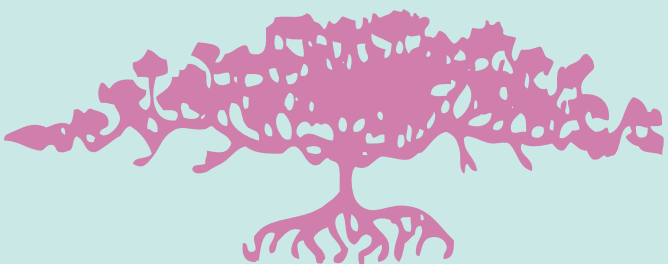




**The Balhousie Gazette**  
North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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*breaking the silence—page 4*



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# DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION

## WEEKLY DISPATCH

### A message from your Dalhousie Student Union President, Chris Saulnier:

To the Dalhousie Community,

The scheduled conciliation process between the Board and Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) has come to a close, subsequently; the DFA is now in a position to strike on March 10, 2012. There are clear concerns from students as to how a potential strike could affect their academic success.

The substantive issues being discussed during this round of collective bargaining revolve around the changes to the governance of the university pension plan and the resulting impact on compensation. The first and only time these issues were discussed at the bargaining table was at the conciliation session on February 15th, in the middle of the DFAs membership vote to give their union a strike mandate.

Regardless of the outcome of the vote for a strike mandate, the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) strongly encourages the Board and DFA to continue discussing an agreement that is fair for both parties. The students of Dalhousie University expect the Board and DFA to spend more time at the bargaining table, discussing the substantive issues of pension and compensation, before resorting to using the hardship caused to students by a lockout or strike as a negotiating tool.

In the coming weeks the DSU will be working in the best interest of students.

Updates will be able to be found on this page  
on **Twitter:** [@DalStudentUnion](https://twitter.com/DalStudentUnion)

and on **Facebook:** [facebook.com/pages/Dalhousie-Student-Union/40582581617](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dalhousie-Student-Union/40582581617)

For a list of frequently asked questions and answers, please go to:  
[www.DSU.ca](http://www.DSU.ca)

Updates from the DSU can be found at:  
[TinyURL.com/DalStrike](http://TinyURL.com/DalStrike)

For an introduction to the University's perspective on the pension issues:  
[www.Dal.ca/News/2012/01/31/An-Update-On-Pensions.html](http://www.Dal.ca/News/2012/01/31/An-Update-On-Pensions.html)

Updates from the Administration on the negotiating process,  
and a helpful FAQ for students, can be found at:  
[Blogs.Dal.ca/Negotiations/](http://Blogs.Dal.ca/Negotiations/)

Updates from the DFA can be found on their website at:  
[DFA.NS.ca](http://DFA.NS.ca)

If you would like more information on this matter, or to schedule an interview with a member of the Dalhousie Student Union, please contact Lindsay Dowling at **902/494-6226** or email Lindsay at [DSUPolcy@dal.ca](mailto:DSUPolcy@dal.ca). You may also contact DSU President, Chris Saulnier at **902/494-1277** or via email at [DSUPres@dal.ca](mailto:DSUPres@dal.ca).

### Stay connected with the DSU through Facebook & Twitter

Facebook: Group and Page – Dalhousie Student Union

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March 2 - March 8, 2012 •

# The Dalhousie Gazette

North America's Oldest Campus Newspaper, Est. 1868

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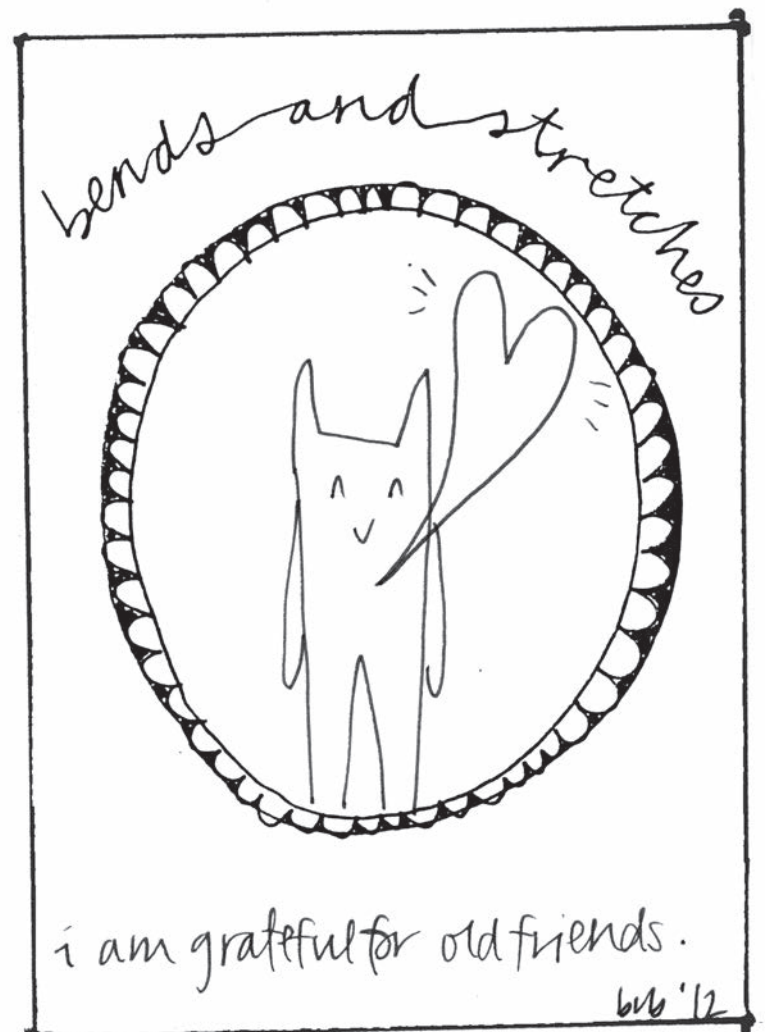
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# The Dalhousie Gazette

