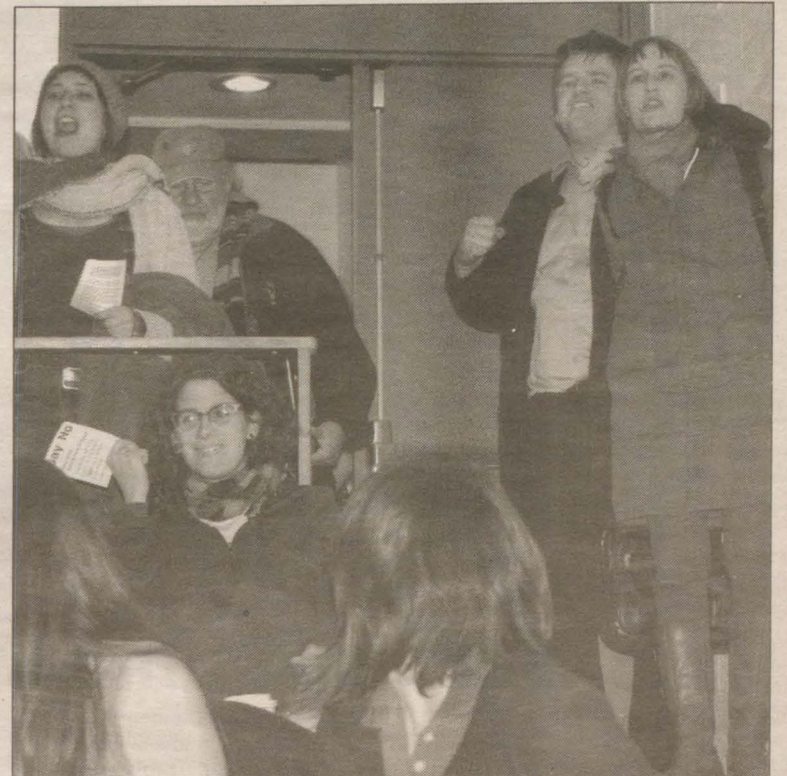
"We live in a visual culture," he said.

Ruba said the comparisons between genocide and abortion are justified following the interpretation of the unborn as human beings.

"If the unborn are not human beings then the comparison is insensitive, but if they are then the comparisons are inevitable," he said.

Before Ruba's presentation began, roughly 15 chanting people burst into the back of the auditorium. SMU students, supported by members of the Halifax Coalition for Choice, did not want to see this "propaganda" on their campus.

Between very loud cries of "No Hate Speech in our schools," "Pro-life men have got to go/When you get pregnant let us know" and "Women's bodies, women's lives," among others, Ruba could not make himself heard. He began typing out his presentation on a computer, which he projected onto a screen at the front of the auditorium. When protesters at the back of the auditorium blocked the projector, Ruba asked those who wanted to hear, about 32 people, to move forward, etching a physical divide between the two groups. As the group protesting from the back demanded the lecture stop, the group at the front paid Ruba rapt attention and wanted to see it. Debate between the two became increasingly polarized and more emotionally charged as they faced off on opposite



DWAYNE MCINTOSH/U-NEWS.CA

Protestors at the back of the auditorium blocked Ruba's projector.

sides of the lecture hall. Security was called in to make an effort to keep the peace after nearly 40 minutes. The two security personnel could not say who had called them in.

Soon after, they called the police, who stood by as tension escalated. Neither side would give in to the other's demands. Ruba went on with his lecture to one group of people, while the other group interrupted with questions and yelled remarks.

SMU's Conflict Resolution Officer eventually shut the lecture down after approximately an hour, but on invitation from the chaplaincy, it continued in the Canadian Martyrs' Church next door. From there, the presentation finished for a much quieter crowd. Just over 30 subdued people filed into the church, including one girl who had

been asking questions at the back of the SMU lecture hall. She did not interrupt at all, but asked respectful but pointed questions when Ruba called for them.

Ultimately it was the racial overtones that turned heads in the community. Jon Goldberg, executive director of the Atlantic Jewish Council, said although the debate about the validity of abortion is legitimate, using the Holocaust comparison was "completely inappropriate" and debased the argument.

"To compare a legal and medical procedure, whether you agree with the law or not, with the systematic murder of six million men, women, and children simply because they were Jews, is wrong and totally unacceptable to the Jewish community."

Dal prof brings 'Sexonomics' to the classroom



KELTIE MACNEIL/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal prof Maria Adshade launched the first ever Economics of Sex and Love class.

ROSIE JACOBS
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie economics professor Marina Adshade offers an unconventional look into the field by studying how prostitutes set their prices and why significant others cheat.

This year, among the standard courses in business of accounting and marketing, a group of pioneering business students are applying economic theories to sex and love. In January, Adshade launched the first ever Economics of Sex and Love class at Dal.

"Economics has a broader application than just looking at business," says Adshade, "and there are many economists that are looking at human behaviour."

Or in the case of this class, human sexual behaviour.

Adshade is an assistant professor at Dal specializing in macroeconomics and economic history with a PhD from Queen's University. The idea of an economics class focused on the sex came to her last year at a conference in New Orleans while she listened to Steven Levitt, the best-selling author of *Freakonomics*, lecture on sex and economics. Inspired, Adshade began her research by just asking around. She was surprised at how much information she found over the past year.

And after 12 months of research, Adshade proposed this course to the university and "Sexonomics" officially entered Dal's academic sphere.

Economics of Sex and Love is the first university course of its kind not only in Canada, but worldwide. And the idea is catching on fast.

"When I first announced this course in the fall," recalls Adshade, "Dalnews did a story and that kind of triggered it. It received news coverage all over the world."

Newspapers in Russia and London's *Daily Mail* have reported on Adshade's course.

"It is a different approach to thinking about (sex) and it is a different use of economics and there is no other course like this. But I suspect that will change," says Adshade.

But the course, like sex, isn't all fun and games: it touches on more serious issues about sex such as rape and infidelity. The course primarily explores five areas where the relationship between sex and economics is clearer, like the explicit sex trade and risky sexual behaviour, to areas where the relationship is less obvious, like sex and happiness.

The course is taught mostly through seminars, but students also have the chance to develop their own theories on sex - as long as they can clearly demonstrate how existing economic theories prove their hypotheses. Their papers can have anything to do with sex and already some students have developed interesting topics, such as why people cheat, the welfare of women in polygamist societies versus monogamist societies and how pornography determines technological developments.

At the start of term there were roughly 87 students registered and that number jumped to 105 within two weeks.

"I've never had a class grow so much over the first two weeks of the term and attendance is really good,"

says Adshade. "But we'll see what happens when they reach the first midterm."

Still, the giant auditorium in the Computer Science building is consistently full with hands in the air. And this is sometimes rare for a class with more than 100 students.

"Sexonomics" has caught on with its students, including Caitlin Aker.

"This course is a great addition to the courses currently provided by the economics department at Dalhousie. It explores controversial topics that other courses I have taken at Dalhousie seem to be leery of discussing," says Aker. "Adshade is incredibly informative and doesn't shy away from answering difficult questions and posing controversial topics for her students to consider."

Aker recalls one class where students discussed the correlation between the rise of the Internet and the decrease of rape in certain parts of the United States - in every area where the Internet, and online pornography, were more accessible, there was also a decrease in the instances of rape.

Aker thinks this information can be put to good use.

"The results of this study could potentially be used in a variety of different ways and have implications that extend from law enforcement to further economic ventures," says Aker.

After this semester, Adshade has decided to teach the course again next fall.

"Sometimes I stand in front of the class thinking what am I doing here?" says Adshade. "But it is fun."

Peer ally supports student sexual identity

ANDREW CLUMPUS
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Patrick Daigle thought he could live his life without telling anyone he was gay.

Now Dalhousie University's peer ally, Daigle says his own journey of coming out when he was 22 and in his third year of university inspired him to take the job.

"I had never really considered coming out of the closet. I was prepared to live my life very closeted and get married to a female. And then a roommate of mine told me one night that he was gay," he says. "So I ended up coming out to him that night, and we were support systems for each other."

He knows from his own experience that coming out is easier with shoulders to lean on.

"My life is surrounded by people who support me, and it's helped me get to where I am today," he says.

Daigle, a clinical therapist and Dal master's of social work student, takes on the role created in 2006 for the purpose of raising awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) issues and giving students a professional worker to talk to in confidence.

"It was created to bring a component of support to the students and faculty at Dalhousie in relation to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues," he explains.

Daigle offers services to any Dal student who has questions or wants to talk about matters that relate to sexuality.

"I'm here to provide support as someone who is pretty much a peer to these students," he says. "It could be individual support for someone who is coming out of the closet or questioning their sexuality. It could be someone who is looking for resources around the Dalhousie campus or HRM community. It could be somebody who is looking for someone to chat to about relationship issues."

His support is not limited to those who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered. "Anybody who presents with an issue, perhaps they're looking at their own myths and stereotypes, or if they're struggling with a family member who's coming out of the closet, that would be something they would need support on, perhaps some information," he says. "I'm here to work with whatever issues are presented in dealing with the LGBT community."

In addition to peer counselling,



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Patrick Daigle offers counselling to students with questions relating to sexuality.

Daigle also delivers presentations across campus that seek to educate the Dal community on LGBT matters.

"I cater to what staff and students would like to hear about the rainbow community," he says.

Daigle's work as the Dal peer ally

is just part-time - he also works at the province's Addiction Prevention and Treatment Services and is on the Board of Directors of the Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Youth Project. He took the job as a peer ally after a co-worker at Addiction Services had mentioned it to him.

"I really looked at it, and this job provided me with the unique opportunity to be doing what I really love, and that is working strictly with the rainbow community," he says. "It allowed me to carry on the lessons I had learned and apply it to the Dalhousie community."

The experience of being a peer ally has been very gratifying for him.

"I've really enjoyed the one-on-one work I'm doing with people who experienced the same issues I did when I came out of the closet."

He says his reward has been being able to see them transition from coming out of the closet and seeing people's strength and confidence build.

Ultimately, Daigle knows that he and other LGBT campus services such as DalOut and anti-discrimination campaigns can be a strong force for good.

"We have a unique opportunity at Dalhousie where we have a university with four walls around it to really provide some education and get rid of some of the myths and stereotypes and fear that make up homophobia and heterosexism."

Daigle can be contacted at peerally@dal.ca.

Campus groups promote safe sex

EDWARD LARUSIC
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Jasmine Kakuk, Kathryn Gibson and Jennifer Jollymore are all current or former students at Dalhousie with a common goal: promoting safe sex on campus.

Kakuk, a former Dal student, is the public relations manager for DalOUT, the university's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer society (LGBTQ). She says it is important students have the resources to protect and educate themselves on the topic of safe sex.

"(University) is a time where you're meeting so many different people, and you're trying different things," she says. "It's not a time to be willy-nilly with your health; this is a time you want to be safe."

People infected with sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have been on the rise since the early 1990s, states the Public Health Agency of Canada. Genital chlamydia was reported in 26,888 cases involving Canadians aged 20 to 24 in 2007, up from 12,434 cases in 1997.

More than half the people infected with genital chlamydia show no obvious symptoms, and if untreated, it can cause infertility in women and urethral

infection in men.

To help students, Kakuk and DalOUT hold events regularly.

"The people (at DalOUT) are really close and supportive. We do something every week, every Thursday, and it alternates between education and social," she says.

Students can get condoms and dental dams at the DalOUT office in the Student Union Building and at DalOUT events for free.

Kakuk says DalOUT is easy for students to reach out to because they're peers.

"For those connecting to the LGBTQ community, we might be the only group they come in contact with," she says. "We're always here to provide the information and direct the person."

Kathryn Gibson and her friend Katie Watson have been working alongside the Canadian Foundation for Aids Research (CANFAR) Dal for the upcoming "Have a Heart" campaign CANFAR conducts every year across Canada to educate students about HIV/AIDS and to generate funds for research.

"We're at a prime age for transmitting HIV/AIDS to the unaware," says Gibson. "There are 73,000 Canadians who currently live with HIV/AIDS. They estimate 30 per cent of those

people don't even know they have it."

To combat HIV/AIDS, Gibson and Watson are creating 1,000 "Heart o' Grams" to sell by donation to students. Each package includes an information pamphlet, a condom, a pack of gum, and a red ribbon signifying the HIV/AIDS cause. The pair has been putting them together for a week.

Jollymore is one of four nursing students completing a placement with Dal's Peer Health service, which aids the university community in promoting healthy living.

"As a group we decided that we really would be interested in promoting sexual health awareness... of the major issues facing university students, sexual health is one of them," she says.

Jollymore and her group have participated in the annual "Sex with Trebek" workshops that educate students living in residence about sexual health. They also handed out 500 "treat bags" - which include condoms - last Halloween. The group also made posters that are displayed in the Health Services building.

"We had a series of four posters that covered STIs, contraceptives, healthy relations, and the morning after pill," she says.

She stresses students should be very concerned with STIs on campus because they are more prevalent than some students might think.

"The one they see the most at the Dal Health office is HPV, genital warts," says Jollymore, who estimates Dal Health sees cases of that STI several times a day. "It's very prevalent. In the general population, chlamydia is a problem."

Groups or students who wish to promote safe sex on campus, or simply pick up free condoms for distribution or personal use, can contact Derrick Enslow a Health Educator and Howe Hall at derrick.enslow@dal.ca. DalOUT's office is located in room 321 of the SUB, and appointments can be set up via DalOUT@dal.ca. For more information about Have a Heart or CANFAR, contact Lena Ghatage at the Dalhousie chapter at LN895588@dal.ca.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Jasmine Kakuk says students can find support from peers at DalOUT.

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NEWS BITES

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS:

UTM delays daycare promise

The Mississauga campus at the University of Toronto (UTM) promised student parents a daycare facility would open this month, but the university has yet to begin construction.

The university has left these students with an unlicensed temporary service in its place, reported the *Varsity*.

Saaliha Malik, vice-president (equity) of the university's student

union, said the opening has been rescheduled a few times since September 2007.

The administration said in an e-mail to students in January it was too optimistic with its timeline. Construction was also delayed because the university only got hold of a city permit Jan. 23.

Source: *the Varsity*

UBC profs discover new information about ovarian cancer

Two professors from the University of British Columbia and their research team found ovarian cancer to be five different diseases, reported the *Ubysey*.

Dr. David Huntsman and Dr. Blake Gilks of the department of pathology and laboratory medicine and their research team's findings could alter how ovarian cancer research is performed and how patients with ovarian cancer are

treated.

Huntsman said once they start treating the subtypes of the cancer as separate diseases, they will be able to improve the outcomes for each specific subtype. The research will also provide more specialized treatment options.

But patients won't see their treatment change instantly because the research must first go through clinical trials.

Source: *the Ubysey*

NATIONAL HEADLINES:

Harper stands by job creation estimates in stimulus package

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said the government must "stick to the course," as the number of jobs in Canada drops and the economy worsens, reported CBC.

Harper said the reason the government proposed such a massive economic plan and such a large deficit spending stimulus is because of its anticipation of significant economic

challenges, including job losses.

Liberal finance critic John McCallum said the job creation estimates in the stimulus package are a failure because Canada has already lost 213,000 jobs since October.

Canada lost 129,000 jobs in January. The unemployment rate went up to 7.2 per cent.

Source: CBC

Vet body shuts down pet euthanasia service

A professional body caused a Toronto couple, who facilitated euthanasia for people with sick pets, to close its business after taking it to court.

CBC reported the College of Veterinarians of Ontario charged Eric and Shelley Blechman, who ran Pet Heaven, with practising veterinary medicine without a license.

Shelley Blechman said she and

her husband had been running the practice for almost four years, and they had never received any calls or letters telling them they should stop until they obtained a summons from the college.

The college accused Pet Heaven of steering clients to specific vets. This is forbidden under the Ontario Veterinarians Act, which protects pet owners' liberty to freely choose a doctor.

Source: CBC

Canadians may lose American TV signals

When American broadcasters switch to digital television service Feb. 17, some Canadians may start to lose access to U.S. stations, unless they have a digital TV, converter box or subscribe to a pay-TV service.

