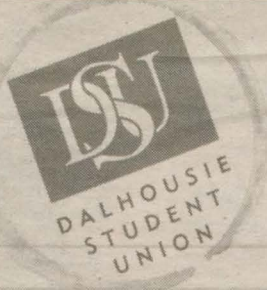


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Stinkin' budgets | Pg 8.
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Gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette since 1868



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DSU Weekly Dispatch

Mark Your Calendars – Upcoming Events

Friday, March 5

DSU Speaker Series

DSU Speaker Series presents:
Dr. James Orbinski - President of *Doctors Without Borders International*
Friday, March 5th, 7pm - FREE
Ondaatje Hall - Marion McCain FASS Building

Dr. Orbinski received the Nobel Peace Prize on the organizations behalf in 1999. He is the President and Co-Founder of Dignitas International, author of "An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarian Action in the Twenty-First Century" and the winner of the Shaughnessy Cohen Prize for writing in Political Science

Tuesday, March 16

Annual General Meeting

The DSU's AGM will take place in the McInnis room of the SUB and will commence at 6:30pm.

For more information please contact Matt Kelly via email at dsuchair@dal.ca

Wednesday, March 31

DSU Teaching Awards

Forms to nominate your professors for a teaching award are available at the Information Desk in the Student Union Building.

The DSU Teaching Awards will take place on March 31st, in rooms 302/303 of the SUB. The awards ceremony is scheduled to begin at 6:00pm (time subject to change).

DSU Accessibility Bursary Applications

Applications for the DSU Accessibility Bursary are available online at www.dsu.ca. Applications can be submitted to the Society Administrator in room 222 of the SUB. For more information please contact Mark Hobbs at dsuvpi@dal.ca.

DSU Executive Office Hours (Sexton Campus)

Shannon Zimmermen - President	Tuesday	9:00am – 12:00pm
Mark Hobbs - Vice President, Internal	Monday	3:00pm – 6:00pm
Rob Leforte – Vice President, Education	Wednesday	12:00pm – 3:00pm
Doyle Bond – Vice President, Finance	Monday	4:00pm – 6:00pm
Kris Osmond- Vice President, Student Life	By Appointment	

Walking home after dark?

Tiger Patrol offers a walk-home or drive-home service that operates 7 days a week (6:00pm – 12:30am). Visit <http://dsu.ca/services/tigerpatrol> for more details.

Sincerely,
Your DSU Executive

P.S. Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @dalstudentunion, and visit us at www.dsu.ca



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THE FINE PRINT

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society. The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year. Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not

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COVER BLURB

33 years ago Dal cancelled its football program. This year a group of alumni and former players have decided to bring it back.

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Features

Features

Gazette Features publishes one long feature or two short features every week. E-mail Tim at features@dalgazette.com to pitch an idea.



Tim Mitchell **Features Editor**
features@dalgazette.com

POLITICAL BANNER DRAWS CONTROVERSY

Dal student challenges city over free speech

Tim Mitchell
Features Editor

A Dalhousie student was disheartened when he saw a group of Neo-Nazi skinheads walking the streets of north-end Halifax. Rather than look on, or forget about it, he decided to do something.

Twenty-two-year-old Vince MacDonald and his roommate made a large banner and hung it in front of their house on North Street for the neighbourhood to see.

The banner reads: "Fuck off fascists, racists, sexists, homophobes, nationalists."

"The banner was made just out of sheets that we usually collect and keep for banners for different protests and things, and my roommate and I stayed up one night and made this banner just after we saw some questionable activity going on around Halifax," says MacDonald, who's in his second year at Dal studying social work.

"We started noticing, or at least I noticed, some people walking around in groups with shaved heads and wearing Hammerskin sweaters."

Hammerskin is a white pride, nationalist movement that claims to have a following in 12 countries, including a chapter in Canada.

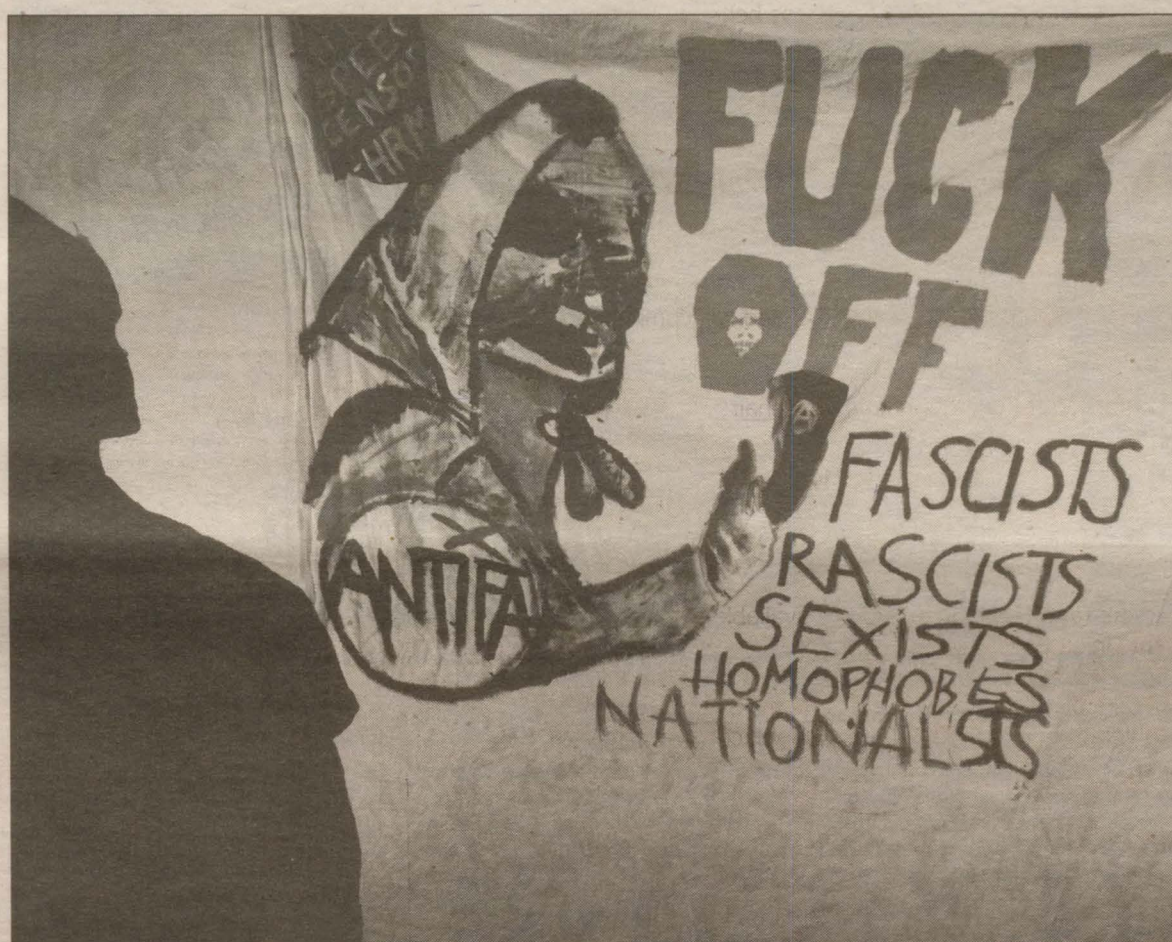
Their mission statement is: To "secure the existence of our people and a future for White Children."

"We made the banner to create discussion, discourse, around issues like racism, fascism, sexism, nationalism and homophobia," says MacDonald. "We just wanted to get people thinking about what these issues are and what they actually mean in society."

"Racism and fascism, you think they might be outdated terms, but they definitely still exist in society. They're just more hidden. They exist in forms such as the computer, even though, the recent cross burning in Windsor, that's a blatant form of racism, and I really didn't expect that one. That just shows how much this stuff does still exist."

On Feb. 21, two brothers aged 19 and 20 were arrested and charged by the RCMP for burning a cross with a noose hanging from it in front of an inter-racial couple's home in Hants County, Nova Scotia. They were quoted as shouting, "Die, nigger, die."

"A banner is something that's been used by activists for years and years and years," says MacDonald. "It's just kind of a tactic of putting your message out on your own private property because we all have freedom of speech and we should all be allowed to express our message no matter what it is, and if people can burn crosses and not really get away with it, but they're doing it, and people are out there creating all these messages, there has to be some sort of counter balance to that."



Vince MacDonald faces \$250 in fines for each day he didn't take his banner down. | Photo by Pau Balite

MacDonald had his banner hanging in front of his house for about five days until he got a notice from the city, ordering him to take it down immediately.

"Putting out messages on the front of the house that I pay rent at and live, I should be able to display what

MacDonald kept the banner up for another two weeks after the initial warning.

"It was up for quite a while, even against the will of the HRM and the police, but we kept it up."

MacDonald got four notices from the city, as well as a few visits from the police.

ners or signs or free speech messages. I guess the fine they were threatening me with was \$250 per day that it was still up, which is quite hefty and really harsh for just having free speech on your house."

HRM Bylaw S-800, which deals with requirements for licensing tem-

mention of offensive or profane language.

"There's not too many arguments you can make for racists, sexists, homophobes, nationalists – maybe that – but there's not a lot of people who can really go against the politics of it," says MacDonald. "I suppose it's the profanity and language that is on the banner that a lot of people, young children, apparently don't really like and I guess some people find it offensive and kind of unsightly in the neighbourhood, but none of our neighbours have really complained about anything to us."

He says that he and his roommates have had several other banners up on the house.

"Everyone's been supportive of it, and a lot of people actually walk by, knock on the door, and come in to chat. So it's been actually kind of neat, having this house as a political billboard."

He decided to censor some of the banner so that it wouldn't be as offensive to the neighbourhood.

"I put up a piece of black cloth over one of the Cs in the word in question, and I guess it was censored enough. But at the same time, there's a lot of things that I find offensive in this city. You know, when I see Canadian flags, that's just a symbol of colonialism to me. When I see Olympic advertising, that's just a corporate circus that's going on in Vancouver and I just start thinking about issues of poverty. And you see women being objectified on billboards and all these other advertising messages that I find really offensive, but I could never complain about that. I guess it's just whatever is socially acceptable is what the law enforces."

He still got some visits from HRM by-law officers, as well as the police, but MacDonald defends the wording of the banner.

"The word 'fuck' is not going to kill someone. It's just a word if you really think about it. People are going to be exposed to it through mediums like television and the Internet especially (through) school, friends. It's a word that everyone's scared of."

After two and a half weeks, MacDonald took the banner down and brought it in his house.

"I was just kind of sick of the negative attention it was getting, but I kept it up in my house and maybe it will resurface someday."

He says that if the city decides to issue him a ticket for the banner he will fight it – even to the Supreme Court of Canada.

"If they can come forth and show me a bylaw that states that I'm not allowed to have these kinds of things on my house then that's fine, but it's all about people's ability to freely speak about what they feel. It's your own private property – you should be able to display the kind of things that you want."

"The word 'fuck' is not going to kill someone -- it's just a word if you really think about it."

I feel is my political message, and my political ideology," says MacDonald. He called Halifax's bylaw office to ask about the city's notice.

"They started asking me all kinds of questions like who owns the house, who's in charge of this house, and I was saying: 'Well it's a house with five different people who all live here and they all have different beliefs.'

"They threatened me with bylaw fines – with bylaw fines that don't exist according to the research I've done. They were saying it was an offensive language bylaw, which should be in the signs act, but after going through it with a few friends of mine, and going through a lot of the bylaws actually, I haven't found anything that limits what you're able to put on your house in terms of ban-

porary signs, doesn't mention anything about profane or offensive language in the use of publicly displayed signs.

"We're not sure if language is covered," a representative from HRM by-law services said. "It's a new question for us. It's not a common complaint."

She said that if such a bylaw did exist, it would be under the Land Use Bylaw. But the 178-page document makes no

News

News

News

Gazette News covers Dalhousie and the greater Halifax community. Contributions are welcome! E-mail Lucy or Laura at news@dalgazette.com



Lucy Scholey, News Editor
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Dalhousie library might trash 1,000 academic journals Student and faculty groups oppose motion

Lucy Scholey
News Editor

In an underground warehouse, nearly 1,000 of Dalhousie University's academic journals sit on 20-foot high shelves, collecting dust. The Dal library administration is thinking up ways to get rid of them. But some students and faculty members are not comfortable with the idea.

The warehouse sits underneath the West End Mall. Its enclosed journals – covering faculties from humanities to medicine – are inaccessible. But university librarian William Maes says no one requests them anyway. Some of them have duplicate copies elsewhere, while others are not complete, he says. Those factors, plus the warehouse's yearly \$60,000 rental fee, are the reasons Maes has considered disposing them.

"The only other thing we could do is to either require another facility or build a facility (to house the journals), which would allow us to have that stuff sitting out on shelves," he says. "That is an expensive proposition."

Instead of investing in a costly repository, which Maes estimates would cost about \$20 million to \$30 million to build and maintain, he says the library is looking at digitizing the journals and sending the print copies to an academic journal repository at the University of Toronto.

"It's really kind of a guarantee, if you like," he says of the proposed plan. "If somebody really needs this, we can get it and we usually get it within three or four business days, depending on how fast they want it. So that's the only difference, as opposed to us having it on our shelves."

"The greatest benefit is assured access, when we want it." But neither the Dalhousie Arts and So-



For the past five years, nearly 1,000 of Dalhousie's academic journals have sat unused in this warehouse. The Killam Library is thinking of digitizing the journals and sending the printed copies to Toronto. | Photo by William Maes.

cial Sciences Society (DASS) or the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS) see the benefit. Both groups voted against the motion to dispose of the journals.

Megan Seto, DASS president, says the society is concerned about whether the journals will be properly scanned and catalogued.

"It's not just about moving the journals – it's actually about whether or not the integrity of the documents is properly preserved," she says.

Seto says that even if these journals have not been accessed in five years, it's not anyone's position to decide whether they will be needed in future research.

"There are a lot of cultural historians who may not need this information now, but will probably need it in 20 years," she says. "We can't be the judge of that."

DASS is one of the few societies that Maes has consulted about the proposal. Seto says this is not enough.

"We're very pleased with the fact that

we're included in this process," she says. "But at the same time we definitely don't believe that there's been enough university-wide consultation at all because we're only one stakeholder in what is considerably many, many disciplines involved."

Wayne Hankey, chair of the classics department, says he's worried about how this decision might reflect on Dal's academic community.

"There is a bad sign here in respect to Halifax as an academic centre and to

the role Dalhousie plays in the university system in this province," he writes in an e-mail. "Every great university or great group of universities in North American or England has a long term storage facility for library holdings infrequently used. Dalhousie promotes itself as the best. Here that depends upon co-operation with the other Nova Scotian or the other Halifax universities (depending on the project)."

Several other universities have built print repositories – such as the University of British Columbia and the University of Western Ontario – and they have cost up to \$60 million to build and maintain. According to a Canadian Association of University Libraries report, the universities have similar motivations for constructing these repositories – too much material and not enough space.

Maes says unless other universities in Atlantic Canada hop on board, Dal won't be able to fund a repository on its own.

Besides, he says Toronto is hoping to establish itself as a national print repository. He hopes Dal, among other Atlantic Canadian universities, can help make that possible.

"We're trying to set an example, or a model, for other libraries to participate in, so that we may even be able to help finance Toronto in this sort of thing," he says. "That will help all of us."

During the week of Feb. 15, the library reached an agreement with the University of Toronto. It would cost Dal a flat rate of \$10,000 to send its journals to the repository. If U of T already has copies of the journals, or does not require them, then either Dal or Toronto would dispose them, says Maes.

The new agreement has been sent to FASS for review.

N.B. Power sale illegal says First Nations council Province doesn't own the land they want to sell to Quebec – Grand Chief Dan Ennis

Karissa Donkin
The Aquinian

FREDERICTON (CUP) – A First Nations community in New Brunswick is voicing its opposition to the proposed sale of the province's electric utility to Quebec.

The Wolastoqewiyik Traditional Council of Tobic is calling the deal "illegal," alleging that it violates articles in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The declaration was adopted in 2007, though Canada was not among the nations who signed the declaration.

An injunction filed by the Maliseet nation on Jan. 28 gives New Brunswick and Quebec notice to "cease and desist in their efforts to buy and sell ... what does not belong to them."

Dan Ennis, grand chief of the

Wolastoqewiyik Traditional Council of Tobic, said the province of New Brunswick doesn't own the land and resources being sold to Hydro-Québec as part of the NB Power sale.

"We've been trying to get a meeting with some government body to see if we can have them show us what part of those treaties indicates that we gave up something," said Ennis.

"We served notice to the province of New Brunswick and the next thing is to send the document to the UN," he said.