# Letters

from  
the editor

E-mail Dylan at  
editor@dalgazette.com

Dylan Matthias Editor-in-Chief



## DSU Elections

I just would like to officially write to the *Gazette* voicing my opinion regarding your most recent issue and the lack of diversity in the reporting on the DSU election results. There was a lack of coverage of the individuals who ran a clean campaign and followed the clearly outlined election rules. As of right now, and at the time of the reporting of the "smear" campaign article, Sarah Bouchard had been named president and Richard Clark was named VP (external and academic). These two individuals ran a fair campaign, and, aside from a small note about them being awarded the position, they were not mentioned in the issue or on the website. Not even a quote from either of them was provided.

The proportional volume of attention you are giving to the disqualified candidates is not encouraging students to run clean and fair campaigns.

I simply would like to see an official apology from the *Gazette* to both Bouchard and Clark, and for you to give them the congratulations and recognition that they deserve for their hard work and dedication (within the outlined regulations) to their campaigns.

—Andrea Ference

## Editor's response

When the *Gazette's* staff met at the beginning of the year to discuss our news priorities for the coming year, we decided to minimize our DSU election coverage in favour of bringing you stronger reporting. The DSU election turnout is minuscule and takes a large amount of resources for us to cover. This year, given the potential faculty strike developing at the same time, we decided to reallocate our resources to what we thought was a more important story to more students. The disqualifications are a major campus news story in that they are unusual and dramatic—as are the allegations of a smear campaign. We did liveblog the election results party to bring Dalhousie up-to-the-minute news of who won. Beyond that, we had to make coverage decisions based on news value, and on what most Dal students—and not just the DSU-aware ones—want to read.

—Dylan Matthias

## re: Prof Talk— Letitia Meynell

I was very disappointed to read negative comments about virginity in the Feb. 10 edition of the *Gazette*. Professor Letitia Meynell spoke of "the weird status of virginity" and classified virgin-centred beliefs as "screwed and stupid." This shaming of sexual choices is unacceptable.

Virgins by choice do exist: I am one of them. I am not a cult member. I am not sexually repressed. I received a holistic sexual education at home, in my public schools and through research of my own. Valuing my virginity is my decision—and I am most certainly not the only one who does so. Many educated and knowledgeable people choose, for personal, cultural or religious reasons, to place great value on their virginity and to choose to abstain from sexual relationships for part or all of their lives. This is a valid choice, made by com-

petent adults, and deserves a modicum of respect.

Valuing virginity is not a common or popular view in today's society. I certainly don't expect the *Gazette* or Meynell to endorse or promote this view. I do, however, expect organizations and individuals that profess to be sex-positive to respect the choices of those who decide, for whatever reason, not to be sexually active. A variety of views on sexuality is welcome; shaming those who make different sexual choices is not. Consent is central to healthy sexuality, and individuals in a sex-healthy society must be free to choose not to consent without facing shame or accusations of stupidity.

—Jenna LeBlanc

## DFA WEBSITE COMMENTS

### re: Let's talk pensions, says DFA

Professors,

You should have absolutely no right to strike. When Canada Post was on strike, we could still ship packages with UPS. There was the intended effect of financial harm to the employer, with a minor inconvenience to the customer. When nurses go on strike, hospitals don't shut down. Patients are still cared for, it just costs more.

The success of a DFA strike REQUIRES student suffering. We've already paid our tuition. This only hurts the wallets of the Board of Governors when their reputation is so badly damaged that NEXT YEAR's enrolment drops. Dr. Stewart said it best in his appeal to students: "The only party that ever comes out of a strike unscathed in this case are Administrators and the Board of Governors." Then why would you strike?

You say you know how much a strike would cost students. Really? You think it's fair that 870 people can hold the education of 17,000 students hostage until you get what you want? Maybe you deserve more than you've been offered. Find a better way to get it. We have no say in your contract negotiations. Don't you dare threaten us into putting pressure on the administration.