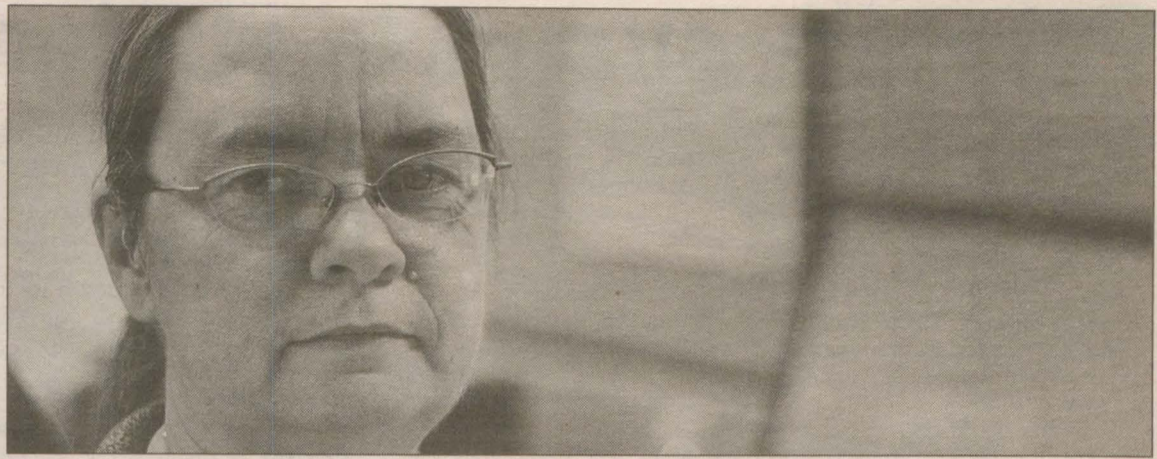
A spokesman for the Friends of Canadian Broadcasting said as many as two million Canadians

tune into American TV, reported CBC.

Signal loss will vary from station to station in the major U.S. networks, such as CBS, Fox and ABC. It may occur anytime from Feb. 17 to June 12.

Some stations, such as WNED, are still undecided on whether they will switch to digital or not.

Source: CBC



Patricia Schappert, co-ordinator of Dal's new Studying for Success program, says the tutoring program didn't always run smoothly. **JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE**

Tutoring Services closed due to drop in volunteers

SARAH KEHOE
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Students looking for help at Dalhousie's Tutoring Services will have to look elsewhere – the program was shut down in January because of a decrease in the number of volunteers.

"(The program) was basically a matching service between students and their peers," says Patricia Schappert, vice-president of Student Services and the co-ordinator of Dal's newly introduced Studying for Success Program.

"Over time, the number of requests coming in outweighed the number of tutors putting themselves on the list of tutors. No one was volunteering and there were more students than tutors."

Student Services ran the tutoring service up until this semester, when the student co-ordinator of the program left. Schappert then decided to drop the tutoring service.

"Last semester we looked at the direction of the program as a whole," says Schappert. "We thought that a re-direction of services was best."

Schappert says less than 300 students went through the tutor service last fall semester.

Schappert also says students were looking for help in subjects Dal already offered free help for. The centres available free through Dal include the Chemistry Resource Centre, the Math/Statistics Learning Centre and the Writing

Centre.

The Studying for Success website has now been updated to state that "students requesting academic support in the form of tutoring services will be directed to a Study Skills Coach in the identified area of specialty to establish student needs, to provide the supports that are part of the Study Skills Program as needed, and then to refer the student to appropriate resources should those be assessed as appropriate."

Schappert says the program did not always run smoothly.

"It (the tutoring program) doesn't mean we were always able to match (students) with what they think they wanted or needed," says Schappert.

Schappert says there are nine coaches who are there to help students develop good academic routines, such as note taking, managing time and stress and learning how to prepare for exams. The coaches also provide workshops, some of which have not been attended this year.

Student Services coaches are not tutors, as they do not specialize in specific topics. Rather, they coach students on general academic grievances. Now the coaches must look for tutors to help their students; some coaches have started looking in Dal Classifieds.

Schappert says if students need a tutor this term, Student Services will refer them to their department for tutoring.

"(The program) wasn't here so that

we were a complete bank for students with a person in all subjects," says Schappert.

Fahad Algarni, a second-year health professions student, says Dal's tutoring program hasn't been working for years. He tried to find a tutor a year and a half ago by contacting Tutoring Services, but was unsuccessful in receiving help.

Algarni says Dal should have a service dedicated to help set-up students with tutors.

"The tutoring service should be offered and controlled by the university to prevent any further troubles that might happen for students, especially who are new in Halifax," says Algarni.

Kin Hung Chan, a recent master's graduate of Dal, says he still tutors Dal students and has been doing so for more than 10 years. Although Chan has never registered himself with Tutoring Services, he thinks a new approach to their service may help.

"I think word of mouth is more important," says Chan. "The students would like to hire someone they know can help them to pass the course or get a better grade."

Chan thinks Dal needs to have some system in place to pair tutors and students.

"You really need to control the quality of all the tutors," says Chan. "Some people have a very high level of education but they can't really express their idea, and patience is very important."

INTERNATIONAL NEWS BY THE NUMBERS:

\$43 million (USD): the amount Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has given to Palestinian Authority officials in Gaza.

1 per cent: how much the Bank of England has cut its key interest rate to.

130: the number of fishermen who were trapped on an ice floe for about four hours, after it broke away from Lake Erie's shoreline in Oak Harbour, Ohio.

598,000: the number of jobs the U.S. economy lost last month, the largest one-month decrease since 1974.

3,380: the number of kilometres Jennifer Figge of Aspen, Colorado, swam to become the first woman to swim across the Atlantic Ocean.

\$7 million (USD): the amount Australia Prime Minister Kevin Rudd promised in emergency aid because of wildfires in that country.

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

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New musicology MA underway for fall

SAMANTHA DURNFORD
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Music buffs take note – Dalhousie's department of music is now offering a master's degree in musicology, the only program of its kind in the Maritimes.

Enrolment for the program, which begins in September 2009, has already begun and the graduate co-ordinator in Dal's department of music, is excited.

"No schools east of Quebec City offer this MA," says Jessica Bain. "This is a good opportunity for our music students to take up."

Bain says a musicologist is anyone who thinks and writes about music.

"We deliberately used the term musicology," says Bain. "What we do isn't narrowly defined. We wanted to provide a broad definition of music historians and theorists, with an emphasis on the common link it has between music and culture."

Five faculty members will be teaching the new program and eight students will be admitted. The faculty members include Bain, Jacqueline Warwick, David Schroeder, Jérôme Blais and Steven Baur, all from the music department. One new faculty member may be hired.

Students taking the master's of musicology will have to complete five seminars by the end of their two-year



Jessica Bain, graduate co-ordinator in Dal's music department, says the musicology program will link music and culture.

degree. Examples of seminars include research recordings, books and discussions about music history and theories.

This new program will also allow Dal's current music students to continue their studies here.

Bain says professors are looking forward to having more graduate students around for mentorship to undergraduate students.

She also says after five years, the program will be reviewed to ensure it is working – a standard at Dal – and the cost of running it is worth the outcome.

Bain will be teaching a course of her own which studies 14th century French composer Guillaume de Machau. Bain says she will be bringing new articles to her students and showing them the latest research about Machau.

Baur, an assistant professor of music, is also eager for the program to begin.

"(The faculty) will get to keep working with some of our best students beyond their undergraduate degrees," says Baur. "In recent years, we have been sending students to major graduate programs, including

Harvard, McGill, University of Toronto, Stony Brook, and the University of Leeds, and while I'm sure we will continue producing students that go on to such schools, it will be nice to keep some of these exceptional students in our own graduate program."

Baur will be leading a seminar on music and social politics in 19th century North America. He says many professors are looking forward to teaching the master's program.

"We're all excited about designing and leading seminars at the graduate level, where topics can be explored more thoroughly and from a broader

range of perspectives than is typically possible in undergraduate courses," says Baur.

So far the program has received five applicants. Baur says this low number is expected because Dal just received notice a few weeks ago that the program was approved.

Mark Calvi applied to the program after graduating with a bachelor of music at Dal in performance in 1998. He has been a music teacher at local conservatories and a gigging musician – a musician who plays shows here and there.

"Studies in music beyond the undergraduate level has always been something I wanted to pursue," says Calvi. "Without a music grad program east of Montreal, except for Memorial in Newfoundland (which offers a master's in ethnomusicology) I, like many Dal music students and grads, knew that continuing in this field at a higher academic level meant leaving the Maritimes."

Calvi says the program also supports the local music scene.

"This program will not only create growth in Dal's music department, but it will inevitably promote more local interest and investment in our own community in terms of support for the arts, concerts, and more venues for musicians and the general public," says Calvi.

Dalhousie kicks off nation's first College of Sustainability

JENNIFER BERTLING
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie University is offering Canada's first College of Sustainability with its launch of the academic program, Environment, Sustainability and Society (ESS), this fall.

The program aims to enable students to understand new concepts, think critically and form their own ideas on what it means to live environmentally responsible in the department of the College of Sustainability.

The idea was born out of a perceived gap in the academic programs offered at Dal. A workshop of 80 people was formed and took place over two days with one conclusion: there was a need for a program which brings environment to the forefront from different disciplines.

Dal offers an environmental sciences degree but the science-specific subject matter is limiting, says Jared Kolb, project and research co-ordinator with the College of Sustainability.

"It simply doesn't go far enough, it doesn't engage business leaders. That's where the College of Sustainability comes in," he says. "Within it, there is a broader availability to all students from all disciplines."

So far, the new program has proved to be very popular.

"Broadly speaking, there is a rush," says Kolb.

He explains the count is up to roughly 64 prospective students, and the college anticipates drawing in roughly 300 students total.

Kolb says the draw is "a fundamentally different way to approaching university life." Students will be working with their peers from all across the discipline board with up to three professors at a time. Roughly 35 faculty members have signed on and it is worth noting that all professors can select themselves to be a part of the college's staff.

Students can also major in the sustainability program and combine it with a concentration in another department at Dal.

The atmosphere will be fundamentally different by regularly featuring up to three professors at the head of the class who will both lecture and debate

issues. The relaxed classroom atmosphere will be reinforced by a lot of time spent on curriculum development. A typical week would have three hours of lectures, three hours of tutorial and one evening guest speaker.

Kolb describes the sense of community he and many others are trying to build as "an old British sense of college."

Those who graduate with an ESS degree will have the advantage of being uniquely educated. Classes will combine academics, research and team communication.

Faculty members from other universities, such as Irena Creed, academic co-director of the environment and sustainability program at the University of Western Ontario, are taking notice of Dal's efforts.

"It is always exciting to see innovative developments in the area of the environment and sustainability," says Creed. "I'm enthusiastic for the new academic program at Dalhousie."

Kolb says he expects other universities will follow Dal's lead in three to five years.

"Everyone has their niche, and we have such a large capacity for environment that Dalhousie is the perfect starting point for a program of this sort."

For those with higher level education in their futures, graduate offerings are already in the works with full implementation scheduled for September 2011.

Maggy Burns, a representative from the Ecology Action Centre, was at the unveiling of the college several weeks ago.

"It was a pleasure to attend the launch of Dalhousie's College of Sustainability," says Burns. "I left feeling inspired by the forward thinking nature of the new program and the commitment by so many at Dalhousie – students, faculty, and staff – to making environmental justice a reality."

Burns says many of Nova Scotia's steps forward on sustainable projects, such as the Halifax harbour cleanup, have emerged from the actions of passionate citizens.

"Over the years this has resulted in a strong environmental movement in the province."

Medical Musings

Be healthy: ask your doctor for help



RACHEL SUNTER
HEALTH COLUMNIST

When I lie back to get checked for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), I notice the comic clippings taped to the ceiling above me. I'm sure they've been thoughtfully arranged there to relax and possibly even entertain, sex-check patients like myself.

I dimly realize I probably read these same comics the last time I was here, on my back, on this crinkly paper bed. A friendly nurse stands beside, chatting with me, asking about my health column, as I, pant-less and exposed, read comics on the ceiling. But each time I get to the punch line, the alarmed detection of unexpected invasion breaks my focus.

Fight-or-flight responses wage war in my head, screaming cold metal instruments and vaginas were never meant to be together, that I was crazy to come to this clinic, that I should have stayed home, in bed, safe with my body and what secrets it may hold, forever.

Even for the most bull-headed

and radiantly confident people, STI checks and Pap smears are not comfortable – if they were, that would just be awkward.

But getting examined for STIs, other infections and cancerous symptoms can save you from future pain. It can save your life.

The problem is, many of us aren't getting tested on an annual basis.

Studies over the past few years have drawn a strong correlation between people's self-esteem and their likelihood to participate in annual medical check-ups, like dental cleanings and Pap smears.

Women with lower self-esteem issues, like depression and poor self-image, are less likely to take care of their general health. They're also less likely to speak up about personal issues with their doctors.

For both men and women, it's important to establish a comfortable and trusting relationship with your doctor. To get more comfortable with your doctor, ask questions. Where's this sample going? What are they testing me for? What would that look like, and what would that mean?

Elaborate upon your concerns. If you think there's a weird link between eating cheddar cheese and losing your sex drive, say something. Even if your doctor doesn't have the answers, he or she can point you in the right direction by suggesting books and websites, or by referring you to a specialist.

Canadian healthcare, albeit

overcrowded, is accessible, especially here in Halifax. At Dal Health there's almost always an on-call doctor for unplanned appointments, and a nurse's office for more urgent concerns.

Pain is an inherently isolating experience. But it doesn't have to be. Being healthy means more than having bodily awareness, remembering biology lessons and reading this health column.

Being healthy means knowing when to ask for help. There are people in our country, in this city, who have studied for years so that they can help and understand people just like you. But you have to call them yourself.

If there's one thing that truly disappoints me about popular conceptions of our health care, it's the overwhelming pessimism. There are more specialists, foundations, directories and discussion groups out there than most of us know of.

So go ahead and ask your questions, do some research, and, where your own resources fail you, have some healthy humility and ask for help.

Metal gadgets and latex-layered hands can be unfamiliar and awkward when they're fiddling with private things, but when it comes to medical attention, they sure beat the old flashlight and mirror at home.

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

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ST. VALENTINE
DIDN'T RESIST WHEN
THE SOLDIERS CAME, EVEN
WHEN THEY BEAT HIM TO
WITHIN AN INCH OF HIS LIFE.

WHEN HE
WOULD NOT DIE, THEY
DRAGGED HIM THROUGH
ROME AND BROKE HIS BODY
WITH THE PAVING STONES.

THEY CUT THE HEAD FROM HIS BODY WHILE HIS HEART
STILL BEAT, AND CALLED IT THE EMPEROR'S JUSTICE.

I GUESS I'M TRYING TO SAY THAT WE DON'T
KNOW A GODDAMN THING ABOUT HOW "LOVE
HURTS," SO PLEASE TAKE YOUR DOLLAR
STORE CHOCOLATE AND YOUR
POLYESTER ROSES, AND
FIND SOMEBODY
ELSE TO
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PETER CHIYKOWSKI/DAL GAZETTE CARTOON

Sex: casual fun or eternal connection?

JASON SAVOURY
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

The other day, my friend said the words "it's just sex," and left before I had a chance to respond. The words sent the ol' cogwheels in my head a-turning. This notion is inherently crazy to me, yet not wholly an unfamiliar concept. I mean, who hasn't thought about or experienced the notion of "friends with benefits," or "casual sex?" At university, it's all around you. Relationships are great, but in their absence, just sex is a pretty damn good alternative.

So, why do I say the notion is crazy? Well, it's a personal choice, really. Though partially motivated by relative inexperience, sex to me is a momentous occasion. OK, momentous may be over the top, but it's pretty special, and should be treated as such. It's one person connecting with another in the most intimate way possible, on the most personal level. It connects two people forever, in my mind at least, and allows them to know each other in a way only a select few do. Sex is about shedding all boundaries and, literally becoming one with somebody else. It is not,

though it is frequently used as such, a means to an end, a simple "how ya doing?" or "hello, goodbye."

This is not a social commentary, by any means. To each their own, as they say, and given the opportunity, I'd jump at the chance for some "casual fun," but looking through the eyes of my naivety as I live now, my stance works for me. Maybe I don't get it as often as I'd like, but that longing makes the act that much more precious. And, I know in my heart of hearts, the wait will be more than worth it. At least, then, it will still mean something to me.

Care about what you study: vexations of an IDS major

TARA MACDOUGALL
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

I would like to start this out with a disclaimer: my criticisms of international development studies students stem from my own tormented, schizophrenic relationship with international development. Despite this personal struggle, I feel I need to express some long-overdue sentiments that have been gnawing at my conscience like a canker sore.