There has been "no response" from the province regarding the injunction.

A representative for New Brunswick premier Shawn Graham's office said meetings were "planned" to discuss the issue, but Ennis hasn't heard any specifics on a meeting date. "That could be sometime in May or April after the deal is done," said Ennis.

The province's legislature is expected to vote on the deal by the end of March.

The lack of consultation between the province of New Brunswick and its First Nations communities about the sale has been disappointing, said Frank Jr. Molley,

telling me that you have no respect for me, and that I don't matter."

Molley proposed the idea that all of the First Nations chiefs in the province come together "as equals" at a summit to discuss the ramifications of the proposed

"It's almost like an insult when you're not consulted. It's telling me that you have no respect for me, and that I don't matter." – Frank Jr. Molley, president of the St. Thomas University Native Student Council

president of the St. Thomas University Native Student Council in Fredericton.

"It's almost like an insult when you're not consulted," he said. "It's

sale. He believes a summit would make it easier for the First Nations community to stand as one, something they must do if they want to fight against the sale.

"Everybody is so isolated, everybody is so spread out," said Molley. "It's band-by-band, everybody's treated differently."

Ennis has received an outpour of messages since the release of the indigenous injunction. He's received e-mails from "ordinary Joe-blow citizens, looking for meetings with us looking to see what we may be able to do with this deal."

In the meantime, Molley hopes to see more mainstream media coverage about the NB Power sale from an aboriginal perspective. "I personally don't feel that native people in New Brunswick are at the forefront of the issue," he said.

Molley said it raises the issue of coverage of Aboriginal issues in the media in general.

"It seems the only time we're on the news is when our youth commit suicide or somebody murders somebody. It's never about our struggle."

News Briefs

Laura Parlee Assistant News Editor

8.8 magnitude earthquake hits Chile

About 1.5 million people have been displaced and hundreds more are dead after an 8.8 magnitude earthquake hit Chile early Saturday. The death toll is expected to rise as the nation begins to clear the rubble. The quake lasted about one and a half minutes, but residents say it seemed never-ending. President Michelle Bachelet has declared a state of catastrophe. The Haitian earthquake last month was a 7.0-magnitude, but the damage in Chile is expected to be less extensive because of better preparations and higher building standards.

American students march for public education

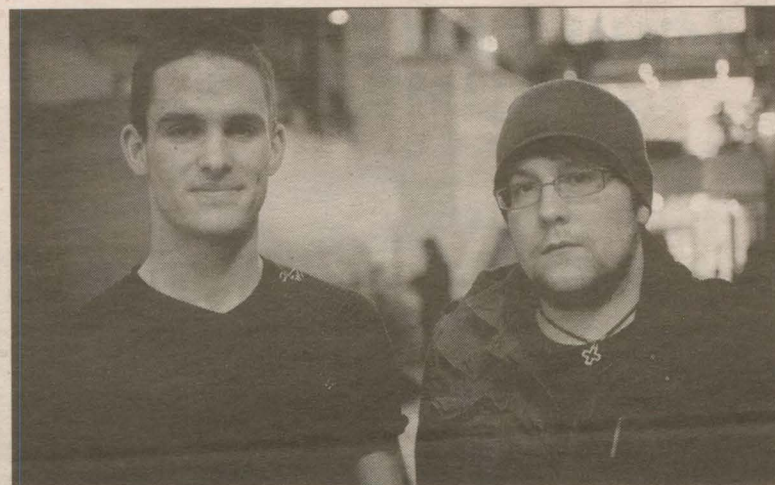
A grassroots movement starting in California started to make noise on March 4. Facebook groups, Twitter pages and homemade websites have been promoting a protest to improve higher education since October. Both students and faculty supported the protest that will demand more support for public universities. The activism efforts began at the University of California, where the school has been promoting a day of statewide action for public education. But now students and professors from across the United States are joining in. Rallies, demonstrations, teach-ins, and other types of events are planned for the day of action.

Student visas flawed with fraud

Got \$240.46? You could buy yourself a euro-education. In an undercover report last week, the BBC news found that illegal student visas could be obtained with only a small cash investment. The student visa system in Britain requires an official letter requesting a visa from one of the 2,000 accredited post secondary institutions in the country, and to have several thousand pounds in the bank for at least 28 days. But last week, the BBC's undercover investigation unit received two fraudulent visas, one for about \$240 and another for \$320.

Steele struggles with budget solutions

Nova Scotia's Minister of Finance, Graham Steele, has been holding public consultations across the province to get a sense of Nova Scotia's priorities when it comes to the provincial budget. Steele is trying to find a way to balance the province's finances. Government reports say if we continue the way we're going, Nova Scotia will have a \$1.4 billion deficit within three years. Suggestions from the meetings include less government and bureaucracy in the system, and a more narrow priority list. Steele says these are not new ideas. The minister concluded his 'Back to Balance' meetings in Halifax on Feb 27.



Matt Preprost (right), editor-in-chief of the Projector, stands with sports editor Kalen Qually (left). Preprost is leading the paper in a bid for autonomy from the Red River College Students' Association. | Photo by Cindy Titus - The United (CUP)

Going autonomous

Red River College's campus paper makes bid to break free from students' association

Samuel Swanson
The Uniter

WINNIPEG (CUP) — The Projector is seeking freedom.

Currently the official newspaper of the Red River College Students' Association (RRCSA), the student publication is making a bid for autonomy. The RRCSA board of directors heard the paper's appeal for independence on Tuesday, Feb. 9 with a presentation by Projector editor-in-chief Matt Preprost and Canadian University Press (CUP) president Rob Fishbook.

The current CUP president is a former business manager of the Fulcrum, University of Ottawa's English-language student newspaper, which he helped lead to autonomy.

Preprost said he felt the students' association had a "lack of long-term commitment" for his paper. "They're disengaged and disinterested in the publication."

Going autonomous allows student newspapers to achieve greater editorial freedom.

Preprost provided a tentative Projector business plan for the RRCSA, which included a proposed \$2 student levy per semester for operating costs, as well as a \$30,000 advertising credit from the RRCSA, which would cover start-up costs for a newly-autonomous Projector.

In the case of the Projector, its connection to the students' association has hindered its ability to put forward a long-term business strategy, said the editor.

Business management for the RRCSA is focused on all aspects of the association's financial affairs, which means the Projector doesn't get the attention it needs, according to Preprost.

Melody Rogan, past-editor of the Projector, said that during her term, she had no control over advertising, printing, hiring or general operations, making it difficult to run a newspaper.

"We had to operate out of a small section of a classroom that, while we could always have access to it, was noisy and not at all private," Rogan said.

RRCSA advertising director Guy Lussier believes he's doing the best he can for the Projector with the money the association has.

"If you have a budget of \$20,000, you try and cut corners as best you can," Lussier said. A major benefit of an autonomous paper is the assurance of full editorial freedom.

"In terms of freedom of the press, we (CUP) believe in absolute freedom," said Fishbook.

However, the RRCSA believes that editorial autonomy is not an issue at the Projector.

"It's so clear that we have no say in what they write," said Jeff Long, Princess Street campus vice-president of the RRCSA.

"We had a review of a new restaurant ... and the advertising director was pissed off that we hadn't instead done a review of a particular restaurant that advertised in the paper." -- Melody Rogan, former editor of the Projector

Rogan disagrees, citing past conflicts with the students' association over published material.

"In one issue we had a review of a new restaurant that opened near the Princess Street campus, and the advertising director was pissed off that we hadn't instead done a review of a particular restaurant that advertised in the paper," Rogan recalled.

Lussier said he wouldn't go so far as saying he was "pissed off," but said he did recommend Projector staff talk to some of the businesses that advertise in the paper about reviewing their establishments before reviewing places that don't advertise in the paper.

Vice-president Long is not opposed to autonomy, but argued that the paper would lose a lot of support from the students' association even though they would have more money to work with. He said he believes the Projector should work towards their goals with the RRCSA's support before going autonomous and cutting those business ties.

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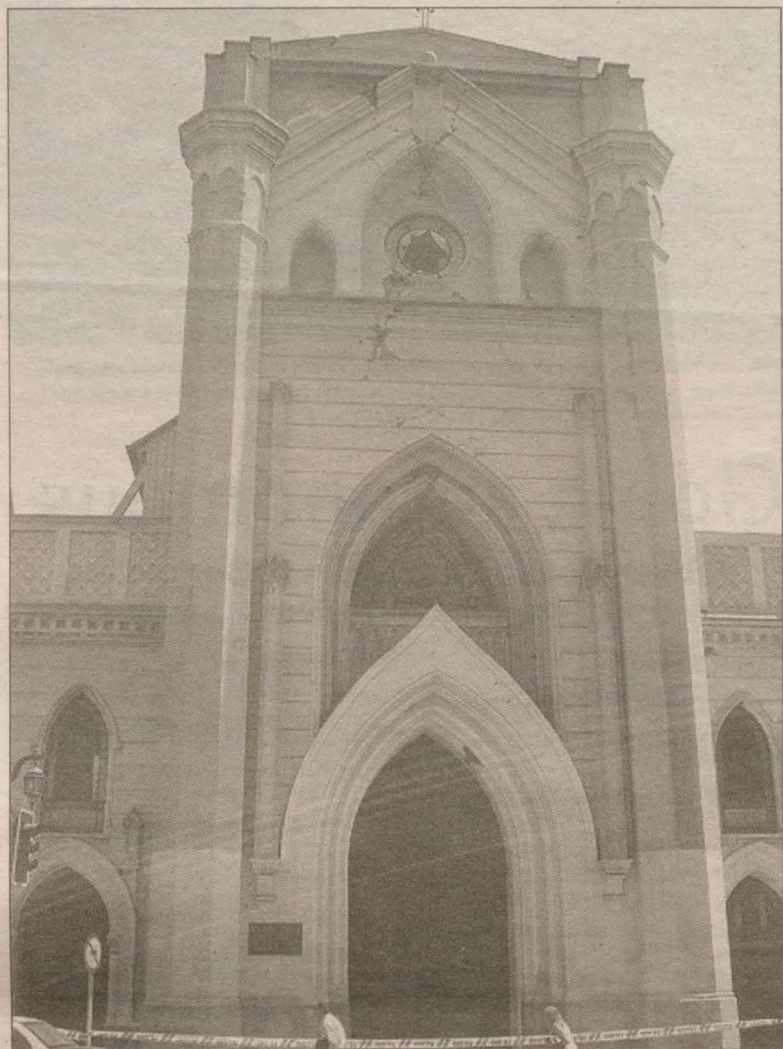
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News

CHILEAN CHURCH CRUMBLING



This church in Chile is closed off due to damage from the Feb. 27 earthquake. The magnitude of the earthquake was 8.8. Halifax resident and photo contributor Sheldon Knox is currently stranded in Chile. Knox is the Assistant News Editor's uncle. | Photo by Sheldon Knox, Air Canada Pilot



Hurry hard! These kids practice their sweeps and throws at a mini curling rink down by the waterfront. | Photo by Lucy Scholey

Locals flock to waterfront for first Winterfest

Event attempts to promote businesses during slow season

Lucy Scholey
News Editor

The cruise ships were not here and the wind was too cold for a stroll along the boardwalk, but Halifax's waterfront was busier than usual last weekend. The city hosted its first Waterfront Winterfest, in an attempt to liven the summer-time tourist attraction during its off-season.

Instead of fish and chips and boat tours, people came for maple candy and ice sculpting shows. Teams signed up for ball hockey, and snowboarders and skiers from across Atlantic Canada competed on a 30-foot-high constructed hill. Kids threw rocks and pushed brooms on a mini curling rink and people brought skates to try out the city's first synthetic ice rink. "It's a great opportunity to use the waterfront, not only in the summer, but as well in the winter," said event manager Caryla Lutz. "There's a misconception that a lot of the businesses aren't open in the winter, but they're actually open all year around."

Business is still slow in the winter months without the cruise ships

bringing tourists to the waterfront. Sugah!, a sweets shop near Bishop's Landing, hurts most in the winter when it's not serving its hand-paddled ice cream.

"The weather can be quite nasty down here in the winter, so anything to bring down people or get them down to the waterfront, is great," assistant manager Mila Blanchard said. "There are a lot of fun places down here that people don't know about until they come down here."

At Island Beach Co. of Nova Scotia, near the Ferry Terminal, cashier Josh Webb has time to flip through a newspaper. The store only made \$100 in business the day before.

"It's like night and day," he said, comparing the winter months to the summer months. An average day in the summer brings about \$800 to \$1,000 in business, he said. "We're a summer tourism province, not a winter tourism province."

Next door at Silver Silk, Chow Ping Yip said she thinks an event like the Halifax Winterfest is a good idea for boosting business along the waterfront. "I find in other provinces, people do more things outdoors in the win-

ter," she said. "I find in Nova Scotia ... we don't do a lot in winter and a lot of people stay home and I think it's good to get people out."

Lara Blake, 39, jokingly said she "hibernates" in the winter, but that Winterfest is a good incentive for people like her to get out in the brisk air more often.

"The first one, of course, is not going to be a huge turnout and the weather being the way it is, it is not going to be a huge turnout," she said. "But it's definitely something that I think would grow over the years."

Her friend, Teresa Craig, said despite the blowing winds from the previous night, the event went over well.

"I think they've really, despite the weather, they've done a good job," she said. "It's actually quite impressive, what they've got."

Lutz said some of the events were postponed or delayed due to messy weather Friday night, but that they hope to continue the tradition in upcoming years.

"We're hoping, economically, we can build some business for the waterfront tenants and partners along the waterfront."

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ckdu's weekly top 10 for the week ending Mar 2, 2010

- 1 BASIA BULAT / HEART OF MY OWN / SECRET CITY
- 2 SET YOUR GOALS / THIS WILL BE THE DEATH OF US / EPITAPH
- 3 MARIA MULDAUR / MARIA MULDAUR & HER GARDEN OF JOY / OLD BOLD
- 4 GYPSOPHILIA / SA-BA-DA-OW! / SELF RELEASED
- 5 MENDELSON JOE / MENDELSON JOE LIVE AT SIXTY FIVE / OLD BOLD RECORDS
- 6 FIELD ASSEMBLY / BROADSIDES & EPHEMERA / SELF RELEASED
- 7 THE NOVAKS / THINGS FALL APART / SONIC
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- 10 VAMPIRE WEEKEND / CONTRA / XL RECORDINGS

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Maple Mothership: All-Canadian hip hop Saturdays hosted by DJ Beef. *listen live: Saturdays, 1:30pm-4:30pm*

Hellenic Voice of Halifax: Greek news and music hosted by Evangelos. *listen live: Saturdays, 4:30pm-6pm*



About 23 farm worker deaths could have been prevented over the past couple of years if different measures were taken, says Stan Raper, national co-ordinator of the Agriculture Workers Alliance. | Stock photo

Union pushes Alberta government to protect farm workers

Canada's largest private-sector union wants outside farm workers to have better rights

Alexandria Eldridge
CUP Alberta Bureau Chief

EDMONTON (CUP) — The United Food and Commercial Workers union is calling on the Alberta government to extend occupational safety legislation to the province's agricultural workers.

The move was recommended by Justice Peter Barley a year ago with the hopes that workers' compensation could cover farmers and agricultural workers and so that farm safety training and inspection systems could be put into place in Alberta.

Barley's recommendations followed a public fatality inquiry, which he spearheaded, into the 2006 death of Kevan Chandler, a farm worker from Alberta.

To date, no changes have been made to the province's Occupational Health and Safety Act.

UFCW is an international union, and is the largest private-sector union in Canada. They've begun a campaign to end Alberta's "harvest of death" to get the government moving on this issue.

Stan Raper is national co-ordinator of the Agriculture Workers Alliance, which operates in conjunction with UFCW. He outlined several problems with the legislation. "Right now, most of the inside

farm workers are covered by occupational health and safety. The outside workers have been excluded and continue to be to this day."

If covered under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, "outside agricultural workers would have the right to a health and safety committee, the right to know the dangers on a farm, the right to receive training, and the right to refuse dangerous work."

"We're arguing that 23 deaths could've been prevented over the last couple years had agricultural work-

ers, there is also a voluntary workers' compensation program.

"We're arguing that most of the employers in agricultural sector in Alberta don't have coverage for their workers," Raper said. "Family members have to pick up the pieces. It's an archaic system that needs to be changed."

Thomas Lukaszuk, Alberta's newly-minted minister of employment and immigration, said that he sees the logic of the food worker's union.

"The concept of including farmers or certain aspects of their work under

been working with Agriculture Minister Jack Hayden to address this issue.

"We are working to put in place some process by which we get to hear from stakeholders — that being farmers, workers on farms, (the workers' compensation board) and other safety proponents and those who are campaigning right now," he said. "I really want to hear from those who are familiar with these workplaces and perhaps bring some experiences from outside of the jurisdiction where there are laws in place."