—Mark Robertson, Feb. 12

This is scandalous. The board has been snowballing the negotiations for over a year, saying it will not discuss anything until the pension plan is discussed. When DFA finally agrees to discuss the pension plan, the board says it has no mandate to discuss it. As Anthony said absolutely correctly, it's a red herring. The real issue is that the board wants to go away from defined benefit (where you know how much pension you'll get after you retire; this is the current DFA plan) towards a defined contribution plan (where stock markets dictate how much you retire with, if anything!), which takes the board off the hook. DFA has tried hard to negotiate. But all they get is snowballing by the board. How pathetic.

—James Normandy, Feb. 16

### re: One step closer, but strike not imminent

Dal professors have nearly the lowest pay in the country; a decent pen-

sion was one of the only monetary draws to teaching at Dal. I've spoken to more than a few professors who are thinking of leaving if that's gone. People need to remember that wages don't go directly to professors. There's a huge budget full of other concerns: debt, maintenance, insurance, administration, marketing & promotion, athletics, some student services, residences, etc. It's the administration's job to balance all those concerns, and letting the pension fall so far into insolvency is simply poor management.

—Lilly, Feb. 17

### re: Faculty strike rumours explained

I'm willing to bet that quite a few professors have no desire to strike at all. They don't get paid during a strike, it's a waste of all the hours they put into planning courses and as much as it may surprise those of you who don't bother to get to know your professors, they actually care about the students a lot. If they didn't care they wouldn't be in academics. Take this from someone who's watched first hand how run down a mother is when they've spent the last week marking 200 reports, finishing a conference submission and dealing with students who after not having the decency to show up to class come and complain about failing their midterms. Not saying all students are like this, but all professors are "real" people too.

—It's a sad state of affairs, Feb. 8

## Metro Transit Strike

Labour issues at Metro Transit, Halifax Water Commission and Dalhousie University have a similarity in that the top executives of these organizations have all received extraordinary pay increases over the past several years compared to that of the average citizen.

Good leadership would have these leaders justify their increases (and the reason that fast rising salaries at the top executive level are needed to attract and keep good people just won't cut it anymore.

Maybe these jobs are tougher now because the top executives seem to need more top executives around them than ever before to help them out these days). Isn't it unrealistic to expect the rank and file of these organizations not to dream and hope for the same kinds of growth in salaries and benefits that they see their leaders get?

In tough times, surely real leadership begins with the leaders at the top holding the line or revoking some of their own increases taken in the past. Why isn't this happening here in Nova Scotia these days?

—Allan Rodger, B.A. Dal'70

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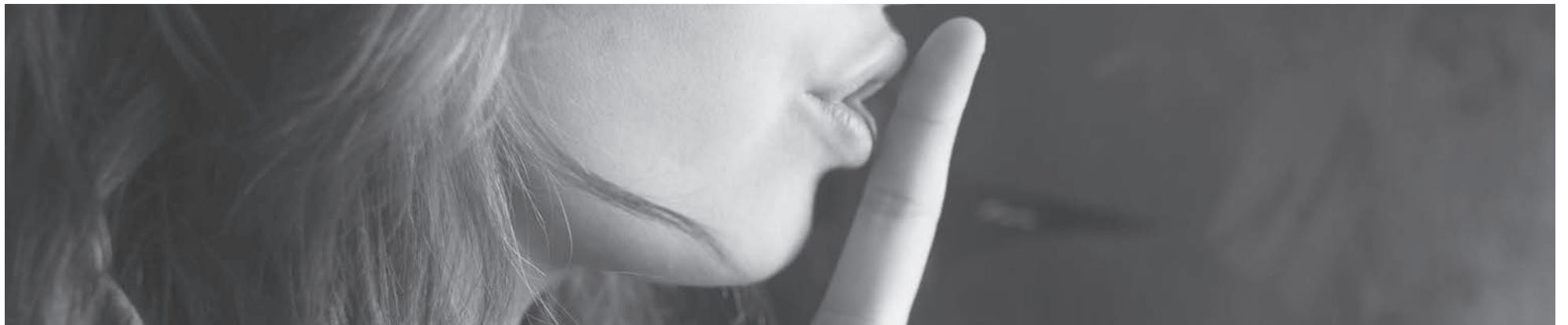
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Katrina Pyne News Editor



# BEHIND THE DARK CURTAIN

## The victimization of sexual assault

Katrina Pyne  
News Editor

**Editor's Note:** *The name Jane in this story is a pseudonym. The real name has been changed to protect the well-being of the source.*

"I've been crying a lot this week."

Jane's words echo in the empty room. It has been one week to the day since the 23-year-old Dalhousie master's student was sexually assaulted at a bar in Halifax.

She's still in shock. Her determination to get a story in the paper about how and why this happened to her is astounding.