I'm a third-year IDS student. I fit into pretty much every stereotype of IDS students. My family lives in southern Ontario, and they're pretty much the most nuclear, normal, upper-middle class group of people you could imagine. I travel more than I should, and more than I can afford. I am voraciously obsessed with the injustices of the world, which I tend to voice more often than my friends and family care to hear. I'm a vegetarian and I had dreads for six months. I don't buy brand name clothes, and I'm an irritatingly loud advocate for fair-trade coffee, which I smugly sip from my re-usable travel mug. I read non-fiction books about depressing dictators and tragic world crises, and my movie choices tend to dishearten and offend my friends.

For the most part, I waver between self-righteous disdain for the lesser mortals who care nothing about the injustices of the world, and self-loathing of my own insecure, consumerist, judgemental worldview.

But enough about me. Let's talk about you. You, the IDS students I just cannot comprehend. I see you and I try not to judge you with every fibre of my being. Dolce and Gabbana sunglasses. Blackberrys. Ugg boots. Sigh.

IDS attracts an interesting crowd of students. Running the gamut from socialist pseudo-hippies to well-groomed economics students, IDS is an intensely multi-disciplinary major that touches on a plethora of interesting current world issues. What grinds on me, however, are the IDS students who seem to float through the program without internalizing any of the course material.

I just can't understand how people can study the injustices of the World Trade Organization, the evils of neo-colonialism, the subjugation of female sweat-shop workers, the general pitfalls of our materialistic, consumer-driven society, and still not care about

any of it.

One of the hardest things about studying IDS is realizing what a terrible person one is. The ways I personally contribute to the injustice, subjugation, and consumerism of society is disturbing. My schoolwork affects me, I'm passionate about the material and I'm even willing to admit that most of the time, I'm more a part of the problem than the solution. But these people who come to IDS 2002 and decide that reading the latest edition of Perez Hilton is more important than the unequal terms of international trade lack respect for the seriousness of development studies.

My challenge to fellow IDS students, and indeed, all university students, is this; let what you study affect your personal choices. Buy a travel mug. Seriously, it's not that hard and it will reduce the amount of money and resources spent on disposable coffee cups. Read the newspaper, so you know the current political problems in southern Africa are based in Zimbabwe, not Zambia. They're not the same country. And please, for the sake of my sanity, do not prefix your points in class with "while I was building a well in Ecuador last summer for three weeks..." or, "When I was teaching orphans English in Cambodia..."

I honestly don't care to hear about your international philanthropic work. Most people in IDS have travelled and it has greatly affected them. It does not, however, give you the credibility or the authority to speak on behalf of all Ecuadorians. Have some humility and just say what you think instead of trying to impress your cute teaching assistant.

I have a love/hate relationship with international development and all the baggage that comes with it. It's not an easy thing to study, and letting the course material spill over into your non-academic life can have dramatic outcomes.

My parents are almost used to the idea of their daughter moving to a remote rural village in a country whose name they can't pronounce, but doing unpaid volunteer work as a profession is still a bit much for them to swallow.

If you can't be bothered to make an effort, like turning off Perez Hilton and listening to the professor, don't come to class. The injustices of the world will still be there tomorrow.

Abortion hurting birth rates in Canada

BEN WEDGE
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

We're disappearing. While it isn't obvious right away - Canada's population has been creeping slowly upward - our birth rate isn't high enough to sustain population growth. Canada's fertility rate, or the number of babies a woman is expected to bear during the span of her childbearing years, is a paltry 1.57, according to the United Nations. In fact, the only G8 country remotely close to meeting the magical replacement rate of 2.1 is the United States, whose fertility rate is currently 2.05.

Canadians are overwhelmingly choosing to avoid and delay childbearing, and are running away from pregnancies. Why is this happening, and what will it mean in the future?

In Ireland, there were some scary numbers only 20 years ago, when the population was in decline and the economy in the pits. Then, the Dáil Éireann (House of Deputies) implemented law outlawing abortion, except to save the woman's life, and the birth rate went up. Fifteen years later,

there were loads of young people looking to get jobs and an education, and the world took notice.

The Celtic Tiger, the term used to describe the economic boom in Ireland in the 1990s, was made possible by a young, well-educated, hard working population with enough English language skills to make it in the global marketplace.

With our expensive social programs and rapidly increasing dependency ratio (the number of people receiving benefits compared to paying in to them), we will simply go bankrupt as a country, as Mark Steyn points to in his book *America Alone*, which includes a lot of information about abortion, declining birth rates and ageing populations. If Western economies fail, the Arab countries will be responsible for the safety of the world, as they are really the only ones producing a lot of bright young people who are virtually unrestricted in movement about the planet.

Our abortion rate is a whopping 28 per cent. That means for approximately every three babies born, there is one abortion. Granted, nearly ev-

eryone who chooses to have an abortion has a reason to do so, and those reasons are far-ranging. The implications those choices have on our future is astounding.

With fewer young people to pay the bills, our social programs will run out of funding. Our generation won't be able to enjoy our retirement, because we'll spend our whole life funding the retirements of our parents. Our quality of life, according to the UN and the Atlantic Institute for Market Studies, is about to go into a steep decline.

In 30 years, the Maritime provinces are expected to have changed position with Africa in terms of dependency. We currently have 1.6 dependents for every worker. In 40 years, that number will almost double. In Africa, they have almost five dependents per worker, but in 40 years, it will be closer to 1.5. While we will be struggling to pay the bills, the African continent will be awash in workers and virtually free of dependents.

What about Canada's medicare system? It probably won't be sustainable much longer. With health costs

soaring and currently taking up more than a third of government expenditures, we need to think about what it will cost in a few years as the baby boomers accelerate their mass exodus from the workforce and enter into their most resource-consuming phase of life. Who's going to be stuck with the bill? You and I will be, and it won't be pretty.

The data shows that people are more concerned about their careers than their (currently non-existent) family, especially young, professional women like the ones attending this university. As people put off raising a family and opt for only one child, if any, Canada moves further into this hole, since it will take even longer for children to come of age and contribute to our economy.

Women have every right and responsibility to join the workforce, so it's up to all of us to make it easier for them to raise a family while not harming their ability to have ambitious careers, in order to grow our own families and improve our lives. French women can take up to three years off and then return to work

with the same rank, salary and pay scale as before.

Every country has its own approach to its own specific problem. Ireland chose to ban abortion, and Russia has holidays called Conception Days, which are paid holidays for procreation. Some countries offer major tax breaks to people with children. In Italy, some residents are entitled to \$30,000 or more per child.

Canada needs to do something. Our declining birth rate is costing us too much already and will bankrupt us in the future. With one of the world's highest abortion rates, we need to take a serious look at this issue and preferably cut back on the abortions that are performed merely upon request, for the sake of our future. Canada doesn't need a sweeping abortion ban, but not doing anything is not going to work. It's time to pull our heads out of the sand and get down to work building a foundation for our future.

Ben Wedge is a first-year engineering student and a member of the Dal-King's Conservatives.

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

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Tuition deregulation argument outdated

Ben Wedge's article "Let's Deregulate Tuition Fees" (Jan. 29) is a stunning piece of writing. It is absolutely unbelievable that anyone believes in deregulation anymore.

The idea that deregulation – another word for giving a free hand to the rich and powerful – can benefit the poor has been empirically disproved by the economic crisis, not to mention decades of solid social science work that has discredited the ideologues who push such an agenda. While the writer may not realize it, he is acting as a mouthpiece for the rich and powerful.

Let's look at his argument: if we

deregulate tuition and let university costs get completely out of control, the resources now being allocated to freeze tuition and subsidize part of our education would trickle down to the marginalized, and suddenly university would be accessible to those who have been traditionally excluded. I find this reasoning appalling and outdated.

Wedge probably does not want to admit that if we really want to make university accessible to the poor and to minorities, we need to organize and act. Instead of the harmless demonstrations of the past, a large number of students could refuse to pay tuition until it is lowered, which would bring the university and the government to its knees and give

students a better bargaining position.

Although the Ben Wedges of the world will continue to peddle half-baked solutions that benefit the rich and powerful and promise delayed benefits to the poor, almost anyone with common sense can recognize the bankruptcy of the entire deregulation paradigm. It is sad that a science student would endorse such an empirically discredited idea.

Kevin Johnston
First-year history master's

Atheist ideas too scary for Halifax buses

I was deeply disappointed to learn that the advertisement from the Atheist Bus Campaign was recently refused on the grounds that it was "too controversial". I have several problems with this.

First, and this may seem trite but it apparently needs mention, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms ensures Canadian citizens "freedom of thought, belief, opinion and expression, including freedom of the press and other media of communication." MetroTransit's refusal to run the ad is a violation of our charter.

Second, Canada is known for its tolerance of people's views. This is something of which I am quite proud. I am therefore deeply ashamed that we should be associated with bigotry toward atheists and other non-religious groups.

Third, the purpose of running an ad is to promote an idea. Many ideas begin as controversial and unpopular until exposure and education helps reduce prejudice and ignorance. Many people realize this and do not call to complain when they see ads they do not like. Unfortunately, atheists are still largely being treated as second-class citizens.

Lastly, the people of Halifax deserve the chance to see the ads for themselves and make their own decisions. We are an allegedly free nation.

I have written a letter to the public affairs rep. of Metro Transit, Lori Patterson, and Mayor Peter Kelly regarding this issue. I think many students on campus would be moved to write a letter on this issue also. Kimberly Hébert

Anthill politics

JORDAN DRAPER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Sometimes it's hard not to envy Americans of their leader. Other times, to beat around the (George W.) Bush a bit, it's rather easy. Regardless of who the president is at a given point in time, at least you know that's who's calling the shots.

Recently, I've doubted that we have a leader in Canada at all. The Conservative Party, identified with balanced books and small government, is going on a \$258.6 billion spending spree.

In a certain sense, the party has temporarily lost itself. So much consultation went into this year's budget that it seems to have been drawn up by a forced hand. And after compiling the recommendations of everyone who wants a cut of the package, the Conservatives complained the Liberals didn't give enough input. Who is the leader, anyway?

For those who feared during the most recent federal election that Stephen Harper would secure a second term as prime minister, something even worse has happened.

It's as though a nine-year-old boy took a stick to an anthill, and now all the drones are scrambling around without a leader. Let me express it in the form of a limerick:

Harper was replaced by a drone.
His policy was no longer his own.
The Queen was dismayed.
For, prorogued, but still paid
Parliament's work was undone.

Canadians, it seems to me, are very much like ants. Don't be insulted – the ancient sage Solomon regarded these creatures highly.

He said, "consider the ant, for she is wise." The wisdom of the ants eludes the individual, but emerges from the group.

An episode of New York City radio station WNYC's show *Radiolab*, explores the topic of "emergence," a term scientists use in reference to the amazing organization of groups that don't have any apparent leadership, or are not governed by an especially formidable intelligence.

Such as the ant.

Their sophistication extends to agriculture and warfare. Some ants farm fungi to feed the population and one species, *tetramorium caespitum*, steals larvae from competing colonies and exploits them as slaves when they mature.

Ants can build and maintain expansive structures. There's a colony in Melbourne, Australia that is 100 kilometres wide!

In her interview with *Radiolab*, Stanford biology professor Deborah Gordon, a specialist in ant colony behavior and ecology, insists that despite their inspirational accomplishments, ants are also very stupid.

Gordon said ants will come across a small object or twig and they will spend months in a continuous tug-of-war.

"One of them is pulling the stick because it feels like something that needs to be pulled, and the other also feels that it needs to be pulled, and they

just pull," said Gordon.

If you've ever watched the House of Commons' proceedings on CPAC, you've probably observed similar behaviour. Instead of sticks and stones, though, politicians grapple over words.

Just like ants, Canadians have achieved great things as a collective entity: universal healthcare, United Nations peacekeepers and the Canadarm.

These are just a few of the wonders to have emerged from the collective effort of Canadians, the way monstrous mounds emerge from the ant colony.

Ants and Canadians share another thing in common: the Queen.

"She's not in charge," Gordon said, about the ant variety. "She's not telling anyone what to do."

Like our Queen, she walks about, produces offspring and has an exaggerated abdomen. But as far as the colony is concerned, most of the events of the anthill take place without her. It's the same on Parliament Hill.

A friend of mine, a political science major, told me that if you are going by the text of Canada's constitution, you would think the only person who does anything in Canadian politics is the Queen and sometimes the Governor General. The prime minister doesn't even get a mention.

Still, if you quizzed them, lots of Canadians wouldn't be able to tell you the Queen is our head of state. If our prime minister is a drone and the Queen isn't so sovereign after all, who is our leader?

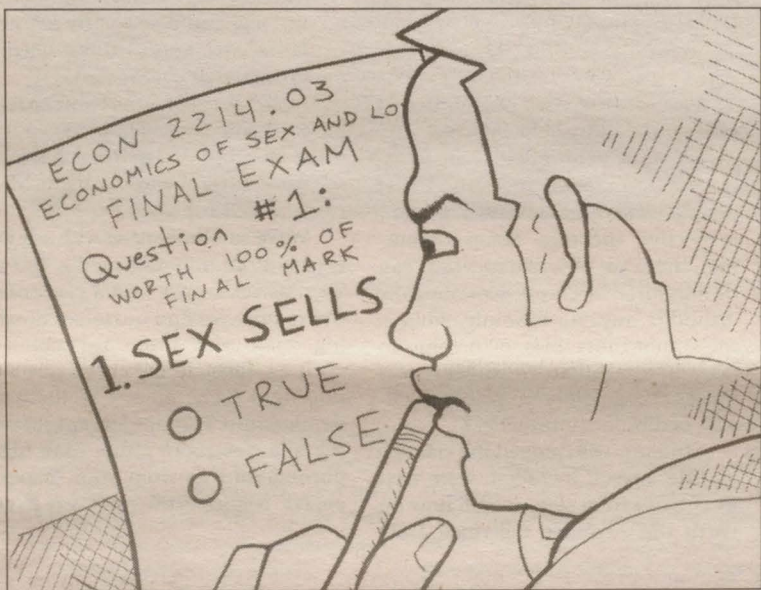
My own theory has its roots in Britain's cherished myth of King Arthur. King Arthur instituted the Round Table, a table that had no head or foot. The Round Table is a setting for discourse and negotiation. I feel the same spirit of the Round Table echoes faintly in Canada's House of Commons. For every important motion that is introduced, the government is required to form a consensus from among the members of Parliament, and if it fails to do so, the government falls.

Even if we have no real leader in the chaos of the anthill that is Canada's Parliament there is an enigmatic way in which King Arthur's contemporary successor presides over our collective negotiation of Canadian society.

The legislation that we agree to live by is drafted in Parliament. And then, for no apparent reason, we hand it over to the Queen to enact it. We trust the legislation that emerges from the House of Commons so much that we choose to live according to it, even as it is decreed under the auspices of an autocratic, monarchical regime.

Why do we have this faith in Parliament? Anyone who has seen our members of Parliament in action wouldn't leave them alone with a Lego set.

Furthermore, why do we entrust the Queen with our autonomy? This question isn't resolved here, but I endorse the monarch as Canada's leader insofar as she constantly affirms everything Parliament passes. In this way, she symbolizes Canada's faith in the collective negotiation of itself as a body politic.



EMMA DAVEY/DAL GAZETTE CARTOON

Ok, but what's the cost?

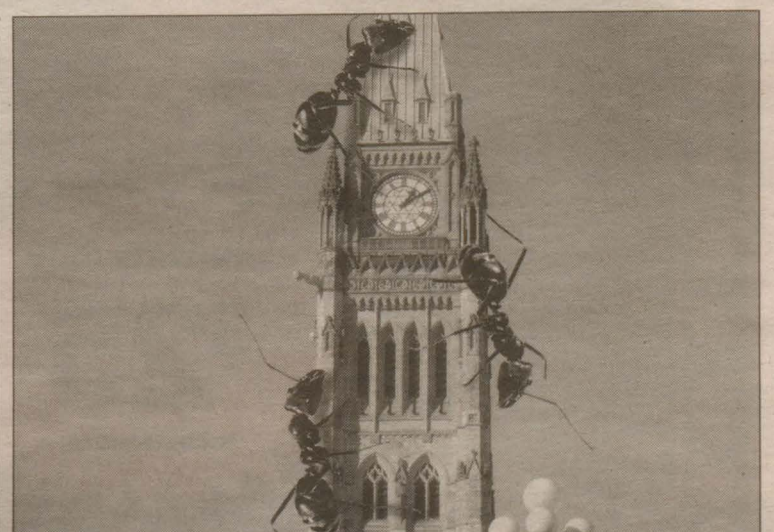
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JOHN PACKMAN/PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Canada is an anthill with no queen.

