

FREE

141-22 / Mar 12, 2009

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE



BASKETBALL ★★ GLORY ★★

MVP Simon Farine leads Tigers to first AUS gold in 13 years p.14

DALHOUSIE
VOTES '09

See inside for DSU candidate profiles



WEEKLY DISPATCH

Important Dates

March 15th – Deadline for Society winter audit

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

Student Appreciation Night "Vegas Comes to DAL"

Friday March 13th, 7:00pm

Dinner, dancing, awards and a magical performance
For tickets email Kris Osmond at dsuvpsl@dal.ca
FREE (limited quantities available)

Residence Charity Face Off for the IWK

Saturday March 14th, 5:45pm

Tickets \$7 in advance \$10 at the door
Trojans vs The Bighorns @ the DAL Areana
Official After Party at the Grawood!

St. Patrick's Day All-Dal Parties

Tuesday March 17th, 11:30am (The Grawood)

Tuesday March 17th, 4:00pm (The T-Room)

Open Mic @ The Grawood

Wednesday March 18th, 9:00pm

DSU Election Results @ The Grawood

Thursday, March 19th, 8:00pm

Open Mic @ The T-Room

Thursday March 19th, 9:00pm

Sloan Live @ The Grawood

Friday March 27th, 8:00pm

Tickets \$15

Open to all DAL Students, Faculty, Alumni and Guests

DSU Elections – March 17th-19th

Campaign Week is just wrapping up. Hope you paid attention! If you missed anything, there's still a chance to get all the info you need to make an informed decision: visit www.dsuelections.ca for candidate bios and election platforms. Don't forget to cast your vote March 17-March 19 at www.dsu.ca!

Student Accessibility Bursaries – March 13th

Each year the DSU offers two \$1000 bursaries to Dalhousie students with disabilities. 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. Contact Daniel Boyle at dsuvpi@dal.ca. The deadline for applications is 4 p.m. on Friday, March 13, 2009.

Survey for Student Renters

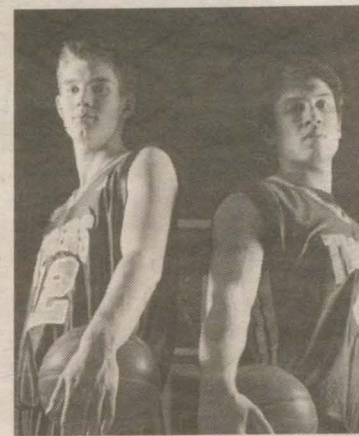
The Halifax Student Alliance is conducting a survey to collect information on the experience of student renters in the HRM. If you've had a bad landlord, a great landlord or an absentee landlord, we want to hear about it! The information will be used to direct our lobbying efforts in making concrete policy suggestions. Prizes will be drawn from among survey participants! Visit StudentsRent.ca to complete the survey today!

AMP 'Rock Band' Competition – Dal team to go for gold!

Vote for Dal's 'Rock Band' group to take home the gold! Dal is up against Douglas College, Lakehead University, Brock University and Humber College in the AMP 'Rock Band' competition. If you want to see your classmates win it all, visit <http://www.facebook.com/AMPenergyCanada> and vote! Each person is allowed one vote a day until voting ends at 11:59pm on March 15th.

Sincerely,

Your DSU Executive



Thanks to Josh Beattie (left) for coming out to the cover shoot and posing alongside Simon Farine even though his picture didn't make the cover.

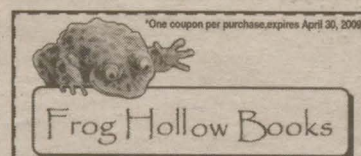
But hey, keep playing so damn well and you may have your own cover. We'll even let you put "Fuck Simon. I'm the fucking man now!" on the inside. If you want. Also, thanks to the players at the Dalplex who waited patiently as I hogged half the court.
-John, the photo editor

RETRACTION:

The Gazette should not have published a portion of a March 5 issue letter to the editor by Blaine Hislop, which personally attacked opinions contributor John Doucette. The letter violated *Gazette* editorial policy. *The Gazette* regrets the error.

WE SCREWED UP!

Performer Mike Evin's name was misspelled in the Feb. 19 article "Halifax vegetarians heart Heartwood." *The Gazette* apologizes for any confusion caused by the error.



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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

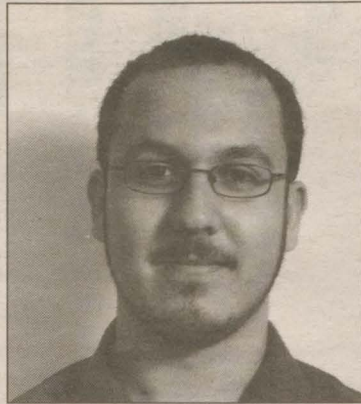
The *Gazette* is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The *Gazette* is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly 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.

DAL VOTES '09



Photos: Josh Boyter

DALHOUSIE VOTES '09



PRESIDENT

Responsibilities: Acts as the main spokesperson for the DSU; sits on the University Board of Governors and the University Senate; acts as the main contact to the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations; supervises daily activities of the DSU; writes much of the DSU's policy.
Honorarium: \$27,056

GREGORY DEBOGORSKI
Age: 27
Hometown: Edmonton, Alta.
Major: Third-year management
Past Experience: Junior Investment Society 2007/2008; Advisory role on the African Black Students Association 2007/2008; Gazette contributor 2008/2009.

Which superpower do you wish you had? "To rectify the world's wrongs."
What's your guilty pleasure TV show? "I don't watch TV."
Specialty dish you cook? "I don't have one."
Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "To post-9/11 to try and stop these silly terrorist acts from being legislated."

If elected president of the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU), Gregory Debogorski wants to start experimenting to install a form of participatory democracy at Dalhousie.

Debogorski also wants to switch up the university's current investments to start building a student-based economy that would allow the union to take over its own food services and start its own welding shop.

"I'd like to start finding ways, through creating industry or services, in which to give students an ability to start... applying their knowledge and, second of all, to start developing skills for when they go out into the work world, because there's a lot of students... that can have skills sets to put on resumes for when they go out into the work world," he says.

He would also like to start getting rid of superfluous committees.

"We have so many committees most students don't know about - don't care about - and I find it really redundant that our council can talk about limiting the amount of councillors and the amount of student representation within the government itself and yet creates senate committees at whim," he says.

"I see it kind of backwards. I think that there needs to be greater student voice, a greater number of councillors."

Debogorski says he also wants to see an organized social event at the end of every school year to bring the entire university together to create a form of unity and social experience.

"There's no social intercourse between programs. So then you wonder how can you develop school spirit or unity amongst the student body if there's no social intercourse?"

He says the DSU, in its objectives, is supposed to be creating a forum to unify students and give them a greater perspective of how everyone views the world.

He'd also like to see more students coming to council to bring concerns to the union and to see the union act upon these concerns.

"There is a political clique that's instituted here on campus and needs to be broken up through increasing the number of votes on council and the number of people on council."

-MELISSA DI COSTANZO

ERIC SNOW
Age: 22
Hometown: Lower Sackville, N.S.
Major: Fourth-year political science
Past Experience: Informatics representative, Computer Science Society, 2006; vice-president (external), Computer Science Society, 2007; Academic and External Affairs Committee, 2007-present; Society Review Committee, 2007/08; Recruitment Committee, 2007/09; Society Policy Committee, 2007/08; Senate Representative, 2008-present; Board of Directors, Halifax Student Alliance, 2008-present; Chair, Constitutional Review Committee, 2008-present; Executive Review Committee, 2008/09; Senate Committee on Governance, 2008-present; Senate Committee on Academic Administration, 2008-present; Senate Discipline Committee, 2008-present; Senate Computing and Information Technology Planning Committee, 2008-present.

Which superpower do you wish you had? "Telekinesis: the power to move things with your mind."
What's your guilty pleasure TV show? *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*
Do you have a specialty dish? Penne baked with cheese.

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "Back to meet Winston Churchill."

Eric Snow wants to see students pursue their own interests to get involved with the Dal community.

"I'd like to see us have more opportunities and more well-advertised opportunities for getting students involved with the DSU," he says. "I find, generally speaking... one person will take on five different positions when we could have more students being brought in because we don't advertise the things we already have."

Snow would also like to draft a sample constitution for new societies so they can change a few words, put in their name and get going rather than having to start from scratch.

Snow would also like to represent student interests to the university administration by making big student issues - like a 24-hour study space - a priority.

He also wants to focus on external lobbying organizations, such as the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations and the Halifax Student Alliance.

"We need to make sure we have continuity in putting forward student issues to the municipal council and other bodies related to municipal issues," he says.

Environmental and financial sustainability are also two areas Snow wants to focus on.

"With financial sustainability, we should be looking carefully at our budget and make sure we're spending money where we should be... for important advocacy effort, grants, major society events, prioritizing on issues related to students."

Environmentally, Snow specifically wants to see professors reducing paper usage by, for example, double-siding their syllabi.

-MELISSA DI COSTANZO

SHANNON ZIMMERMAN
Age: 22
Hometown: Elmira, Ont.
Major: Fourth-year political science and international development studies
Experience: DSU First-year Member-at-large, 2005/06; President of Sheriff Hall 2006/07; Orientation Week Leader 2006/07; Board of Governors representative 2007/08, 2008/09; DSU councillor 2007/08, 2008/09; Orientation Week Executive 2008; Chair of Arts and Social Sciences Society 2008/09; ANSSA Student Delegate; Society Review Committee, Promotion of Diversity on Campus Committee, Orientation Week Committee, Recruitment Committee, and Grants Committee.

Which superpower do you wish you had? Time travel.

TV show guilty pleasure? *Grey's Anatomy*.

Specialty dish you cook? Blue-cheese-and-mushroom stuffed pork chops.

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "Martin Luther King's 'If I had a dream' speech."

Shannon Zimmerman says she thinks Dal can become a connected, sustainable community.

The "connected" aspect speaks to her desire to improve communication between the president of the DSU and the senate, the board of governors and the students. She would count on DSU councillors to keep her informed about issues on campus.

She says the DSU website needs to be improved and can be one way to connect the societies and the student union.

Zimmerman wants Student Services to help fund and promote the DSU website.

She also says the president of the student union should be talking about students' issues at the senate and at the board of governors meetings, instead of focusing only on achievements. Her experience as a student representative on the board of governors, she says, has taught her the appropriate places to raise the different student concerns.

Zimmerman wants to work on the structure of the DSU's national lobby group, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, to re-instate the role of student delegates, instead of continuing to run it as a body that only hears from student union executives.

She worries the DSU's Imagine campaign isn't being used to create a workable path for the union.

"A strategic plan that makes this union sustainable needs to talk about what is going to happen in four to five years when the demographics of Nova Scotia can no longer support the enrolments that we have now," she says.

She also thinks union executives need to increase their visibility on Sexton and Carleton campuses.

"Sexton students pay money into the DSU and I don't think they are getting back what they pay right now," she says.

-BETHANY HORNE

VICE PRESIDENT (STUDENT LIFE)

Responsibilities: Co-ordinates activities such as Orientation Week, DSU Charity Ball, Student Appreciation Night, DalFest, FallFest, Winter Carnival, the Residence Hockey Game; chairs several committees concerning these events and is responsible for promoting varsity athletics on campus and managing the Shinerama director.
Honorarium: \$24,966

KRIS OSMOND
Age: 22
Hometown: St. John's, Nfld.
Major: Fifth-year psychology
Past Experience: Orientation Week leader 2005/06; Off-campus Director for Orientation Week 2006/07; Events Logistics Coordinator for Orientation Week 2007/08; DSU vice-president (student life) 2008-present.

Which superpower do you wish you had? The ability to stop time.

What's your guilty pleasure TV show? "How I Met Your Mother is my favourite show on TV."