"I still feel ashamed," she says. "It's just been kind of a struggle this week to fight those feelings back."

The shock of being sexually assaulted was followed by an onslaught of emotions—mostly, she says, self-blame.

It didn't help that the bar staff that night told her it was nothing more than a drunken mistake.

"It happens to everyone," they had said. "Don't worry about it; we've all been there."

"Have you?" wondered Jane. That thought worried her. The staff went on to tell her that if she were to attempt to go after this man, to prosecute, she could ruin his life.

"Besides," they said, "nothing would come of it. What's the point?"

Because of that conversation in the bar, Jane decided not to call the police. After all, what would be the point?

And that's really where this story, like so many others, begins. 88 per cent of sexual assaults in Canada do not get reported to police, according to census data from 2006. 90 per cent of sexual assault victims did not seek support from the criminal justice system at all.

According to Don Spicer, the public safety officer of the Halifax Regional Police, sexual assaults are by far the most unreported crime.

"We can't really address an issue unless we know it is an issue," says Spicer. "I mean, we know sexual assaults are an issue but ... well, there are any number of reasons why people don't feel comfortable coming forward with something like that."

He says he wishes the police would provide training to bar security in the downtown area to deal with sexual assault. "Any type of training we can get that is going to make someone more comfortable coming forward,

the better it will get."

Unfortunately, bars are part of an industry where there is currently no legislation that requires owners to train their security to handle sexual assaults, despite so many occurring in bars.

For Jane, it all happened in a bar. It started with dancing.

Then kissing.

Then he asked her to accompany him downstairs.

Then he took her behind a curtain and the asking stopped. Her pants were down.

**"I still feel ashamed."**

"It wasn't even like there had been any touching in between," says Jane. "There was no lead up."

Then he was forcing himself on her. He asked if he could take off his condom—it was the only time he asked for her consent on anything. She said no. Then, he stopped.

She never gave consent. Regardless, the fact that she was drunk made it impossible for her to give consent.

When her friends found her in the bar later that night she was speaking in a disembodied voice, asking for her coat again and again.

Her friends all thought she should report the man to the bar staff. After all, they probably deal with this kind of thing all the time, they said.

And in fact, that's exactly what the staff told her, "Don't worry about it," they said, "this kind of thing happens all the time."

At that point, she says, all she cared about was leaving. She couldn't bear the thought of explaining her story again to yet another victim-blaming person, cop or not.

And one more assault goes unreported.

"I am still experiencing a lot of self-blame. There are some moments where I think, 'How could I let something like this happen to me?' And I'm like, 'Oh, maybe if I didn't drink that much or if I didn't go off?'"

"And what if I hadn't gone behind the curtain?"

Gaye Wishart is an advisor on harassment prevention in the Human Rights, Equity & Harassment Prevention office at Dal. She also chairs the board at the Avalon Sexual Assault Centre, the only full-time sexual assault centre in Nova Scotia.

"What we're seeing is a lot of people coming years later, seeking help. They try to deal with it themselves in the first instance thinking that this isn't going to have the impact that they later realize that it has."

She says the biggest issue is victim blaming.

"When you've been assaulted, people are emotional. Or maybe they are in shock and they aren't emotional—that also leads to some people making value judgments about 'was that person assaulted or not.'"

She says it's important to know that whether or not a victim of sexual assault decides to file a formal complaint, there are options available.

At Dal, victims of sexual assault can seek out a No Contact Order against the assaulter or arrange to change their class schedules to avoid them. The centre can also provide a community liaison officer who will accompany the victim if they want to speak to police.

At the Avalon Sexual Assault centre, there are specialized counselors who are trained to deal with sexual assault. It's a place to go for anyone who just needs to talk about what happened.

As a university city with the second highest bars-per-capita ratio in Canada, and where the buses stop running at midnight, the prevalence of sexual assault is just another sad reality.

Gary Muise, VP of Operations for The Grafton Connor Group, which owns Cheers Bar and Grill, The Dome and Taboo Nightclub, refused to comment on whether they train their staff to deal with cases of assault. The bar in question also refused to comment.

The majority of security for the bars and clubs in the downtown area are trained in-house by staff to phone police in case of emergency.

The Halifax Regional Police forces have specialized units trained in sexual assault investigations. But when police are not called, or in the time it takes for them to arrive, the bar staff act as first responders.

A few bars in the downtown area have taken the initiative to provide training to their staff, though.

Source Security provides security for The Grawood, The Fireside and The Bitter End. They run a mandatory course on guard training that includes sexual assault and sensitivity training. It's considered standard, along with violence intervention, ID-spotting and liquor laws, says Geoff Flemming, the director of business



ABOVE: ••• Photo by Angela Gzowski; BELOW: Gaye Wishart says victim-blaming is one reason sexual assaults go unreported. . . . Photo by Katrina Pyne

development.

Dan Harrison is the communications advisor in the provincial Department of Justice. Since bar security was recently included under the definition of security, they are now required to meet certain regulations.