The minister added that farms are

does not harm the livelihood of farmers.

"We want to make sure that our farmers are safe, and that all the workers on farms are safe, but at the same time we want to make sure that their needs are also met, that we're not paralyzing the industry."

"There are costs, not only to the government, but also to the operators of farms, and that will be part of the scope of learning from them how they would like it administered," he said.

The Alberta government wants to minimize the rate of injury, he said, claiming that the province has the lowest injury rate "by far" in Canada.

"But at the same time you want to make sure that you bring rules that can actually be followed."

Raper said that he is hopeful the government will be acting on this issue.

"We will continue to push this government to do the right thing and implement protections for agricultural workers in the province," he said. "We're hopeful that they're going to get moving here very quickly."

Lukaszuk emphasized that he is working on the issue but it will take time to make the changes properly.

"I will be taking action on it but I will be doing it in collaboration with the minister of agriculture to make sure that we create laws that are actually benefiting the industry and not harming it."

"Right now, most of the inside farm workers are covered by occupational health and safety. The outside workers have been excluded and continue to be to this day." — Stan Raper

ers and their employers been obliged to comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act," Raper said.

For outside agricultural work-

occupational health and safety should be looked at by this government."

Lukaszuk said that since he became minister earlier this year, he has

unique because they are also places that people live and play. Any changes to legislation, he said, needs to incorporate these unique needs in a realistic way that

Opinions

Opinions

Bullshit budgets

Dave Bush
Staff Contributor

It's almost springtime; the days are getting longer, the weather is getting warmer and the smell of newly thawed dog shit is wafting over the Commons – reminding us it is budget time the world over.

The foul news emanating from governments around the world is this: We need to tighten our belts. And by 'we' they mean 'you,' they mean 'us' – those on the outside of political power.

To understand these budget crises we need to take a step back from the trimming of the fat bullshit rhetoric and look at how this latest financial crisis has unfolded.

When the dot-com economy imploded in on itself in 2000, the market speculators began to look for the next bubble. The housing market was prime for a speculative frenzy.

The risky or, more accurately, predatory loans dished out were repackaged into complex financial entities that were then sold and resold. Brokerage houses and financial institutions made a killing as housing prices continued to be pumped upwards by manufactured demand. When the bubble began to burst in 2007, speculative traders began creating new bubbles in the food and energy markets, and in 2008 the world saw record highs in oil and grain prices.

When the housing collapse turned into an economic meltdown in the fall of 2008 the American and European governments swooped in to save the very same financial institutions that had created the crisis. In America, the corporate geniuses who had over-leveraged their companies with unbelievably risky loans were rewarded handsomely with hundreds of millions of dollars from the public coffers. These dollars also came with no strings attached.

There was no reform of the financial institutions in America or anywhere else in the world. Speculators from the surviving large financial institutions such as Goldman, Citi, JPMorgan, Barclays, UBS and Deutsche Bank have hijacked the global economy. These companies, the beneficiaries of corporate socialism no less than 18 months ago, are now putting the financial squeeze on the global economy.

Greece is facing a budget crisis that has been exacerbated by banks such as Goldman Sachs in three ways: calling for austerity measures, helping the previous government hide its debt and cornering the bond market.

"By attacking Greek bonds, the traders get to play on an increasingly pan-European volatility in bond and currency rates, thereby leveraging a little nation's problems into gigantic trading-floor gains," Richard Parker wrote in a recent article in The Nation.

By controlling the Greek bond markets traders hope to make big short-term bucks, consequences be



Nova Scotia's Finance Minister Graham Steele never talks about "cuts", just restraint. | Stock photo

damned. Hypocritically the very same banks, which were bailed out with public money, are now asking that the Greek government slash wages and social spending. Socialism for the rich, free markets for everybody else.

The same dynamic is playing out across the globe. The economic crisis, which originated on Wall Street, has forced all governments to deal with higher deficits and less access to cheap credit. The results are universal across the board – budgets are being slashed and social programs are being starved all at behest of the market.

In what is probably the most ironic aspect of the budget crisis, the govern-

ments could cut wasteful spending. The Canadian government doesn't need to spend \$19 billion on the military. Obama could cut the almost \$700 billion his country spends on the military. Even the Halifax Regional Municipality's city council, facing a \$30 million shortfall, doesn't need to spend over \$2 million on making the commons easier for private companies to make money off of concerts.

However, this won't happen. It is a political fantasy to believe that a few tweaks is all that is needed to make the global economy "work". The budget crises across the globe reveal that absolute

"Maybe the difference is the NDP and other supposed lefty governments will feel bad when they cut social programs."

ments that will be doing most of the cutting have been elected with leftwing mandates. Just as Blair's Labour Party out Thatchered Margaret Thatcher in the 1990s by making deep cuts to social services so too will the leftists and centre-leftists governments of Spain, Greece, America, and Latin America be forced to reign in social spending.

Nova Scotia's NDP, the biggest leftwing party in the province, will be trimming the fat of the \$525 million deficit from the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

Maybe the difference is the NDP and other supposed lefty governments will feel bad when they cut social programs. Or maybe it is just the language they use. As NDP Finance Minister Graham Steele recently stated: "I don't talk about cutting. I never use the word 'cut.'"

It's true: the words 'not spending' sound better than the word 'cut,' I guess.

Opinions

Gazette Opinions welcomes any opinion backed up with facts, but we don't publish rants. E-mail Kaley at opinions@dalgazette.com to contribute.



Kaley Kennedy Opinions Editor
opinions@dalgazette.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Electoral sustainability

To the Editor,

It's that time of year again! Campus is abuzz with the early signs of the upcoming Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) elections.

Whether you have decided to run for a position or are just trying to figure out whom to vote for, student politics can be hard to navigate sometimes. If you are concerned with environmental sustainability on campus, like I know many of you are, then never fear. Similar to last year, SustainDal will be releasing their second annual DSU Electoral Candidate's Sustainability Report Card.

What is environmental sustainability? Why should you care?

Sustainability is our ability to endure. In ecological terms, it describes how biological systems remain diverse and productive over time. In terms of the DSU, it is about supporting more environmental sound operations within the Student Union Building and student life. Whether you are looking for more vegetarian food options on campus, are frustrated over the lack of alternative transit options or would just like a real plate instead of a paper one when you eat

your lunch – sustainability matters.

Think sustainability only matters to those "tree-hugger" types? Think again. Environmental sustainability is here to stay. From big business such as Walmart implementing a sustainable procurement policy to Dal having multiple outlets for sustainable initiatives on campus (the Office of Sustainability, College of Sustainability and the DSU Sustainability Office to name a few), sustainability is quickly gaining ground as new way to run a business not to mention our day-to-day lives.

So whether you're running in the election or deciding who to vote for, I highly encourage you to check out this year's DSU Electoral Candidate's Sustainability Report Card. But you should also do some of your own research, ask the hard questions of the candidates and vote for environmental sustainability on campus!

For more information on sustainability on campus contact SustainDal at sustaindal@dal.ca, the Office of Sustainability at rjowen@dal.ca or the DSU Sustainability Office at www.dsuso.ca.

-- Meghan Larson, DSU-
SO Board Member

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Point/Counterpoint

Should captured terrorists face trial as criminals in civilian courts?

Vikram Rai and Brendan Martin
Opinions Contributors

Point: Since the attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, there has been a shift to treating terrorism as a military problem – one that we can declare war against, and consequently treat captured terrorists as prisoners of war or enemy combatants. This perspective makes no sense; the people committing these acts do not belong to a nation-state and they aren't soldiers. They are just people who have been motivated to commit a criminal act for a variety of reasons. There is no difference at all between someone such as Timothy McVeigh and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, other than their country of origin: both are guilty of committing an act of terrorism in a jurisdiction that the U.S. has authority over.

Counterpoint: Every action we take against terrorism must be done with one simple thought in mind: this is a war. Though Al Qaeda is not a nation and Osama bin Laden is no statesman, this has no bearing on the severity of their crimes, nor on the fact that the U.S. is engaged in an existential conflict central to its security with a foe who has already slain thousands of Americans. That is war and there is no use in denying it. And in prosecuting their war, Al Qaeda murdered 3,000 civilians; there can be no doubt of the nature of this atrocity. It was a war crime, and should be dealt with as such.

Point: Trying terrorists in civilian courts is perfectly consistent with the rule of law. Using civilian courts subjects the proceedings to a high standard of evidence, so evidence obtained from torture or coercive interrogations are inadmissible, which is good for the perceived legitimacy of the trial. And in terms of international law, military tribunals exist primarily to deal with conflicts between nation-states, where we can reasonably talk about things like prisoner exchanges, negotiations, and the cessation of hostilities. These superstructures have no application or meaning in the current conflict, so neither do military tribunals.

Counterpoint: To say that military tribunals – which exist to deal with international conflicts – have no place in the War on Terror is an act of the grossest naiveté. The perpetrators and planners of 9/11 are citizens of other countries, made their preparations in other countries, and it is there that they were captured. To say that this is a purely domestic matter is false. Furthermore civilian courts exist to enforce civilian laws; in a war where all semblance of civilization has been shat-

tered these simply do not apply. And that is exactly why military tribunals exist, so that justice may be extended where the rule of law has expired.

Point: Many people have expressed concerns about grandstanding from terrorist suspects in court, but having a civilian trial in public is actually a benefit from this process. If the trial is public, then the whole world is able to see exactly how all parties conduct themselves, and can make fact-based judgments from those displays. If we honestly believe that a terrorist suspect will attempt to derail the process or refuse to cooperate with an obligation to stand trial, then there is absolutely no harm in letting the world see that happen. No one at all should be scared to hear what Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has to say.

Counterpoint: Regardless of what Khalid Sheikh Mohammed has to say, a civilian trial is a sign of weakness to America's allies and enemies. A military trial is quick, efficient and effective. A civilian trial will drag on, and a verdict is a never a sure thing. Al Qaeda will see an incredible propaganda opportunity, which we will have handed to them on a platter. It is they, the terrorists still out there, who pose a grave risk to American security that will use this trial, and they will use it as a rallying point – an example of American weakness and ultimately a target.

Point: Terrorists always try to claim that they are at war with the government; Timothy McVeigh did it, and so did Ramzi Yousef when he was tried for the original WTC bombing, but both were tried in civilian courts. They make this claim because it makes them look more prestigious to recruits and more legitimate to the rest of the world. With civilian courts, we avoid falsely elevating the status of terrorist groups and giving them the prestige of war that alternative methods would entail. When the U.S. tried Ramzi Yousef for the original bombings in court, they did so despite his claims that he was part of an army opposed to the U.S. because they recognized then that he was attempting to claim a status he did not deserve.

Counterpoint: This is absurd. "The prestige of war that other methods would entail" is a myth. There is no honourable way to fight a war, no noble method of murder. War is chaos and death and there is no getting around it. To subvert the proper method of achieving justice because some buy into

the falsehood that war should be exalted is ridiculous, and to make that same mistake because others have made it before is worse. However it is not such abstract concepts, such as prestige or honour, that should be our concern, but instead the security of civilians, and above all the ability to obtain convictions.

Point: There is no reason to think that civilian courts can't safely handle security or intelligence concerns. Prisons are extremely secure so there is little danger of terrorists escaping; it would be difficult for anyone to target a civilian trial because of enhanced security measures; and we do not have to worry about releasing classified information in trial, because courts are able to make accommodate problems such as that all the time. As long as all evidence was obtained fairly, we have nothing to fear.

Counterpoint: There are serious doubts as to the ability of a civilian court to obtain a guilty verdict. For better or worse, torture took place, and while it shouldn't have happened, it makes none of these men any less guilty. Yet any evidence gathered in such a fashion, or any intelligence even connected to these acts will be thrown out immediately, jeopardizing the result of the trial. Then there are the intelligence issues. The prosecution must divulge to the courts, and to the defence, critical pieces of American intelligence that could make their way out of the courtroom with ease; it has happened before and will again. This is not a problem in a war crimes trial. The courts and prisons can add as much security as they want. It will make little difference to a man with a bomb strapped to his chest. The same goes for a riotous mob angry and looking for blood. When you try, in a public forum, a group of men responsible for the greatest atrocity on American soil in living memory, only blocks from the location of said attack, you are just provoking the populace. The trial will be viewed as trivializing the deaths of thousands by extending rights to the men who plotted their deaths, who were brought to America to face justice. Should America follow this path, the streets will run red with blood by the end.

Vikram Rai and Brendan Martin are members of Sodales, the Dalhousie Debating Society. Debaters are notorious for arguing points they don't actually believe. Positions taken by the authors aren't necessarily the authors' personal beliefs. Vote for the side of the debate you agree with at www.sodales.ca, or find out more about Sodales by writing to sodales@dal.ca.

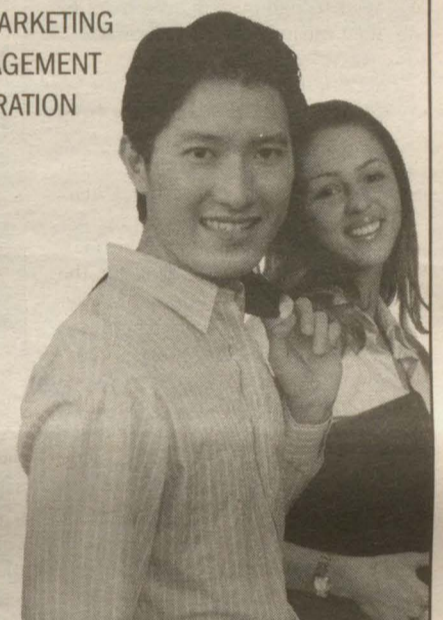
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CKDU GENERAL MEMBERS MEETING

Come discuss your radio station!

All CKDU members, Dalhousie,
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On the agenda:

- Discussion of CKDU's website & program archives
- NCRC 2010 in Gabriola & NCRC 2011 in Halifax!
- A motion to change our fiscal year:

Be it resolved that whereas it is more convenient for our bookkeeping, that section 43 of the CKDU-FM bylaws be amended as follows: "The fiscal year of the society shall be the period beginning April 1 and ending March 31."

Wednesday, March 10th
6:30-8:30PM

Dalhousie SUB, 2nd Floor, Council Chambers



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Opinions

Sex Ed

Casual sexiquette: A beginner's guide



Katie Toth
Opinions Columnist

As a child I went through a phase when all I did was read etiquette books. Where, though, is the etiquette guide for casual sex?

A lot of people seeking casual sex make major etiquette snafus. Usually, it's not intentional – they're just not sure how to wade through this awkward and taboo territory. Never fear! Your trusty sex columnist has broken down casual sexiquette one step at a time.

1. Obtaining casual sex

When approaching someone about casual sex, be clear about what you are seeking. You don't have to say, "I want to have sex with you," within the first five minutes – that will probably just freak them out.

However, you also don't have to talk to them about your feelings and how you're a sensitive soul that just needs to be cared for. Don't woo them with flowers and candy if all you want is to get naked.