Do you have a specialty dish? "I think I make the best French toast in the world."

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? Back to the time of dinosaurs. "I used to want to be a dinosaur as I was in kindergarten. I'd like to go see the reason why I can't be one now."

Kris Osmond is running for the vice-president (student life) position again because he says his experience this year was everything he wanted it to be and more.

"My real paycheck is when I host a successful event and students are there and they had a good time and they can walk away and say, 'wow, look what the DSU has done for us,'" says Osmond.

If re-elected, he would try to hold seminars for societies that would outline the steps they could take in successfully planning, marketing and improving events.

He would like to continue enhancing the DSU's visibility on all three campuses. He says it's going well on Sexton, but doing the same for Carleton was very difficult.

"It's a completely different world down there as far as scheduling and time frame," he says.

He has recently contacted the Health Sciences Students Association and plans to meet with those members to ensure Carleton campus' events are enhanced and that students there are getting their voices heard.

Osmond says he would also like to improve the system for buying tickets for campus events, as the information desk in the Student Union Building is now the only portal for students to buy tickets. He says he is working on a policy to get tickets in the hands of societies and residences to make tickets more accessible to students.

Osmond says he doesn't think students want their events planned for them.

"They just want support and they want recognition for what they do," he says. "They want help with it, but they want it to be theirs. Not 'here's what we're going to do,' but 'here's what we can offer.' I think that's a better approach."

-RUTH MESTTECHKIN



VICE PRESIDENT (INTERNAL)

Responsibilities: Chief Communications Officer of the Union; works with all of the DSU's societies; oversees all student communications – including the handbook and DSU website – and organizes the DSU's annual Leadership Conference.

The vice-president (internal) also chairs several committees, including: DSU Sustainability Office Board of Directors, Student Accessibility Fund, Residence Relations, Sexton Campus Advisory, Communications and Awareness, Grants, and Society Review.

Honorarium: \$27,056

MARK HOBBS

Age: 22

Hometown: Regina, Sask.

Major: Fifth-year political science

Past Experience: Commissioner for DSU VP (internal) 2008-present; sat on committees for society review, Sexton advisory and grants 2008-present

Which superpower do you wish you had? "I wish I could run faster."

What's your TV show guilty pleasure? "My TV had a little accident. It fell from the fourth storey of a building."

Do you have a specialty dish? Chicken Vindaloo.

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "I would go back to my childhood, because I think a lot of things that happened to me changed who I am today."

Mark Hobbs says if he's elected vice-president (internal), he plans on reaching all students at Dalhousie.

"I want to make sure that society administration is a lot more accessible," says Hobbs. "Right now the Tiger Society has been broken since I got there because we can't track down the people involved."

Hobbs says he also wants to put grant applications for societies online. He adds evaluating different grants plans is difficult for the DSU because it results in many deferrals.

"If you're not stepping into leadership roles and we're not making it easy for you to do that, then you're not going to be able to really have a competitive resume," says Hobbs.

Hobbs says he wants to ensure societies get funding to put toward student involvement, and that levies are properly spoken for.

He also wants to increase communication regarding campus activities, referencing a lack of attendees at Dal's recent Campus Master Plan sessions.

"What's the point in asking for feedback on a master plan, when nobody knows when you're meeting?" he says.

Hobbs promises the DSU website's search engine will work, if he's elected, and that the website will be updated regularly. He says he will achieve this through delegation to commissioners, and one of them will be a web-savvy individual.

The lack of a 24-hour study space is also an issue Hobbs says he hopes to tackle, by brokering a deal among the deans to either keep an entire building open, or one section of the Student Union Building open.

"If we moved Tiger Patrol from 6 (p.m.) to 12 (a.m.), to 12 (a.m.) to 6 (a.m.), then with the bus pass students would have 24-hour safe transport around campus," says Hobbs.

-RUTH MESTECKIN



CRAIG JENNEX

Age: 22

Hometown: Dartmouth, N.S.

Major: Fourth-year music

Past experience: DSU Returning Officer 2006/07; President of Society of Dalhousie Music Students 2006/07; SUB information desk employee 2006/08; DSU elections Deputy Returning Officer 2007/08; Grawood Marketing and Promotions 2008-present.

Which superpower do you wish you had? Teleportation

What's your guilty pleasure TV show? *Boston Public*

Do you have a specialty dish? Peanut butter and bologna sandwiches.

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? To the year 2050. "And then come back and invent everything before everybody else."

One of Craig Jennex's first priorities as vice-president (internal), if he's elected, would be revamping the DSU website. He wants the website to serve as a hub where students at each campus can easily find information about union functions and society events.

"If we want to stay relevant, and become relevant, in a lot of students' minds, I think we need to have a functioning website that's easily accessible to use," he says.

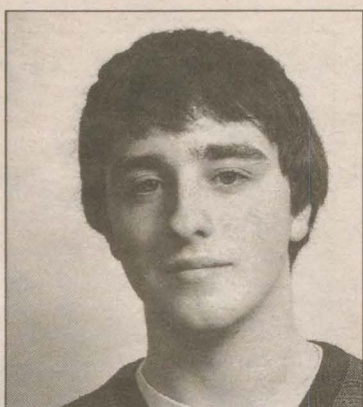
He also plans to create a society sustainability handbook, under his would-be duties as chair of the DSU's sustainability office board of directors, which would include simple ways for student groups to become more eco-friendly. As part of the vice-president (internal) portfolio's focus on communication, Jennex says he would create a DSU-tube video project that would allow DSU executives to periodically film one-minute updates and broadcast them to students. He also wants to foster more communication between student societies.

"The thing that I'm most excited for is working with societies and getting societies to work together," he says. "Whether it's the Classics Society and the Music Society when the music department's putting on the opera, or whether it's the African Students' (Association) and the Dalhousie Percussion Society, there's just endless possibilities for societies to work together and I think that needs to be pushed more."

Not enough students know what their DSU fees do for them, he says, and that's a problem he would aim to fix if elected.

"I would love for students at Dalhousie to know what I know about the DSU," he says. "I would like to be able to play a role in ensuring other students know what's there for them. I continue to have a great university experience, and a lot of that has to do with the DSU, so I feel like I should kind of give back."

-KATIE MAY



VICE PRESIDENT (EDUCATION)

Responsibilities: Notifies students about academic issues; sits on Senate; represents students through various university committees and through municipal, provincial, and federal lobby organizations; is responsible for the DSU's external and academic policies by chairing the Academic and External Affairs Committee.

Honorarium: \$24,966

EDGAR BURNS

Age: 20

Hometown: Halifax, N.S.

Major: Second-year biology

Past experience: Vice-President of Phi Kappa Pi 2007/08; President of Phi Kappa Pi fraternity 2008-present; Grawood employee 2008-present; Church council youth representative 2008-present.

Which superpower do you wish you had? The ability to fly

What's your guilty pleasure TV show? *CBC News*

Do you have a specialty dish? "A mean spaghetti sauce."

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? Ten days ahead to see who won the elections.

If Edgar Burns is elected vice-president (education), he plans to work very closely with one of the union's external lobby groups, the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA), to ensure university funding – particularly for deferred maintenance to campus buildings – is a priority leading up to a provincial election.

"If we don't push student issues enough through ANSSA," Burns says, "then our issues will be one of the first on the cutting block."

He also wants to lobby with ANSSA to ensure the provincial government doesn't back out of the three-year Memorandum of Understanding funding agreement it signed with N.S. universities in 2008.

If elected, Burns would push for a per-student funding transfer of government money proportionate to the number of out-of-province students in Nova Scotia.

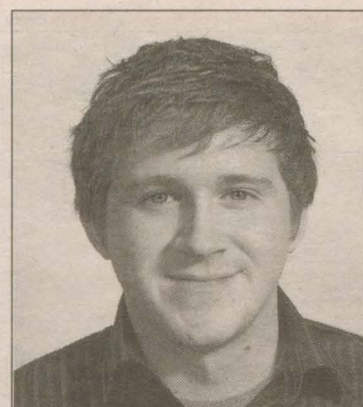
"In a way, they're being cheated out of the money that their government harbours," he says, explaining a per-student transfer would follow students to Nova Scotia and bring in more money for our provincial government.

Internally, Burns says he would continue to work toward securing late-night study space by exam time next fall, as well as a late-night transit service and a uniform grading scheme within each faculty. He plans to hold office hours on Sexton campus one day a week and to expand the DSU speaker series with more lecturers on a variety of topics.

He says his relative inexperience with the DSU puts him at an advantage when it comes to communicating with students who aren't familiar with the inner-workings of the union. He wants to make sure all students know what the vice-president (education) is doing for them by organizing classroom talks and by improving the weekly DSU Dispatch in *The Gazette*, among other communication methods.

"A fresh face with new ideas can only improve the DSU and only improve the portfolio," he says.

-KATIE MAY



ROB LEFORTE

Age: 20

Hometown: Dartmouth, N.S.

Major: Third-year political science

Past Experience: Dal men's rugby union football club: player 2006/09; Shinerama volunteer 2006/07, committee member 2008; Orientation week leader 2007; committee member 2008; Dal Undergraduate Political Science Society: vice-president (external) 2007/08, president 2008/09; Dal Arts and Social Sciences Society: political science rep 2007/08, acted as officer of marketing and promotions 2008; SUB Info Desk: 2007/09; Elections committee RO 2008; events committee member: 2008/09; Dal delegate to fall and winter assemblies for the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student's Associations 2008/09; Organized the first annual DSU Toy Drive for the IWK in 2008.

Which superpower do you wish you had? "Time travel, so that if I made a mistake, I could go back and fix it."

What's your TV show guilty pleasure? *The O.C., Sober House and T.I.'s Road to Redemption.*

Do you have a specialty dish? "I make a really good omelette."

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why?

"I would want to go to the future so that I could prepare for it now. Maybe the day after election day."

If elected as vice-president (education), Rob LeForte wants to ensure Dal students are given the respect they deserve in the community, from the government – as far as funding goes – and from the university.

"I believe our bargaining power with government and municipal organizations can be improved by getting students more involved and having a more focused message that is a collective voice," he says.

He says he'd like to push for the provincial government to match the funding that's given by the federal government for infrastructure.

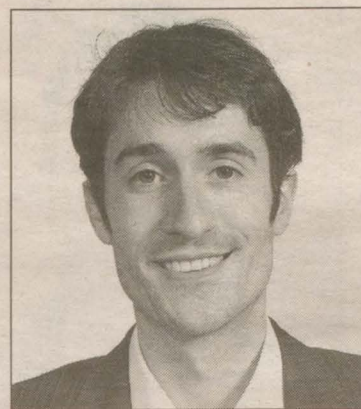
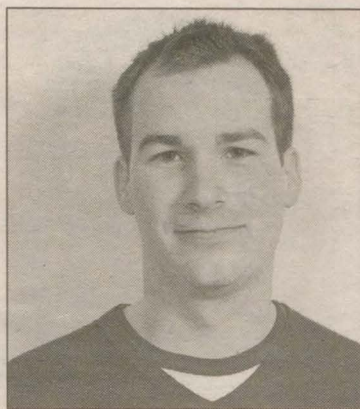
LeForte would also like to see more input from students, so he'd like to create an education policy committee, which would invite students with different educational backgrounds and different societies to talk about what kind of issues they see affecting them most. The issues would then be taken to external lobbying organizations – such as ANSSA – and then the government.

"Instead of having four or five people there who are generally focusing their message and representing students," he says, "you'd have a much larger pool to gather information from and hopefully with your network being increased, you'd be able to have more information and also put that into point form so that it's easily understood and digestible."

He would also like students to know what kind of organizations represent them to the government and how they can get involved with influencing student union policies, starting with first-year students.

-MELISSA DI COSTANZO

DALHOUSIE VOTES '09



BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPRESENTATIVE

Responsibilities: In charge of the conduct, management, administration and control of the property, revenue, business and affairs of the university; allocates the daily management of the university to the president and senior administration.