Reconsidering the HPV vaccine

STEPHANIE SMITH
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

Young women are bombarded with Gardasil ads on a typical visit to a health clinic in Nova Scotia. Nurses and doctors frequently ask you if you've had the shot yet.

Given the way this vaccine is being pimped out, one might think Canada has a cervical cancer epidemic going on. But that's not quite the case. According to the Canadian Cancer Society, Canada isn't considered a high-risk area for developing cervical cancer. The instances of cervical cancer are growing in young women but they account for only six per cent of cancer cases in the 20-29 age range and one per cent of overall cancer cases.

Gardasil, the would-be saviour of young women at risk of developing cervical cancer, was approved by Health Canada on July 18, 2006. It was created to prevent infection from four strains of human papilloma virus (HPV), two types of which cause an estimated 70 per cent of cervical cancer and 90 per cent of genital warts cases. The vaccine is administered in three doses over a six-month period and costs \$375 plus

pharmacy fees. Most insurance companies do not cover the cost of the vaccine.

Government-sponsored Gardasil vaccination programs in Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland started in 2007 covered cost of the vaccine, but their targeted age group was 11- to 14-year-old girls, leaving out a good portion of cash-strapped university students.

If governments, universities and individuals need to decide whether they should pay for this vaccine, here's a good question to ask: is it worth it?

Gardasil protects women against HPV types 16, 18, 6 and 11, and a booster shot may be needed later on in life because the first dosage may lose its effectiveness. It is still possible to get cervical cancer even with the vaccine, as there are many different types of HPV that cause cervical cancer. To top it all off, *Maclean's* magazine reported there have been 1,637 cases of women in Canada reporting bad reactions to the vaccine as of August 2007, including seizures, paralysis and the development of a rare auto-immune disorder, but the vaccine continues to be widely advertised.

A new vaccine called Cervarix may soon be available in Canada. It is already approved for use in Australia, the European Union, and the Philippines. Cervarix protects against four HPV virus strains responsible for 80 per cent of all cervical cancer and genital warts cases. In clinical trials, Cervarix showed 100 per cent effectiveness at blocking HPV types 16 and 18.

Both Gardasil and Cervarix report similar side effects and may lose effectiveness after a few years, but Cervarix is slightly cheaper.

The most cost-effective way to remain HPV-free is to abstain from sex all together. Those who want to continue their pursuit of pleasures in the bedroom while staying free of disease need to use condoms, limit their amount of sexual partners and get regular Pap tests. Cervical cancer is one of the most easily diagnosed cancers but it can often be missed if women do not have regular Paps.

Considering the cost, the effectiveness and the potential side effects of Gardasil, I think I'll wait for the new vaccine to come out to get the most bang for my buck.

Let's do it in the classroom

HILARY STAMPER
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

I am sure many of us remember our first sexual education class. If you are like me, you'll remember what a disaster it was. This first mixture we got of sex and academics was destined to fail, even before they introduced the birth video. But if so, why do people keep coming back for more?

Dalhousie has had a number of classes that approach sex in an academic way, whether the perspective is biological, sociological or medical. This semester, one class in particular has raised some eyebrows.

Professor Marina Adshade of Dal's economics department introduced a class called the Economics of Sex and Love to the course list, in hopes that students and faculty will see the broader purposes of economics.

So, what does sex have to do with economics or what does economics have to do with sex? Well, economics doesn't necessarily have to be all about profit maximizing and budgets.

Part of studying economics is studying human behavior and why people make the choices they do. Even if you discard the notion that people choose mates based on their respective incomes (keep dreaming), there are other factors that can be measured in a more economically orthodox way. For example, what is the opportunity cost of having an extra-marital affair? Or why do prostitutes charge different prices to clients of different ethnicities?

Students who judged the class by its title, myself included, were easily convinced to sign up. Yet, how on Earth did Adshade convince Dal's

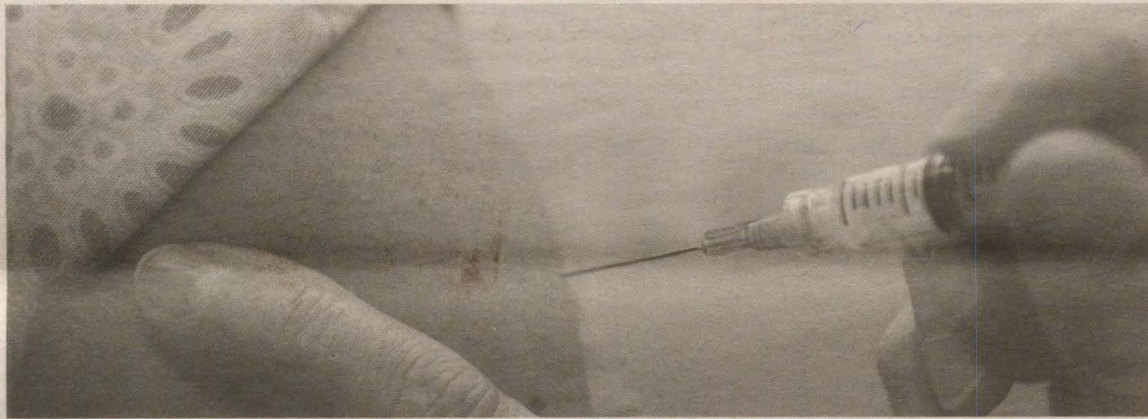
upper crust that this course would have some academic merit? She said students have a very narrow view of what economists do and what economics can apply to. This class has been carefully designed to give students an interesting – even taboo – topic for them to apply their economics knowledge to.

Adshade said students taking this class will gain a better understanding of the choices they make concerning sex and become more aware of them. So, next time you are asked to "go down" on your significant other, you can start discussing the costs and benefits of doing so until he or she falls asleep.

Sex and economics are definitely relevant to one another, but will sex ever really belong in an academic setting? As mentioned earlier, most of our first experiences with learning about sex in school and getting graded on our knowledge of sex weren't the greatest. Does anything really change in five years? Are we more mature now that we can sit in a lecture hall and discuss "tricks" and ovulating strippers without getting embarrassed or overheated?

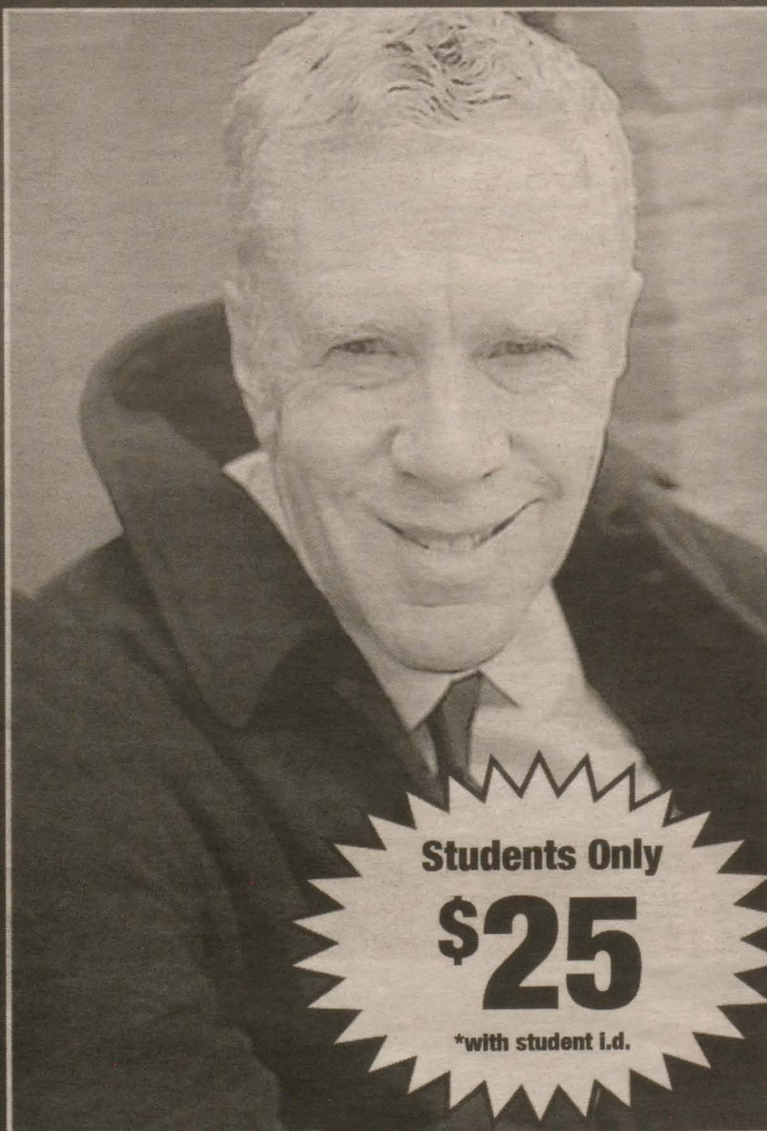
Adshade said it is possible to take an academic approach to sex, but it must be multi-disciplinary, borrowing from other subjects such as biology and anthropology.

We're so bombarded with sex everyday from different media, but as soon as sex comes into a classroom discussion, we find ourselves blushing. I am glad there are pioneers such as Adshade out there who are putting a focus on sex in the academic world. Perhaps learning about sex in a classroom rather than from pornography or from your "experienced" friends is the right way to go.



JOSH BOYTER/GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

More than 1,600 women had reactions to Gardasil as of August 2007, according to *Maclean's* magazine.



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Only when safe and legal will abortions be rare

KATIE TOTH
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

On Feb. 5, an unrated pro-life student society at Saint Mary's University (SMU), hosted a talk in conjunction with SMU's chaplaincy by Jose Ruba of the Canadian Centre for BioEthical Reform (CCBR). The centre is an anti-choice think-tank responsible for the Genocide Awareness Project, which draws fallacious parallels between abortion and the Holocaust in an attempt to render abortion "unthinkable."

This group's graphic imagery and verbal abuse of women on campuses incited so much anger at University of Calgary that the school had to have them taken off campus on charges of trespassing. At SMU, Ruba equated abortion with genocide, a comparison Wendy Lampert of the Canadian Jewish Congress described as "asinine."

Why has the anti-choice movement resorted to tactics of hate and fear? Because they desperately hope to grab people's attention in a country where the majority already believe women should have "complete freedom on their decision to have an abortion," according to a 2002 poll in the National Post.

As a result of the widespread acceptance of abortion rights, groups such as CCBR use the Holocaust to give themselves a rhetorical advantage that takes the focus away from the actual issue: to make abortions, as U.S. presidential candidate Hilary Clinton said, "safe, legal and rare."

For abortions to be safe, Canadians need to be able to access them at medical facilities. When the state outlaws abortions, abortions do not stop - rather, a woman's safety becomes inherently connected to her privilege, wealth, or location. For example, in

New Brunswick, women can only access publicly funded abortions if they get referrals from two separate doctors indicating the pregnancy is a serious risk their health, and, as a result, women are often forced to pay anywhere from \$600 to \$900 for an abortion.

Statistics show that the lack of access to safe abortion consistently results in expensive, unsafe and unhealthy alternatives. The World Health Organization estimates there are about 20 million unsafe or "back alley" abortions performed each year globally, resulting in the death of upwards of 70,000 women. In the developing world, where 95 per cent of unsafe abortions are performed, abortions account for about 13 per cent of the maternal death toll.

To be safe, abortions must be legal. In Canada, there has been no law governing abortion since a Supreme Court decision in 1988 guaranteed a person's right to make decision intimately affecting his or her life and body.

Despite this, a woman's ability to decide where, when and how she bears children is still not a guarantee in this country. Access to abortions is worst in the Maritimes, where in

New Brunswick, private clinics are not funded and only two doctors perform publicly funded abortions. The province of Prince Edward Island has no clinic or hospital providing abortion services. In Nova Scotia, only two hospitals perform abortions, and both are in the central region. Access is especially difficult for poor women, younger women, and women living in rural areas.

Once legal, abortion can become rare. While many anti-choice activists have argued more restrictive laws mean lower abortion rates, the statistics paint a different picture. The Netherlands, which has a completely non-restrictive abortion law, has the lowest abortion rate in the world: 5.5 abortions per 1,000 women of reproductive age per year. Restrictive abortion laws do, however, have an effect on maternal mortality. In Romania there were sharp increases in maternal deaths after a law on abortion became more restrictive in 1966. When the law became less restrictive in 1990, deaths dropped dramatically.

At the CCBR talk, I heard a few observers say they support a woman's right to have an abortion but "not

when it's used as birth control." It's important to point out to these people that the decision to carry a pregnancy to term or not is rarely made recklessly. No surgery is ever taken lightly, and the choice of whether to bring children into the world is an incredibly weighty one. It's quite paternalistic to imply that a woman who chooses to abort is somehow unaware of the consequences of her actions. When women are seen as responsible contributors to society, rather than as waifs or sexual commodities dependent on the moral guidance of the state, abortion will become an incredibly rare last resort.


Yes, let's make abortion "unthinkable." Let's make it something so accessible and safe that all people, people with access to birth control and health resources, don't need to think about the looming threat of accessing an abortion for their crisis pregnancy. They won't need to think about abortions since their abortion options are plentiful and timely, and most importantly, their support network renders them unlikely to pursue one.

Katie Toth is the King's Students' Union campus safety co-ordinator and was one of the protestors at Ruba's talk.



TERRENCE MCEACHERN/U-NEWS.CA

Protestors at Saint Mary's University Feb. 5 agreed comparing abortion to the Holocaust is "asinine."



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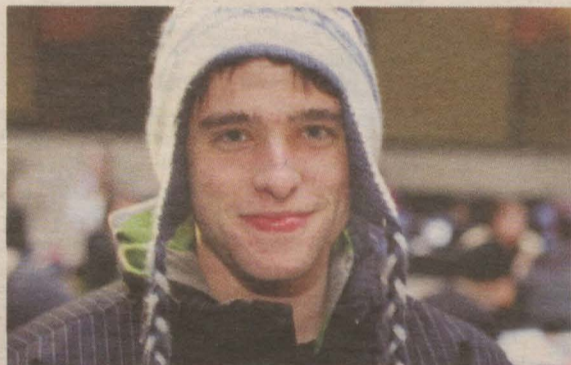
“The Cleveland Steamer.”

Sarah Walsh, second-year history



“The Donkey Punch.”

Matt German, fourth-year immunology/biochemistry



“The Angry Pirate.”

Andy Clement, second-year engineering



“The ROFLcopter.”

Logan Philip, fourth-year commerce



“The Hot Carl.”

Rob Ferguson, fourth-year history



“The Blumpkin.”

April Saunders, third-year biochemistry and French



“The Bergenator -- I could tell you what it is but you couldn't print it.”

Jenner Berger, fourth-year English



“The reverse breakfast special surprise -- talk about a finishing move!”

John Packman, sixth-year gender and women's studies

OVERHEARD AT DAL

In line at Tim Hortons:

Girl: “I didn't wanna do him but then he started giving me a massage, so I was like, whatever.”

On Spring Garden:

Girl: How's she doing, anyway?

Guy: Not so good. Last Valentine's Day she joined eHarmony.

In Howe Hall:

Girl: Go fuck yourself.

Guy: If that were possible I would never leave my room.

In LSC:

Girl: “I don't think you're supposed to stay with the person you have kids with. It ruins it.”

Outside Killam library:

Girl: “Well it's just common sense that when you have a girlfriend you don't ask another girl out on a date.”

In the Rowe building:

Girl: “She was desperately trying to get with him, but he was having none of it. But I hooked up with him.”

Guy: “Cheers and The Dome are really fun. Cheers is good if you want to have a few beers and just hang out. And then you can just go downstairs to get some hoes.”

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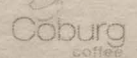
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Never Had I Ever: Taken a pole dancing class

DELIA MACPHERSON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

As I ride the number one bus down Spring Garden Road, I cannot help but be nervous for my first pole dancing class. Unsure as to what to wear before I left, I decided on booty shorts and a tank top.

I arrive on time outside Studio In Essence on Barrington Street, and as I walk into the studio, I see seven or eight other women looking equally unsure and self-conscious.