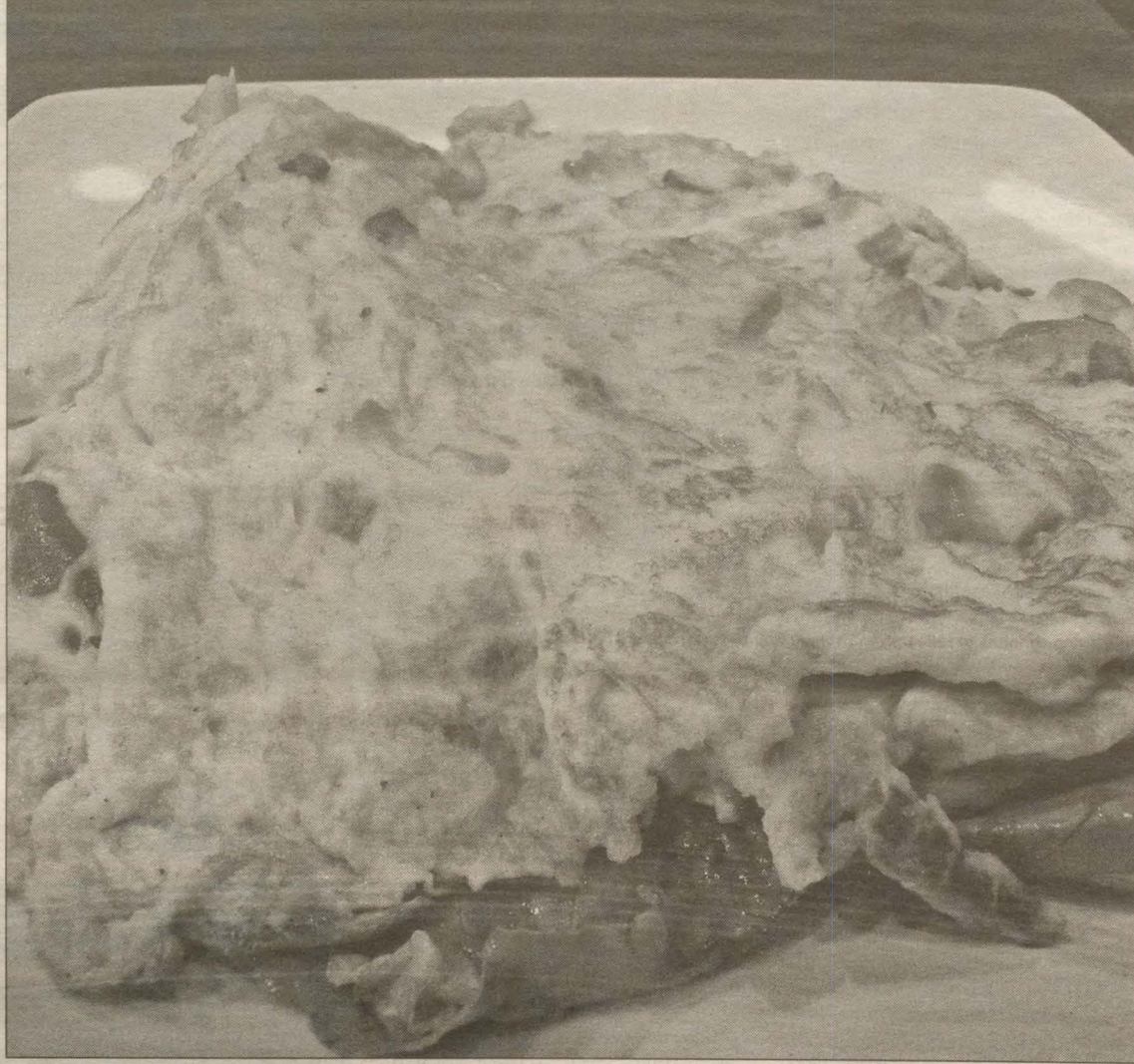
Do be clear without being freaky. Be flirtatious. Tell them what about them you find attractive. Ask them if they want to step outside for some air, upstairs "to see what's up there." Ask them if you can kiss them. Keep checking in to see if you're both on the same page.

Being clear also means being honest. Are you married? Do you have herpes? A cold? Your partner deserves to know.

Do not ever, at any point in your relations, assume that their body is your right or privilege. That's sexual assault.

2. Having casual sex

Did you end up at their place? Say something nice about the décor. "Wow, it's like a real grown-up place," is going to make you sound like a child, and your new friend might feel a sudden urge to drive you home before curfew. Try saying something such as "I love your windows."



Nothing says love like naked omelettes. Do not do this. | Stock photo

Did they end up at your place? Offer them a beverage. It doesn't need to be alcohol.

Makesure you have a box of latex (or polyurethane) and lube in your room.

If they want to use protection, you use it. If you want to use protection, they use it. No exceptions! If someone else is suggesting, implying or insinuating that they have any right to change your boundaries, that is always a deal breaker. Pull up your G-string and walk away.

During foreplay is a great time to whisper any of your boundaries in your new friend's ear in a sexy voice. For example, if you don't like sleepovers, you can tell them now that you won't be able to spend the night. This way, you will know that you're on the same page, but intend to peace when the time comes. You can also tell them what you want to do – a fun alternative to only talking about what you're not interested in.

Do give feedback! Your new playmate cannot be expected to read your mind. Don't let her or his

feedback bruise your fragile ego.

Having sex with someone new for the first time is like discovering the switchboard to an alien spaceship. Sure, you've seen a switchboard before, but these buttons are completely different. If this is a one-night stand, you don't have time to get offended while figuring out what exactly pulling that lever is going to do.

Besides, if you want this to happen again, you will probably not do yourself any favours if you can't handle being asked to move your tongue to the left.

3. After the casual sex

It's OK to want to leave, and it's OK to want to stay. It's also OK to want them to leave, and it's OK to want them to stay.

How do you decide?

Well, if you followed my tips and started laying down your intentions down earlier in the evening, it should be relatively easy to know whether or not you should leave

without too much awkwardness. If, however, you want to stay, you should ask your new friend: "Do you mind if I crash here tonight?"

Don't be surprised or offended if they respond with "I have a really early morning tomorrow," which may be code for "Get out of my house."

On the other hand, if someone asks you if they can stay over, and the buses have stopped running, do be aware that you are sending them out into the cold alone. It's your prerogative but you might consider letting them sleep in your bed for a few hours.

If your new friend decides to spend the night, do let them use your toothbrush. Get over it. You just licked their junk. You can handle their tooth germs.

Alternatively, you can point them to a box of disposable toothbrushes you keep under the sink for exactly this purpose, but that might out you in ways you're not ready for: closet sex addict? Possible germophobe?

If they're still there in the morning and they're not leaving, do en-

courage their exit. Something such as, "Well, I have to get started on the day – I'm sure you have a lot to do as well," should get the message across. It's nice to offer use of your shower. It is also a gracious gesture to offer to call them a cab, especially if they are far from home.

You will probably see this person again. Don't pretend they don't exist. You are only embarrassing yourself. Instead, say hello when you see her or him, and nod in a friendly way.

If someone you once slept with speaks to you, don't assume that they are secretly in love with you, or are trying to stalk you. They are simply trying to be polite. Instead, do follow her or his lead. A good, non-committal response is: "Hi." If you feel up for it, you may even want to ask them how they have been and start a brief conversation.

4. More casual sex (or less casual sex)

Sometimes, casual sex is so good that we want more. That is allowed. Do get the ball rolling with a phone call, note or e-mail that says something such as: "I had a great time last night, let's do it again."

If you are not interested, that is allowed too.

Do respond to others' advances. It is rude not to answer your calls. Say something gentle, such as, "I don't know if I'd be up for that. Hope you're well." Or, "I'm glad you had a good time, but I'm not ready to make this a regular thing."

Don't assume that someone who wants more casual sex wants to jump into a puffy dress or a tux and stroll down the aisle. Instead, be flattered. Clearly, you have mad bedroom skills.

If the direction is more of a romantic one – they ask you to watch Casablanca alone with them and cry – you can tell them, "I'm not interested in dating right now." Meanwhile, do ask yourself: Have I been clear about my intentions this whole time?

Did you do something to give them the impression that love was in the air? Did you, for example, make them a breakfast-omelette that you served to them in the nude? Nothing says love like naked omelettes. Do not do this.

Whatever you do, remember that good manners are about making other people feel comfortable and good about themselves. Remember to treat your casual sex partner like a person. This is not a conquest. Be honest and polite – and don't let seeing someone's boobs turn you into a dick.

Arts

Arts

Arts
Gazette Arts covers cultural happenings in the Halifax community. You heard it here first. E-mail Laura or Matt at arts@dal-gazette.com to contribute.



Laura Dawe Arts Editor
arts@dalgazette.com



Meaghan Smith is a Haligonian through and through, going so far as to take promo shots at Point Pleasant Park. | XXX

Crooner releases cinematic record

Halifax transplant Meaghan Smith overdoses on many types of art

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Meaghan Smith is at home right now. She has been touring consistently across North America and Europe for the past two years, so she seems in dire need of a rest. However, Smith is anything but one to sit back and relax.

"I got some stuff going on around Halifax," she says with a tired tone in her voice. "I'm also writing new music already. My record only came out last week!" she enthuses in her bright timbre.

Smith's story has been told time and time again in the press. Growing up with a lack of cable (something rare in this day and age), Smith spent her time procrastinating from homework not by watching *Thundercats*, but by watching the *Aristocats* and other like-minded Disney classics. Couple that with a love for pre 1960s musicals – and their accompanying jazz and bop – and you get Smith's musical style in a nutshell.

However, Smith's song-writing ability is much more than that – something the average music critic seems to miss. *The Cricket's Orchestra* combines the sweet tones of '30s and '40s jazz (at some points it is hard to judge whether a piano riff is a sample or studio trickery) with a soulful writing ability reminiscent of Carole King.

One publication referred to her as the female Michael Bublé, but she is anything but ordinary compared to the Buble.

Smith first landed on Nova Scotian shores not to play music, but to animate in a Maritime studio. "The actual animation process kind of drives me crazy, which is why leaving my day job was easier than it would be for other people."

She continues to dip her hand in the art world outside of playing music.

"I do a lot of art and working with art kind of balances my brain out. When I overdose on art, I'll kind of go back to music, and when I do too much music, I'll kind of go back to art."

Smith works on a number of different pieces, which she sells locally, including a number of ornately carved three-inch frames with miniature paintings inside that she exclusively sells at her lives shows. With all this attention to art, you would think Smith would be happy doing one or the other, but she wouldn't be.

"I feel like I need both outlets to survive," she laughs. "I really feel like I overdose on music. I go crazy. I listen to it all day and all night, then I go and do my own show and then I don't need a total break anymore. Then I'll paint and do something crazy, like 10 paintings a day and then OD on that. So I need both, really."

Smith's whole process to creating art and music is a little unconventional for a jazz crooner. Whether it's using old paper to create greeting cards or painting on a fabric such as silk, she tests the limits of her creativity to breathe life into old standards.

One such example is "A Little Love," a track that stands out due

to its collaboration with Kid Koala. "I'm excited by ideas that aren't conventional," Smith says. "Kid Koala is such a musical guy, but he's sensitive too when you listen to his music. I bet he would get what I was doing."

Using a string quartet that plunks and swells to create an atmospheric love song, Smith's sensual voice sings soulfully accompanied by snaps of percussion and Kid Koala's trademark chatty scratching. Pretty unusual on a singer/songwriter's record, but "A Little Love" may be the most striking track on *The Cricket's Orchestra*. However, the track almost didn't come to be.

"When I first mentioned the idea to my producer he was like, 'I don't think that is going to sound good.' But I knew in my head: 'No, no – this is going to make sense.'"

Her resilience to capture her desired sound aside, another fork was thrown into Smith's path due to the almost impossible task of tracking down Kid Koala.

"We MySpaced him and he never wrote back," she says. "Then I had this friend who had a friend who had a friend who knew him, so I asked: 'Can you get him to listen to my music?' But that didn't go anywhere, so I was kind of bummed about it."

Laughing about the struggle, Smith admits to doing a weird process in an effort to obtain the collaboration. "I don't know what I did, but I kind of put it to the universe. I know that sounds really trippy and new-agey, but I just did

it hoping something would come about."

Then the stars aligned for Smith. A month later her producer was in the states for the annual SXSW music conference. Bringing along a stack of her promotional records to distribute to a number of people in the business, he walked into a bookstore only to find Kid Koala browsing the aisles.

"I had found out he was on this crazy world tour and we had no way of getting a hold of him," she remembers.

Luckily, he just happened to be at SXSW as well. Her producer had one promo copy left, which he quickly gave to Kid Koala.

And, as they say, the rest is history. "It's funny because stuff like that has happened the whole way with this record where things have just lined up," she says. "It's crazy with the coincidences like that. I can't help but feel that it's sort of meant to be."

Another situation that acted in Smith's favour was getting on a movie soundtrack "for this little movie someone was making called *500 Days of Summer*" she remembers. "One of the people at the label was like 'Do you know the song "Here Comes Your Man"?' and I was like 'Absolutely, I love that song!'"

On top of being able to record a Pixies classic, the song took on an interesting shape due to the contact of a Grammy award-winning producer.

"Around that time T-Bone Burnett had heard some of my stuff on the Internet. So that was another

one of those things that worked out."

The track marks an interesting note to the style of Smith's song-writing. Generally when a new artist does a cover it will either be of a recent song, or a song from the far past of rock 'n' roll – revamping the sound and giving it a modern feel. Smith does the opposite; by taking a song of the past 25 years, she reinterprets it by putting it in a jazzier time.

"There are totally modern songs I listen to where ... I don't know," she trails off. "My friend did an acoustic cover of "Poker Face" by Lady Gaga. If you strip all the production away and listen to the lyrics, they're kind of cool. If you strip away all that stuff, it gives the song a whole new meaning."

Smith creates new meaning in "Here Comes Your Man" by stripping out all of the "loud, crunchy drums" and guitars to give it an airier, even more breathable song. To paraphrase a great jazz musician: It's not the notes you play – it's the notes you don't play.

"I took out a lot of the heaviness. I did make it a lot airier. I would like to hear what Frank Black would think of it," she laughs.

It's pretty safe to say that Frank Black would find it hard to resist the charm of the captivating Smith.

Meaghan Smith's artwork can be purchased from The Bogside Gallery at 5527 Young St. The Cricket's Orchestra is now available at all fine music retailers.

Arts

My war

Henry Rollins brings his political wordplay to Halifax

Alex Deacon
Arts Contributor

What do rock stars do when they retire? Settle down in the suburbs and spend their time driving the kids to soccer practice and mowing the lawn? Or are they obligated to appear in – or be featured on – the newest reality TV show? If you're Henry Rollins, former Black Flag and Rollins Band front man, neither will do. Bidding au-revoir to rock stardom hasn't stopped him from extensive touring and performing and has done nothing to blunt his trademark intensity.

Rollins has been doing spoken-word tours to crowds across America, Canada, Australia, Europe and Africa since the early 1980s. With the U.S. involved in two wars, he has also been travelling into active war zones on United Service Organization (USO) tours to entertain troops.

From a tour stop in the Czech Republic he explains: "USO tours are hard because it's go, go, go all the time, and the environment is often pretty intense – Baghdad, Kabul, places like that. I like the soldiers, but not the war."

"I think it's a fool's errand to be in Af-

ghanistan. I would like to see these people get a fair shake, but I can't be convinced that is why we're there," he says of the ongoing war in Afghanistan that both American and Canadian forces, among others, have been engaged in since 2001. "Also, if you look at the history of the country, they always take care of invaders and occupiers."

Less dangerous than a USO tour, yet still demanding, Rollins embarked on a massive tour this January; he is booked straight through to May.

"It is exhausting and it's what I like to do more than anything. Being at the house has its upsides for sure, but the world is where I should be," he says. "I get to travel and really live. I get to be onstage and have a life that is very interesting and challenging."

"Touring isn't always easy, and there's a lot of stress quite often, so I have to deal with that. But I have

found ways to do that, and I usually am in a gym about five days a week when on tour," he reflects.

Known for his well-muscled (not to mention heavily-tattooed) physique, Rollins takes his health seriously and partakes in few of the

usual rock-star trappings.

"I drink a cup of coffee once a day – that's about it. I'm not interested in getting wasted," he explains.

This is a common theme in many of his spoken-word performances, but he's quick to point out that he's not out to judge people.

"It's not for me to put down anyone, but it's definitely not for me to do. I find all of that stuff very depressing. I need an environment that is skewed towards achievement."

Other themes he canvases on stage include stories from his life on the road as an alternative icon, to studio sessions with the likes of Ben Folds and William Shatner, to Rollins' take on politics. Critical of the last American administration, Rollins says he's still skeptical about the U.S. direction.

"America has a lot of work to do, that's for sure. I don't know if we'll ever get where we need to go," he says.

He added that there is an interesting political mix in the U.S. at the moment. Commenting on the recent Tea Party movement's conference – at which Sarah Palin was the keynote speaker – he said, "Sarah is the gift that keeps talking into live microphones, which is obviously great for a guy like me."

More seriously, he observes, "The Tea Party thing got hijacked by special interest groups. The anger is real – I don't think Washington listens to me either, but it got hijacked by big insurance, racists and isolationist types. It's who they are now, unfortunately."

More generally, Rollins emphasizes a big problem in the U.S., and the world, is that "no one reads enough."

"Not you, not me. It's hard to make the time, and that's a shame."

If you're looking for some book suggestions: "Naomi Klein's *Shock Doctrine* really knocked me out. It's an interesting take on what is happening with finance flow in the world, and it's very well written."

"If I was the czar of literature, the writing of Ryszard Kapuscinski would be required as well. His books on Africa are real eye-openers as to life there. Very well written – some of the best books I have ever read."

Coming north of the border, Rollins' game plan remains mostly unchanged.

"In Canada, I might not make too many insider American references, in the spirit of not leaving anyone out of the mix," he says. "The goal is to be clear and engaging. The first few minutes establish the tempo for the whole night, and I want to be very good in those minutes. Hopefully, the audience gets some perspective, or at least something to argue about on the way home."

Henry Rollins bring his spoken word tour to Halifax's Rebecca Cohn Auditorium on March 19. Tickets are \$31.50 and can be purchased at the Dalhousie Art Centre box office.