JANET CONRAD

Age: 23
Hometown: Pugwash, N.S.
Major: Fifth-year mechanical engineering
Past Experience: Secretary of undergraduate engineering society 2004/05; Sexton campus director since 2008; Canadian Federation of Engineering Students; Atlantic representative on the board of directors.

Which superpower do you wish you had?

"The ability to have the Internet in my brain, so I can look up anything whenever I want it."

What's your guilty pleasure TV show? *How I Met Your Mother*.

Do you have a specialty dish?

"Chilli."
Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why?
 "I always think it would be really fun to go back when my parents were my age and see what they were like."

Janet Conrad would like to see student apathy addressed on campus if she is elected as a board of governors representative.

She says she can represent students well because she spent her first two years of study on Studley campus and her last three years on Sexton campus. She says she's worked on Carleton and will be a Carleton campus student next year.

She's also lived in residence as an undergraduate student and will be a graduate student next year.

"I fully cover the representation and I think I can strongly represent the students because I felt a lot of their issues," she says. Conrad says because she's a student on Sexton campus, she can see some of the big divides overlooked between Sexton and Studley campuses, such as a lack of student services on Sexton.

She says the campus doesn't have career counselling, health services, or personal counselling.

To solve these problems, Conrad says she'd like to form a committee and institute constitutional reform. She also says serving as an active councillor will help her alleviate the divides between both campuses.

"You can do a lot though changing the constitution and I think you can do a lot though representing everyone... at council," she says.

Conrad would also like to encourage students from all campuses to join committees and to get out and vote in university elections.

"There needs to be a better format for lines of communication between all of the executive and full-time staff and their employees," she says.

She wants to compile written descriptions for each paid position within the DSU.

"As an example, my job (the Sexton campus director), it's written down nowhere what my job actually is. I make it up. And so, I've written one for me," she says. "I want to encourage and get the ball rolling to start a committee which will get it all written down for each position."

-MELISSA DI COSTANZO

ADAM HARRIS

Age: 23
Hometown: Kentville, N.S.
Major: First-year medicine
Past Experience: St. Francis Xavier Board of Governors member 2006/07; St. FX. student union president 2007/08; sat on boards for Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations and the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations 2007/08.

Which superpower do you wish you had?

The ability to regenerate.
What's your guilty pleasure TV show? "I watch the 11:30 news with (CTV Atlantic news anchor) Bruce Frisko every night."

Do you have a specialty dish?

Sweet chilli loaded with molasses.
Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "I would go back to Augusta, Georgia, 1997, when Tiger Woods won his first Masters. Tiger Woods winning that golf tournament has taken on a much greater meaning in that it's empowered the African-American community."

Adam Harris says he would advocate for student engagement if he's elected to the board of governors.

Student experience is a hot topic at Dal right now, he says.

"You need to empower students to do what they're doing now, and to not impose any university-sanctioned traditions on them, but to give them support whether it be financial or communications-wise," Harris says.

Deferred maintenance is also an issue Harris would like to address if he's elected.

"If you talk to students around Dal campus, as I have throughout this year, there are buildings, specifically on Carleton campus where I am, that students would like to see upgraded and brought up to par with buildings of that calibre throughout the country," he says.

He adds this would require advocating for government funding, along with private donations.

"The universities need to continue to be there even in these tough economic times," says Harris, adding that investing in education infrastructure is key.

He says he would also like to improve student health on campus, including upgrading the fitness equipment at the Dalplex and increasing the amount of sheltered biking spaces on campus so more students can bike to campus.

As well, Harris wants to continue monitoring the provincial government's work on the negotiation of the Memorandum of Understanding, developed last year.

"With the economy slumping, I think it's important that the university, along with the other universities in the province, keeps the pressure on the government to continue to invest and reinvest in universities and tuition freeze and reduction for Nova Scotia students and out of province students."

-RUTH MESTECKIN

WILL HORNE

Age: 20
Hometown: Charlottetown, P.E.I.
Major: Third-year music and international development studies
Experience: Ecology Action Centre volunteer 2007-09; Vice-president of the Society of Dalhousie Music Students 2008/09; Board member of the DSU Sustainability Office 2008/09.

Which superpower do you wish you had?

"The superpower of winning elections."

What's your guilty pleasure TV show?

The O.C.

Do you have a specialty dish?

Lasagna.

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why?

"The late 60s, so I could energize myself with all the social revolutionary energy."

Will Horne promises that, if elected, he won't be intimidated by other powerful positions on the university's board of governors.

"I hope to be sticking it to the man on behalf of the student body," he says.

"I know that my background and my personality would allow me to keep pressing on and not be weaseled out of my student-centric position," he says. "I would not be in Tom Traves' pocket."

Horne thinks students need to speak up for things they need at the governing bodies of the university.

"There would be an impetus to not fall victim... to their fancy political speech."

Horne is one of three Society of Dalhousie Music Students executives running for a student union position this election. He points to the success of the society this past year as an example of the experience he would bring to the position of student rep on the board of governors.

He wants to bring up issues such as the need for a 24-hour study space and building maintenance.

He says although the university has a decent plan of increasing funding for deferred maintenance by \$1 million a year, there are facilities on campus that demand immediate action.

"There are a number of facilities on campus that are deplorable right now," he says, mentioning the Arts centre. "There is still asbestos on places on campus, and that makes people die in 20 years."

He also has plans for his contribution as a DSU councillor.

"The Imagine survey revealed... that food is a big issue on campus," he says. "In my time on council meetings, that is something I would talk (about)."

He says the DSU's exclusivity contract with Sodexo should give the union room to negotiate lower prices and healthier food options in the SUB.

"With enough pressure and enough passion from council members and the student body at large, Sodexo will smarten up a bit. Or, a lot," he says.

-BETHANY HORNE

FREDERIC PERRON-WELCH

Age: 25
Hometown: Ottawa, Ont.
Major: Second-year marine and environmental law
Past Experience: First-year representative Law Students Society 2007/08; Vice-president (external); Law Students Society 2008-present.

Which superpower do you wish you had?

Unlimited energy.

What's your guilty pleasure TV show?

"I don't actually own a TV."

Do you have a specialty dish?

Thai and Indian foods.

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why?

The future.
 "I'm interested in making this a more liveable world."

If Frederic Perron-Welch is elected to the board of governors, he plans to revamp University Avenue because, he says, right now it's not an effective use of space.

"It could be far more useful to the students as more of an open space where it would be actually pleasant to spend time, create more (links) between faculties, get greater active transport, like cycling and walking," says Perron-Welch.

He says he would encourage students to be more active and he would develop greater campus connections with bicycle routes throughout the city.

Perron-Welch says he would also strive to create more links among Dal's three campuses.

"They're all fairly distinct," he says. "There's steps that could be taken to bridge those gaps and to make it more of an integrated experience, and to bring students together rather than keep them separated."

He would also like to advocate for a greater student role in long-term campus and budget planning, as some existing committees are not open to students. He wants to change that.

"It's important that student perspectives are involved in making those decisions," says Perron-Welch. "Students have particularly relevant views on the long-term interests of this school - not only short-term student interests - and (on) making this a more welcoming campus, a more sustainable campus, and for students in the future whose needs will remain fairly constant."

Dal is the fourth university Perron-Welch has attended. He says this gives him an advantage because he knows how things are done elsewhere, what Dal is doing well and how it can improve.

-RUTH MESTECKIN

VIKRAM RAI

Age: 20
Hometown: Dartmouth, N.S.
Major: Second-year economics
Past experience: Society Policy ad-hoc committee 2007/08; NSPIRG ad-hoc committee 2008; Orientation Week committee 2008; Constitutional Review committee 2008/09 Recruitment committee 2008; Board of Operations 2008-present.

Which superpower do you wish you had?

The ability to fly.

What's your guilty pleasure TV show?

"The only things I watch on TV, aside from the news, are Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert."

Do you have a specialty dish?

Cheese on toasted bagels.

Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why?

To witness the 1980 Quebec separatist referendum and the Quiet Revolution.

Vikram Rai is running for board of governors (BoG) representative to make sure the university administration doesn't overlook students' concerns, particularly as it completes its new Campus Master Plan. If he's elected, Rai plans to keep student needs such as 24-hour study space, athletics facilities renovations and reliable campus security on the university's radar as it makes tough decisions in the coming school year to deal with the economic downturn.

"The university isn't going to be able to do as much as it wanted to in 2010. It's really had to renew its long-term focus this year because of the trouble in the financial markets," he says. "So, I think, looking at that and going forward, we need to make sure that it's done with students in mind."

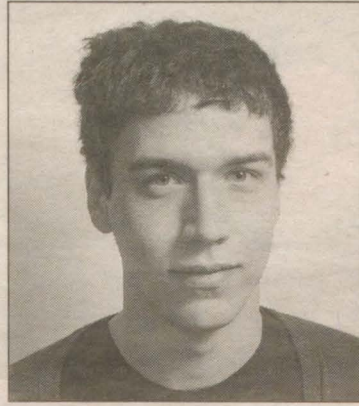
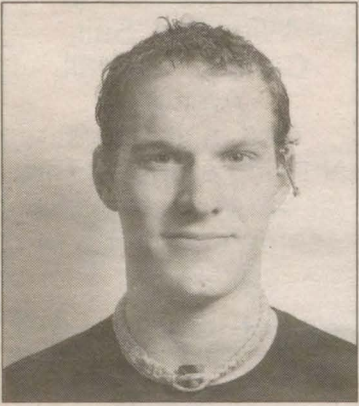
Rai also wants to increase student representation on existing board of governors committees. Student reps currently sit on three BoG committees, and Rai says he would like to expand student representative involvement on the board as well as ensure that these committees, such as the student experience committee, are serving students to their full potential.

"The student experience committee doesn't appear to have a mandate and its activities don't appear to be very open to students," he says. "There's a pretty big disconnect between what the student experience is and how the board of governors perceives the student experience to be."

Rai says he would use his experience serving on several DSU committees in the past to inform his role on the board.

"I've had a lot of experience making difficult choices and judging priorities and thinking about, when dealing with financial or policy decisions, how they affect people," he says. "I think that's really one of the things I'm best at."

-KATIE MAY



SENATE REPRESENTATIVES (UNDERGRADUATE)

Responsibilities: Meets regularly throughout the year to receive committee reports/recommendations, approval of degrees and new academic programs, create/amend academic regulations, and advise the president on the university operating budget prior to its approval by the board of governors.

GLENN BLAKE

Age: 23
Hometown: Whitby, Ont.
Major: Third-year international development studies and economics
Experience: Amnesty International 2006/07; Papercut 2006/07; Outreach coordinator for Canadian Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, 2007; Chair of CSSDP, 2008/09, President of Dalhousie Students for a Sensible Drug Policy, 2008/09

Which superpower do you wish you had? X-ray vision.
What's your guilty pleasure TV show? *MythBusters*.
Do you have a specialty dish? Vegan perogies.
Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "To see how they made the pyramids."

Glenn Blake gets excited when he talks about what he wants to do for students if elected undergraduate senate representative. He says his life as a student has not always been easy, and he wants to represent people like himself on the governing bodies of the university.

"I haven't had things handed to me on a platter," he says. "I work two jobs and take a full course load."

He says he has experience advocating for better academic practices. Some of his professors neglect to put course textbooks on reserve in the library. Since Blake can't afford to buy them, he has had to convince professors to see things his way.

"I want to reach out to people like me who have very little time on their hands but are still a part of this school," he says.

Blake has known students accused of academic offenses as they have gone through the Senate Discipline Committee. He says he wants to see for himself, by sitting on that committee, how the hearing process can carry on for such a long time.

Blake says students should be able to have a say in the physical planning of the university. He points to the construction site on Coburg Road and LeMarchant Street.