At 18 years old, I am the youngest woman there. Most of the other women are between 25 and 30.

The instructor, graduate student Ardath Wynacht, is a small woman, very fit and very energetic. She invites us to all choose a pole, which we each clean with rubbing alcohol, and she begins our warm up with usual stretches and squats.

The first thing we do with the pole is "right walk" which involves grasping the pole with your right hand, above your head, as you tiptoe around the pole. We pretend we are wearing heels the whole time and kick our be-

hind each time we take a step. So far, I am still feeling uncertain and the rest of the women around me seem tense and uncomfortable too.

Next, we are told to place both our arms above us on the pole and to lift our bodies up, like a chin up. I can't do it and feel a bit discouraged seeing a few of the other women in the class manage. Wynacht tells us that usually about a third of the class can do this move on the first night. Lifting my body weight with just my arms is not something I regularly do at my weekly Aquafit class.

The women in the class, including myself, giggle as we're told to let out our inner sex goddess. The music is loud and exciting and I start to feel more relaxed as Wynacht teaches us some easy belly turns and hip thrusts. All the women begin laughing more openly and try out the moves with a bit more conviction. We're all getting into it as Wynacht yells words of encouragement: "if it jiggles, let it jiggle!"

Halfway through the class, my arms are exhausted from my attempts at chin lifts and my legs and butt are

sore. We dance barefoot and I'm glad I chose to wear shorts. My bear legs help me stick to the pole better than if I'd worn slippery spandex.

Next, we try our first spins on the pole. As we "walk right", our left hand goes across the body and grabs the pole as well. Then our right leg goes over the pole so the pole is resting behind the right knee. Now for the tricky part - we are told to lift our body weight and throw ourselves forward into a spin. This is tremendously difficult, and I can feel it working every muscle in my body. Even my feet are flexed.

A lot of the class - including me - has trouble with this move, but I am able to do it once or twice out of 20 or so attempts, which Wynacht told me is pretty good for the first class of a level one pole course.

The class is made up of women with all different body types. Most of the women are on the curvy side and look great dancing around the pole. I'm having a great time in the second half of the class, strutting around on my tippy toes.

Christie Wade, the owner of Stu-

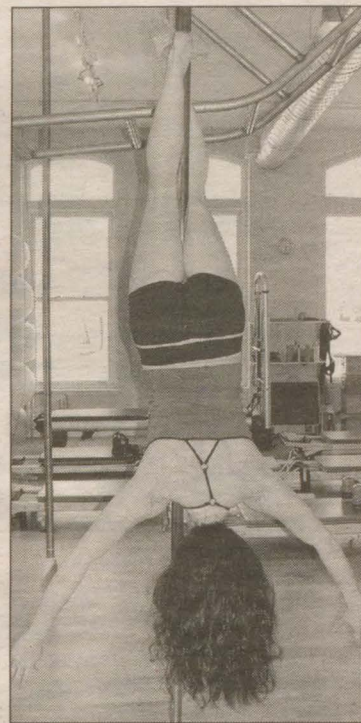
dio in Essence, used to be a competitive break-dancer. She now teaches break dancing, moving yoga and pole dancing.

"I see shy people in the level one class and they look down when they dance, so they fall off the pole," says Wade. "When they become more comfortable they look up when they dance and they show such improvement. Taking a class like pole dancing teaches you to be more comfortable with yourself and others. It brings you out of your shell. You can apply your confidence to every day life."

We end the class with the disco ball and some slow, moody music, to which we do a routine based on what we learned that night. I'm going to town by this point: heavy lids, serious face, sensual walk.

When the class was over, I left tired and a little sore, but not before signing up for eight more classes.

Studio In Essence will be putting on a show March 20 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.



DELIA MACPHERSON/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
This move isn't for beginners.

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THE GAZETTE ELECTIONS

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JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sandra Bornemann and Julien Davis have come a long way since Davis' gender reassignment surgery. He now feels happy and comfortable in his gender.

RACHEL ROSENFELD ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Puberty is hard. Body changes and raging hormones can make it a confusing time for everybody. But as a pre-teen girl struggling with gender identity disorder, puberty for Julien Davis was more than just confusing.

"Puberty was devastating," says Davis. "I had a lot of anger... I knew something was wrong but didn't have the language to express it."

Last April, with the support of his girlfriend, Sandra Bornemann, Davis underwent gender reassignment surgery and began testosterone hormone therapy, transitioning from female to male. Although surgery took care of some of the major physical changes, the transition period is a long one, and Davis's body is still in the process of changing. He gets a testosterone shot every two weeks and will continue to do so into old age to make his voice drop and to grow facial hair.

The operation has done wonders for Davis.

"I just feel happy. Not just happy overall but happy in my gender," he says. "It's comfortable and it feels good."

As a child, Davis couldn't express that he felt more comfortable in a male role, because growing up as a girl in Pictou County, N.S., he was never taught there were any other options. So he adapted by living largely in a fantasy world.

"I used to pretend I was a boy," says Davis. "I lived in my head a lot. I would cut things out of catalogues... I used to go by Josh, and I would get very upset when other people didn't go along with it."

When he was about 16, he began to understand sexuality a little better, and sensed his attraction to girls. He says he didn't feel like a lesbian, so he started to identify himself as a bisexual.

"I was like, maybe I'm just butch," says Davis. "I didn't have any (trans-

sexual) role models, and what I identified with trans - someone who was sad and depressed - was not what I wanted to be."

It wasn't until he moved to Halifax nine years ago to attend Mount Saint Vincent University that he met Bornemann and began to question not just sexual orientation, but his gender identity.

Bornemann and Davis met in a typical college fashion: during frosh week. Bornemann, tired of making small talk with fellow students at a pub night, had skipped off early and was headed toward a nearby vending machine. Davis had been noticing her around campus and had been nervously waiting to approach her at the pub. When he noticed her leaving, he decided to go after her.

After an awkward moment during which Bornemann was too embarrassed to take her vending machine toonie out of her shoe and Davis was just too drunk, he convinced her to come to his dorm room and the two ended up talking all night.

Bornemann, who had just moved from Vancouver, was more aware of transsexual culture than Davis was. It took many conversations and arguments before Davis became comfortable with the notion of transsexuality.

"I guess I was sort of trans-phobic for while," he says with a laugh. "I was in gender studies and some of the students were not that supportive. I think I sort of bought into it for awhile... maybe it was little bit of self hating."

Fights over the merits of transsexuality occurred often in the early phases of their relationship, but these fights opened the door to discussion, and, Davis as says now, "We both knew."

The couple has come a long way since their early days at Mount Saint Vincent. The two moved in together after residence and have been inseparable ever since. They share a home, a car and both work at the Youth Project, an organization designed to promote openness and awareness for queer and transsexual youth. In September 2007,

six months before Davis's surgery date, they made their relationship official, getting married at Halifax's North End Church. The wedding also served as an opportunity for Davis to come out to his parents about his transsexuality.

"Sometimes I think if we added up the hours we have spent together, I bet it would compare to people who have been in 20-year relationships," jokes Bornemann.

Davis and Bornemann's relationship, one that began between two women who both identified as bisexual and has now transformed into a marriage between a man and a woman, is difficult to label.

"I think of us as a queer straight couple," explains Bornemann, and the two chuckle.

"Our relationship is heterosexual but I think we are still queer in many ways," adds Davis.

Bornemann recalls a friend's reaction when Davis came out to her as a transsexual who was transitioning. She asked Bornemann if she was straight now.

"I was like, really? Is it that black and white?" she says.

Like any relationship, theirs has not always been an easy one, and Davis's process toward transitioning proved to be especially difficult at times. Because the surgery alone cost about \$62,000 and isn't government subsidized or covered by Nova Scotia's Health Insurance Program, finances played a big part in deciding how long before Davis would be able to undergo surgery.

A fundraiser raised around \$15,000, but the rest came from Davis and Bornemann working hard and saving their pennies. While the couple continued to save money for the surgery, Davis was struggling with his identity.

He recalls being so depressed and angry, that there were periods when he thought about suicide.

"It came to the point where either I do this or I become more than just

suicidal but I begin to attempt it," he remembers.

Bornemann remembers Davis' many "off-limit" areas of his body during that time.

"It was getting to where (Davis) was like, 'you don't touch me anymore,' and I'm like, 'I'm not allowed!'" Davis has improved since the surgery, but he still struggles. Though it is becoming rarer as hormone treatment progresses, it is still hard when strangers refer to him as a she. He refers to these experiences as "heartbreaking."

He recalls a particularly stressful experience shopping at Winners, where an employee stood outside of the change room, directing people into the male or female changing areas.

"It was easier (for Davis) not to shop there, than to go through the stress of being slotted into a gender category by a complete stranger," recalls Bornemann.

Restaurants were also difficult territory in the early days following the surgery, because servers seemed particularly disposed to using gendered language.

"Everywhere we went it was just: 'hey ladies, how are you? Hey ladies, what can I get for you?'" says Bornemann.

She began keeping a "lady log," writing down the names of restaurants where they had been called 'ladies,' versus other restaurants that were still safe to eat at.

These days, Davis is mistaken for a female less and less frequently, and he is anticipating his facial hair beginning to grow in full force.

"Most people when they go shopping or out in the world, are generally contented, but for me it was a life of being angry and for a long time not understanding why. Life has gotten amazingly better... I put off happiness for way too long."

What sex means to me

VARIOUS CONTRIBUTORS
(ANONYMOUS)

The Gazette asked a few Dalhousie and King's students what sex means to them. Here's what they had to say:

While I used to think of sex as basically just a good time, my experiences since "losing it" have proven that it's actually a little more complicated than that. So here goes:

There are two types of sex: meaningless sex and real sex.

In the case of meaningless sex, I basically treat it as a sport. I like to be good at whatever I do and, of course, the only way to get better at anything is to practice, so I rarely turn down an opportunity to work on my skills in the bedroom (sounds douchebag-y, I know, whatever). And yeah, I did go and pick up *The Modern Kama Sutra* at Venus Envy. If I can't enjoy the sex on an emotional or even a physical level, I can still enjoy it as one enjoys a solid basketball practice or a good workout.

Then there's "real sex." Maybe I'm just a pansy (Dal male population replies: "yes, you are a pansy") but I honestly believe that sex should have meaning and that it should be a kind of physical expression of shared values, respect, admiration and affection. And I do think that they should all go together. This kind of sex is just purely awesome and makes life worth living so if you find it, hold on tight.



I am a virgin, and I think sex is a lot like Australia. Even though I've not experienced it myself, I believe that it is real and I feel its probable (if not inevitable) that I'll end up there one day. I have, of course, gone there indirectly. I've seen the pictures and the movies, I've learned to speak the language, and - most importantly - I've been to places very much like it. A visit to New Zealand is very nice when you don't have the travel protection (or the courage) to go "all the way." So, as I say, sex is like Australia; it's vast, it's hot, and I still don't believe the Queen ever went there.



For me, sex is only something that happens with someone I could potentially be in love with. Corny, maybe, but true. I've wanted to have one-night stands because it sounds kind of exotic and fun, but I know I will never really be able to; at least not in the near future. And especially not at Dal, with guys that I am very likely to run into afterwards. It would be the weirdest thing to walk past a guy on campus and think 'He was once inside me. And now we aren't even saying hello.' I get mad when a random guy grabs my ass at a party. There is no way later that night I would be OK with having an almost equally random guy touch me everywhere and everywhere. Freaky.

But I really don't think I'm a prude. Once it's with someone I care about, sex is amazing and I want it all the time. When the intimate act meets up with intimate feelings, that's when it really is fun.

VOTE IN THE DAL GAZETTE ELECTIONS FEB. 19

Embarrassing Sex Stories

My roommate hooked up with a guy and spent the night at his place. In the morning he had to get up early for work so he said she could stay as long as she wanted and that the door would lock behind her when she left. She thought this was great, slept in for a while, and then went to the bathroom and took a hangover dump. When she tried to flush the toilet it wouldn't flush and she started freaking out and didn't know what to do. She got desperate and ended up scooping her discharge into a plastic bag. Then she gathered her things and wrote the guy a note saying how much fun she had and that he should call her. But when she stepped outside, after the door closed behind her, she realized she'd left something sitting right beside that note: the plastic bag of shit. He did not call.

- Miss Terry Parcel



I had a friend who had a sex fantasy about being laid down on a workbench and having hot wax poured over her. One day she decided to make her fantasy a reality with a guy that she had been fooling around with. Things didn't really turn out like she'd pictured them. First, the wax he used had too many chemicals in it, so when he poured it all over her, it burned her skin. Then, as she was trying to rub the wax off of her-

self, the workbench she was lying on snapped in two and fell on the ground. She had a rash for the next week.

- Sienna Burns



When I was younger, my brother used to buy *Maxim* all the time. I rarely looked at it for the articles. But one article did catch my eye. It was a game they had developed in which by having sex in different risky locations you gained a number of points ranging from 25-250. There were the usual suspects: at a sporting event, in a pool and on a plane, but one that stuck out to me was the sauna. For having sex in the sauna, you gained a whopping 500 points and basically won the game.

It always stuck in my head. Flash forward to when I'm 18 and my then-girlfriend's family moved into a new house with, that's right, a sauna. But not just any sauna. The sauna was connected to her own personal bathroom. So basically the first day I'm there I'm moving into the sauna with her, doing some light foreplay, and we move into me bending her over the seats. Now, one thing the *Maxim* article said that I forgot was to bring in some Gatorade to replenish electrolytes. So we're trying to do this as fast as possible so we don't have a heart attack when her parents knock at the door. They want to take it

for a spin. She yelled out "just give me a minute" and I came and jumped off of her. She threw a towel around herself, but we forgot one for me. At that point her parents were coming in so I just sat there with my legs crossed, naked. Being that a lot of people sit in a sauna naked they didn't seem to mind. I'm just glad they didn't notice the cum dripping down their daughter's leg and evaporating on the floor.

- D. Hyde Draited



After a night out in the town, my boyfriend and I were feeling particularly amorous. A little drunk and very frisky, we tumbled into bed and proceeded to have the kind of vigorous, liquor-fuelled, experimental sex that breaks headboards and annoys neighbors. Everything was going great until I turned around to get into reverse cowgirl and accidentally heeled my boyfriend in the balls, hard. He screamed and all but pushed me off the bed before proceeding to dry heave for the next 10 minutes. Needless to say, our night was ruined and what started as a hot encounter ended in apologies.

- Tess T. Buster

Ten songs to get down to

MARC Z. GRUB
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

ing caveman beat and Jimmy Page's lascivious wah-wah guitar licks.

1. The Smashing Pumpkins - "Tonight Tonight"

Between the song's epic soaring strings, momentous build up, heavy-weight lyrics and lush, cozy, quiet parts, this is the perfect song to start off any night of romance. As if the title alone wasn't enough.

2. My Bloody Valentine - "When You Sleep"

The slow-burning distortion of the guitars and the swoon/glide of the song's hook pretty much embody the sensation of "the act." Also, *Loveless* is the best sex album ever.

3. Holy Fuck - "Frenchy's"

"Frenchy's" is the perfect song for when a guy enters a crazy awesome strip club and sees all these sexy girls grinding on poles and throwing their hair around while the strobe lights flash and the camera pans slowly... should I go on?

4. Led Zeppelin - "Trampled Under Foot"

This song actually elicits a groinal response. I don't know the science of it all but something tells me it has something to do with John Bonham's grind-

5. The Stooges - "Death Trip"

"Death Trip" is one of The Stooges' most unhinged songs and that's saying something. You can almost hear the headboards banging.

6. The Dirtbombs - "Chains of Love"

Oh yeah. Chains. I went there.

7. MC5 - "Kick Out The Jams"

"UH UH UH UH, I'M GONNA KICK 'EM OUT!" This song just kicks ass hardcore and the energy is so potent you can practically feel the sweat sloshing.

8. The Yeah Yeah Yeahs - "Tick"

Singer Karen O is crazy. This song will either turn you on or scare the shit out of you.

9. Les Breastfeeders - "Funny Funiculaire"

Hard. Catchy. Fun. French.

10. Spiritualized - "Ladies and Gentlemen We Are Floating in Space"

I hope this euphoric song sums everything up nicely.

Five songs to ban from your bedroom

ALEX FOUNTAIN
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

2. Xiu Xiu - "Fabulous Muscles" (Mama Black Widow)

5. Aerosmith - "I Don't Wanna Miss a Thing"

Undeniably one of the greatest love songs of our time, but this is just far too epic to get down to. Expect any dude who puts this on pre-sex to be in tears before he's an inch deep.