On March 19, Rollins plans to rock the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium harder than a superset of skull crushers and front squats to press. | Stock photo

The Atlantic at the Olympics

Cheap beer wins us metaphoric gold.

Meriha Beaton
Arts Contributor

Sitting in a bar next to the water, a nautical theme decorates the walls while Celtic music plays in the background. The people to my right sip pints of Keith's, while the table to my left shares a pitcher of Moosehead. Surprisingly, this is not a Saturday afternoon at the Split Crow, but a Thursday afternoon at the Atlantic Canada House in Vancouver, B.C.

Different countries and provinces have showcased themselves in Vancouver this February, at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Offering authen-

"Everyone claps along, while laughing, drinking their beers and mingling amongst each other. It is clear that the Atlantic House does a great job representing the East-coast vibe."

up in the middle of the Backstage Lounge – the main area for visitors – serving seafood chowder and mussels. Culinary students and instructors from the Nova Scotia Community College, College of the North Atlantic, Holland College and the New Brunswick Community College (St. Andrews Campus) stood behind the buffet dishing up portions of food.

On the stage behind the buffet, two middle-aged men are played East Coast-inspired music. Fergus O'Byrne and Jim Payne, two Newfoundland-based folk singers, performed their music, which included instruments such as acoustic guitar, banjo and accordion.

Everyone clapped along, while laughing, drinking beer and mingling amongst each other. It was clear the Atlantic House did a great job representing the East Coast's vibe.

On another stage, the house held an original production: *Come on In! Songs & Stories from Atlantic Canada*. The 30-minute presentation was put on three times daily, and told the stories of four talented people from across the Maritime Provinces: David Myles, Monique Poirier, Meaghan Blanchard, and Daniel Payne. These artists shared their stories of living in Atlantic Canada.

"They come out and talk about growing up in their particular province," said Gallant. "They sing and they dance, and the story lines just make a connection so the people come out and say: 'Wow – I feel like I have really met someone from those provinces.'"

On another stage, *Atlantic Canada On Deck* was presented. The show, hosted by Newfoundland-born comedian Shaun Majumder, consisted of various East Coast performers that changed nightly.

Arguably, the Atlantic House was the best received of the houses as it could be enjoyed by people of all ages, from all over the world. Offering all-ages venues set the house apart from others, while gaining popularity with a diverse selection of entertainment.

"Every night you have a different crowd," said Gallant. "One night I remember in particular, we had *Classified* and the *Irish Descendants*. That was quite interesting because we had a mixture of people, from very young individuals coming to see *Classified*, and then there was one lady in line who was 91 and was coming to see the *Irish Descendants*."

Another draw to the Atlantic House was its prices. While some Olympic houses, such as the *Irish House*, required a \$20 entrance fee, the Atlantic House had no cover charge. Also, the price of a beer at most houses stood at \$8, while the Atlantic House charged \$5. And in true East Coast form, the Atlantic House served beer in regular sized pints, while many other places served beer in tiny plastic cups.

"There was one article in particular that was headed: 'Atlantic Canada House Wins Gold,'" said Gallant. "We've really done well."

tic entertainment and cuisine from our native lands, everyone who attended the Olympics got a taste of places from around the globe.

The Atlantic Canada House combined the four Maritime Provinces: Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. On differing days of the two-week-long event, each province was allotted the time and space to display to the world the delicious food and wonderful musical talents they have bred.

"We are entirely events-based," said Brenda Gallant, an ambassador for the Atlantic Canada House. "We want to give people the taste and the feeling of Atlantic Canada."

On Newfoundland and Labrador Day there was a miniature buffet set

OVERHEARD AT DAL

ON THE ECON 1102 BLS DISCUSSION BOARD:

Guy 1: "I had such an awesome snow day. First I went outside and threw my girlfriend in a snow bank, then I came inside and played some Pokémon. This day can't get any better! What did everyone else do?"
 Guy 2: "Oh man, I totally did the opposite of you! I threw my Pokémon in the snowbank, and then went inside and played with my girlfriend all day."
 Prof: "Is everybody baked today? You all look baked. That's OK, I'm baked too."

ON QUINPOOL:

Guy: "Yeah, it was like The Exorcist - but with more breakdancing."

IN PHIL 1010:

Prof: "No cats were actually harmed in the utterance of this statement, but that argument got de-clawed!"

IN PHYL 1010:

Girl 1: "Wait, there are 100 mL in a litre, right?"
 Girl 2: "Uhh, yah I think so."

IN PHYC 1100Y:

Prof about a calculation method: "You must not do it this way unless you are at Saint Mary's."

AT THE CANADA/SWITZERLAND GAME IN THE GRAWOOD:

Guy (after the Swiss score): "Fuck you Sweden!"

IN THE SHIRREFF HALL CAFETERIA:

Guy: I've only ever had one girlfriend who has not cheated on me. Well, actually I guess that's not true, but she cheated on me with a girl."

IN THE KILLAM ATRIUM:

Guy: "When I die I'd come back as a butterfly 'cause no one ever suspects the butterfly!"
 Girl: "Then you'd have to come back as a caterpillar first."
 Guy: "Oh shit, you're right. I hope God knows I was just kidding then."

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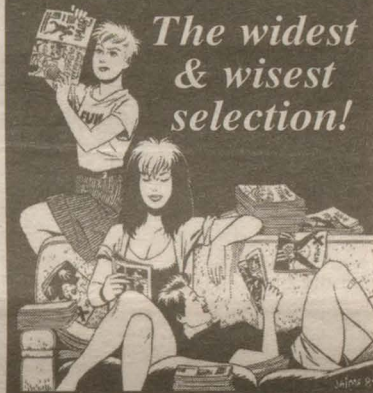
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The Gazette covers the East Coast Music Awards

Get the lowdown before the hoedown

Delia Macpherson and Nicole Feriancek Staff Contributors

The East Coast Music Awards (ECMAs) is a four-day music festival that will feature musicians from all over the Maritimes. Be they rock 'n' roll, folk, blues or local red-heads who are damn good at the fiddle – musicians from around the East Coast will have the chance to show off their talent.

The venue changes annually, and this year the festival is taking place in Sydney, Cape Breton. Award ceremonies, concerts, ceilidhs, stressed-out techies and the best after-parties in the world are all expected.

The ECMAs kick off Thursday, March 4 at 10 a.m. with David Bradshaw – a Haligonian with a background in jazz and rock who has a folk/bluegrass sound and a voice that makes you wonder why the hell you haven't heard of him before.

Described as "One Big Kitchen Party" on the website, the awards festival isn't only about enjoying the mind-blowing music – there is also a huge emphasis put on community, education and knowing how to live and work in the music industry. Hourly conferences happen throughout the long weekend.

Included in the list of conferences, available on the ECMA website, are Welcome to the Future: A Guide to Marketing Music In The New Economy, Songwriting Royalties and Revenue Streams and Managing Mayhem: The Business of Music.

The festival is taking place all over Sydney. Music can be found in venues such as local bar Smooth Herman's, and on Cape Breton University's campus. Also included are the Delta Sydney Mariner Ballroom and Savoy Theatre.

The Discovery Stage, where for four days a new up-and-coming artist performs every 40 minutes, will be set up at the Capris Club. The lineup of musicians is varied and endless. This

stage alone is worth the trip to Sydney.

Artists featured on the Discovery Stage include: The Hupman Brothers, Pink Thunder, The Danks, Milks and Rectangles, Big Game Hunt and Dawn and Margie Beaton.

Artists to watch for:

Alert The Medic – This Halifax rock band, made up of four guys, really took off after the release of their latest album *We, The Weapon*. Think clean, East Coast rock 'n' roll meets Sam Roberts, with a dash of Billy Talent. The sound is catchy and upbeat without being too pop. They'll be featured on the Molsen Canadian Rock Stage (at Smooth Herman's) on Saturday, March 6, at 1 a.m. Worth the wait, if you ask me.

Two Hours Traffic – These boys from Charlottetown, P.E.I., are so good. They describe their sound as power-pop. They have the ease of The Strokes and the drive of Arcade Fire. You can find them at The Joan Harris Cruise Pavilion on Thursday, March 4, at 9:40 p.m. If you can't make it to Sydney, do yourself a favour and look up *Sure Can Start* on their MySpace page.

The Subtitles – This four piece from St. John's, Newfoundland, are an indie-pop, post-punk, easy-listening, beach music, jaw-dropping eclectic sound that initially reminds you of The Darkness mixed with Oasis. Check this talent out at the Galaxie Rising Star Showcase on Friday, March 5, at 8:20 p.m.

How to tune in

CBC Radio will be broadcasting most of the weekend's featured artists, as well as some of the award ceremonies. You can also follow along on the ECMA website: www.ecma.ca. At the top left-hand corner of the website there is a link for East Coast Music Radio.



They should have just called themselves Reindeer. | Stock photo

Pipers at the gates of dawn

Drummer for Caribou continues the psych-pop trend

Cheryl Hann Staff Contributor

Most musicians aren't satisfied with just one band. They want more. This kind of creative greed isn't necessarily a bad thing. In fact, it has led to some awesome bands and records. From the Pixies, we got The Breeders. From Do Make Say Think, Broken Social Scene. And, from The Jonas Brothers, Nick Jonas and The Administration.

Oh, what? You don't like bands fronted by teens who can't possibly be serious about the political statement they're making with a band called "The Administration"? Fine. While it is true that not all side-projects are cause for celebration, they're often quite valuable. They allow us to glimpse the many facets of a musician's personality. They allow us to hear something new from an artist we've grown to love, and they prevent us from getting bored.

Brad Weber, drummer for the ultra-experimental, Canadian outfit Caribou, has taken a hint from the likes of Jack White, Ben Gibbard and Nikki Sixx (who once had a ridiculous side project called SIXX: A.M.).

Weber got together with three new musicians (Angus Fraser of Tenth of May, Dan Roberts of Winter Equinox and Clint Scrivener), and started up a band called Pick a Piper. Piper, which

boasts double drummers in their live show are, as you'd expect from a band that boasts double drummers in their live show, very percussion heavy; but not in that crappy, SIXX: AM kind of way.

Piper's multi-layered drums roll and swell, surge and churn, they (insert nautical metaphor here), and (here). They're sexy, and they make you feel something. Not in your pants though. Well, maybe in your soul-pants. Accompanying the enormous volley of percussion are some seriously delightful harmonies. The female vocals are especially lovely. There aren't any girls in the band, but the guys in Pick a Piper know some chicks with crazy pipes! Kind of like my grandfather. He had a huge pipe collection.

The songs on the band's MySpace (which, for the time being, are all we have to go on) are few. Piper has only posted three tracks, but they're worth checking out. "Yellowknife" sounds like a train trip across the country. The drums chug along, providing forward motion for the delicate harmonies, which sound like something you might hear around a campfire, assuming you go camping with a men's choir. "Bethel Park" stays quiet and gentle until a super catchy bass-line swoops in to spice things up. The song "Rooms" starts out with a charming glockenspiel melody, accompanied first by heavy, obscene-phone-call breathing, then by tribal drums and soft harmonies.

The song eventually builds to something that makes you feel like you're on an African safari. At first it's really nice. You're lying under the stars on a warm night, enjoying your foray into a new culture. But, then after a while, you realize that Paul Simon has been standing behind you for, like, ever.

That incredibly witty criticism aside, Pick a Piper is pretty sweet. They make great (as Weber puts it) "dancey psych-pop" that's sure to make you shake your bum around the entire circumference of your bedroom. It's not that often that a new and ultra-radical band comes to Halifax on its first tour, but Pick a Piper will be gracing our fair city for one night only on March 13. That's a Saturday, so you should go.

Also, you can make up for the coolness we're losing with this silly almost Friday the 13th, by taking in two cool bands, at your choice of venue.

Pick a Piper, and their opening act, the multi-genre instrumental band Ace Kinkaid will be playing two shows on their one-night stop-over. You can catch them at 7 p.m., at Studio A Café, a new AA venue located above the now-defunct Buckley's on Quinpool Road. Or, for you nighthawks, there will be a second show at Gus' Pub at 10 p.m. Weber promises more drums than you can handle, and he just might deliver. So, see you there. Bring your soul-pants.

Four Tet - There is Love in You

Matthew Ritchie Assistant Arts Editor

Grade: B+

Folktronica. Electronica. Jazz-trance. Whatever you call it, Kieran Hebden – also known as Four Tet – has been releasing powerful electronic music for the past 10 years. Discovering the trippy styles of Miles Davis' *Bitches Brew* while in university, Four Tet began taking his knowledge of abstract jazz records and mixing them with an IDM sound similar to Aphex Twin's Selected Ambient Works. His precursor album *Rounds* was a gorgeous mix of folk textures and Gene Krupa drums, while 2005's *Everything Ecstatic* showed a darker side with distorted cello riffs and drum and bass textures.

His new album, *There is Love in You*, may be the glossiest of his recordings yet. More similar to *Rounds* than the dark

sounds of *Everything Ecstatic*, *There is Love in You* manages to maintain a jazz feel while also evoking an ambient sound collage. However, opposed to drawing from the sounds of Sun Ra or John Zorn, he creates a very Steve Reich sounding album. Hypnotic synths and drum patterns swirl while Four Tet's famous blips and machine noises come in and out of the foreground of the album's tracks.

The opening track "Angel Echoes" derives sound from soul and do-wop songs, cutting and pasting the vocals to make an entirely new vocal track. The songs "Circling" and "Sing" have more hypnotic textures. Clocking in at more than five minutes each, these songs have a more ambient background; possibly the most ambient influenced since his early Aphex Twin remixes.

This album may be a bit too smooth and polished for Four Tet's diehard fan, but if you're new to do this glitch-pop maestro's stuff, this is the record to pick up.

www.dalgazette.com

Arts



The Fat Stupids, in all their slacker-punk glory. | Stock photo

Neither fat nor stupid

Fat Stupids keep it real fun

Hilary Stamper
Staff Contributor

If you've been to Reflections Cabaret on a Monday night in the last year and a half then you have probably heard The Fat Stupids. The trio claims to have never missed a Monday night Rockin' for Dollars show, with the exception of two emergencies, since they first started playing together. In fact, Craig Hamlin, Matt Grace, and Mike Bartlett started The Fat Stupids as a "Reflections-centered project."

Hamlin says: "I wanted to have a band that could play (Rockin' for Dollars) a lot and if it ever got slow we could just play a million songs."

For those who don't know, Rockin' for Dollars is an age-old Halifax tradition where any band with original songs can play for a free pitcher of beer and a chance to spin the prize wheel at the end of the night. Hamlin, who is employed at the bar as a doorman and event co-ordinator, says the lowest turnout he has seen at Rockin' for Dollars is around 40 people, but the bar can see up to 250.

Rockin' for Dollars showcases lots of different local bands in Halifax as well as the occasional out-of-town talent. Every night is hit or miss in terms of new bands, but the regulars usually deliver. The majority of bands playing this venue are punk and/or alternative genres.

Hamlin, Grace and Bartlett all have other lives and other bands but, as Bartlett frankly puts it, "All of our bands are hobbies because we don't really make any money."

The fact that bands in Halifax don't

make enough money to be professionals creates a more easy-going music scene. For instance, The Fat Stupids just played a farewell show for their friends in the Stolen Minks who are losing a member for a year so she can teach in Korea.

"The band is one thing, but your life is your life," Bartlett says about the Stolen Minks' departing member.

The band's name - The Fat Stupids - shows their casual attitude.

"You have a name like (The Fat Stupids) and you automatically appear to not take yourself too seriously," says Hamlin.

Yet the band's first songs were emotional and personal. The band believes those types of songs tend to be written first for therapeutic reasons. Though,

bands at shows. They reminisced about the night they did a Dead Kennedy's cover set.

"It was ridiculous!" said Grace. "We ended the night with basically punk rock karaoke and got people to come up and do songs they knew. ... It went on for about an hour."

Your average music lover would never initially call the members of The Fat Stupids 'punk rockers', but Hamlin says that's why they love playing punk shows.

"The best shows to play are punk shows, even though we are not the punkiest kinds of guys, we feed off not fitting in."

When asked what they thought of the hypocrisy of punks tending to look a certain way, the band agreed they felt sorry for punks. "Record-collector snob-punks make

"Even though we are not the punkiest kinds of guys, we feed off not fitting in."

when it comes to playing, Hamlin says, "I find it difficult to play the super-personal ones all the time because I feel like I'm faking it and I get uncomfortable."

As a non-professional fun and crazy punk band, The Fat Stupids have the freedom to be overly simplistic in their playing and song writing. However they say: "We push ourselves as a band to be more technically capable."

The Fat Stupids attribute their outlandish and entertaining performances to the energy they get from audiences and other

fun of street-kid leather-jacket punks and vice-versa," Grace said. "There is very little acceptance on both sides, which is unfortunate. ... (It's) funny to be in four or five punk bands in town and not have any of the punk rock looks."