"There is lots of opportunity for student input on that new building."

"I want to do as much on the DSU council as I can," Blake adds.

He doesn't think all of the current uses of the Student Union Building are in the best interests of students. For example, he was upset one day when he sat in a chair in the lobby and an electronic voice coming from his chair asked him for \$1.50.

"This is not what student space is for - so we can export money to other people," he says. "It is a space for students. If they want to use massage chairs, they can go to the mall."

-BETHANY HORNE

MEREDITH EVANS

Age: 20
Hometown: Saint John, N.B.
Major: Third-year music
Past experience: SUB information desk employee 2007-present; President of Society of Dalhousie Music Students 2008/09; Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society Member-at-Large 2008/09.

Which superpower do you wish you had? The ability to control time
What's your guilty pleasure TV show? *Grey's Anatomy*.
Do you have a specialty dish? Peanut butter balls.
Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "I'd go back in time to see what my parents were like when they were my age."

If Meredith Evans is elected as an undergraduate student senator, she plans to focus her position on three main goals: representation, communication and participation. She says she hopes to effectively represent students while serving on senate committees and on DSU council by communicating with them and encouraging participation in union activities.

If elected, she wants to implement a uniform grading system within each faculty.

"That's one issue that's important to students that I would work to promote," Evans says.

Some of her areas of interest include the mandates of the senate committee on the environment and the senate discipline committee, which deals with academic integrity. Evans says she wants to work with this committee to find new ways of communicating to students the seriousness of issues such as plagiarism.

"There's the little blurb in everyone's syllabus but no one really pays too much attention," she says, adding she would work with professors in different faculties to ensure students are clear on what constitutes an academic offence.

There are three undergrad senate representative spots and three students running to fill them, but Evans says she will use her experience as Society of Dal Music Students president to her advantage.

"Even though I'm not competing with anyone, I don't think that takes away from my desire to be an excellent student representative," she says. "I'm very responsible and I'm very observant and understanding of different issues. I think I'd be very good (at) listening to students and communicating those issues to students and to the senate."

-KATIE MAY

SHANE SIMMS

Age: 20
Hometown: Dartmouth, N.S.
Major: Third-year management
Experience: DSU information desk attendant 2008/09; Orientation Week leader 2008/09

Which superpower do you wish you had? "To be able to pick up any talent immediately."
What's your guilty pleasure TV show? "I don't watch bad TV, but I listen to Björk."
Specialty dish you cook? Three-tiered grilled-cheese sandwich with bacon.
Where would you go if you had a time machine, and why? "To the moon on July 6, 1969 to see if the first moon landing was real."

If elected, Shane Simms wants to beat student apathy and help his peers see they can have a voice on the senate and on the DSU.

"I want to connect with students on a personal level, or by e-mail, to be able to bring students' concerns," he says.

"A lot of kids don't have the time of day to get involved with the DSU."

Although apathy is a hurdle, he doesn't think it's an irresolvable one.

"I don't think (students) realize the changes that they can make."

Recently, one of his professors singled him out in class because he was leaving before the lecture was over. He felt uncomfortable and thinks that's an example of issues a senate undergraduate representative should help clarify or create a policy around.

"You can walk out of a lot of classes, and some profs don't care," he says. "How can students be expected to follow ground rules that vary?"

Simms also hopes to focus on the environment if he sits on the senate.

"I want to be able to hear what ideas students may say about how we can change different parts of the university to make it more environmentally friendly."

He lists this as an example of something many students have a strong opinion about.

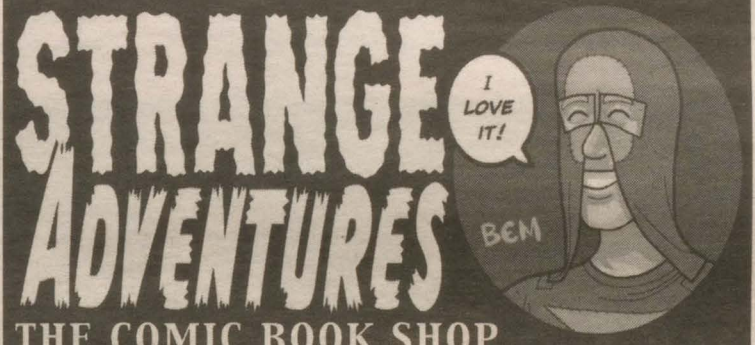
"I'd love to take those opinions to the senate to make change," he says. "We can change the policies of the university."

Simms is also interested in improving the disciplinary process for students and sitting on the senate discipline committee. Simms says, since January, he has been attending DSU council meetings to get a feel for how the meetings run. He says he's ready to participate in the operations of that body if he's elected.

-BETHANY HORNE

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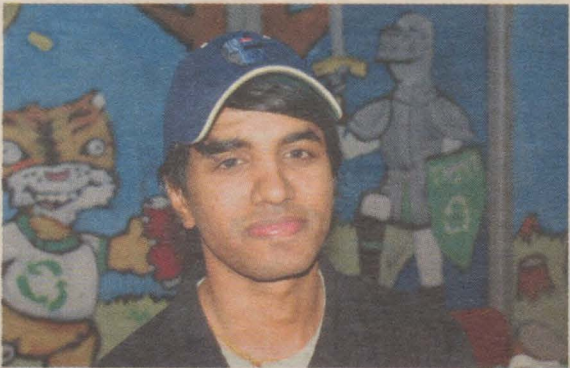
What's the longest you've gone without sleep?



“Pushing 72 hours, which would make me a certifiable lunatic.”
Corey Hinchey, second-year bioengineering



“Two days – I stayed up reading a novel for an exam and then stayed out all the next night.”
Rory Clark, third-year English and film



“I'll go two days in a row with only four hours of sleep a night during midterms and for my reports.”
Somasundaram Subbu, first-year master's in computer science



“Fifty-six hours spent on buses, taxis and planes. And I was sick.”
Märta Vigerstad, fourth-year microbiology and immunology



“A day and a half, doing an economics essay and bio-chemistry lab.”
Naina Ummat, third-year biology



“Coming on 72 hours, working three jobs over the summer.”
Irene Jantz-Lee, first-year engineering



“Forty-five hours, studying for midterms.”
Ahmed Nizam, fourth-year biochemistry



“I spent a week at my computer when I found out there was porn on the Internet.”
John Packman, fourth-year “film” studies

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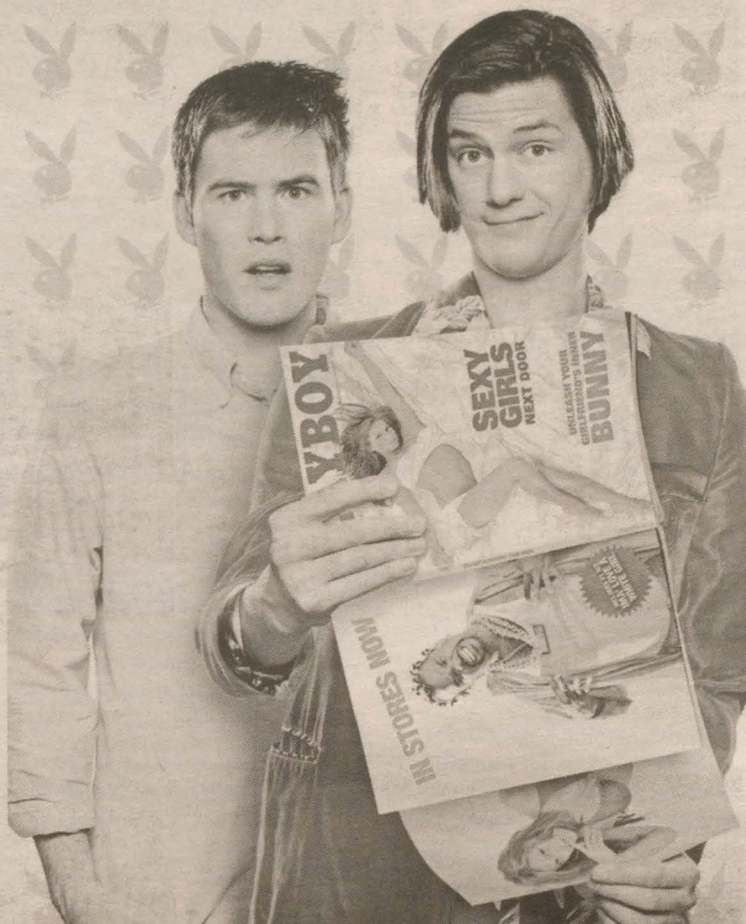


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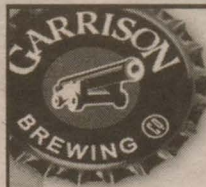
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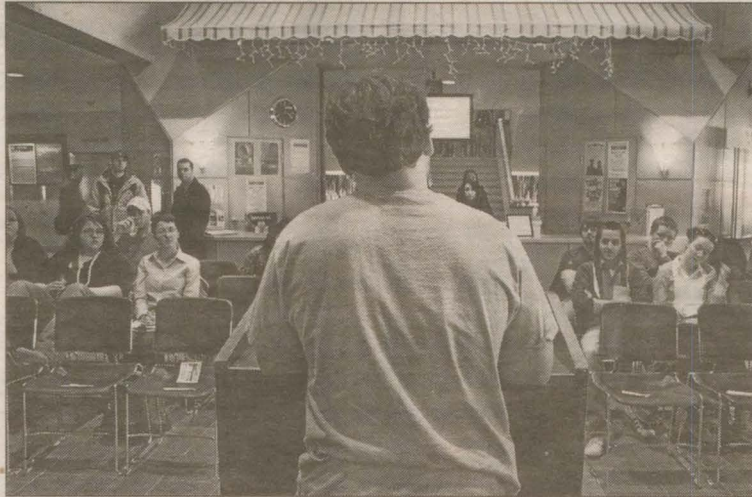
Watching what's next in our student government

JULIE SOBOWALE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Movies are a distraction from everyday life but they can also mirror the society around us. Last weekend, the big draw to the movie theatres was the release of *Watchmen*, the adaptation of the all-time Alan Moore classic graphic novel. The philosophical superhero film speaks about humanity, suffering, loss, love and the environment.

Oddly enough, the film reminded me of our student government, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU). While we don't have masked avengers to protect us from faulty university policies and computer robberies, the DSU is faced with hefty issues that hit the core of what it means to be a student government. What should be the relationship between the DSU and societies in terms of keeping societies accountable? Is it appropriate for the DSU to make exclusive contracts with corporations such as Pepsi Co.? What role should the DSU play in the local food movement or other key environmental issues?

The big dilemma for Warner Bros. producers was how to adapt arguably the greatest comic book series ever. In



Shortly after this photo was taken at last year's all candidates debate, DSU VP (internal) Daniel Boyle flew out of the ceiling and saved a cat from a burning building. Or was that a dream?

a phone interview, director Zack Snyder said he was reluctant to do the film but felt the studio would "do a standard PG-13 film with a sequel that wouldn't be faithful to the comic book."

Snyder decided to take the risk and worked to create a film that would appease fans and newcomers to *Watchmen*. The result is a sweeping, violent film that works most of the time.

So what does *Watchmen* have to

do with the DSU elections? Moore's masterpiece argues that there are neither heroes nor villains, that life is more than black and white. The same holds true for the issues that plague our student government. The issues involving the Dal Campus Master Plan are not about whether we should have a redesign, but about how such a plan will affect students. The argument about the Pepsi con-

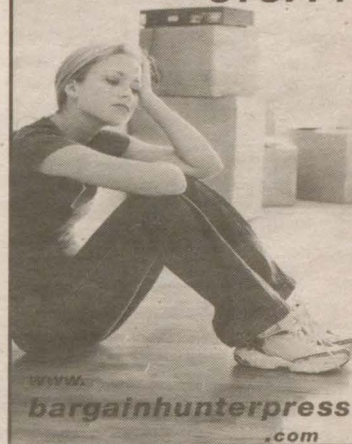
tracts is more than just the validity of the DSU making those contracts – it's about how and why the DSU makes contracts on behalf of students in the first place.