Under the Private Investigators and Private Guards Act, expected to be in force in May, bars may be regulated to provide staff with specialized training. But whether sexual assault training is included in this regulation is yet to be determined.

"We saw that there was a deficiency in security," says Harrison. He says this could be the first time sexual assault training becomes mandatory for bar staff.

For Jane, the reactions of oth-

ers have made her question her own experience.

"I think for me, I had to try and figure out in my own mind what consent was and to realize that I don't know," say says.

"A few people have referred to what happened to me as 'rape,' but I am still having a hard time figuring that out."

She mutters something about sexual coercion under her breath. All of the conflicting terms she has been introduced to in the span of a week are enough to overwhelm.

"I can't tell my mom. The idea of telling my mom this is just too hard," she says.

"The thing is, I don't even feel angry right now. I just feel really sad." ☹

# Copyright act up in the air

## Bill C-11 gets mixed reactions from universities

Steven Ryan  
News Contributor

On Feb. 16 a parliamentary committee in Ottawa began hearings into Bill C-11, also called the Copyright Modernization Act. Dalhousie's copyright officer Ian Colford says the bill, which was introduced by the Conservative government, would reduce the risk of the university being sued by copyright holders for infringement.

"Bill C-11 will make things a lot easier for universities," says Colford.

Under Canada's existing copyright legislation, the use and duplication of copyrighted materials for educational purposes is limited to private study and research. Bill C-11 would extend these fair dealing provisions

to include the use of copyrighted materials in university and college classrooms.

The Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) has been lobbying the federal government to prevent book publishers, film studios and music labels from introducing technical amendments to Bill C-11. Those amendments would restrict the use of copyrighted materials in universities or remove education from the fair dealing provisions.

"We want to make sure that the act maintains a degree of flexibility, and that the legislation allows students and faculty the opportunity to be innovative," says Zach Dayler, the national director of CASA.

"The arts community thinks that

students want access to music and movies for free, but what we want is reasonable access for educational purposes."

Colford shares that sentiment.

"My hope is that the bill passes with the educational use exception for fair dealing, because that's going to affect what we do on campus," he says.

University students and staff aren't welcoming all aspects of Bill C-11, though.

One contentious issue is the bill's requirement that inter-library digital loans self-destruct within five days, and that digital course materials used in distance education self-destruct within 30 days of the end of the course.

Jamie Charlebois, an economics

student at Dal, thinks that aspect of the bill is unfair.

"If I'm paying \$500 for a class, I would expect to be able to keep the course materials for future reference," says Charlebois.

Colford also has reservations.

"It seems excessive to require that institutions make something self-destruct," he says.

More controversial still is Bill C-11's stance on technological protection measures, otherwise known as digital locks. The bill would make it illegal to break a digital lock for any reason, even if the motivation for breaking the lock is permitted under fair dealing.

"The digital locks provision criminalizes activities that are allowed


under the copyright act," says Colford.

"Most people object to the criminalization of acts that are basically innocent."

"We're not pleased that digital locks always trump educational fair dealing," says Dayler.

Hearings on Bill C-11 are set to continue until the end of March.

Dayler is confident that CASA and other groups representing university students, faculty and librarians will be able to make amendments to the bill.

"In terms of removing the digital locks provision, we're optimistic because it just makes sense," he says. 

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5. Update: DFA negotiations back on  
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# Smear campaign in DSU elections?

## Candidates submit appeals to their disqualifications



**Katrina Pyne**  
News Editor

After what he is now calling a “smear campaign” in the Dalhousie Student Union (DSU) elections, disqualified presidential candidate and winner Jamie Arron will be appealing the \$120 in fines against him that led to his disqualification by the DSU elections committee.

Aaron Beale, the VP (academic and external) candidate and winner, was also disqualified and will be appealing all fines laid against him.

Arron is confident all fines will be repealed.

“The difficult part is the next two months being a current executive and working in this environment,” says Arron.

“I don’t know if you’ve looked much

at Punditry(.ca), but some people are trying to put a smear campaign against me.”

Arron says he does not hold anything against the elections committee or the chief returning officer because he understands that “they are under a lot of pressure and that pressure was increased by the smear campaign.”

According to the rules of the DSU constitution, any candidate who exceeds \$100 in fines is automatically disqualified. No notification of the disqualifications was given to candidates prior to the results being made public.

The DSU elections committee is mandated to not reveal disqualifications until the voting period is over. This ensures that the original results of the votes can be upheld should the disqualifications be overturned in an

appeal.

The results of the DSU elections showed that Arron won the presidency with 58.3 per cent of the votes, while Beale won for VP (academic and external) with 61.2 per cent of the votes. Because of the disqualifications, Sarah Bouchard was declared DSU president and Richard Clark was declared VP (academic and external) for next year.

The fines laid against both candidates were for breaking the rules of campaigning as outlined in the DSU constitution.