4. Owen - "Bad News"

The first track on an otherwise totally make out-worthy album, the music is super pretty but the lyrics are so biting and hateful that whom-ever you play it for will be uncomfortable: "You don't mean anything to anyone but me and even I think that you're blinded by conceit." Place the needle a few grooves closer to the centre of this LP than you usually would if you ever want to hit the sheets to it.

3. Shellac - "Prayer to God"

This song is directed at an ex-lover's new man and just goes "kill him, fucking kill him" for two minutes. Weird shit.

Sandwiched in between a terrifying anti-war noise freak-out and a spastic pop track about an autistic boy being abused by his father, the seemingly sweet title track to Jamie Stewart's 2004 opus is anything but. Here you'll find lyrics such as "kneeling before the now familiar flesh of your deformed penis," and "cremate me after you come on my lips." Maybe these do it for an odd few, but I think most people are going to run from your bedroom in horror if you ever throw this on.

1. Nickelback - any "sexual" songs:

"You look so much cuter with something in your mouth," "I love the wine stains on your dress" (not "white stains", as much as we all want it to be), or, in some kind of vehicular situation, "I got both hands on the wheel while you've got both hands on my gear." These lines might get the trailer rockin' in Fort McMurray, Alta., but keep them the hell out of my bed. I think Chad Kroeger's a bit of a post-modern genius for writing this crap, but I still don't want to hear his deep growl in anything close to a sexual situation.

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Handwritten notes in the collage include:
- I WAS CO-PRESIDENT OF MY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL.
- FAVOURITE MOVIE: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.
- I'm from Hay River, NWT. pop. 3600 (Hub of the North).
- I'm just me. No more. No less.
- I grew up as your typical Canadian. But I love my moose meat.
- DIRECTORS I LIKE: MICHEL GODOY, CHRISTOPHER NOLAN.
- I love hockey.
- I use my artistic abilities to connect with my heritage.
- I volunteer at the First Nations Student Association creating a program to welcome First Nations students to Vancouver.
- Worked on 2 documentaries commissioned by the Smithsonian, Washington DC.
- I helped grade 6ers and 9ers with their Safer Environment Program.
- Proud to be Métis.
- The best way to learn about making movies is to make them. The second is to watch them.
- My mother is Chipewyan. At school I get to study who these people were. What blood runs through me.
- It's the little things that make life worthwhile. That's what my film Simple Pleasures is all about. (won 1st place, International Youth Film Festival, Austria)
- HELPING COMMUNITIES THROUGH FILM.
- Be ridiculous.
- I hate infomercials where they try to make it look like using a can opener is IMPOSSIBLE.
- My friends call me Cliff. (for some reason)
- To Do: - Get back to Jon re: Totem filming - get a drummer lined up. - type up first draft of "F-Nat" - books - library
- KELVIN REDVERS Millennium Excellence Award Recipient
- It's all storyboarded up here.
- I can't draw.
- I could only drive so far. I walked the rest of the way.
- walk -> pan (close up)
- I always saw the glass as half empty. Now I'm having second thoughts.
- I can't draw.
- I can't draw.

VOTE IN THE GAZETTE ELECTIONS THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19TH

In defence of bromance

ALEX BRUVELS
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Over the past decade, there has been a social stigma attached to what it means to be a "bro."

Generally associated with a certain kind of person, the term bro has often been used to describe those males who are most often also associated with the term "douchebag." A bro is often depicted as a typical collar-popping, spiky-haired male, sporting some form of aggressive facial hair such as the chinstrap or soul patch. Other characteristics include the ever-sideways ball cap, an over-use of tanning beds, and the most generic tattoo collection including the essentials: crosses and Chinese lettering.

Personality traits of the bro include excessive shallowness, a lack of moral substance, an egotistical fascination with oneself and interests not extending much past keg stands, women, and weekend road trips. Of course, the bro is always in the company of other bros, all feeding off each other in testosterone-induced frenzy.

Fourth-year political science student Nash Bauerlein paints a similar picture. To him, a bro is the type of guy who wears a T-shirt designed by either Abercrombie and Fitch or American Eagle, a hat with a frayed brim, and who loves Jack Johnson.

"I'll be honest," Bauerlein says, "the concept of a bro isn't something I overly aspire to (be)."

In the spirit of Valentine's Day and in celebration of all kinds of love, this reporter wishes to examine the term "bro" in a more positive context, including its spinoff: "bromance."

Often used interchangeably with the phrase "man-crush", "bromance", as defined by urbandictionary.com, is "the complicated love affair shared by two straight males."

It's a social shift toward a more accepting view that males are now able to express affection for each other, no longer forced to shy away under the influence of traditional misogynistic stereotypes.

Forced repression of exhibiting feelings toward other male friends has long been a staple of Western society. Whether we care to acknowledge it or not, we tend to cling to our Clint Eastwood-esque philosophy that "real men don't cry" often synonymous with the "men don't hug - we watch sports" mentality. The emergence of this social brother love revolution has been hailed as a

straight man's version of coming out of the closet. Men can now openly express feelings of care, admiration and sympathy toward one and other, feelings often previously disallowed under the traditional man code.

Engaging in a bromance courtship includes such activities as; watching sports, drinking beer, gaming, discussing the merits of such moves as "the barbed wire" or reciting quotes from favourite movies or television shows.

The relationship existing between bros operates under much the same principles as its male/female counterpart. Bros go on "man dates", which include attending concerts, playing recreational league sports, or going to highly anticipated movies - later to be re-lived via continuous and excessive quoting for a period of up to two months.

Much like a traditional heterosexual relationship, men involved in a bromance experience feelings of companionship, laughter, disputes, and above all, a feeling of belonging. The exceptions to the similarities between the two types of relationships are, of course, the lack of sexual intimacy. As well, the lovers' quarrels experienced in hetero relationships are often less frequent in bromance and, if they do occur, they are resolved more quickly and in a more sane and rational fashion.

Jeff Pike, a fourth-year commerce student, describes his favourite bro-related activities as going downtown with the boys, "smoking movie nights," and talking about women in general.

"Girls can be really annoying. There are some things you just can't do with them," Pike says. "A bro is your go to guy," he quips, quoting the commercials from Brody Jenner's new MTV show *Bromance*.

In the appropriately titled *Bromance*, Jenner subjects hopeful applicants to a series of exaggerated tests as they compete for a chance to become a member of his entourage - essentially lifetime bro status. Even Bauerlein, the bro critic, admits he engages in activities associated with a bro-like relationship.

"Guys night once a week, flying wingman and quasi-homoerotic stories," laughs Bauerlein of his own forays into bro-dom.

Other aspects of popular culture have adopted the bromance mentality, including the HBO series *Californication*, starring David Duchovny as Hank Moody, a cool, alcoholic writer who seeks self-destructing be-



JOSH BOYTER/GAZETTE PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Bromance signifies a shift toward a society in which males are now able to express affection for each other.

haviour in Los Angeles, Calif.

The relationship between Moody and his long-time agent and best friend Charlie Runkle can only be described as one of bromance courtship. The two go through hilarious ups and downs, punctuated with many instances of "hugging it out."

Duchovny's character also introduces another bro-related term, the "broner", which Moody describes as an "unintentionally man-inspired boner." This entails loving your brother to the point that it induces an unintentional, but not at all un-

welcome, metaphorical boner.

Ben Affleck and Matt Damon have often been hailed as Hollywood's prime example of bromance. The two are often depicted in the media as inseparable to the point of hinting at heterosexual obsession. Even Jimmy Kimmel, host of *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, has released an infamous comedic skit that mocks their relationship by claiming Affleck is cheating on Damon with Kimmel himself.

While it is difficult to say what causes this cultural shift toward em-

bracing men's feelings for each other, it is nonetheless becoming widely socially acceptable.

Here's some simple advice, gentlemen: cherish it. Look your brother in the eye, spin something clever like "dude, you're giving me a broner - I really love you" and mean it.

Celebrate your newly expressed feelings by going on a man date. Beer, wings, and sports in a comfortable bar atmosphere will suffice. Embrace your love for your brother, rekindle the flames of bromance and let your boys know how you really feel.

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Double Take: Sex edition

Get the male and female perspective on masturbation, roommates and 'the shocker'

'LONG DONG SILVER' AND 'DARCIE BLOWS'

SEX CONTRIBUTORS

Editors' note: These are real questions from real students, whether our "sexperts" took them seriously or not.

Q: I woke up one night while my roommate was hooking up in his bed on the other side of the room. What's the sex or masturbation etiquette if you have a roommate? What's the etiquette for getting it on in res?

Long Dong Silver:
Worse things have happened. At least you didn't wake up to them doing the deed and also realize your whip cream was missing from the fridge.

When I spent a good amount of time in residence, I heard some interesting info from two of my friends who shared a room. They each told me they had masturbated while the other was asleep, but neither was the wiser to the other's exploits.

The same goes for sex. Overall, it isn't a fantastic idea to be getting it on while the other's asleep. If you can't seem to stop, then just imagine your roommate masturbating furiously to the both of you, and if that doesn't make you stop, invite them over!

But in all seriousness, a sock on the doorknob never hurt anybody. If you have similar schedules you can always have sex or masturbate in the showers. You'd be shocked to find out how many people do it. Maybe give common rooms a shot as well. Every relationship, even a casual one, could use the excitement of getting caught to steam up a situation.

Darcie Blows:
Count me among those who have never shared a room with someone. But I have shared a wall. The following advice goes for solitaire and multi-player, on campus or off: if you only have inches of hollowed plaster between your studying roommate and your squeaky springs, you might want to move your bed to the opposite wall. Or you can do it on the carpet to minimize noise. And if your roommate doesn't mind, throw on some Led Zeppelin and crank the bass. One more tip: it is actually humanly possible to orgasm without screaming your head off, so shut up. Seriously.

Q: What's your favourite lube?

Darcie Blows:
The no-fail is KY 2-in-1 Warming Touch Massage. It's an unscented lube that warms up after a few seconds. You can use it to give your partner a massage, too. And gals: it's also nice to use in combination with that little purple tube made famous by Sexy Girl parties. Guys: it's called O'My Clitoral Pleasure Gel and it will get you further than any lobster dinner on Valentine's Day.

Long Dong Silver:
Spit or natural lubrication. If I can't get that then I recommend a water based lubricant if you're wearing a condom or one of those full body oil lubricants if you're going au naturale. Venus Envy has a phenomenal lube sampler that comes in a little purple bag to make things sexy. They offer an array of lubes that I have found work exquisitely.

Q: What's your least favourite lube?

Darcie Blows:
Spit. But I guess it's a good quick fix. Thank you evolution, and happy birthday, Darwin!

Long Dong Silver:
I would urge you to shy away from nameless lubes such as the Life Brand lubricant at Shopper's Drug Mart. They're generally poor quality and sometimes gunk up, and that is the number one thing you don't want in a lube. Stay away from warming sensations lubricants ladies, because nothing

is scarier than pulling out from a woman and realizing your cock feels like it's on fire.

Q: How do I get my erection to stay up if I'm really drunk?

Darcie Blows:
A drooping dick is nature's way of telling you to quit. If you're too drunk to keep it up, it likely won't be a quality sack session. Most guys should keep it under three drinks in order to maintain an erection while also quelling any nausea. But if you're really committed to boning after bingeing, you should replace your limp third leg with a dildo. Boom, roasted.

Long Dong Silver:
If you're too drunk to keep it hard, here's a hint: put down the bottle of Jack Daniels! I suppose if you're the kind of person who has drunk sex frequently and finds this to be a problem, drink a cup of coffee. The caffeine will boost your heart rate and allow a more steady blood flow to your cock. Just make sure you put the condom on correctly, Drunky McLush.

Q: Is it normal to sometimes have sex five or more times a week (maybe two or three times a day) or am I a nymphomaniac? And does that make a relationship too sexual?

Darcie Blows:
If you eat Honey Nut Cheerios five or more times a week, does that make you a cereal addict? No. If you can't function normally until after you've had a bowl of Honey Nut Cheerios, then you have a problem. And if you get the same amount of pleasure from a bowl of Cheerios as you do from sex with your partner, then maybe your problem is quality, not quantity. It's not the amount of sex that necessitates an addiction, only the need for a fuck in order to function normally.

As for your second question: everyone has his or her own standards for how sexual a relationship can be. It's up to you. Just make sure you're thinking with your brain as well as your genitals.

Long Dong Silver:
Having sex every day and multiple times in one day is quite common for a University student with a hearty sexual appetite. If you've been away from your partner for a few days, then three to four times a day is actually quite normal.

Your relationship is only too sexual if you find it becoming a problem. If you'd rather stick his mouth on your pussy than hear him talk, you may have a slight problem. However, if you both enjoy yourselves then nothing is too sexual.

Q: My boyfriend gets mad when I masturbate by myself. Can you settle our argument: is it okay to masturbate when you're in a relationship?

Long Dong Silver:
A lot of people enjoy masturbating because they know what they enjoy. When you're in a relationship for a while it's nice to have some alone time with your goody goodies.

I once dated a girl who couldn't fall asleep unless she came, but she didn't always want to ride me to reach that point. I found no problem at all with her one-minute DJ competition to fall asleep at night. She would go to sleep happy, and I would continue watching *Project Runaway* to the wee hours of the morning.

Darcie Blows:
Your boyfriend is insecure. Change his mind by turning masturbating into a competitive sport. Draw a scoreboard and keep track. The prize at the end of the week is a sexual favour. I guarantee he'll change his tune. Eventually you can try wanking a marathon together while watching the first three seasons of *24*. *Project Runaway* is sacred!

Q: Can I have sex while I am on my period?

Darcie Blows:
Technically, yes, you can. At my high school, PDR (Personal Development and Relationships) was a mandatory monthly class, but at least we had the glory of the "black box". Every naïve prep student was given the chance to put a question in the box for our math teacher to answer (interesting logic there). One day, Mrs. K pulled this very question out of the box and read it aloud. The class exploded with laughter from the boys and squeals of disgust from the girls. The poor woman slowly turned the same shade as a cinnamon heart before saying firmly, "Some people do it and they like it."

If you are going to attempt this, let your partner know what to expect and put a towel down. You can still get pregnant during your period, so make sure you're using effective contraception.

Long Dong Silver:
It depends how close you are with your partner. No offense, but it can be an icky endeavour. Having blood on your dong is equal to having poop on your dick for most guys. However, if you are that into each other and can get over it, go bloody nuts! I'm sorry.

Q: My friends and I are curious and have heard mix reports. Do girls like the shocker, known crudely as "two in the pink, one in the stink"?

Darcie Blows:
Do girls like The Shocker? Do girls like shaved balls? Do girls like beer? Here's the real shocker: it's entirely a matter of taste. If you really want to know, ask her before doing it. Don't just dive in there. Just because your last girlfriend liked the shocker doesn't mean your Saturday night hookup will automatically like the shocker.

The worst-case scenario will happen if you attempt the move without asking. You will put her in the awkward position where she has to choose to either tell you bluntly to stop, or politely and uncomfortably allow you to continue for fear of insulting your manhood. Always ask first. The same goes for that dude who sent in this fabulous number: "How can I come on my girlfriend's face?"

Long Dong Silver:
Do you like getting your dick broken while your girlfriend is riding you? Do you like your cock being bent with blood squirting out the tip while you scream?

I have never met a girl who likes The Shocker, let alone the "one pink, one stink" technique that I prefer to call "The Two Prong". It is called "The Shocker" for two reasons. First, it scares women, and second, it's shocking to think that a grown man can be still talking about the shocker amongst his friends. What are you going to ask me about next, the Cleveland Steamer?

Q: If I have two penises does that make me God's gift to women? Or just God?

Darcie Blows:
Good question. It makes you god's gift to women who enjoy the shocker. Please refer back to question eight for further information.

Long Dong Silver:
Neither. That makes you the shocker incarnate.

Tips for styling sexy

LAURA WALTON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

DAY

Everyone wants to look attractive, but generally, sexiness is something that should be reserved for after dark. That said, there are ways to increase your va-va-voom factor during the day without looking desperate.

DO go for slim-fitting jeans. Straight leg and boot cut styles are especially good at elongating legs. DON'T wear jeans that are too small just so they will be tight. The muffin top effect strikes even the slimmest of hips, and is not hot.