Voter apathy is touted about this time every year. Low voter turnout can be interpreted in many different ways. Do students simply not care, or is their inaction the result of a less-than-inspiring leadership? In the *Watchmen*, the Batman-like superhero Night Owl asks his fellow crime-fighting colleague, the Comedian, what they are fighting for. Are they fighting to protect the American Dream or to save people from a nightmare? The same can be asked of the dozens of students running for various positions in the DSU from March 17-19. Are they running to protect existing policies for the future or to save students from the ills of the DSU from the past?

While the *Watchmen* film failed in comparison to the Moore's work, I'm hoping this year's election will rebound from the dismal 15 per cent voter turnout rate from last year. We should take the opportunity to keep our student government accountable. So candidates, beware. We're watching.

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GAZETTE • NEWS

Dal tests master plan ideas

LUCY SCHOLEY
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Making decisions about the future of Dalhousie's campuses is no easy task when everyone has varying ideas, says Larry Sherman.

The leader of the Dalhousie Campus Master Plan, a major cross-campus development plan, says trying to co-ordinate the needs of students and staff on each campus as well as the city's interests is complicated.

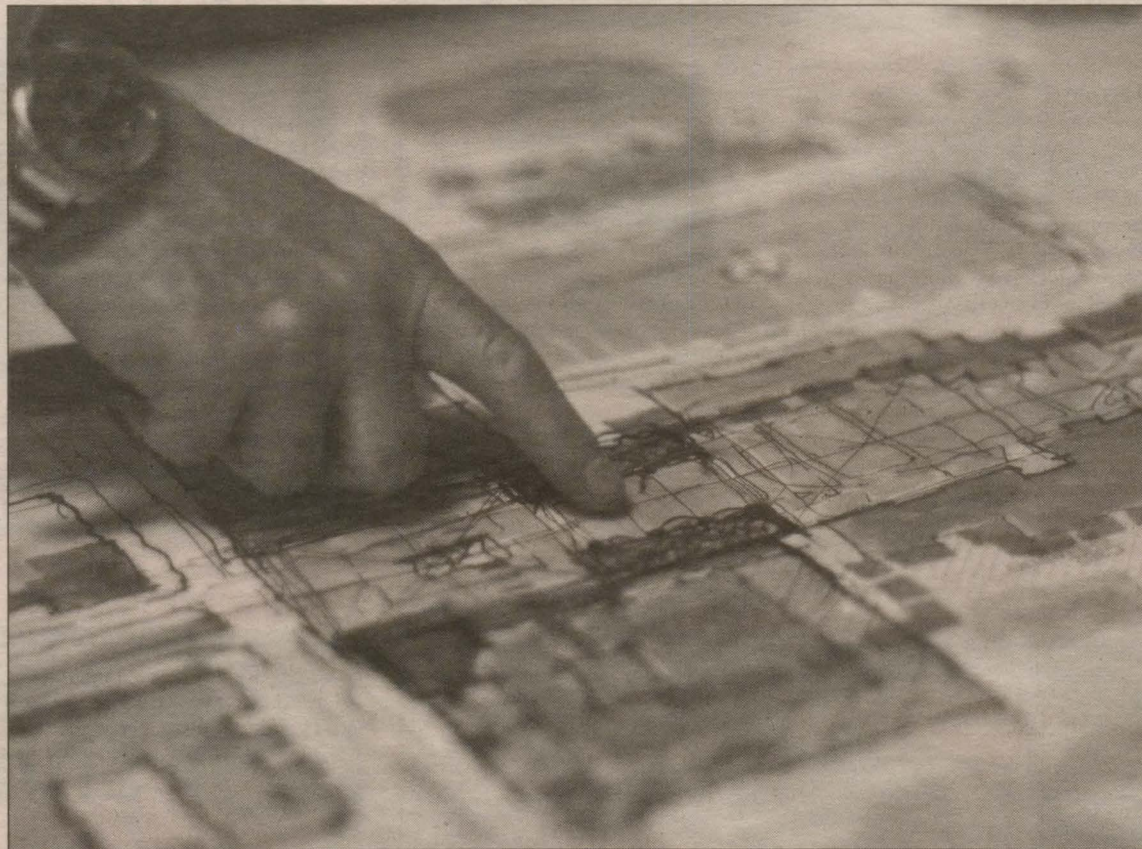
"Everyone's concerned about sustainability and steps towards improving it, but they take different forms in each campus," he said at a session last week.

Sherman is part of IBI Group, a group of design and planning consultants Dal hired to help with the planning process. The university hosted "charettes" or workshops about the Campus Master Plan last week. The workshops went from Tuesday to Saturday, each focusing on a different campus. Dal invited faculty members, students, neighbouring residents and representatives from different agencies such as HRM and the IWK to give input in these sessions.

Sherman said co-ordinating partnerships with these agencies is a vital step because changes to the university also affect the surrounding city.

Everyone gathered in the Rebecca Cohn's Sculpture Room to hear the consultants explain their ideas using rough campus sketches. Some workshops were busier than others. A full house of about 36 attended Wednesday's morning session, but only about 15 attended Friday evening. Sherman said the sessions still gave a variety of feedback.

"You just have to work your way along in testing options and testing ideas and finding out what works



"The greatest challenge is going to be in getting decisions made," said Larry Sherman, Master Plan leader.

and what's acceptable," he said of the process.

Last week's workshops were only one phase of the three-step plan. The consultants gathered ideas from the public in phase one and are now in phase two of the plan – testing ideas and asking for more public input. The IBI Group will oversee final decisions and implementation of ideas in the third and final phase.

Sherman explained the Master Plan's focus. At the top, he said, was student experience.

"This is not a traditional theme," he said. "Universities are only begin-

ning to understand the importance of the informal as well as the formal learning and acculturation and socialization experience of students."

The plan also focuses on the role of the university in the city and the development of University Avenue.

"As Dalhousie matures, so the city and the region mature and they will do that together and they will become increasingly interdependent," said Sherman.

Other issues introduced in each workshop ranged from parking to using solar energy in campus buildings. Sustainability and utilization of

campus space also were high on the list.

"There's a serious, immediate demand for space," Sherman said, "for teaching, for student activities and student services."

But a lot of the campus space is rarely used.

This is a problem for Gail Creaser, a lecturer at Dal's school of physiotherapy. As both a faculty member and a neighbour, she attended the Carleton campus workshop on Wednesday with her own concerns. She pointed to an area in the campus sketch where consultants drew a

building and said it's "the most beautiful space and it's hardly utilized."

She added the campus needs to be better structured to encourage people to use the area.

"I think it's valuable space," she said, "so to think it will stay as it is, under-utilized, you know, it's ridiculous."

Aubrey Fricker, the neighbourhood representative on the Dalhousie University Community Committee, said developing a relationship between the city and the community is important.

"The economic core of this area is the university and the hospitals and so, I mean, we are defined by them as a district," he said.

He added the planning process itself has its complications. It's taking longer than the consultants initially estimated.

"This, in effect, is actually phase 1B, not phase 2, that's happening right now," he said. The consultants are "still listening and fact-finding more than trying to advance really coherent proposals."

But Fricker said he's pleased with the process so far.

"I'm encouraged. I think this is very progressive. It's not going to achieve what everybody thinks," he said, but added it will facilitate the development process.

Sherman agrees the plan is far from finished.

"The greatest challenge is going to be in getting decisions made," he said. "It's not in doing the planning. The planning is relatively easy compared to getting the decisions in such a complicated environment actually made and implementation occurs."

"It's not business as usual," he added. "Dalhousie's future is one of uncertainty and change and greater choices for students and faculty."

Dallaire pushes for more Canadian involvement

TIM MITCHELL
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Senator Romeo Dallaire said the year 2017 – the 150th anniversary of Confederation and the 100th anniversary of Vimy Ridge – is a good target year to end the use of child soldiers in the world.

"Canada bled to help other nations," Dallaire said to an audience of roughly 100 when he spoke at Dalhousie's Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on March 5.

The event was organized by the Child Soldiers Initiative, a non-profit organization Dallaire helped found with the ultimate goal of ending the use of child soldiers.

"How in the hell did we end up in this crisis (of apathy) anyway?" he said of Canada's role as a middle power in the world. "Who's leading us? Our government is doing crisis management, not moving into a new era to shape the future."

Dallaire said Canada has a responsibility to protect and aid in the eradication of child soldiers.

"There is no reason to use children as a weapon of war," said the retired Lieutenant General, best known for commanding the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) during the 1994 Rwandan genocide.

"(Canada) signed the child soldiers agreement but we didn't implement it. We don't even do it at home – we've still got one rotting in Guantanamo Bay," Dallaire said, referring to Omar Khadr, the Afghan-Canadian who was detained as a child soldier in 2002 at the age of 15.

Canada signed the United Nations Paris Principles agreement in 1993, which commits to the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of child soldiers across the world.

The U.N. estimates there are 300,000 child soldiers in the world, mostly in sub-Saharan Africa.

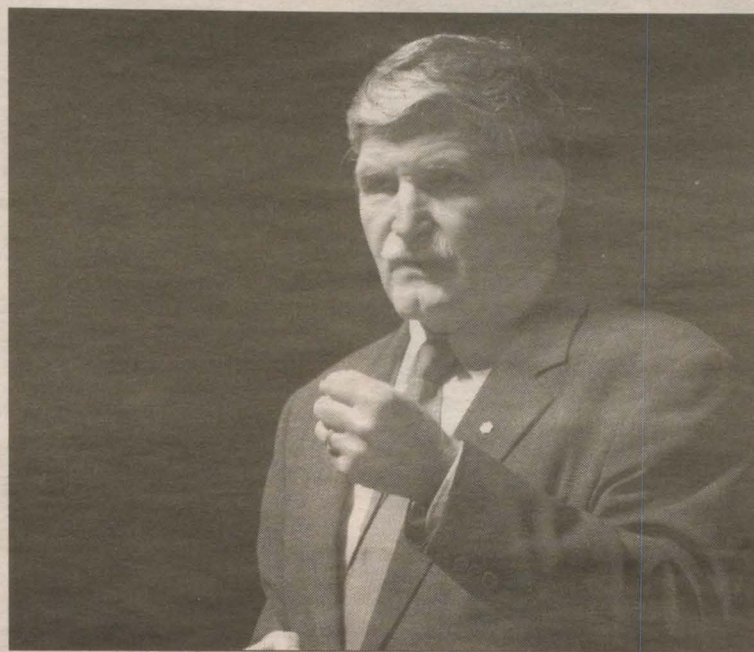
Dallaire recalled negotiating with one child soldier at a Rwandan blockade, who shoved an AK-47 up one of Dallaire's nostrils with his finger on the trigger.

"To this day, I believe the only reason he didn't pull the trigger is that he saw the chocolate bar in my hand," said Dallaire.

He said classical peacekeeping is no longer effective today.

"You can't stand there with a blue beret, watching people getting slaughtered."

He encouraged the audience to get involved in stopping the use of child soldiers and to encourage the



PAUL BALITE/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Romeo Dallaire wants students to stop the use of child soldiers. The retired Lieutenant General spoke at the Rebecca Cohn on March 5.

Canadian government to be more active on the issue.

"Your generation, in my opinion, is the most able to do this. Get out off your butts and become activists," said Dallaire. "You are part of the body politic that holds the balance of power in this country."

He asked how many members of the audience write their Member of Parliament daily. Not a single hand went up. He said youth aged 18 to 30 make up 35 per cent of the population and barely 15 per cent of youth vote.

"Don't tell me you're not being heard," he said. "You're not speaking."