Although the band has yet to tour further than New Brunswick, they do not disregard the idea of going to Montreal or Toronto in the near future. Presently they are seeing (as Grace put it) what opportunities arise.

Rough is better

Folk duo The Rough Sea makes true music

Hilary Stamper
Staff Contributor

The only advice I have for Christina Laurin and Justin Hess is that they never take their band, The Rough Sea, to the supposed 'height' of musical existence. In other words, I do not believe they should join the likes of The Stereos and sell out to Much Music or charge \$70 to thousands of people for a show at the Metro Centre.

The Rough Sea, as well as most of their small, but loyal, fan base, are self-described "bum kids" who have liberated themselves from the worries of exams, loans and careers. Instead, they fuel themselves with open roads, meeting new people, seeing new places, and writing music about their experiences along the way.

They last came to Halifax on Feb. 18, 2010, as part of their Eastern Canadian Tour. The duo sang their songs, old and new, at Gus' Pub surrounded by close friends and supporters.

"I love it," Hess said, when asked what he thought of our city. "I've been coming here for years and years, and every time we come here we stay for a while. Halifax actually is my favourite place to play shows in the entire country."

The Rough Sea's unique folk sound reflects the band's simple yet exciting life. Even with the use of only a few standard bluegrass and folk instruments, The Rough Sea is still able to move and enliven an audience. Gus' Pub's limited space did nothing to stop the crowd from swaying and joining in on the choruses of the songs. During one song, the audience was even stirred enough by the calm melody to sit down on the floor of the pub to listen.

Hess and Laurin deliver a fresh perspective on what it means to be musicians

and choose to remain faithful to their art by exempting themselves from a materialistic lifestyle. The Rough Sea is among many other small bands that recognize the resemblance of the music industry to a factory. Hess blithely recalled one experience the band had with a manager.

"This guy who wanted to manage us told us our name was too juvenile. He said he was the manager for some big bands - The Stills and Priestess. I don't know. I don't listen to them." Labels keep popping out one sensation after another, and the distinguishing factors between them are fewer. The Rough Sea and other less popular independent bands prove that people need to be more aware of the true variety that exists in a music scene.

The Rough Sea remains unmanaged and unlabelled, but they did take the step towards professionalism by recording their music. Ever since their personal relationship formed, Hess and Lauren were writing music together, travelling the country, busking and were satisfied doing so.

However, after an initial free recording in Victoria and a "very close friend" offering to produce and promote the band, The Rough Sea graduated to becoming more serious musicians. "Dude we used to play for beer money," Hess tells me. "Now we can play bigger shows like Blues fest and North By Northeast."

Hess and Laurin are already on their third album, but their humble beginnings will always be a part of their lifestyle. The essence of their name is that the rough road in life is the one they prefer to travel along. As they put it: "The Rough Sea is like life, because we are bums and we busk and fly signs, and it's hard and it's rough and it's like fuckin' sailing through the sea of life, and that sea is epic."

Charlotte Gainsbourg - IRM

Matthew Ritchie
Assistant Arts Editor

Grade: A

The daughter of French jazz-bo icon Serge Gainsbourg and sexy singer Jane Birkin returns with her second album, *IRM*. Named after the acronym given in French hospitals for brain scans, as well as being influenced by Gainsbourg's near death from a brain haemorrhage following a water skiing accident, the album contains severely dark and spiritual themes in comparison to her previous album. This is a welcome surprise for Gainsbourg fans.

Debut album *5:55* was filled with cooing electronics and love songs, mostly due to the collaboration with the cheese-eating surrender monkeys in Air. This time around she has enlisted the help of everyone's favourite egomaniacal bard, Beck, and the pairing is a strong choice. Following the release of his debut album *Mellow Gold*, it is safe to say Beck threw out all of his Johnny Cash and Neil Young albums for Tropicalia com-

pilations and Serge Gainsbourg records. Because of this, *IRM* sounds somewhat like a Serge Gainsbourg record without entirely mirroring his compositions.

Even though Beck arranged, composed and gave life to the entire catalogue of songs on this album, it is clear to see this is in fact a Charlotte Gainsbourg record. If anything, this is the best Beck album in seven years and his name isn't even on the cover.

"Heaven Can Wait" marries a bohemian acoustic guitar stomp over tickled keys and a jazzy horn section. This duet between Beck and Gainsbourg may be the most pop heavy on the record, as well as being one of the oddly sexiest tracks. "IRM," which shares its name with the album, is a nauseating trip through the Paris and London underground on psychedelics. Mechanical sounds whirl and fly by the ears as a monotone Charlotte describes a brain scan. "Le Chat Du Café Des Artistes" is a heavily orchestrated track with light drums and sensual whispers from Charlotte over swelling strings.

Sexy, gorgeous and intriguing as Charlotte is, this album is a must have.

Sports

Sports

Gazette Sports covers athletic events and topics relevant to Dalhousie. E-mail Joel at sports@dalgazette.com to contribute



Joel Tichinoff **Sports Editor**
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Dalhousie football returns

Alumni and club to bring gridiron back after 33 years

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

In 1870, the Oct. 10 issue of the Dalhousie Gazette made reference to one of North American Football's earliest known games played by the Dalhousie University rugby team on the South Common in 1867. In 1893, another article in the Gazette remarked: "Never before has the noble and manly game of football stirred up so much enthusiasm among the students."

Along with Harvard University, McGill University, Rutgers University and the University of Toronto, Dalhousie was an early home to the nascent sport of football.

While football grew in New England and the Canadian West in the early 20th century, Dalhousie remained loyal to the British tradition of Rugby Union. It was not until 1933 that Dal students organized the school's first football team, and Nova Scotia's first football league. The Dalhousie Americans dominated their rivals, the 'St. Mary's Irish' in the Halifax City American Football League. Canadian football took off at Dalhousie in the late 1940s: the Tigers won the Purdy Cup in 1951, and in 1954. Despite the Tigers' early success, Dal became less competitive by the 1970s, and the Dalhousie football team was scrapped in 1977. UPEI and UNB followed suit.

Ken Bellemare, Dal's athletics director at the time, said, "It's hard to compete when you don't have a chance. ... We'd rather spend the money where it's of greater benefit to more students."

So ended the story of football at Dalhousie. Until now.

"It's going to be academics first, football second," said Dalhousie Governor Jim Wilson, who heads the Board of Governors' Student Experience Committee. "What we're trying to do is set something up and see where it goes. There are a number of interested alumni who were involved with the football team when it was here and who want to give that back to the university."

Under the proposed arrangement, the Dalhousie football team would operate under a 'competitive club' structure similar to the Dal lacrosse and rugby teams, and would play in the 2009 up-start Atlantic Football League.

"We're not going to be playing the Huskies next September; this is club football as opposed to varsity football," Wilson said. "We want to try it out for a few years and then make a decision where we're going to go with it." When questioned about what the university would have to provide Wilson answers football will "not be a burden on the university."

The Atlantic Football League (The AFL) was formed last fall in New Brunswick. The AFL currently holds



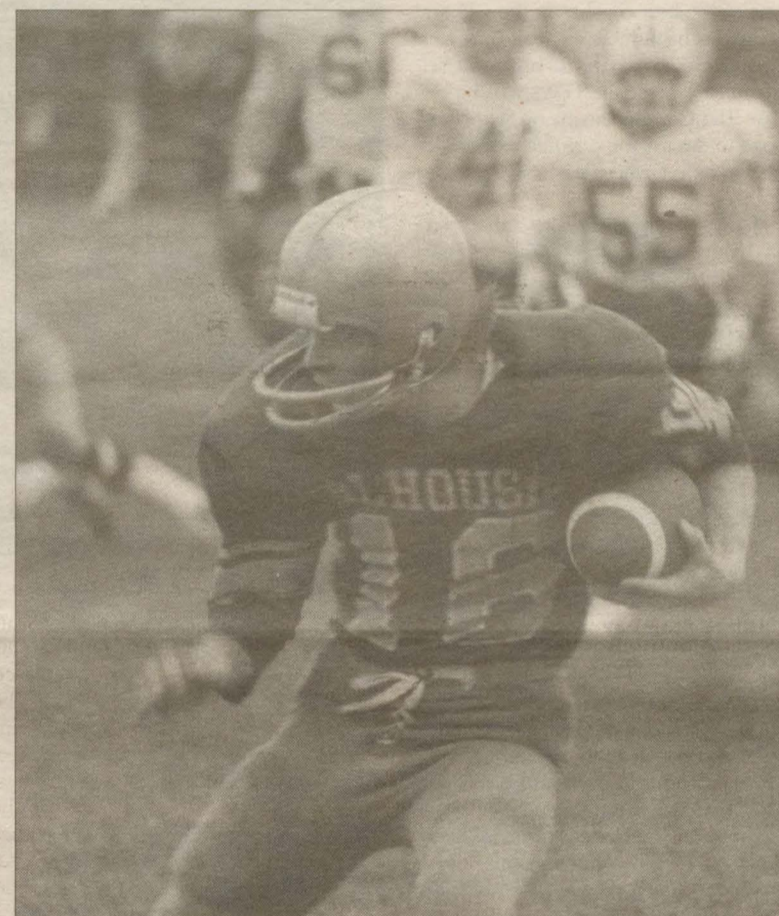
Football might be revived at Dal as a club sport. | Archive photo

three teams, two based out of the University of New Brunswick's Saint John and Fredericton campuses, and a community-based Moncton team. The AFL made waves in September when the Fredericton Red Bombers drew a crowd of over 2,300 to UNB's first home game in 30 years. Alumni flew to Fredericton from across the country to attend the game, and the day of tailgating that preceded it. Some serious feathers were ruffled as the season opener was scheduled on the same night as UNB's 2009 CIS Champion hockey team was slated to host McGill at the Aitken Cen-

ward who want to play and be involved."

Creating an alumni-sponsored student football club without students generates an interesting dilemma for the team's backers. Dal athletics clubs have been structured around grassroots student-driven initiatives – a group of students decides they want to make a team and apply to the athletics department and the DSU for club/society status.

"There's a format you have to follow as a club," said Dal Athletics Department Senior Programs Manager Shawn Fraser. "That format is oriented to what students come forward with and we can



can sustain a football program. Apart from the enormous cost of outfitting and maintaining a football team, there remains the question of where a Dalhousie football team would play. Wickwire Field has neither the uprights nor the field lines to host a football game. Wanderer's Ground (next to the Public Gardens) is home to Dal's Rugby team, but it's unlikely that alumni would fly from Calgary and Toronto to sit outside on wooden benches to see a Dal football game. The question of fairness to other club teams also presents a challenge.

"Does Dal want to be in football?"

be special accommodations and will be done with fairness to the other clubs. A football team would have the same opportunities as any other club."

Football fans at Dalhousie can look forward to a kickoff next September, providing the players come forward to make up the team. As a student-run club, the football team would require everyone – from the quarterback to the treasurer – to come from inside the student body. Unlike the current AFL teams, the Dalhousie organization would be entirely made up of students. The alumni driving the project forward have arranged for coaches and support staff, however it remains to be seen if students will get involved enough for the team to become a reality.

The program would have the advantage of offering Dal students the opportunity to enjoy and participate in football without the commitment and skill-level necessary to play football in the CIS. With the opportunity presented by AFL membership to compete in non-varsity football, the planned 'Dalhousie Homecoming' next Fall and strong alumni support, the time is right for Dalhousie to bring football back.

Any interested football players can contact jsjpond@dal.ca, or join the 'Dalhousie Football' group on Facebook.

"There are two things this university could use more of: fun and football." – Dal Governor Jim Wilson

tre Arena next to the adjacent football field; not only did more fans attend the football game, many of the hockey spectators crowded around windows overlooking the field from inside the arena.

"There are two things this university could use more of: fun and football," said Wilson of Dal. "We've got everything set up, we just need students to come for-

accommodate. Do they have a huge opportunity to get it going? I think they do. There are 15,000 students here. We've got to have at least 55 interested in playing football. And they will have no problem generating their operating budget through donations and player fees."

A major concern Fraser cited is whether the competitive club structure

asks Fraser. "Alumni would love to see it. The community would love to see it. (But) once it starts, so does the pressure to expand the team's resources. Then there's an expectation for something greater than our ability to service it. This is not going to be a varsity sport. The club option can be explored with the understanding that there won't

Sports

The goal is to win the championships

Men's hockey rebuild continues

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

Dalhousie came within one point of ending its six-year playoff drought in 2010. The Tigers have lost 133 of their last 168 games since 2004. Joining the Dal team in 2008, Head Coach Pete Belliveau is widely held to be one of the best coaches in the CIS and stands as the number eight all-time winning hockey coach in CIS history. If Belliveau can't make the Tigers win, no one can. The Gazette caught up with Belliveau to discuss the ongoing renaissance of hockey at Dalhousie.

Joel Tichinoff: It's the end of your second season here, how does Dalhousie compare to other schools you've coached at?

Pete Belliveau: Dal's not a sports university even as opposed to where I was at Lakehead or Moncton or Windsor. Dal's an academic school and it shows especially in the stands. We give away tickets here. And beer. Free tickets and free beer and we still can't get students out to games.

JT: Was there any effort put into letting students know tickets and beer were free?

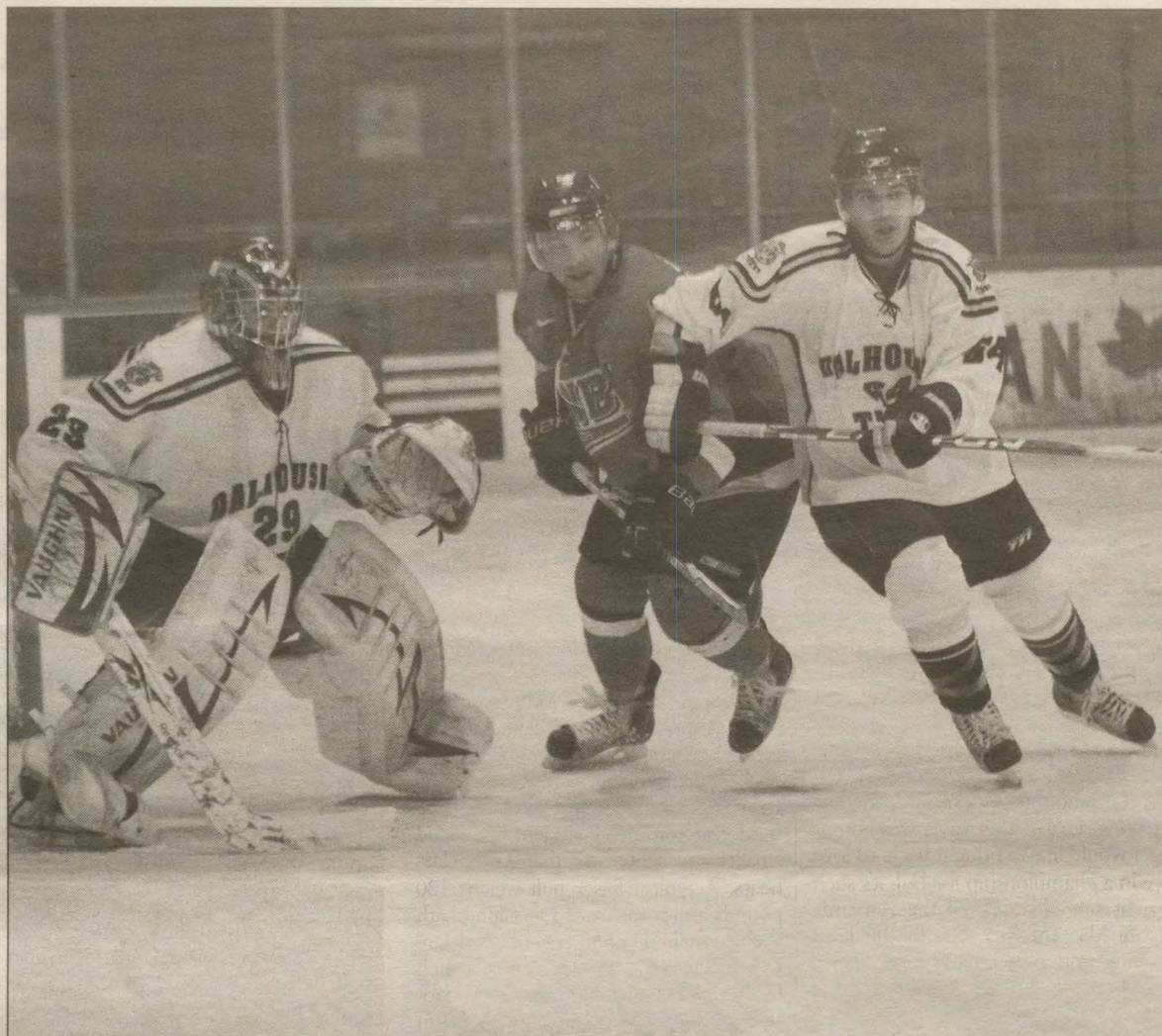
PB: Yes, and no. Short of taking them by the hand, we've promoted in residences, spent hundreds of dollars on ads. We don't know how to get (the fans) out. We worked with the student union a few times this year. We're on the right track. I guess winning would probably help. Yet, men's basketball won the AUS last year but even they don't draw well and Halifax is a basketball town. We do well with alumni and the community — they support us and that helps a lot. But still, we've got how many students living across the street in Risley Hall, and still hardly any students at the games.