By the time the elections results were issued, Arron had six fines worth \$20 each. Alleged offenses included: having a website active in the pre-campaigning period, using DSU-owned material in his one-minute campaign video, post-campaign-

ing and soliciting in a campus residence.

Chris Saulnier, current president of the DSU, is skeptical of a smear campaign within the student union.

“I wouldn’t say there is a toxic atmosphere in the DSU,” he says. “People are just passionate about these positions and want a chance to have a large impact.”

Arron says he is unable to comment on whether the alleged smear campaign came from within the DSU or not.

In regards to the charges of pre-campaigning, Arron says his campaign website, which was active before the campaign period began, was not promoted in any way and “could not have influenced voters.”

To answer the charges for using the DSU video footage, Arron says the footage actually belonged to an independent director from whom he received permission to use the footage.

In terms of his soliciting in residences, Arron says there is no place in the DSU’s constitution where it indicates that such practices are against the rules and that he was actively invited by the Residence Council. The DSU official statement regarding the disqualifications only says that soliciting for any purpose in residences is against university policy.

Finally, Arron says he can repeal the charges for post-campaigning as they are largely subjective. Arron had posted on his Facebook page that “The DSU is at a crossroads. Will you vote for the same ol’ insiders or for the new wave of engagement? Times are a’changing. Let’s make it happen.” He says the wording of this post does not necessarily indicate campaigning.

“(The elections committee) made the decision quite quickly; they didn’t necessarily have access to all the information,” says Arron.

Beale also hopes his appeals will be heard. He amassed \$205 in fines largely for post-campaigning. The elections committee found 29 of the candidate’s handbills issued around Howe Hall in the post-campaign

period.

However, Beale says the person who issued the handbills was not a registered member of his campaign and he had no knowledge of their distribution.

He says it is unreasonable to disqualify him for something that was beyond his control.

.....  
**“I worry that if I am disqualified people will lose faith in the DSU’s legitimacy.”**  
 .....

“People can photocopy handbills and put them up; it’s just impossible to control completely,” he says in an email. “Right now, I could photocopy somebody’s posters, put them somewhere and report them.”

However, Beale does not suspect a smear campaign. He said the person who put up his posters was simply ignorant of the campaign rules.

“I will still have confidence in the election process if my appeal is accepted,” says Beale.

“I worry that if I am disqualified people will lose faith in the DSU’s legitimacy. The institution is at risk of becoming obsolete.”

Now that both candidates have submitted their appeals, the elections committee will set up a meeting to discuss them. If the committee decides to uphold its previous ruling, the disqualified candidates will be given five days to make an appeal to the DSU’s judicial board. ☎

*The details of Arron’s appeals are available at:*

Wix.com/JamieArron/ReinstateJA

Jamie Arron grabs the mic during O-Week. . . . Photo by Pau Balite

## DFA AND ADMIN BACK IN NEGOTIATIONS

### Strike potential March 10

**Torey Ellis**  
Assistant News Editor

Meetings are ongoing between the Dalhousie Faculty Association (DFA) and Dal administration, with two talks scheduled for March 1 and 2.

Charles Crosby, spokesperson for administration, said in an email he’s pleased the DFA is coming back to the table.

“If we are going to come to an agreement—and we remain confident an agreement is possible—we need to be talking, so any sign that the DFA are ready to talk again is a very good thing,” he said.

A strike is still possible for March 10. But at a meeting between the DFA and selected student leaders Feb. 27, DFA president Anthony Stewart said he was hopeful the two sides could come to an agreement.

“Nothing is off the table at this point, as far as we’re concerned. We

know we’re going to have to pay more into our pensions, and the rest of it is: we want to talk.”

The DFA invited students to the Feb. 27 meeting to answer questions, Stewart said.

.....  
**“We need to be talking.”**  
 .....

He refuted the idea that the DFA walked away from the table on Feb. 15. He said administration waited too long to present their offer on the last day of conciliation.

“For us to be accused at this point of walking away from the table is galling to the point of being comical,” he said. The DFA waited for the conciliator’s report to be filed to schedule more negotiations.

The biggest sticking point is the

issue of the pension being taken out of the collective agreement. The administration’s point of view is that the rules of the Pensions and Benefits Act and the provisions in the trust agreement give the members enough protection without the contract.

But Stewart said otherwise. “What we’d be agreeing to is that at the most vulnerable time of our members’ lives, if something goes wrong with their pension, they have no provision for grievance,” he said. “The idea of treating people 10, 15 years older than me this way offends me.” ☎

*It’s difficult for the Gazette to publish print content on the DFA strike that will remain relevant for the week the paper is out. For up-to-date information on the state of DFA and NSGEU negotiations, check DalGazette.com.*

## news briefs

### Co-curricular record

There’s a new addition to the official papers Dalhousie students take with them when they graduate: the co-curricular record (CCR). The CCR keeps track of any volunteer work, community engagement or extra-curriculars students are involved in at university and make it available to employers or graduate schools after graduation.