Shelly Whitman, deputy director of the Centre for Foreign Policy studies at Dal and member of the Child Soldiers Initiative, helped bring Dallaire to Dal.

"I was very happy with the response from the audience and the fact that we had a sellout crowd," said Whitman. "I'm hoping we made somewhere around \$14,000 for the Child Soldiers Initiative."

Dal is an associate member of the Child Soldiers Initiative and is in the process of becoming a partner member, which means the university would have a more active role in collaborating on research, giving comments on key aspects of projects and participating in fundraising events.

"The strengths (Dal) provides are the academic freedom and the ability to tap into key professors, even students that are active and involved," said Whitman.

Whitman said Dal is open to finding ways to help students collaborate and co-operate with the Child Soldiers Initiative.

"You have to look at it from a multidimensional and interdisciplinary approach, which is what makes it a great thing to do at a university," said Whitman. "People that are involved in social work, psychology, international development studies, political science history, economics, child focus issues, gender dynamics, there are all kinds of people doing research in various ways that can all contribute positively to find some answers to the issue."

The Canadian government should be doing more for child soldiers, Whitman said.

"The money doesn't even need to be huge, that's the misperception. We're only asking for our government to commit to what they've agreed to: 0.7 per cent. We don't even get there," said Whitman. "We only give 0.28 per cent. It's not that it's impossible; some countries do it. It's just how they prioritize. The Canadian government has to be very clear that we need to live up to our international obligations, certainly the Omar Khadr case – (the government) should be doing more instead of just standing back from it. They put up their hands and said 'there's nothing we can do about it,' she added.

"The world allows this to occur, we know it occurs, but we're not actively engaged. We should be up in arms about this."



JOSH BOYTER/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Sebastien Heins is one of five students acting as international electoral observers during the El Salvador presidential election this week.

Students to witness El Salvador elections

MICHELLE HAMPSON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Several Dalhousie students are travelling to El Salvador on March 15 as international electoral observers of the country's presidential elections.

James Hutt, 21, is one of those students. He's participating as an electoral observer with the Halifax Observers Project: El Salvador (HOPES).

"There's a lot of different forms of fraud and corruption that's been prevalent in the country for a long time. It's our job to be aware of that and take that into consideration," said Hutt, a third-year international development studies and Spanish student.

Since 1992, El Salvador has been under the rule of a dominant political party, the National Republican Alliance, or ARENA, and has been subjected to high levels of electoral fraud. HOPES has been raising money to attend the elections since last fall and is sending six people later this month. Two are Dal students, three are University of King's College students and one is a doctor.

The Organization of American States' discovered several Salvadoran voting irregularities in its 2007 independent audit. It found many people vote twice and there were roughly 100,000 dead people registered to vote.

Electoral fraud is not the only problem. Violence is another issue.

Katrina MacNeil, a 22-year-old student, travelled with other HOPES members to attend the Salvadoran municipal and legislative elections on Jan. 18. On the evening MacNeil arrived in El Salvador, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) mayoral candidate's car was stoned.

In 2008, more than six FMLN party and social movement leaders were murdered with no follow-up investigations.

"There's a lot of fear, but then, I think there's a lot of excitement too," said MacNeil, describing the atmosphere. "A lot of poor people want change because they've been left behind."

According to a poll completed in December 2008, more than 35 per cent of Salvadorans identified the economy as the country's main problem, while 20 per cent cited poverty and 15 per cent said crime.

The majority of polls predict the FMLN is the party poised to win the upcoming presidential elections. The FMLN presidential candidate, Mauricio Funes, has a double-digit lead over the ARENA candidate, Rodrigo Avila. Both are leaning on the platform of "change." Some see this move, in Avila's case, as an attempt to distance himself from previous ARENA administrations.

The FMLN formed at the beginning of a 1980 civil war as five guerrilla groups came together. It was officially recognized as a political party with the signing of the Peace Accords in 1992.

During a civil war that left more than 75,000 dead, the FMLN fought against the right-wing military government, which was backed by the U.S. government. Now, the battle will go to the polls. If the FMLN succeeds in this election, it will be the first leftist party in the country to do so.

The U.S. has a history of electoral intervention. In the 2004 Salvadoran election, U.S. State Department officials and members of Congress stated that Salvadoran-U.S. relations would be threatened if the FMLN were to win presidency, intimidating many voters.

Despite U.S. officials claims of neutrality during this election, some Salvadoran right-wing organizations are still trying to push the poor Salvadoran-U.S. relations tactic to scare voters away from the FMLN.

This electoral fraud and political pressure has influenced Salvadoran elections consistently.

But hundreds of international electoral observers will be present during this election. A joint report by the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador, the North American Congress on Latin America and Upside Down World says, "if current poll numbers hold, the large number of international observers monitoring the elections will ratify an FMLN victory, initiating the first alternation of power in two decades."

Sebastien Heins, an international development studies and English student, is also acting as an international electoral observer for the presidential election with HOPES.

"Having people who are not a part of their country show an interest in the outcome, shows an international interest and appreciation for their democracy, for the outcome of their country, for their peace and for the peoples' rights," he said.

The majority of HOPES members attending the presidential election are set to leave for El Salvador March 10 and return March 19.

"We're foreigners... We can't walk in there and try to make a change," said Hutt. "We're there to help facilitate it and nothing more."

The HOPES members will be trained the day after they arrive in El Salvador by the electoral office that organizes El Salvador's elections. They'll do a lot of their work the day after election day, filling out reports on the election.

"The idea of affecting a country's history or at least being a part of a major social movement or social happening in a country's history is extremely attractive," Heins said.

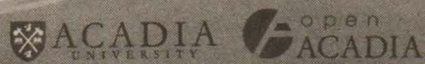
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A battle of hacks and flacks: the view of a Dal News insider

MICHELLE HAMPSON
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Lately, I have noticed increasing condescension, particularly coming from journalists, directed at public relations (PR) personnel. As a journalism student, I find this especially pertinent as the deterioration of the media business, combined with the poor economy, causes more and more journalists to "go over to the dark side."

But, is PR really such a bad thing?

In the recent *Gazette* election, I ran for opinions editor and lost. During the question- and answer-period, my job as a Dal News writer was challenged. For the next five days I could not stop thinking about the nature of public relations.

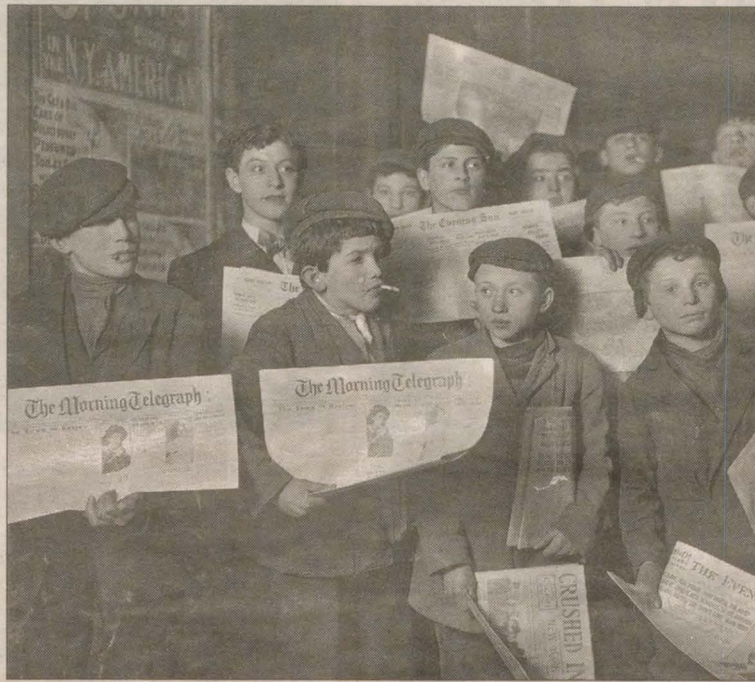
The truth is, I had never truly considered my job at Dal News as PR. Let me explain.

Most of the stories I write report on the activities that groups of students do on campus. I have heard first-hand accounts of how my articles have piqued the interest of other students and encouraged them to get involved in the groups and events I have covered.

It's true that my articles only discuss positive things that students do on campus. That positive angle, however, has brought positive change and has made a difference.

And sometimes there is only good news to report. When I was covering the Munro Day Ski Trip last month, I interviewed many different people and they all had positive input. I even interviewed someone who had twisted her ankle, and yet she still had a positive outlook on the day.

What I find extremely ironic is that I was hired by Dal News because of my journalism skills, but I perceive the main reasons for my failure to be elected as *Gazette* opinions editor were my poor performance as



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Is PR really such a bad thing? Perhaps not as bad as child smokers.

a public speaker and a lack of close friends in attendance to vote for me.

I was so nervous during the elections that I could not think or talk properly. I did not present myself well to the voters, so I understand why people did not vote for me. I would not have voted for myself either, based on the way I sounded.

As I said before, the *Gazette* elections dominated my thoughts for days afterward. Am I really such a horrible person for working for a PR publication?

In an example of perfect timing, just four days after I was publicly challenged for writing for Dal News, the University of King's College hosted a "Hacks to Flacks" talk. Five people, who had decades of journalism experience under their belt and had switched to PR, discussed the differences between their previous

and current jobs.

I learned that PR people know more details than journalists and they have the power to bring about change from the inside. The panel members said journalists skim the top of the story, but often miss getting the whole story.

Working for Dal News is not a bad thing. I have met incredible students who are passionate about what they do and have inspired others. I have developed great interpersonal skills by interviewing them, even if that does not translate to public speaking.

And I will always defend my ground, unless I cannot do so at the spur of the moment. In that case, I will write an opinions piece about it a few days later.

Michelle Hampson is a second-year journalism student.

Political suicide

Nova Scotians need a balanced budget

BEN WEDGE
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Balancing a budget would seem to be suicide for a political party in these economic times. But is balancing the budget really that bad? The federal government is set to post a deficit of \$34 billion in the coming fiscal year, Ontario's \$18 billion and British Columbia's \$500 million. Even Alberta is on board to go over-budget this year.

There are indications, however, that the government of Nova Scotia will bring down its eighth consecutive balanced budget. Can Premier Rodney MacDonald even sell this budget to the public, since the NDP has already promised to vote it down?

A balanced budget means you and I, part of the next generation, don't have quite as high a tax burden as we would were the government to go into debt again. At the time of writing, every single Canadian owes some \$14,000 for the federal government's bills alone. Nova Scotia is in debt to the tune of \$13,500 per resident. Forget about your student loans for a second. You live in Nova Scotia, so you hypothetically owe the banks that loaned to our government about \$27,500, regardless of whether your parents own Power Corp. or are laid off and reliant on Employment Insurance. Don't feel cocky, Ontarians, because at the end of this fiscal year, each of you will hypothetically owe about the same amount.

The government of Nova Scotia is bending over backward financially and politically to ensure students from out of province who have no intention of staying here after they get a degree, are only paying about \$7,000 per year in tuition. Meanwhile, professors' salaries go up according to yearly increases included in their collective bargains with the universities.

Now we have a perfect storm. Expenses are rising, revenues are falling due to the downturn in the economy and Nova Scotians are clamouring for a stimulus bill. Could MacDonald have another trick up his sleeve? Maybe he'll use the \$867 million Crown share offshore agreement he signed last summer to help balance the budget.

Students in Nova Scotia graduate with an average debt of \$28,000. Paying it off necessitates a strong will and years of hard work, and not everyone ends up managing to do it. Does government have a strong will to eliminate our debt? Let's not make our problems worse. MacDonald

may be the only premier in Canada risking his career on principle, but if the consequence of sticking to his principles is losing his government, it's hard to fault the man. It's time to think outside of the recession, and only spend the money we have, because we shouldn't have to pay for others' mistakes.