DO wear a low heel, emphasis on the low. DON'T combine a heel, a short skirt, and a bare leg. These three should only meet in the evening, and even then, there are rules to be followed.

DO wear a scoop neck or V-neck shirt. DON'T wear ultra low cut Vs unless you have a tank top underneath or are completely confident your bra will not make an appearance. Would a girdle look sexy hanging out from under your shirt? No. Neither do bras.

DO dress up a little. Guys, that goes for you, too. A little effort in dress can go a long way, not only in how others perceive you, but in how you perceive yourself. But DON'T

look like you've spent hours getting ready, even if you have. Too much makeup and too much cologne equals too much effort, especially pre-seven o'clock in the morning.

NIGHT

This category is a little more liberal, because we all know standards change after dark.

DO flatter your figure with something that clings in the right places. DON'T see tight as the only way to look sexy.

DO know how to show off your best features. DON'T do short, tight, and low cut at the same time. Pick either the top or bottom half of your body to expose and go conservative on the other. Looking sexy is great. Looking slutty is not.

When out at the bars DO try to keep it composed. DON'T think the "drunken party girl look" is sexy. It is not. So if you're going to spend an hour getting ready, make sure some of that effort is maintained.

The idea of what is sexy can be different to every person. Overall, put comfort first. Tugging, pulling, and feeling self-conscious in what one is wearing does not exude the sexy allure many seek.

Just remember confidence is key to pulling off any outfit; the sexiest things about a person are usually not thread deep.

'It's part of being a woman'

Dal gets ready for more *Vagina Monologues*

MADALYN HAMANN
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

In the *Vagina Monologues*, there is no such thing as beating around the bush when it comes to talking about—you guessed it—vagas.

This year's production, directed by Silver Bonnick, includes 14 women ready to present the show's various monologues without shame or hesitation.

"It is something that women should do," says actor Emilie Bourque. "It gives you a level of depth and power—it's part of being a woman."

As part of the V-Day College Campaign at Dalhousie, the *Vagina Monologues* are performed every February to help raise awareness of abuse against women and girls, and to support local organizations dedicated to helping end violence against women.

The monologues range from hilariously racy and outrageous like "The Woman who loved to make Vaginas Happy," in which a woman actively describes the numerous sexual moans and groans of an orgas-

ming woman, to the deeply moving and thought provoking, such as the monologue of a 10-year-old girl who opens up about being raped.

The monologues presented in the play are not chosen randomly. Rather, Bonnick must follow a set list of monologues in order to present the show under the banner of the *Vagina Monologues*.

"Every year there is an official version of the script posted on V-Day that all college performances must follow," says Bonnick.

Bonnick's hope for this year's production of the *Vagina Monologues* is to offer the Halifax community the opportunity to participate in a worthwhile show and create a dialogue among the audience.

"This is a piece that can really affect people in a positive way. All I want to do is present the opportunity."

The *Vagina Monologues* run Feb. 17 to 18 in the MacInnes Room of the Dal Student Union Building. Tickets are \$10 for students and \$12 for non-students. All proceeds will be going to local women's groups.

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FEB. 19

A modern Don Juan balances out

DELIA MACPHERSON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

After touring in Belgium, the Atlantic Ballet Theatre of Canada's production of *Don Juan* wowed audiences at the Rebecca Cohn on Feb. 5. The show had a rocky start, but before the intermission the dancing had me on the edge of my chair.

Don Juan follows the story of a young man who is constantly seducing women with his false promises and allure. The story has been presented in many forms, including Mozart's opera, *Don Giovanni*, and a performance by Johnny Depp in the 1994 film *Don Juan DeMarco*.

The set is boring, consisting of a black curtain with squiggles of light on it in the shapes of women's bodies. As the characters move about on stage, distracting large green breasts illuminate from behind. The only other staple to the set are four large streetlights on wheels, also used to make up the bed.

The show opens with all the

characters on stage, but the dancers were not synchronized. Many of the dancers had fantastic technique and dance beautifully, but had limited facial expression. The Commandant, played by Sergiy Diyanov, is the weakest actor in the show, keeping the same angry/determined look on his face throughout the performance. He will be starring as the title character in the Atlantic Ballet of Canada's production of *King Lear* next year.

Most of the costumes in *Don Juan* were fantastic. Leading man Don Juan, by played Kosta Voynov, wears several outfits over the course of the show, including black and white sparkling pants and a very tight matching silk black shirt. His hair is eccentrically messy, resembling Albert Einstein's.

One particularly brilliant scene is a solo by Juan wearing nothing but leopard print boxer briefs. Most of the choreography is on the sexy side, and this solo is no exception. Voynov as Juan was throwing his hips and shaking his booty like nobody's busi-

ness.

The show has a lot of comedic relief using props. Real cameras are flashed at Juan throughout the show to give the illusion of paparazzi. At one point Juan wears bunny slippers and incorporates them into his routine. There's even a drag bit, just to mix things up.

The biggest problem with the production was the music: all classical and taken from other shows. Some of the songs sound like a soundtrack to *Charlie Brown* and does not seem to fit with the modern sexy dancing and costumes.

If there had been some Strokes, Queens of the Stone Age or even a little Guns and Roses it would have added a completely new element to the show. Sexy rock and roll combined with Juan's fabulous hip thrusts would have brought the show to a new level. All of the music was also pre-recorded. There is no comparison between a real orchestra and a mix CD of classical music.

Aleksandr Onyshenko plays Juan's right hand man, Sganarelle.

From start to finish, his dancing was strong, beautiful and impressive. He had great facial expression and his body moved in a way that told a story. His costume is also very flashy, including a hot pink shirt, black and white striped pants and a shiny vest. He looked a bit like an American Apparel model.

The duets between Juan and his partner Sganarelle were extraordinary. They have fantastic chemistry on stage and the choreography between them was especially clever.

Sganarelle is constantly torn over whether or not he should stay with Juan because of his shameless and lustful behaviour toward women. There is a scene where he is debating whether he should stay or leave and his legs are jumping around back and forth symbolizing his uncertainty.

The women in the show were not nearly as impressive as the men. They're all good dancers but their choreography was not as interesting as the male character's. Lacy lingerie and Moulin Rouge-inspired hair and makeup would have been appropri-

ate, but instead their costumes were plain and pale.

In this particular interpretation of *Don Juan*, a strange character named Madame X, played by Anya Nesvitaylo, danced around the stage wearing a large white silk sheet that draped behind her, leaving a trail of seduction. She is a metaphor for what Juan always wants in women, but can never seem to satisfy no matter how many women he sleeps with. Madame X eventually leads to Juan's downfall.

The best scene in the ballet is a romantic dance between Juan and one of his "ladies," played by Olena Zakarova. The dance was sexy, beautiful and difficult. The audience was oohing and ahing as Voynov threw Zakarova effortlessly over his shoulders.


Overall, *Don Juan* was a good performance. The really good things balanced out the really bad. The men have their sex appeals down pat, but the women need to spice things up.

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Local Porn project slow to start

LAURA DAWE
ARTS BEAT REPORTER

"Most porn seems to occur either in a mansion, at a poolside or in a hotel. And I've never had sex in a mansion or next to a pool, so they don't represent me, at least," says Charles Summers, a 25-year-old farmer-turned-rapper-turned-aspiring-pornographer. "I would like to see people fucking in the room that they normally fuck in. I'd like to see their pile of laundry in the background; I'd like to see, you know, their CD collection on the shelf. I'd like to see their life as they're getting railed."

Summers' desire to see realistic portrayals of sex has led to his latest project: Local Porn.

"It's the next big thing," he says.

Summers' vision for Local Porn is simple.

"It's porn featuring people you know in circumstances that you can identify with and recognize, and then exhibited and shared locally."

The idea is that Halagonians will allow Summers, or another Local Pornographer, to videotape them doing whatever intimate acts they engage in during a sexual encounter. Local Porn, says Summers, is not about the "typical money shots" of mainstream pornography. Rather, Local Porn is about portraying sex between partners in a realistic way.

"Porn right now is completely

detached from reality," Summers says. "And sex is a very real thing with very real benefits, experiences and consequences. Porn doesn't really express sexuality in a very comprehensive or thoughtful way."

Though Local Porn is intended to be thoughtful and genuine, it is not intended to be a soft-core, gauzy interpretation of the real deal.

"I still want it to have sex, like I actually want to see things going in and out of holes," says Summers. "I feel there are so many hot shots that are not getting made in pornography."

"I'd really like to just watch a woman's mouth as she's cumming," Summers explains. "I'd really like to see that close up. That would be hot. As opposed to seeing like a tripod shot of five minutes of anal sex just, like, going on like a machine."

Footage would include the participants talking about sex and about themselves. The project is not about watching people engage in random, disjointed acts, but, as Summers puts it, "watching people we know working through their sexuality in a very active, exposed way."

Summers' brand of porn also allows for a wider spectrum of sexualities, some of which are often portrayed not holistically, but as kinks. All body types and preferences are welcome.

"It would be very interesting to talk to people with a situation like

herpes about how it affects their sexuality," says Summers. "And also to watch how they address their sexuality with that barrier."

Summers says these Local Porn projects are not intended for the Internet or for hard-copy sales, but for one or two public screenings. Then, depending on the wishes of those involved, the original footage and its corresponding files could be destroyed.

"It'd be pretty sexually charged," says Summers. "I certainly hope people come out of (the screenings) itching to fuck one another and go home and perhaps even record what they express."

Summers has purchased a camera and has begun looking for interested parties to participate in the project.

"I'm surprised because it's been more females than males," Summers says of the response he has received. But he says he's not surprised women have taken an interest as he himself "caught the porn bug" from women he has dated in the past.

"They actually emotionally feel that making porn will bring them to another place, like, further the progression of their sexuality," says Summers. "(It) is hard to grasp if you're not into porn or don't respect porn, but for some people it is an empowering activity to publicly own your sexuality, to own your body."

Right now, the only thing slowing the project down is Summers himself.

"I just have to really be willing to wear the title of pornographer and all of its connotations," he says. "Even if I'm making just, righteous, positive porn, I will still be a pornographer which disqualifies me from decency, respect and trust from the general population."

While the associations with pornographer may make Summers uneasy, his hope for Local Porn as a medium through which a community can embrace realistic expression of sex and sexuality continues to push him to make his vision a reality.

"It's just ultimately getting real people to express their sexuality to one another and to the community," he concludes of his project. "Doing what they consider to be hot, whatever gets them off."



LAURA DAWE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Charles Summers' desire to see realistic portrayals of sex has led to the idea for his latest project: filming local couples having sex in places where they'd usually do it.

The Superfantastication of Coconut Grove

ALEX FOUNTAIN
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

The platform at the former Stage Nine has hosted the likes of Fucked Up and Akron/Family. Now, up the tall, straight staircase the stage remains, under the banner of Coconut Grove. While the bar has an undeniably less punk and cheesier nightclub atmosphere the Superfantastics' Friday night set recalled the venue's heyday.

The evening offered up three cutesy, earnest pop bands that played to a far-from-packed - but still enthusiastic - room. The audience's first treat was New Royalty, a five-piece band from Prince Edward Island on their first trip to the big city.

Echoing bands such as Mates of State, Straylight Run, Eisley, Halifax's Gamma Gamma Rays or even, at times, the Police, these guys blend sweet piano pop, male/female vocal harmonies and interesting song structures to create something familiar and interesting at the same time. The drummer sings back-up vocals while pounding through aggressive, constantly changing beats, the guitarist and bassist rock out and the two female vocalists hammer the keys and sing sweet Metric-

esque melodies with ease.

The band's sincerity and undeniably late 1990s post-emo-indie-rock aesthetic really resonated with me and was a great start to the evening.

Up next was The Beginners, one of former Inbreds bassist Mike O'Neill's latest projects. Featuring Laura Peek on keys, Hampton Kelly on drums and Charles Austin on guitar, this band brought the small audience to their knees with cute, interesting song writing and fantastic instrumentation.

The Beginners' songs appear simple at first, with lyrics and chord progressions that seem to repeat over and over again. Upon closer listen, however, you realize the lyrics and music are changing ever so slightly with every refrain. That's good song writing: catchy but unpredictable.

The earnestness continued with the Superfantastics, who played selections from their Pop-Up Book LP and *Choose Your Destination* 3-D seven-inch.

Singer/guitarist Matt MacDonald uses his plethora of effects pedals to subtly pepper his songs with alt-country twang or stoner-rock heaviness whenever he finds it necessary, while drummer Stephanie d'Entremont gently carries the songs



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE
Stephanie d'Entremont and Matt MacDonald are The Superfantastics.

with tastefully restrained intensity.

The duo ended the night with sweet guitar-and-drums-only pop that manages to be full-bodied and minimalist at the same time and left the audience warmed for the cold walk home.



JOHN PACKMAN/GAZETTE FILE PHOTO

"Pornography as a teacher is probably one of the worst sex educators you can have," says Shannon Pringle of Venus Envy.

Educated pleasure

Venus Envy workshops offer informative, fun sexual education

ERICA NEWMAN
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Venus Envy is not your average curtain-drawn, arrive in a trench coat sex store.

Located in Halifax on Barrington Street and with other store locations in Ottawa, Venus Envy has a wide array of toys and books to educate and explore sex and all that goes with it. While gadgets and gizmos may be fun, the feature of the store that really makes it unique is its educational workshops. Ranging from "I'm Coming! A Guide to Women's Orgasm" to "Up Yours! Anal Pleasure and Health," the workshops aim to inform while being respectful and having a sense of humour.

The workshops generally attract women between the ages of 20 and 50, says Shannon Pringle, a workshop facilitator.

"We try to encourage people to bring their partners too and try to encourage more men to come, but for some reason they seem a little hesitant these days," Pringle says.

Pringle started work at the Halifax Sexual Health Centre before taking a job at Venus Envy. Her relaxed and open disposition makes her the ideal facilitator of these workshops and particularly easy to talk to.

"I like to read a lot," she says, of her involvement at Venus Envy. "(I) am interested in the best way to convey information so that people can learn about their bodies in a very positive and healthy way."

Venus Envy's most popular workshop is "Going Down: A Guide to Fellatio," while the workshop's counterpart "Going Down: A Guide to Cunnilingus" has a far lower attendance rate. In order to move away from the unfortunate trend of women aspiring to please, rather than be pleased, Pringle stresses that attending workshops should not solely be for the purpose of satisfying others.

"It is really important that people go to all kinds of workshops because you can actually learn a lot about your own body," she says.

For example, she says the cunnilingus workshop is educational for heterosexual women as well. It allows them to learn about their own pleasure and what to ask for from their partner.

These workshops are very different from an awkward middle school sex education class. They encompass everything sex-related from anal pleasure and health, to dirty talk, to alternative eco-friendly methods of dealing with your period.

Venus Envy's workshops offer a continuing source of sexual education and an alternative to what Pringle says is a misrepresentation of sex created by mainstream pornography.

"In this day and age a lot of people use pornography as a way of learning about sex and they think they know a lot because they downloaded something," says Pringle. "Pornography as a teacher is probably one of the worst sex educators you can have. It's a fantasy, and it's about having sex for the camera, not with a human being."

The easy accessibility of pornography on the Internet has led to an increase in misguided, porn-educated men and women, says Pringle. With all the plastic surgery, balloon-sized breasts, and hazardously large penises, mainstream pornography does not paint a realistic portrait of human sexuality.

The Venus Envy workshops are about creating an opportunity for a real sex and sexuality education that is fun, informative and relevant to every gender and sexual orientation.

"(It) encourages people to become sexually sophisticated," says Pringle. "Venus Envy is a store about educated pleasure."

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Women's team splits the weekend

TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tigers women's basketball team snapped its nine-game winning streak against Memorial University on Feb. 7, only to gain redemption the next day with a close 66-61 win. Memorial currently sits in second place, eight points ahead of Dal, who is tied with St. Francis Xavier University for third place in

the Atlantic University Sport (AUS).

Cailin Crosby was Dal's star in Saturday's 65-62 loss, picking up 18 points and 10 rebounds in a losing cause. Jenna Kaye put in a spirited effort, picking up 13 points, six assists and seven rebounds.

Memorial's Brittany Dalton gave the Tigers fits at both ends of the court, picking up 18 points and an incredible seven steals while leading the Memorial Sea-Hawks to victory.