To be included on the CCR, involvement has to fit into one of five categories: leadership, campus and community engagement, experiential learning, training and development or awards and recognition.

Students can add to their CCR via MyDal.

### “How Canada Broke North America”

A series of political seminars at Dalhousie is continuing this week with a talk from Dal’s own Brian Bow on March 7.

Bow, an associate professor of political science, will be speaking about Canada’s role in North American politics and economy. The lecture is entitled “How Canada Broke North America, and Why It Should Try to Put it Back Together,” and focuses especially on relations between Canada and Mexico.

The lecture series is put on by the Centre for Foreign Policy Studies, a part of Dal’s political science department, and will take place at 1 p.m. in the Henry Hicks building.

—Torey Ellis  
Assistant News Editor

YOUR SOURCE FOR DSU & STIKE NEWS: DalGazette.com

# A second strike?

## Dal IT workers and library staff take strike vote

Calum Agnew  
News Contributor

A second union is threatening to strike over proposed changes to the Dalhousie Pension Plan. The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union (NSGEU) has begun a strike vote, which will end on March 5.

Conciliation between members of NSGEU Local 77 and Dal administration broke off Feb. 21. The union represents over 840 administrative, Information Technology support staff and library staff at the university. NSGEU Local 99, the university's custodial staff, will likely follow suit. Together, Local 77 and 99 represent over 1100 Dal employees.

The two main reasons for the NSGEU's rejection of the administration's offer are the unacceptable wage increase and the proposed changes to the Dal Pension Plan.

The NSGEU has asked the conciliator to withhold from filing his report while the union polls its members. Following the completion of the conciliator's report, the NSGEU must wait at least 14 days before striking. The administration has called for a return to conciliation.

Joan Jessome, president of the NSGEU, says it's possible that both the Dal Faculty Association (DFA) and the NSGEU, which together total close to 2000 Dal employees, will be on strike simultaneously.

However, the NSGEU "is not coordinating with the DFA," says Jessome, "not that we don't want to." She says the two unions just aren't in the same position in negotiations. But a strike

by the NSGEU on its own would inhibit "teaching to a point," which Jessome says would be a very big problem for the university, as March is the financial year-end.

Charles Crosby, a spokesperson for Dal, says he cannot speculate on the effect an NSGEU strike would have on students. But he says he's hopeful a strike can be avoided and that the administration's priority is to complete the term.

Pat Power, the director of Networks and Systems at Dal, says web services—such as OWL, Dal Online and email—will eventually be cut back in the event of an NSGEU strike.

Donna Bourne-Tyson, chief librarian at Dal, says library facilities will still be available to students.

The administration's offer includes a one percent wage increase every year for the next three years. Jessome says this is not acceptable because it is well below the annual rate of inflation, which was 3.8% in 2011.

But Crosby says the sticking point for both the DFA and the NSGEU is the proposed change to the governance structure of the pension plan. The administration's negotiating team made their monetary offer "contingent upon the obtaining an agreement on a Jointly Sponsored Pension Plan (JSPP)." The draft proposal for the plan's governance presented to the NSGEU on the final day of conciliation was identical to the one rejected by the DFA on Feb. 15.

The NSGEU takes issue with the absence of a clear veto. Under the administration's proposal, unanimous consent is required to change the plan. But if that cannot be

reached, the matter can be referred to a third party, such as an arbitrator.

The NSGEU also disagrees with the way pension contributions are calculated. The NSGEU says the administration is "dangling a carrot" by only offering to cover the first contribution rate increase, equal to 1.8 per cent of current wages. The administration likely won't cover future increases or decreases.

Jessome says the NSGEU isn't opposed to jointly-sponsored defined benefits plans.

"With certain protections, joint trusteeship is a good thing," she says. However, the NSGEU doesn't want to assume responsibility for a plan as underfunded as the DPP.

"We spoke with our legal council, and they advised us not to go that route," says Jessome. She says the NSGEU is "not entering a plan that's not fully funded off the bat."

The Dal Pension Plan currently faces a \$120 million ongoing deficit, and a \$270 million solvency deficit. The university has said the move to a JSPP is critical because the plan is underfunded. Under the Pensions Benefits Act, which was passed late last year and is currently awaiting proclamation, the move to a JSPP would exempt the university from making annual payments of \$50 million into the plan to address the solvency deficit.

However, Jessome says the board "is using the solvency issue as leverage," and Dal is "marrying governance and solvency issues together unnecessarily."

Jessome says the legislation should treat university pension plans differ-




ently than other plans. The DFA and the administration both argued the same point earlier this year.

The NSGEU has proposed the formation of a union-employer committee to review alternative pension plan governance after the proclamation of the Pensions Benefits Act in the spring.

Because the plan serves as the retirement vehicle for the majority of the university's employees, any change in the governance structure

of the pension plan will require the consent of both of the NSGEU Locals and the DFA.