The premier, MLAs and cabinet ministers have publicly – and probably privately – expressed desires to balance budgets. Sadly, the king of balanced budgets, N.S. Finance Minister Michael Baker, died March 2 after a long, trying battle with cancer.

The next generation of Nova Scotians will be smaller than the current one. Any deficit increases your personal burden, which you'll pass on to your kids, of which there will be even fewer. A stimulus package is like Buckley's cough syrup: we're going to get through the recession, but it may take a little longer without it. Plus, a stimulus package, like Buckley's, tastes really bad.

Our premier and his friends have paved thousands of kilometres of roads in Nova Scotia. They've started Pharmacare to help seniors pay for medications. They've built schools and hospitals. They froze tuition, after watching it climb sharply under the "leadership" of John Savage and Russell MacLellan. Sure, this government isn't without fault, but if one thing is certain, it's that N.S. NDP leader Darrell Dexter voted against every single one of these measures, claiming "it's not enough", but how much is enough? Is it OK to run a huge deficit that we will pay for until we die?

Conservatives everywhere are starting to say things like "let's watch Dexter fight an election saying he voted against an eighth balanced budget." Will the ploy work? Will Bluenosers realize a balanced budget is paramount for longterm financial security? Nova Scotia has the second highest per capita debt load after Newfoundland. We simply cannot afford to increase it.

MacDonald knows we can't afford a period of Bob Rae-style spending in Nova Scotia. Ontarians are still paying dearly for the \$80 billion Rae added to their debt. We can get through this recession. Our resilience has been proven time and time again. We've been down before, but never out.

Ben Wedge is a first-year engineering student. The opinions expressed in this article are his own and do not represent the Conservative Party.

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SUPPLIED

Weakerthans members are working on a live album and movie to be filmed on their upcoming 29-city tour.

Weakerthans set to play the Palace

ALEX FOUNTAIN
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Winnipeg band The Weakerthans are checking in for an almost annual visit to Halifax with Toronto's rootsy art-rock act The Constantines on March 20, a bump 'n' grinderific evening at – wait for it – the Palace.

The dance club is an unlikely venue for a wordy indie-folk band, but if Weakerthans guitarist Stephen Carroll's recent musical interests are any indication, it might not be too much of a stretch.

"I've been listened to a lot of crazy stuff, things that maybe aren't directly influencing the Weakerthans, like Crystal Castles," says Carroll. "Just like crazy dance weird videogame music, which is kind of a good palette cleanser."

Carroll, former guitarist of mid-1990s Winnipeg hardcore band Painted Thin, lists Land of Talk, Chad VanGalen, and Halifax's Wintersleep as other current favourites. But says he doesn't spin too many punk records these days.

"Probably only Nomeansno," Carroll says. "That's sort of all that's left for me of my real hardcore days, but I know (bassist) Greg (Smith) and (drummer) Jason (Tait) still listen to Black Flag and the old school punk rock."

Carroll has lost interest in hardcore and lately he's more focused on catching up on music he didn't listen to 10 years ago, "like reggae or something," but he still feels the Weakerthans' punk rock roots are alive in their music.

"Perhaps because (hardcore) music comes from an outsider perspective, you're an observer of mainstream culture," he says.

Weakerthans singer John K. Sampson brings to the band a constant lyrical citation of everything from Derrida to Slayer to Jennifer Jason Leigh. Carroll says bands like his with hardcore roots, such as the

Hold Steady and the Gaslight Anthem, seem to use literary and pop culture references to "form that sense of community within the musical culture" and "state (their) position in doing so."

Punk rock is also "very idealistic about the power of change that comes from music," he adds, explaining hardcore bands make dorky references of themselves and their influences as a flip side to their sincere progressive messages. They express inner conflicts privileged white kids feel when they're screaming about how much they hate oppression and capitalism.

"(Hardcore) usually doesn't take itself too seriously," Carroll says. "But sometimes it does – painfully so."

Carroll says postmodernism isn't exclusive to punk rock.

"It's in all sorts of music," he says. "I mean, I think Lily Allen is kind of postmodern. She's very observational of her situation as well."

Though he hasn't checked out current self-aware punk bands such as Fucked Up and Crime in Stereo, he says he would probably appreciate their sonic texturing.

"That's where my interest in music is right now – whatever's most sonically appealing to me, whether there's something interesting or a new dynamic or a new combination of elements," Carroll says he'll listen to anything, but mostly "what (he's) exposed to, and what (he's) overexposed to."

He says his goal as part of the Weakerthans is to play as simply, traditionally, and minimally as possible – "to play the least amount, but to do the most with it." He says he looks to classic and timeless guitarists for influences.

"For 'Sun in an Empty Room' (from 2007's *Reunion Tour*), I was thinking of Keith Richards and Curtis Mayfield," Carroll says, "and half the time I just try to make us sound like The Band."

While the Weakerthans certainly draw upon a diverse range of musical influences, they're also a very well read bunch. Literary and theoretical references are scattered throughout their lyric booklets, which Carroll feels is a carry over from Sampson's love of printed word.

"He's really influenced by books themselves, their physical, actual construction, and that shows itself in the way our albums are actually built as objects," he says.

Carroll can't speak for his band's lyricist, but takes an interest in the idea that 2003's *Reconstruction Site* may have been a piece of post-structuralist criticism, as hinted at by song titles like "Our Retired Explorer (Dines With Michel Foucault in Paris, 1961)."

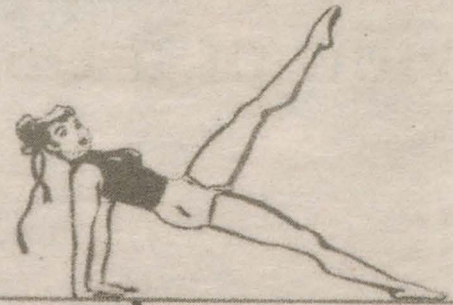
"It was certainly our most conceptual album anyways," he says. "*(Reunion Tour)* was sort of an amalgamation of fields and it ended up coming together, but that one was more intentional and was really thought-out and placed. Everybody had known well in advance what we were gonna do and what the record would look like. And we just stuck to that concept."

Carroll doesn't expect that his band will be delivering any new songs on this particular trek out east, but says the band is working on a live album and movie to be shot across the 29-city tour they're about to embark on.

To all fans under 19, he expresses regret that the band won't be playing an all-ages show in Halifax this time around.

"Our best show is a show that all our fans can come to," says Carroll. "That's what we wanna play and we try to make that happen as much as possible. But sometimes it's just not in the cards."

The Weakerthans with The Constantines and The Superfantastics will be performing March 20 at The Palace. Tickets are \$25.



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Sonic Society

Local teacher voices radio drama

KRISTIN SLANEY
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

It's a Monday night, and Jack Ward has gathered a group of four actors in the living room of his apartment in Bedford, N.S. Ward still looks like he's in teacher mode, dressed in the same shirt and tie he wore that day while teaching Grade 11 and 12 English at Millwood High School. He hands out thick scripts, each containing two 10-minute audio drama episodes.

Ward is creating the second season of *The Jack and Shannon Show*, a Jack Benny-style radio comedy starring himself and partner Shannon Hilchie. The comedy will air during the time slot of his CKDU show, *Sonic Society*, in April.

Sonic Society broadcasts once a week on the Dalhousie radio station. The show's primary focus is audio drama, Ward's passion, and something he says many people don't realize still exists. But audio drama isn't just around – with the ability to podcast content, it's gaining popularity every year.

"When you're setting (a show) up on radio, you don't usually know metrics," says Ward. "You know you have a listening area of five miles and that we can hit this amount of people, but we have no real idea. But with the podcast you can get real subscription numbers."

And they have. Today, *Sonic Society* has a weekly audience of around 40,000 people worldwide.

The podcast is an hour-long anthology and features new radio drama, while the live CKDU show has an extra half-hour dedicated to old-time radio drama. *Sonic Society* also caters to many different genres. Some of the originals written by Ward have included comedies, mysteries, science fiction, and even a fanfiction series based on Joss Whedon's *Firefly*.

Hilchie says that these days, podcasting is the best way to get content out there.

"For the iPod generation, it's perfect. People want to listen as they go

right now. With radio, you're stuck in one place," she says.

Hilchie and Ward host the show together every week, as they have been for two years, providing the dialogue between the different audio drama segments. Hilchie acted in various radio plays for Ward before that.

"When she came on, the mix between the two of us was great. I was a little stuffy, because I'm used to professional styles of radio acting," says Ward, who grew up listening to CBC Radio. "But it worked out well, because she was spritely and fun, and I tried to play up some of the stodginess. People started to enjoy our banter, even more than some of the shows."

Matt Leong of St. Louis, Missouri, can attest to this. He listens to *Sonic Society* every week, and usually calls in to the show's fan line as well. Leong came across it once while browsing through iTunes, and hasn't missed a show since.

"Jack and Shannon really are the ones who make the show for me. The chemistry between the two is priceless. I would subscribe to the podcast just to listen to them," says Leong.

All the episodes are recorded in Ward's apartment. This particular night, the five actors, Hilchie and Ward included, sit down in his living room and read through the two comedy episodes Ward wrote earlier that day for them to record that night. Then he sets up three microphones – two in the living room and one in the bedroom. The recording process begins.

Hilchie says on a whole, audio drama isn't something she thinks can really be compared to movies or television.

"It relates more to books," she says. "You get to imagine what the characters look like. It allows you to be involved with the content. With audio drama, what you give it as a voice is all the character has."

Sonic Society is on CKDU 88.1 every Tuesday night from 9 to 10:20 p.m., and the podcast is on iTunes.

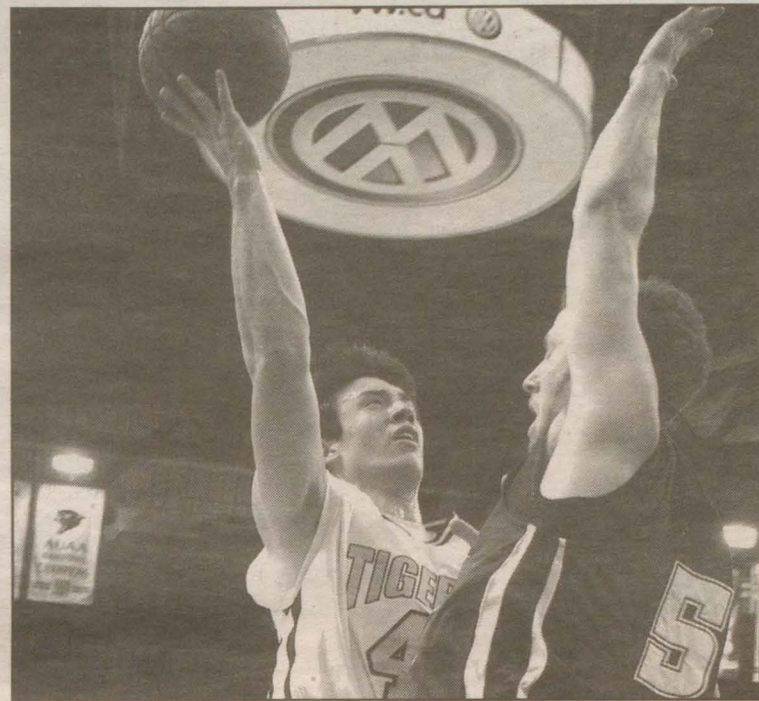
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JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Tigers fans rushed the court to celebrate Dal's 72-60 victory over the St. F.X. X-men.



JOHN PACKMAN/DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Tigers' captain Simon Farine shoots while being blocked by William Silver from St. F.X. Saturday night at the Metro Centre.

Tigers taste gold after 13 unlucky years

TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

In a season filled with near-misses and almost-theres, last weekend's men's Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships were anything but. The Dalhousie Tigers became the men's AUS basketball champions, downing the Acadia Axemen, Cape Breton Capers and the St. Francis Xavier X-Men on their way to nationals.