With two games in hand over St. F.X., which currently sits tied with the Tigers for third, the women face a tough schedule to round out the regular season. There are five games left in the season and the women face three very tough games. A Cape Breton road trip next weekend will probably determine the team's playoff standings before a final game showdown with St. F.X. to lead into the playoffs.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Cailin Crosby jumps on a loose ball at last Saturday's game at the Dalplex against MUN. They lost Saturday's game 65-62 but went on to beat MUN on Sunday 66-61.

Tigers back on track

TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

Dalhousie's men's basketball team picked up an important win on Feb. 7, dropping Memorial University 87-53 in a lopsided affair. The win puts Dal back on a winning track, after three consecutive losses marred the team's record and dropped them to fourth in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) league.

Josh Beattie led the way for the Tigers, putting up 20 points and going 8-14 from the floor and 4-5 outside the arc. Dal's Simon Farine, a point guard and AUS scoring race leader, finished the game with 10 points and seven assists.

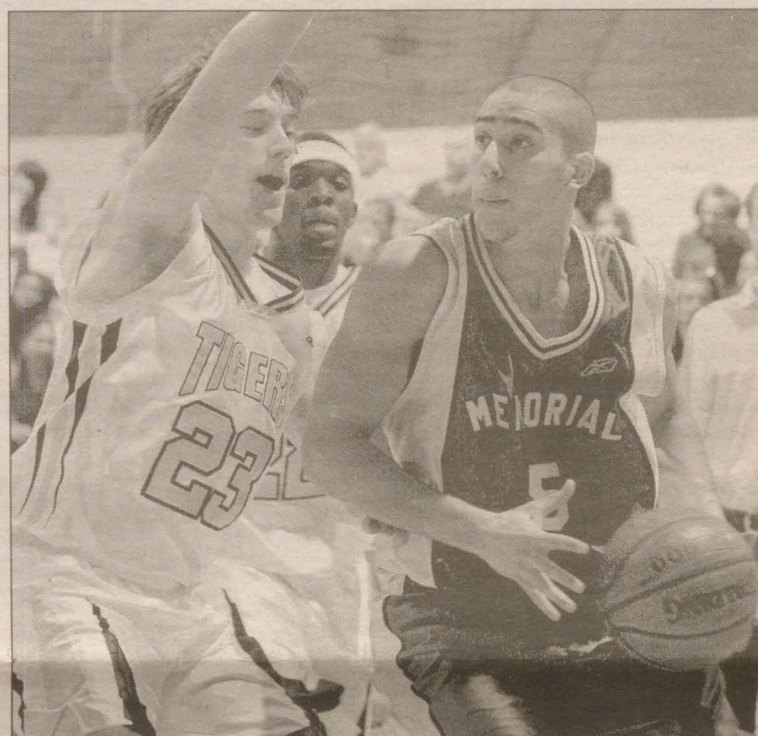
Germain Bendegue led a stiff Dal defence, racking up three blocks and two steals to go with 11 points in an

impressive defensive performance.

The game got out of hand quickly when Dal pulled out to a 21-4 lead after the first quarter. The Tigers never gave the visitors a chance to get back into the game, piling up points while a stiff defence denied Memorial any good looks at the basket.

The win moves the men back into winning form, and within two points of the AUS' third place St. Mary's University. With just five games left on the schedule, three of those against top level teams Cape Breton University and Saint Mary's, the men could potentially finish as high as second place.

The Tigers are back in action next weekend, when they're set to travel to Cape Breton to take on the Capers in a two-game series that will go a long way in determining the playoff standings.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dalhousie's Andrew Sullivan tries to block Memorial's Ryan McCluskey from going to the net during last Saturday night's game at the Dalplex. Dal beat MUN 87-53.

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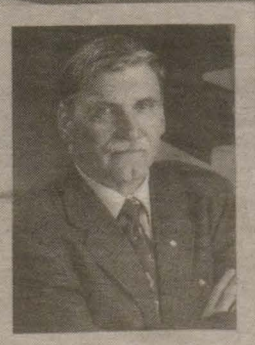


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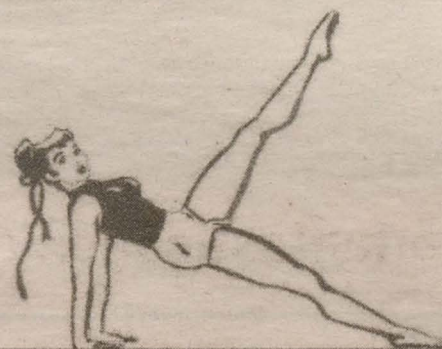
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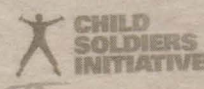


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15 things every first-time skier should know

CHRISTOPHER RAVI SMITH
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

This is my first Canadian winter. I'm an international student in my late 20s, and I spent Munro Day skiing at Wentworth even though I had never been on skis before. Here's what I learned:

1. Be in shape or expect sore muscles the next day.

I am as in shape as much as a computer programmer is expected to be (not very), so the onset of tiredness and aches started pretty early. If you're thinking about it, you should be up to speed with light weights, jogging and warm-ups. I started skiing around 10 a.m. and really had to sit down by 1:30 p.m. Thank goodness I used that time to have lunch.

2. Food at ski resorts is expensive.

"That's how they make their money," is a nice way of putting it. A more realistic statement is: "They'll take everything including the lint in your pocket." OK, it's not that expensive, but \$8 for a sandwich is a bit steep. The best food at Wentworth is apparently the French fries - everyone was buying them. But most people there were young, so the resort probably caters to the needs of the majority.

3. Take the beginners classes seriously.

Find the bunny slope. Stay on the

bunny slope. Wear a helmet. Listen to the instructor. Repeat beginner classes until you feel confident.

4. Don't be over-confident.

I didn't see anyone wipe out on the big slopes, but there are many trees on the sides, and it's a long way to fall/roll if you're not strong on your feet (see lesson 1). The dynamics of snow are interesting though - most of your control comes from digging an edge of your ski into the ice.

5. Your first decision determines if you'll love it or hate it.

What's your first decision? Skiing or snowboarding. OK, you may ask yourself other questions, like whether to wear three sweaters or four, but how you begin generally decides what you end up doing indefinitely. You'll be hard pressed to find an expert skier who's as good on a snowboard, and vice versa. Will you go conservatively or radically? You can't do major tricks with skis.

6. Bring your cheapest shoes and not much else.

It may be different in other places, but everyone generally just leaves their stuff out in the open rather than paying for a locker. I only had to worry about my el cheapo shoes, but valuables may not be a good idea to bring. Of course, you'll need your trusty camera to catch the (painful) Kodak moments. If you came in a car, even running back to it in the car park is a bit of a jog. I'm glad to see petty

theft isn't a major concern here.

7. The early bird catches the worm and the crowd.

Again, it may be different in other places, but it makes sense that most everyone would leave home early, get to the resort early and try to make it back home before dark. Ski resorts are few and far between, so you may have a long drive (Wentworth is two hours from Halifax). The bunny hill was packed when we came in and thinned out dramatically around 2 p.m. I can imagine night-time skiing would be even better. It's cheaper, too.

8. Don't assume everyone appreciates a good laugh.

One guy may have taken it personally when he face-planted right in front of me and I let a big laugh loose. I did help him back up though. It was insanely entertaining to hear his high-pitched scream "Stop! Stop!" when he was fast approaching a crowd. Apparently his skis didn't listen.

9. Four-eyed skiers will do just fine.

Contrary to what I thought, wearing a pair of spectacles while skiing is perfectly fine. My glasses fit quite snugly under the padded helmet, which was big enough to (probably) protect it in the event of a forward collision with the ground or a tree. Thank goodness I didn't put it to the test. Next time I'll try the ski goggles.

10. There's a 10 to 15 degree Cel-

sus drop in temperature between the bottom and top of a hill.

Nuff said. Dress warmly. Consider a ski mask (balaclava, hood, monkey cap, neckwarmer). Amazingly, spending three hours in the snow in -10 degrees Celsius weather isn't all that bad. Granted, I was huffing and puffing for most of that time. And my nose and cheeks were red hours after getting home.

11. Be prepared to re-learn basic movements.

Moving forward, changing movement direction, stopping and getting up from a swift meeting of your butt and the ground are all done with seemingly counterintuitive movements. I should roll onto my stomach to get up? Kids are the lucky ones while learning to ski - they're so much closer to the ground. And while we're on the topic of falling, make sure your feet don't get twisted up as you fall. That hurts.

12. Snow in your crack is quite unpleasant.

Dress appropriately. I've said this before, but I just can't emphasize it enough. You have the jacket of course, but you don't want any clothing malfunctions on the slopes. One young lady with an ample posterior kept falling down - normal in the learning process - but she treated everyone to a scream and a full mooning each time she took a spill. And it spilled out. The phrase "extreme plumber's

butt" comes to mind. Even my sweater got loose, which, after a fall, gave me the inspiration for the title of this lesson.

13. Skiing is troublesome for the sinus-impaired.

This may not apply to those accustomed to cold weather, but some of us have nasal issues when we're out in the cold. My sinuses respond by producing mucus in overdrive. I swore there would've been snotty icicles on my nose by the end of the day, and maybe a danger sign for short people walking past me.

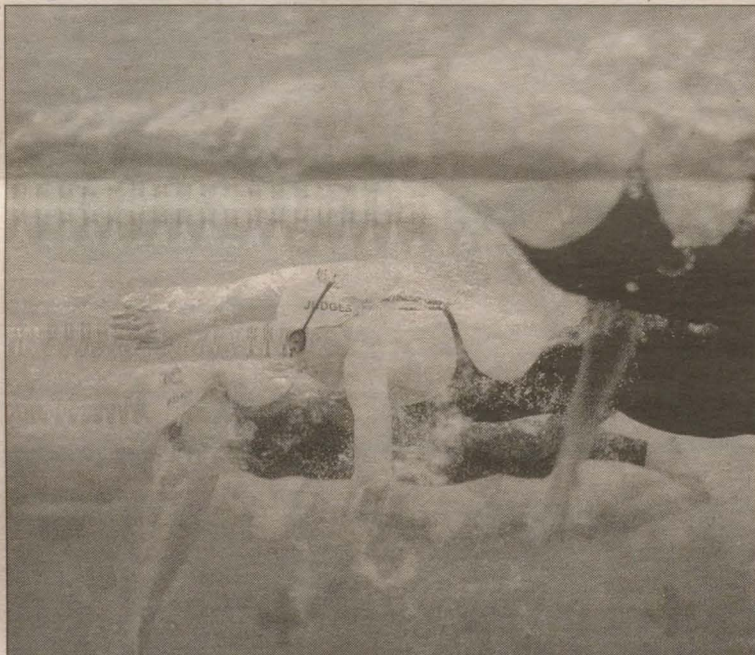
14. It can be an expensive sport.

Expect to pay more than \$1,000 for the ultimate in ski equipment, which basically fits like a glove, never gets old and ratty, and weigh hordes less than the rentals. My two-tonne rental ski boots were probably half of the reason I got tired as quickly as I did. Then there are ski masks and gloves that sell for upwards of \$100, not to mention a good jacket.

15. Grab the rope slowly.

It's the quickest way to the top of the bunny slope, but this lesson (like others) is most effectively learned when you do the opposite. You'll understand when you get there.

16. Counting is a subjective philosophy.



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal swimmers put on a clinic last weekend, swimmingly winning the Atlantic University Sport championships in both the men's and women's divisions.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

St. Thomas' Maxime Chamberland shoves Ryan Jenner into the net during the first period of the Tigers versus Tommies game at the Dal Arena last Saturday. St. Thomas crushed Dal 6-2.

TIGERS AT HOME...

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL AUS CHAMPIONSHIP GAME ONE, FRIDAY NIGHT AT DALPLEX

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13
MEN'S VOLLEYBALL vs UNB, 7PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14
MEN'S HOCKEY vs SMU, 7PM

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THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

MUNRO DAY SKI TRIP

Logan Smith

Last Friday was Dalhousie University's annual Munro Day ski trip to Wentworth. Hundreds of students jumped on the opportunity for the cheap \$25 tickets and a day off classes to hit the slopes. For me it was a welcomed change from Martock, which for those of you who don't know, is equivalent to an icy, slightly oversized bunny hill full of valley locals and children on leashes.

We arrived before the busses at 9:00am to beat the rush and hit the freshly groomed snow before it got destroyed by a few hundred snowploughing first-time skiers and riders. Luckily, later in the day the T-bar opened up to cut down on the line sizes, keeping most of the first timers away except a snowboarder who forgot to undo his bindings and was dragged backwards up the hill by his foot.

By midday, the hill was full of students brave enough to escape the bunny hill. My favourite were the snowbladers reppin' only jeans and a windbreaker cruising full speed down the hill hoping no one was crazy enough to get in their way.

The conditions were perfect with 30 cm of fresh powder untouched in the woods and warm enough temperatures to ride in a hoodie. All in all, the day was a big success and compared to last year, there were no icy rescues from the closed off Explosion run. Towards the end of the day, a few of us decided that the closed sign in front of Explosion was just a precautionary thing and took to the fresh powder for one last run. Upon reaching the roped off area I saw an old man nearing around 70 approaching on skis presumably to yell at us but instead he sped right by, hopped the rope and disap-

peared down the hill. With the new confidence that we weren't riding into a cliff littered with rocks and ice, we finished off the run and took the trek back to the van to head home.

Seeing as how the day had gone so well there had to be a catch, and sure enough, upon reaching the van, the tire was flat. Luckily a boozed up local spotted us on his way back to the bar and provided us with an electric pump that he had recently purchased from Walmart.

AT THE WORKPLACE WITH TERRAIN GROUP INC.

Lori Baker

When the managers at Terrain Group Inc. decided it was time to start hiring co-op students, they really made the commitment. After several years away from co-op, the full-service engineering, planning and surveying company hired four Dalhousie civil engineering students for the summer 2008 work term period.

With the company growing rapidly over the past few years, Ivan Bishop, Engineering Field Supervisor, recognized co-op as an effective avenue to meet future employees. He also recognized the value of students while on their work terms. "Co-op students add true value to the company," he says. "We would not hire them if they didn't contribute."

The company's commitment to student development is evidenced

by the effort that goes into training them, including Survey Camp, Power Point presentations and Lunch & Learn sessions.

Joshua Levy, third year civil engineering student, completed his first work term with Terrain Group Inc. during the summer and remained to complete his second work term during the fall. He says the training, combined with the trust that was placed upon him, allowed him to make a significant contribution to the organization. "I was the company's representative on site all the time," Joshua explains. "If there was a complaint or a question from the contractor or the neighbors about the site, then I was the one they approached."

For Joshua, the responsibility was a welcomed opportunity to gain practical knowledge. "In many cases, students learn how to de-

sign things but are still left wondering how in the world to put it together," he says. "This work experience is my attempt to eliminate that gap from my future career."

Jeff Theriault, a fourth year civil engineering student who completed his third work term during the summer, agrees with Joshua, saying that the experience at Terrain Group Inc. gave him a real sense of accomplishment. "You learn stuff in school," he says, "but until you see it actually happen, it doesn't mean as much because it never goes exactly as it's designed. There are always obstacles along the way and you have to figure out some solution."

For the managers at Terrain Group Inc., part of the solution for overcoming obstacles includes hiring co-op students!

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CO-OP CORNER

Important Dates:

- February 13, 2009 • Round I employer rankings released to students.
- February 13 - 16, 2009 • Friday and Monday, Question & Answer Days for help with rankings.
- February 16, 2009 • Rankings by students must be entered in *PlacePro* by 4:00pm.
- February 17, 2009 • Match Day.
- February 17 - May 1, 2009 • Round II continues through to the second week of next term. Interviews, offers and acceptances can occur at any time in this period.

Things to Remember:

- If you have yet to pay your co-op fee and are wanting to be released, pay as soon as possible or you will miss the opportunity to be registered in co-op for the summer 2009 term.
- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: <http://www.engandcompcoop.dal.ca>
- Remember that students are encouraged to do their own job search as well as to utilize the postings on *PlacePro*. If you get a job without going through *PlacePro*, be sure to let the co-op office know so they can designate you as 'placed'.
- Forms are online or at the co-op office for those students who get jobs outside of *PlacePro*. If you do not fill out this form, then your work term may not be eligible for co-op and may not count as time towards your E.I.T., or professional engineering designation.



Thursday February 12 • Karaoke
Friday February 13 • Closed for Techball
Thursday February 19 • Open Mic
Friday February 20 • Trivia



Friday February 13 • Techball
Apparel • Key Chains, Belt Buckles and T-Shirts

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