JT: This year was the beginning of the 'Belliveau Renaissance'. You've come here to turn the Dal hockey program around. How's that coming along?

PB: We went from nine points to 20 — more than doubled. We cut our goals against by 52. We were the most improved team in the country. We just fell short by a point. Our projection was 25 (points). Had we gotten one more win we would have been in the playoffs. We just hit some hot goaltending. Dal was the third least penalized team in the league. If I could pick on one spot it was our powerplay that failed in the end to score that crucial goal we needed to beat Moncton. The game that hurt us the most was the loss to Moncton; had we beat them we would have been up by five points, it would have been over, and they beat us 3-0. We out-shot them 19-3 in the second period of that game, but their goaltending was phenomenal and in the end we came out two points short of making the playoffs.

JT: Is the rebuilding still on schedule?

PB: We are on schedule. We like what we're doing. Our rookies Bartek and Breault were phenomenal in the last game of the year. Breault is going to be an all-star. I think he's up there with the best players in the league. We also have a huge recruit out of the Tri-City Americans in the WHL coming here in September,



Mens Hockey. | Photo by Pau Balite

Brett Plouffe: a great defenseman. So we're getting there. We definitely wanted to make the playoffs this year though.

JT: How did it feel when it came down to Moncton, a team you built and coached to a national championship in the early '90s, being the team that pushed Dal out of the playoffs?

PB: They beat us and then they pulled a rabbit out of the hat and beat Acadia in their barn to knock us out of the race, that's not easy to do. But it's been years since I was there, their current coach is a former player of mine, their GM is still the one I hired, and the staff. But the players themselves I don't know. We had some great battles this year; four games — we beat them twice; they beat us twice. That last one was what made the difference. But like I said, Dal's done well, we lost nine or 10 games by a goal or two. So we're slowly getting there but we need more skilled players. We're graduating some pretty good defensemen: Stonehouse, Manning. We're losing talent to graduation but we've got a lot of lines in the water and we've got Plouffe committed. We think we'll be OK on defence.

JT: Was there a high point of the season?

PB: The week of Jan. 15. We played St. Thomas on the Friday, they beat us but we outplayed them. The next night we beat Moncton. Wednesday we beat (St. Francis Xavier) here. Sunday we beat Acadia, six points and tough teams. Acadia was ranked fourth in the country at the time. (St. Francis Xavier) is a solid team, so we're happy about that.

Our win streak came to an end with St. Mary's, who have been our biggest nemesis. We've played well against the Huskies but only got two points out of them in OT losses this year. They're better than us right now but we're catching up.

JT: Was there a low point to the season?

PB: The last five games. We needed two points out of 10 and we got zero. We couldn't get the job done on the power play. We need more snipers. Breault showed up and did what he was supposed to do and our rookies are going to improve but we need to recruit guys who can do it right away.

JT: Which new recruit made the best impression playing for you this year?

PB: Ben Breault. Played half the season and was our top-scorer. Had he played a full season he would have been 30-plus in points and Rookie of the Year. I've had three or four players throughout my 18-year career who can change a game on a dime, and he's one of them.

JT: You had recruited NHL draft-pick Maxime Tanguay only to have him leave for the Chicago Blackhawks farm team last September, is he still in the picture?

PB: Funny you mention his name. He's being bounced around right now between the ECHL and the AHL, so he told Bobby (Nadeau, Dal goalie) that he's thinking it over. He could potentially register at Dal this year and he would be phenomenal.

JT: It seems like a common theme this season was outplaying teams but coming up short on the scoreboard. Why is that?

PB: We were up 1-0 on UNB the other night. The best team in the country, 1-0 in the second. It was 1-1 with nine minutes left. It was game, we were there. And the last game of the season they had us 4-0 and we scored two shorthanded goals in the third to make it 4-2. We just needed one more chance. We've gone from being patsies to almost there. We just need the players. The Benjamin Breaults and the Daniel Barteks; guys who can take over a game. Players from major junior leagues scoring 30 to 40 goals a season like (UNB's) Hunter Tremblay, and that's exactly what we're going after for next year.

JT: How do you get those players?

PB: We build relationships with the leagues — the Q, the W, the O. Like a lot of teams we're in the race for certain big players and this program is going to land some of them. Marc-Olivier Vallerand (Quebec Remparts, 32 goals, 70 points) is best friends with Breault. Luke Pither (Barrie Colts, 31 goals, 80 points) is friends with our captain, Patrick Daley (Peterborough Petes, 15 goals, 57 points) as well. These things help. It's incredible the dynamics of the players. They'll stick with their friends. I'm off next week recruiting and meeting some of those guys.

JT: Is there a lure to Dal other than the friends?

PB: The degree. The name is phenomenal. For us to be missing the playoffs and attract the players we do says a lot about our degree. At the end of the day that's why we're getting quality players.

JT: The AUS is arguably the toughest varsity hockey league in Canada and tends to favour bigger players. You seem to prefer smaller, but talented, fast, puck-handling goal-scorers.

PB: That's how I won in Moncton. That's how I won at Lakehead, and I guess that's how we're going to win here. I like to have the speedster, the guy who can go wide. I'll take him, he doesn't have to be six-foot-four. If they're six-foot-four with speed, they're playing in the NHL. The better players in the CIS tend to be around 5'10.

JT: You've brought begun recruiting European players like Bartek (Czech Republic), Ahlander and Engzell (Sweden). What's Dal's European connection?

PB: Ahlander played last year, this year he went to Germany, he wasn't strong enough for this league. The guy we really wanted was Hampus Engzell. We wanted him back, he wanted to come back; we just couldn't make the money work. When a student comes from out of the country tuition doubles and our program just couldn't afford it. Dal still has strong connections in Europe but unless I know a guy's going to be first-line, second-line, or top two defensemen, I won't bring someone over to play on the fourth-line.

JT: Does the Dalhousie name carry much weight in Europe?

PB: Dal carries a lot of weight throughout the world, never mind for sports, just for the school. In terms of European hockey players, for them it's either major junior or the NHL, they don't come to play for universities.

JT: Yet AUS players are starting to appear in the NHL; Joel Ward (Nashville Predators) came out of UPEI. Do you see the trend continuing?

PB: Yes, I think so. I can tell you that since the NHL rule change we're seeing more NHL scouts at our games than ever before. Here and on the road. A lot of these kids are on the NHL radar; Bartek was at the (New York) Rangers' training camp last year; made rookie camp, made main camp. Bobby Nadeau was at the (Vancouver) Canucks' camp. Breault is an NHL draft pick. Tanguay left here to go try out at Chicago's camp and didn't come back. So a lot of our players are getting serious looks from the NHL.

JT: There were some pretty tough goals-against stats last year, is Bobby Nadeau the solution to Dal's goaltending problems?

PB: (Josh) Disher and Nadeau are both part of our improvement in net. Disher was better this year because of Bobby. I think next year Nadeau is really going to shine and Disher will keep getting better too. It's a great battle between them for me to decide who I'm going with. They both work so hard and what I like about them most is they're a team. No animosity and no distractions. And our number three Chris Wall is good enough to play CIS hockey anywhere but here he's a third goaltender.

JT: Where would you like to be a year from, having this season in review conversation?

PB: Next year we're in the playoffs. I'd like to go two rounds at least. After that I see us in the top three, fighting for

The goal is to win the championships (cont.)

second. (CIS leader) UNB is so far out there but this program is catching up. We're looking at hosting the 2013-2014 National Championship, and if we succeed it will change our whole dynamic. Recruiting would be easier – hosting Nationals is a big carrot. It's how UNB transformed their program in 2003: they had a successful bid and they didn't win but they kept on building and became the top team in the country. They brought in the top players. And, to their credit, they then took that team and modeled it on the NCAA: they gave them a big rink, they played top-notch American teams in exhibition, they got a real nice gym, a real nice dressing room. They bring a recruit to their rink and that's it. It's also incredible what W's will do; once they started winning big it took their program to a whole new sphere.

JT: Could Dal succeed with the UNB model?

PB: When you start winning here, plus the degree you offer, plus Halifax, are you kidding me? No disrespect to anybody else but this is the place. Fifteen-thousand students, it's on the water, it's got prestige and it's got a city.

JT: What's the ultimate goal?

PB: Any coach you ask that question will say a CIS Championship. I was fortunate enough to win it in '94, came second in '95, second in '06. The goal is to win the championships. But you have to make the playoffs first. And once you get to the playoffs you can get a roll; anything can happen. It happened when I was coaching Moncton in '95 and '99 it happened again; we got on a roll. Entering the playoffs in third place, we lost the first

game at UNB. We went back to Moncton and beat them 4-2, a tight game with an empty net goal. We went back down there for game three and they were up 4-1 at the end of the second; they became lazy and we scored with three seconds left in the period. We came back to win in overtime. We went on to beat St. Thomas, then we eliminated Acadia. We went to Nationals and finished second, beating Windsor and Saskatchewan. Once you get to the playoffs, it's all there.

JT: And having been to Nationals several times and seen the schools that make it, does the Dalhousie program have what it takes?

PB: This program, I think, within a year or two we'll be knocking on the door. Right now we're giving UNB a go but we're not there yet. You have to have more depth; you have to be able to throw out three or four lines of guys who can score anytime. If you've got four lines of guys who can score anytime, you're there. This team only has a line or two like that. We're talking to about 20 kids who are interested and could make those lines. We need about seven or eight. I'll know more by May or June. But right now those kids are focused on playing where they are and I respect that. When I was a coach at Moncton, Dal was the school for hockey. Top two or three every year. This arena was booming. I would like to bring it back. I'd love to win a championship for Dal. It's such a great school – one of the Harvards of Canada. This place, with the level of education plus great sports teams, would really be something special.

Rookie swimmer strikes gold at nationals

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

First-year science student David Sharpe led the Dalhousie Swim team at the CIS Swimming Championships in Toronto, winning all four of Dalhousie's medals. Sharpe won gold for Dalhousie in the men's 50-metre backstroke on the first day of the three-day competition. Hours after winning gold, Sharpe swam his way to a silver medal in the men's 100-metre fly. The second day, Sharpe captured two more silver medals in the 200-metre fly and 200-metre backstroke races. Sharpe's were Dalhousie's first CIS medals since the bronze medal performance by the men's relay team in 2007 when Dalhousie hosted the National championships. Powered by Sharpe's medals the Dal men's team finished fifth overall at the meet and the

women's team finished eighth. Halifax-native Sharpe was named AUS Swimmer of the Year for 2010.

The 2010 meet saw the University of Calgary storm the podium winning 16 gold and 35 medals overall, sweeping first-place overall in both men's and women's team points. Calgary established itself as the new super-power of CIS swimming denying UBC its 12th team title in 13 years; UBC's Men's and Women's teams have swept Nationals all but twice since 1998. Despite dominating the AUS, winning 12 consecutive men's titles and nine consecutive women's titles, and enjoying a consistently high rating in national rankings, Dalhousie has never won a national title in either categories. Dal will need more swimmers like David Sharpe if the team hopes to compete with swimming super-powers Calgary, Toronto and UBC.

Dal Commerce student sets sail for 2016 Rio Olympics

Joel Tichinoff
Sports Editor

Ottawa-native Paul Brikis spent his spring break in Clearwater, Florida, rather than sipping mojitos on the beach. Brikis was there to train with Team Canada in preparation for the Sailing World Cup this August in Perth, Australia. Brikis is one of four potential candidates to race for Canada in the men's Finn-class at the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. In Florida he trains with Beijing Olympics' Silver-medalist Zach Railey, the top U.S. Finn-sailor, and Canada's Christopher Cook, who placed fifth in the Finn event at Beijing.

"They bring a wealth of experience," Brikis says of being coached by former Olympians. "We're learning through them and it's a steep learning curve the whole way."

It was Brikis' second trip to Florida this semester; in January he was in Miami to compete in the 2010 Rolex Miami Olympic-Class Regatta, an ISF (International Sailing Federation) World Cup event bringing together the world's top sailors and Olympic-hopefuls. Miami was Brikis' fourth appearance at a World Cup but his first international event racing in the Finn-class. Until the summer of 2009, the third-year commerce student had raced smaller and lighter one-man Laser-class boats. A typical Laser hull weighs 130 pounds and measures 13 feet long with a single mainsail of an area of 76 square feet. Brikis made the decision to switch to the much larger (320 pound, 15-foot hull, 114-square-foot mainsail) Finn boat following the Laser World Championships, held in Halifax last August.

"The Finn is the most athletic solo rig and is extremely demanding. The ideal weight for a Laser-sailor is 180 pounds, and I was outgrowing the boat," says Brikis, whose career best finish was 18th at the San Francisco World Cup last June. Brikis finished 24th in the world his first time sailing a Finn at Miami. Another strong showing in the World Cup regatta in Perth would qualify him for the 2016 Canadian Olympic team.

"From this point on it's a sprint to the Olympics, it can be over a two year process and Canada still has to qualify," says Brikis. "It's kind of crazy watching it on TV right now and thinking, 'That's what I want to do.' Seeing it, you wake up and say it's all going to be worth it. It means a lot as an athlete to see people excited about what you're doing." Brikis first tried sailing while at summer camp near Ottawa around the age of 10. By 16 he had been invited to join the Ontario team.

"I enjoyed the competition aspect and was lucky enough to have a passionate instructor, so gradually the focus on racing grew."

At 17, Brikis moved away from his family to train as part of the High Performance team at Toronto's Royal Canadian Yacht Club, a program intended to groom young Canadian sailors for Olympic competition.

"I made the choice at 17 to go where the best were, and Toronto was where I needed to be. My dad's only words were: 'If you come back a Leafs fan, you're not welcome.'" Living with family, Brikis spent over two hours a day riding the subway, juggling training on the Island, high school



Paul Brikis races at 2010 Miami World Cup. | Photo by Pau Balite

and a part-time job. The sacrifice has paid off – not only is he an Olympic hopeful, Brikis is also the youngest member of Ontario Sailing's Board of Directors.

While visiting an older brother at Dalhousie, Brikis crossed paths with Matt White, the Dalhousie management student responsible for creating the Dal Sailing team and the annual Dalhousie Business Ethics Case Competition. Attracted by Dal's strong co-op program, the city and a promising sailing program, Brikis has become a leading force on the sailing team.

"It's not something you can just be passionate about, you have to commit to making a sailing team. We've got a phenomenal program. From humble beginnings we're really starting to make some waves."

Competing in the 42-member New England Intercollegiate Sailing Association, 2009 saw Dalhousie win the Wellahan Trophy in Portsmouth last October. Brikis placed third at the McGill Cup and team president Petey Dixon placed third at a Boston regatta. While enthusiastic about the Dal team Brikis laments the disconnect between the students and the school and its sports teams.

"This isn't just drinking camp here, we shouldn't be afraid to show some pride."

It was while studying at Dal that Brikis received his first World Cup invitation.

"Last February, my performance had hit a plateau but knew I was close to qualifying. I remember working in the Killam and getting the e-mail that said: 'You've made it.' It was like getting the golden ticket, the happiest moment of my athletic career. First thing I did was call my mom. It was huge."

After spring exams, Brikis will complete his degree in Accounting and take a year off to focus exclusively on training and qualifying for the Rio Summer Games. The Canadian Sailing team is developing a strong Finn program and hopes to be a medal-contender in the event by 2016. It's a long way off but Brikis is ready to follow his dream.

"I want to go to the Games, but even if I don't qualify, I still want to be on the circuit and not just show up for a T-shirt, but to compete day-in day-out. It's not a cake walk – it's a full-time job. Don't get me wrong, I love every minute of it but if you're going to do it you need to treat it like the career path that it needs to be. My life plan is centered on Rio," Brikis smiles. "Maybe someday that be me watching our flag go up."

www.dalgazette.com

Sports



The 1915 Dalhousie Football Team Nova Scotia champs. | Archive photo.