Fans rushed the court, wildly jubilant as the final seconds of Dal's 76-60 win ticked down. In a mess of body paint and broken noisemakers, the players and fans celebrated Dal's first AUS championship since 1996. Tournament Most Valuable Player Simon Farine put it all in perspective.

"This feels amazing," he said after the game. "We'll definitely go out and celebrate for a while tonight, but we'll get our rest because now we have to get ready for nationals."

The Tigers took the long way to the finals, knocking off Acadia 88-85 in the quarter finals. Farine was instrumental in the win, picking up 45 points. The total is a new AUS record for a playoff game, and the Tigers rode Farine's hot hand through the game. No less than 22 of Farine's points came in the explosive third quarter, as Farine and Acadia all-rookie team member Casey Fox traded baskets. Fox finished the game

with 32 points.

"That's probably one of the best games of my career, especially in the playoffs," said Farine, who was among the conference leaders this season in scoring (19.1 points per game), assists (4.5) and steals (2.5).

Farine, who was overlooked for first team all-star honours after a successful season, admitted the snub was a little bit of extra motivation. He was quick to add, however, that he'd "rather have a championship than be a first team all-star."

With last Thursday's win still fresh in their minds, the Tigers next faced the second-place Cape Breton University Capers on Friday. The Capers had given Dal trouble all year, handing the team two convincing mid-season losses. The game was back and forth all night, with the Tigers going on a 17-2 run to start the third quarter only to have the Capers go on a 25-5 run to take back the lead. Farine was again the go-to guy for Dal, dropping a floater and drawing a foul to restore the Dal lead with just more than a minute to play. The Capers blew a chance to take the lead with 11.3 seconds left when they stole the ball but were unable to keep it inbound. The Tigers Andrew Sullivan got an inbound ball, promptly fouled, and calmly put away both shots to put Dal up by three points. The Capers got another chance to tie the game, but instead of trying for a

three, Cape Breton's Tremaine Fraser drove the net for a layup and the Tigers took a 78-77 win.

St. F.X. dropped the UPEI Panthers 89-60 in the other semi-final, setting up an all-Nova Scotia final. Metro basketball fans came out in droves for the Saturday night game as the Tigers and the X-Men faced off in front of a crowd of about 5,500. With St. F.X. and Dal fans staring each other down across the court, the two teams entered into what looked to be a defensive battle. The X-Men's strategy seemed to be to shut down Farine. They put a concentrated effort into not giving Farine good looks at the basket or any time with the ball. The strategy paid off in the first half, as strong team defence from both sides led to a halftime score of 27-27.

In the third quarter, the Tigers came out of the gate flying. With attention on Farine, Dal's secondary scorers began to shine. Josh Beattie, of Bedford, N.S., stepped up, dropping an incredible five consecutive three-pointers to put the Tigers into a comfortable lead they would never look back on. Beattie, a second-year commerce major, seemed the most excited man in Halifax for a few seconds, celebrating wildly after his fifth basket.

"For a second-year guy," commented Dal coach John Campbell, "to take those shots in the second

half, and have the confidence to make them, was incredible."

Beattie was modest about his run.

"I shot the first one and as soon as I hit that, I was like, 'well, I know I can hit another one.' Then I hit the next one, and I was like, 'I know I can make another one.' Then I hit the next one and I was - 'wow, I'm on fire. Just keep giving me the ball.'"

After Beattie's string of points, fans seemed to wake up to the possibility of a Dal win. Momentum building, the Tigers continued to drop baskets, squashing any chance of a St. F.X. comeback. Solid team defence from the Tigers shut down any sustained X-Men pressure. Second-year Tigers guard Stephen Lopez of Toronto was a defensive wizard, pressuring St. F.X. shooters all over the court.

The players were quick to shift some of the glory to Campbell, who's in his seventh year as men's basketball head coach.

"He works hard, and he wants it just as much as any other coach in the country," Farine said. "He believes in us more than anybody, and we take that confidence that he has in us and just put it on the court. It's a good mixture for success."

As the clock winded down, smiles began to creep onto the faces of the Dal bench. In the final seconds of the game, enthusiasm from the Dal

bench bubbled over into the nearby crowd as players and fans jumped, laughed and danced their way onto the court in ecstatic celebration. For a team that has struggled to find its identity and a place in the AUS, this year was retribution for the difficult years past. The Tigers have put together a talented young team and they should be able to build off of this year's success.

The men are set to travel to British Columbia and then to Ottawa March 13-15, where they'll try to bring home national gold in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport finals. Facing off against some of the nation's premier basketball schools should do wonders for Dalhousie's recruiting this season. The visibility of appearing in the tournament will boost the teams stock, and will likely attract key recruits.

Capturing the team's first title since 1996, Dal has worked its way out of the men's basketball basement. This will be the team's second-ever trip to the nationals, a huge positive for a school which, other than this year, has not posted a winning record since 1999.

"Last year and this year I thought we started to earn some respect," said Farine. "Hopefully now people will look at us as one of the best teams, if not the best team in the conference."

GO TIGERS!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TIGERS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM who won the Subway AUS Men's Basketball Championship this past weekend for the first time since 1996-97! The team will head to Ottawa for the CIS Championship this weekend. **GOOD LUCK!**

GOOD LUCK TO THE TIGERS TRACK & FIELD TEAMS (Subway AUS Champions!) as they head to nationals in Windsor!



WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA

Women's hockey team plays close final game

TYLER BROWN
SPORTS EDITOR

Dal's women's hockey team is done for the season after bowing out of the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) finals last weekend. The Tigers managed a quarterfinal win, only to fall to the first-place Moncton Bleu Aigles in the semi-finals.

The Tigers started off the tournament against the fifth-place Saint Mary's Huskies. In a fast-paced, well-played game, the Tigers outlasted the

Huskies to win 5-4 in overtime. The win was anything but ordinary, as the Tigers scrambled just to get to overtime. With the score knotted at two late in the third period, Dal leading scorer Jocelyn LeBlanc found the net, putting the Tigers up 3-2. The Huskies responded quickly and scored twice in the last five minutes of the game, putting the Tigers down by one and leaving them fighting for their playoff lives. LeBlanc saved the Tigers, scoring her second of the game with the Dal net empty and only 24 seconds

remaining on the clock.

For the third time in three years, the women entered overtime in their first game of the AUS finals. This year, however, they didn't take long to finish the game. Just five minutes into the extra frame, Tigers captain Kim Carcary scored her second of the game in a goal mouth scramble, lifting the puck past SMU goaltender Jillian MacIsaac.

The goal pushed Dal into a semi-final match-up with first-place Moncton. The Tigers came out strong. De-

spite out-chancing and outshooting the Aigles, they were unable to beat Moncton goaltender and conference MVP Kathy Desjardins. The Tigers fell behind 3-0 in the first and were never able to fully recover. A second period goal by Dal's Laura Shearer cut down the lead, but it was as close as Dal would get. The Aigles added an empty net goal to win 4-1. Coach Lesley Jordan said she was happy with her team's effort.

"I thought we played as well as we could," Jordan said. "We out-

chanced and outshot them, but just ran into a hot goaltender."

The loss brought an end to a mainly successful season for the Tigers.

"The team peaked at the right time, and they showed a lot of character throughout the year," said Jordan.

With 18 returning players, the Tigers should continue their winning ways in the AUS. Next year's squad will miss captain Carcary, steady defense player Natalie Gervais, and fifth-year goalie Mallory Harris.

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THE SEXTANT

THE TRUE SPIRIT OF ST. PATTY'S

Alana Robertson
Francine DeLorey

So before I start telling you that the T-Room is the place to be this year on St. Patty's Day, let me tell you a story about the true spirit of St. Patty.

It all began with six engineering girls. We had 8:30s in the morning, one of us was on co-op and as usual, we all had a long list of assignments to do, midterms to study for and chapters to read. Although we all loved and respected St. Patty, at 6pm on March 17, 2008 he was dead to us.

Until the phone rang. It was a wee little lass named Zevy who still had faith, she still believed that St. Patty should be celebrated, rejoiced and all green beer should be drank until it turned into green... well you know. Zevy was so enthusiastic that she lit a little St. Patty's day fire in the six of us: the green shirts started appearing out of nowhere and suddenly everyone could manage "a drink as long as we were home by 12 o'clock".

Somebody had forgotten to mention that nobody has "one drink" of green beer. Green beer exists only in copious amounts. Now,

green beer I do remember. I also remember a very windy trip to the Grawood, a Toronto boy guessing we were Arts students (after he ate the nachos left by the previous occupants of our table) and dancing up a storm as we giggled our way through our 12 o'clock deadline.

Somehow wee little Zevy got misplaced in our St. Patty's day she-nanigans, but the rest of us were determined to eat. Now last year at any given day of the week, at any given time of the day you could find one of us at City Pizza (RIP), or eating City Pizza (RIP) at home when the delivery man (who knew us by name) stopped by. Because City Pizza (RIP) was obviously way too far of a walk from the Grawood (especially on a windy night), we ordered a cab. We then proceeded to order the entire menu at City Pizza (with some free mozza sticks thrown in because we were such excellent customers), ate our little green hearts out, and made our way home.

And home was where we all found the true spirit of Saint Patrick. As we sat around in our living room, recounting our night, and one (or six) of us found out what green beer turns into, we all agreed that no matter how many

assignments we had, no matter how many midterms there were, or how many of us had to wake up and go to work, we would all find the time to drink that pitcher of green beer; celebrate St. Patty's day and make our imaginary Irish descents proud.

Now on March 17th, 2009, instead of City Pizza you can find us, and all of our engdigging friends, getting our late night feast at Steamy's, it's located on Quin-pool Road and is home to some of the best hot dogs you'll ever taste, as well as the infamous MILFIE, if you're lucky to be there when it's on the menu. But not until after a fun filled night of drinking green beer and jamming down to Tristan and Andrew at the T-Room. We decided to step it up this year and stumble down to Sexton campus with the cool kids, no more of those silly Toronto boys eating stale nachos.



**ST PATRICK'S DAY
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VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

Zhindra Gillis

Hey all you Sexton students! The time has come to vote in two upcoming elections.

First on the docket is the Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society. An Elections General Meeting will be held on March 17th at 6:30 pm in the Design Commons. All Sexton Engineering and Food Science students are encouraged to come out and vote. Voting in this case will be held by written ballot taken during the meeting after all candidates make a brief speech. These students will represent Sexton Engineering students to the DSU

and the faculty it is important to get out and vote.

Following that March 17th is the first day of three days of online voting for the DSU elections. Candidate information for the DSU elections and online voting can be found at dsuelections.ca. The people who are successful in this election will represent all Dalhousie students to organizations outside of the university and to the university faculty. They are the face of our university! It is important to get online, learn more, and cast a ballot.

Both elections are important both as a current and graduating student. As a current student you will be affected regularly by the decisions these students make, as a graduate these students will represent your alma mater which can add to the credibility of your school and your degree. This is when you can have your say on who represents the student voice. You as a student pay fees to both the engineering society and the Dalhousie Student Union. Make your money count, make your voice heard! Get out and vote!!



CO-OP CORNER

Things to Remember:

- Remember to register for the summer 2009 co-op work term on Dal Online.
- If you applied to less than four postings during Round I you must meet with the co-op office before they will release you to PlacePro for Round II.
- The co-op website offers many tips and is very informative. The website is: <http://www.engandcompcooop.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 March 12 • Danger Bees and Park Effects
 Friday March 13 • DEGS vs. MBA Trivia
 Tuesday March 17 • Tristan and The Irish Rovers
 Thursday March 19 • Open Mic
 Friday March 20 • Trivia



March 11 • DSU General Meeting @ 6:30 in C-303 (Studley Campus)
 March 13 • Student Appreciation Day
 March 17 • DSEUS General Meeting @ 6:30 in Design Commons