Rinky dinks

Tim van der Kooi
Staff Contributor

Ice-skating in Canada began outdoors and slowly migrated from lakes and rivers into indoor arenas beginning with the construction of Victoria Skating Rink in Montreal in 1859. The reasons for indoor skating were simple: protection from cold winds, ideal ice conditions and some degree of warmth. Yet outdoor rinks still draw us out of warm homes.

"Everybody is on the ice when it's cold outside," said Halifax-Downtown councillor Dawn Sloane in a phone interview, referring to the George Dixon Outdoor Skating Rink located near Uniacke Square in Halifax.

Sloane, who doesn't consider herself a good skater, comes out to the rink to meet and greet the people in the community. Sloane said she met a German family just a couple of weeks ago that recently moved to the Halifax downtown area. They decided to try out the rink even though they had never skated before. Sloane would've never guessed they were beginners.

"They were ripping it up out there," said Sloane. "We get every kind of person down at the rink."

The George Dixon rink was constructed in 2008 by a group of six women called the Pep Bro Divas. Youth advocate worker Donna Nelligan pitched the idea. Nelligan has been living in the area for 18 years.

"A couple of years ago our kids were getting into trouble, throwing snowballs and fighting," said Nelligan during a phone interview. "So we decided to make a rink to provide the youth with an opportunity to get together."

The rink is one of only three community-driven outdoor rinks in the Halifax Peninsula area. The other two rinks are located in the north end and in Ardmore Park near Oxford Street. Sloane said that building and maintaining an outdoor rink is harder than it appears. Communities usually encounter three problems: water, weather and volunteers.

Outdoor rinks must be near a 'hot box' - which is an enclosed building with a water valve - or another source of water supply in order to flood the rink. Fire hydrants are not an option since uncapping them for non-emergency pur-

poses could potentially deprive homes of water. The exposure to the cold could cause the water pipes to freeze.

Halifax's average winter temperature is on par with Toronto, the capital of outdoor hockey rinks with 63 refrigerated rinks in 49 locations. Sloane says the weather in Halifax can be perfect some times, and other days can be disastrous.

"It was perfect during the cold snap. Then we got this load of snow, so it'll take some time to dig ourselves out," said Sloane.

The digging, shovelling and flooding of the rink is where the volunteers come into play.

"We could always use more volunteers," said Sloane. "I mean, it only takes about a half hour out of your day, and it brings everybody closer together at the end of the day."

The rink started out with six original volunteers and has dwindled itself down to three core volunteers: Nelligan, Sloane and Jonathan Hammonds. However, the kids are starting to grab the hoses and shovels from the hands of the parents.

"The kids really take ownership of the rink," said Nelligan. "From the building of the rink until taking it down, the kids are there every step of the way."

Nelligan said there is a lot of community support for the rink. Seniors from Northwood and the Sunrise Manor donated knitted scarves and mittens for the children because they enjoy the sight of the skating rink. Police officers and members of the 615 Air Cadet Squadron have flooded the rink on multiple occasions. Other community members donated over 200 pairs of hockey skates, giving all kids an opportunity to strap on some skates.

"All of this was beyond anything we ever imagined," said Nelligan.

Sloane said the possibilities are endless for communities looking to build outdoor rinks, as long as the weather co-operates. She is anticipating the arrival of Halifax's first refrigerated outdoor rink in 2011, which the city is building on the Commons in October for the 2011 Canada Winter Games. After the games, the rink will be maintained by the city and open to the public.

"I think it will be wonderful for the city," said Sloane. "Hopefully more communities will follow suit and build rinks of their own."



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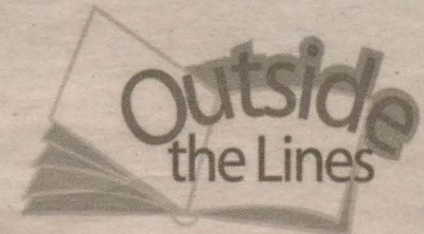
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Dal's track and field team competed at the Dalplex last weekend. | Archive photo



THE SEXTANT

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EDITOR IN CHIEF: BEN WEDGE

MARCH 5TH, 2010

THE IRON RING VS. THE X-RING

*JP Brien
Mechanical '10*

Back in high school, I made the decision to go to St.F.X. to get away from home. When I first arrived, I hadn't really put any thought into getting my X-Ring. As my second year began, my program began to get hard, and with the added time constraints from playing rugby it was a struggle just to pass my courses.

For a normal X grad, getting the X-Ring is a giant party at the end of a long 3 and a half years. For the engineers, it was a light celebration as the winter exams were just around the corner. Getting my X-Ring was a breath of fresh air, and a challenge.

We found our first apartment in Halifax when someone saw my friend's X-Ring and hooked us up with a sweet house. At first when we arrived at Dalhousie, it was all about hanging out with the other X grads, but gradually we became part of the general Sexton Engineering population and became heavily involved with the society. There was a point in time where I just wouldn't wear my X-

Ring, as I had to take it off for work. Everywhere I have worked, people have told me that once I get my Iron Ring, my X-Ring will no longer be important. With a few days to go, I still disagree with them, my X-Ring has made me part of a social network, while my Iron Ring will represent my professional designation. To say that one will replace the other isn't true, as they represent different aspects of my life. It seems that the same people I graduated from X with are the same people I will be getting my Iron Ring with. It seems that this will be the party that the fourth year Xers were celebrating when they got their X rings.

I have thought about, and tried making, some direct comparisons between the X-Ring and the Iron Ring. The first, and easiest, comparison to make was the direct investment, \$684 (\$30,000 indirectly) for the X-Ring and \$20 (\$100,000 indirectly) for the Iron Ring. The X-Ring is membership in an exclusive club, yours for eternity, and widely recognized around Canada and the world. The Iron Ring is a professional designation, never yours, but highly re-

spected. Both rings are an oath to make the world a better place with whatever capacity you have. Both rings are essentially material proof that you have been an active part of society.

My goal, ever since elementary school, has been to become an engineer. At first I wanted to pursue a degree in Civil engineering (At 8, I was young and foolish) but gradually my desire to design boats and planes drew me to mechanical. My X-Ring, while important to me, was a midway goal on my quest to become an engineer. My Iron Ring will be the symbol of the realization of one of my childhood dreams. It will represent the part of my past which will define my future. My X-Ring holds many fond memories for me but as I move forward in my career, the oaths and practices of the bearers of the Iron Ring will take a front seat to my X-Ring.

AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S VIEW

*Felipe González-Artigas
Industrial ('10)*

As an international student from Ecuador, I never thought I would have a ceremony more important than convocation – the Iron Ring Ceremony. I have not yet graduated, but I am about to receive my Iron Ring. For all of those who do not know what the Iron Ring is, I don't blame you, because I did not know until I was in my second year. I consider the Iron Ring Ceremony more important than graduation because it marks the moment when you really become an Engineer. However, it is still important to know that if you do not end up graduating in May you will have to take your ring off until you graduate.

Contrary to the Engineering Undergraduate Degree Certificate that will in most cases end up stationary on a wall, the ring will always be there reminding you that you are an Engineer. It is not there to let everyone else that you are an Engi-

neer, and therefore you rule the world, but to make you conscious that all the designs, creations, and engineering that you do, and the decisions that you make, are for the well-being of society.

When I move back to Ecuador, where most people don't know what the silly ring on my pinky finger is, should I take it off? In fact, when I have talked to people back home about the ring, they have asked me if I will still wear the ring. I always reply "Of course I will." The reason why I will use the ring is not only because it will make me remember all the valuable experience I gained in Canada, but more importantly because it will remind me that no matter where in the world I am, I am still a "Canadian Engineer", and I will always follow all of their values and principles throughout my career!

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 2010 IRON RING RECIPIENTS!

THE CLOCK IN THE T-ROOM

Did you know... In the t-room there is a clock above the bar that is counting down by the millisecond. This clock is a count down to the next iron ring ceremony. So on as the clock approaches zero for this year, check it out next week.... it will then be counting down for IRON RING 2011!

*Kaylee Shannon
Assistant Editor*



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WORD OF THE WEEK

Iron Ring (n): The ring worn by Canadian Engineers upon completion of their studies. Bearers of the Iron Ring have proven their competency in using rigid members, demolishing forty beers, deriving drunk, and know when to use duct tape, WD-40, and beer. As with all cults, the Iron Ring is awarded in a secret ceremony.

Editor's note: Word of the week is a humour column. Suggestions and complaints can be sent to sextant@dal.ca

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A CANADIAN STUDENT'S POINT OF VIEW

Bridget Robinson *Mechanical '10* What does the iron ring mean to me? If someone had asked me that question five years ago when I was a grade 12 student applying for engineering programs, I would have answered in a confused tone, "Iron ring – what's that?" Growing up in a family with only one engineer, an uncle who graduated from TUNS about 30 years ago, who has lived and worked in the U.S. for most of his adult life, and does not wear his iron ring, I had never heard of the iron ring that Canadian engineers wear upon completion of their degree.

If posed the same question one year later at the cusp of finishing the first year of my degree, I would have replied indifferently, "Not much – it's just a ring." At that point in my life, my last year of engineering seemed so far in the future that I did not really understand the iron ring's significance and saw no reason to be excited about receiving one.

Even if I had been asked two months ago what the

iron ring means to me, I would have responded, "I don't know." Upon starting my final semester of engineering, I understood the important role that engineers play in society regarding the safety and health of the public, and I understood that the iron ring is meant to constantly remind engineers of the responsibility that they have to their colleagues, clients, and the public. Despite this knowledge, I could not determine what the iron ring signifies for me personally.

Now, with the iron ring ceremony (and my 23rd birthday – what a party that will be!) mere hours away, I know that for me, the iron ring is a culmination of five years of hard work and fun times. When I look at my iron ring, I will remember scrambling with my residence-mates to finish physics CAPAs on Friday nights. I will think about the nervous excitement that I felt waiting for co-op rankings to be released. I will be reminded of engineering society events and the smells of barbecues and pancake breakfasts. I will even ponder the many hours spent furiously studying for nearly impossible exams and

the feeling that I would get in the pit of my stomach after writing one of those nearly impossible exams. And, of course, I will remember all of the friends that I have made at school and on work terms. The last five years have been a tough grind, but they have been filled with wonderful experiences. It is nice to have the iron ring to show for those years, and I can't wait to receive it!

MESSAGE FROM THE DSEUS PRESIDENT

Congratulations to all 2010 Iron Ring recipients! I hope you will all wear it with dignity and celebrate what you have accomplished. So here's to all of the money, time and beer that has lead to this moment. Cheers and see you at the T-Room.

- Stephanie Hagmann

THE SEXTANT IRON RING EDITION

March 5th 2009

Hitting the Wall

Shani Blankrot

Industrial '11

Creating new, never before conceived ideas that must fit intricately into a mental world of imagination is precisely the job of a research mathematician.

For Tom Fox, professor at Montreal's Dawson College and former researcher at McGill University, math is an art. "I think it's the purest art form," Fox says. "There are simply beautiful ideas; a realm of imagination that no other art form gets into."

Despite the fact that he loved his job as a researcher, Fox simply had to let it go ten years ago because it was too difficult. "When I was doing research I would be up until six in the morning just staring at walls trying to figure out answers to problems," he said. According to Fox, the problem with research mathematics is that for months there is simply no reward, whereas a mathematics teacher receives immediate feedback and encouragement through doing his or her job.

The famous mathematician Pierre de Fermat died in 1665 and left to the world one of the most famous theorems of all time. He failed, however, to include the proof of his work and merely stated:

"I have discovered a truly remarkable proof which this margin is too small to contain." Ever since this note was found by his son, mathematicians everywhere have sought to prove Fermat's Last Theorem.

A conjecture such as Fermat's might be considered fact by mathematicians everywhere, but does not become widely accepted as truth until someone has proved that it successfully operates for every number to infinity. The job of creating a proof, however, requires thinking outside the box - opening up one's mind to a new realm of thoughts - which is generally beyond the capabilities of most mathematicians. Unfortunately, for some, this reality can be too much to fathom. "Mathematicians are taught very early on that they're very smart," Fox says. "They're probably the smartest people they've ever met for most of their lives. But then you hit this wall where, all of a sudden, you realize that you're not God. Most people tend to

deal with that one way or the other, but some people can't deal with that because it's just too big of a blow to their self image."

Yutaka Taniyama, former researcher at the University of Tokyo, was on the brink of proving a theorem of his own when he hit his wall. His conjecture, claiming that all elliptical curves and modular functions are related, would only work mathematically if Fermat's Last Theorem was proven since the two were systematically linked. With his deepest efforts slipping out of his grasp, Taniyama committed suicide in 1958

Some Famous nineteenth century mathematicians who committed suicide:

- *Yutaka Taniyama 1958 - known for conjecturing the Taniyama-Shimura Theorem*

- *Renato Caccioppoli 1959-proved the fundamental theorem on normal families of complex variables*

- *Felix Hausdorff 1942 - founder of modern topology Aleksandr*

Mikhailovich Lyapunov 1918 - set foundations for probability theory

- *James MacCullagh 1847 - best remembered for his work in geometry*

possibly because he felt his mathematical abilities were fading, according to colleagues.

The disappointment in dedicating an entire adulthood to a specific cause, and not ever being able to realize it can be detrimental. "At the end of the months and months you find out that what you were trying to do isn't true, and all you can do is throw it all out which is extremely frustrating," says Fox about the disappointment in failing to solve a theorem. "Keeping the faith is very difficult with research because it's very hard work many times."

Although many thought they would not live to see the proof of Fermat's Last Theorem, a bombshell was just around the corner. As a ten year old boy in a library, curiously reading about an unsolved mathematical problem, Andrew Wiles committed to a childhood dream of proving Fermat's Last Theorem. "This problem had been unsolved by mathematicians for 300 years," Wiles said in an interview with Simon Singh. "It looked so simple, and yet all the great mathematicians in history couldn't solve it. Here was a problem, that I, a ten year old, could understand

and I knew from that moment that I would never let it go. I had to solve it." Some years later, Wiles' pursuit eventually landed him a research position at Princeton University where he devoted seven years of his life to the creation of his proof, whilst keeping his endeavor a covert mission.

Wiles ultimately proclaimed to the world in 1995 that he solved Fermat's Last Theorem. "Hundreds of brilliant mathematicians worked on that same problem and didn't solve it," said Fox regarding the extent of Wiles' success. "They spent their whole lives working

on it and then they didn't do it. Don't forget, Wiles is the great success story. But how do you feel if you spend 30 years working on something, then you die and your last thought is 'I didn't do it'?"

According to the statistic Stack taken in 2001, mathematicians are experiencing increased job-related suicide risk. Although Fox could only think of two research mathematicians that he personally knows who have gone insane, he stated that with any creative endeavor, there is an extreme amount of pressure placed on the artist. Being the "purest" of art forms, this is especially true for math. "If you're a sculptor, a painter, or a poet you can create your work and convince yourself that it's worth while even if it's a pile of sh**," Fox says. "You can't do that with math."

The problematic side of this profession lies on the fact that it is not a social enterprise. "You spend a lot of time working alone, and you're also dealing with very non-human things," Fox says. "Mathematicians often have very poor social skills because they spend all their time thinking about things which have no social applications.

"They don't understand emotions well, they don't understand people well, and quite often they're insular and lonely so they don't have the support that a well-adjusted normal person that actually deals with people has."

Similarly to Fermat's theorem, today there remains an unsolved conjecture called the Riemann Hypothesis. It is widely considered the most important unsolved problem confronting modern mathematics. Fox warns that one should probably think twice before attempting to solve it. "If you're trying to solve the Riemann Hypothesis, the odds are against you, and so if you work on it for ten years and you fail, your sense of self-worth is awful."

One of Fox's main concerns with regards to the teaching of mathematics is that he wishes he could expose students to the beautiful side and not solely focus on the mechanical parts. "Its sort of like people who are taught to play the piano," Fox says. "Suppose that you spend 15 years of your life doing nothing but playing Scales, and never got to listen to beautiful music, you would hate music because it would just be a mechanical process where you're practicing over and over again." He expressed regret in not having the chance to teach a course about abstract math, focused on geometry in multi-dimensional space, or the counting of infinities.

Despite the fact that Fox was able to identify certain profession-related problems of mathematicians, not all mathematicians hit the wall. Surely, there are the successes like Andrew Wiles. Fox conveyed his loved for math, and his words on the subject were utterly inspiring. "I love all kinds of art, but the idea that in my mind I can see a couple of planes floating around in five dimensional space and understand how they might interact is just gorgeous," Fox says. "It's a crazy idea. It's a beautiful idea. Its helps elevate the human spirit in a way that's just lovely."

Fermat's Last Theorem remained unproven for three hundred years. It states that: $x^n + y^n = z^n$ has no non-zero integer solutions for x, y and z when $n > 2$



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