"Everyone is impacted," by the proposed changes, including the members of the administration's bargaining team, says Crosby. However, he says the university is "not at the point for multilateral negotiations" between the various groups. 

Joan Jessome. ••• Photo supplied



## CREATIVE

### 1st place: Old Journal

When the tired back bends,  
book butterflies  
and writing stretches out  
cross parted sheets  
in lines that reach towards  
the cresting rise,  
the shore of words where language  
ends and meets  
its binding on a half-inch beach.  
There caught  
within the folded valley of the spine,  
a fallen lash that isn't mine.  
I brought  
this journal down to read and realign  
the present with the long  
departed past,  
but here a piece of you recalls  
our lives  
entwined, ossified, fractured,  
now recast  
by a fallen crescent of dead cells  
that drives  
the memory of a time together spent  
and your absence, which  
I do not lament.

—Jacob Sandler

## VALENTINE'S DAY SONNET CONTEST

Every year the Dalhousie English department and the Dal Undergraduate English Society hold a Valentine's Day sonnet contest. The contest is available to all English or creative writing majors and honours students from Dal or King's. The task is to write a sonnet related to Valentine's Day in any recognized sonnet form. An event is held each year in honour of the students' talents at the Grawood, with readings by the winners and runners-up. Congratulations to the winners. —Jenna Harvie, Creative Editor

### 2nd place: Love Sonnet (‘tis just is)

Just is a love as just – a love, our love,  
our heart, our home –  
if heart is just a heart?  
My heart in love is such;  
a turtle dove  
aloft, a-lift, a-search  
while we're apart.  
A kiss should be, if just,  
your kiss un-kissed,  
untouched, unsought,  
a wish, unjust, of mine.  
One kiss in turn a thrill,  
turns out abyss –  
abyss, if just, should be a bliss –  
I pine.  
My fire, though near a flame,  
is ne'er the same.  
A ring, your sacred jewel,  
so just, so mere?  
Your word: a trick, a rhyme  
a trance, a game.  
Is love so just, so cruel as so appears?  
The slipper fits the foot,  
a black suede glove  
'tis just, unjust, tsk tsk 'tis hate,  
'tis love!

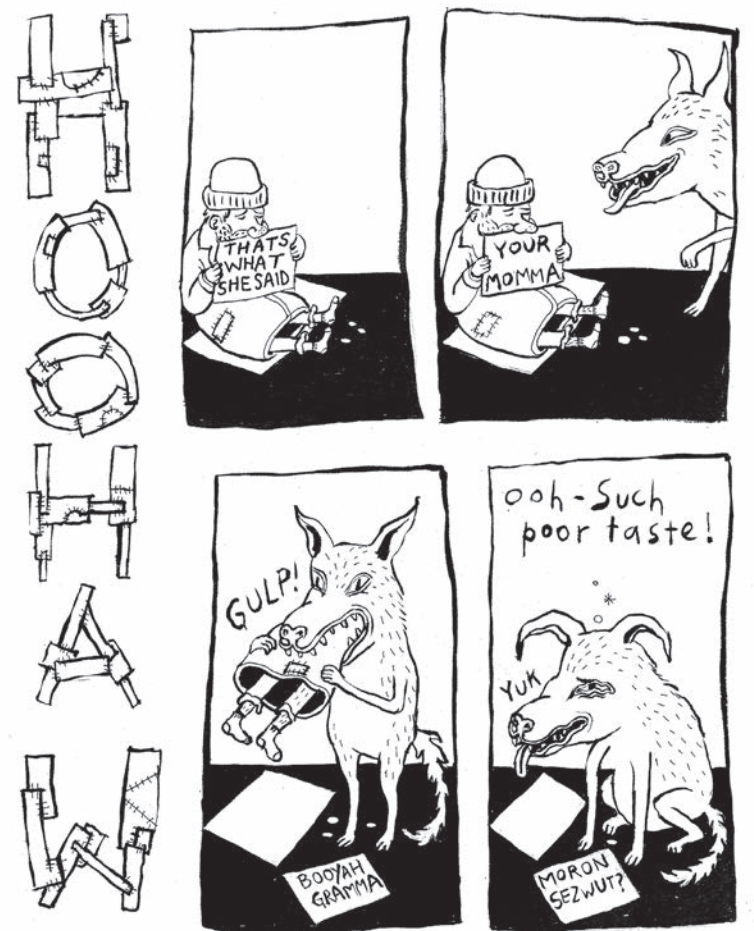
—Nathan Burley-Friedman

### 3rd place: Character Development

"Of course he didn't say  
what he meant,"  
snarked my literature degree while  
my small town diner waitress went  
three rounds more about  
"who's gonna get the child?!"  
My lit degree's making  
itself useful these  
days. Economy's not so great but  
denouement is making a  
comeback. "He's  
not paying her a dime, Bea.  
Order up."  
Outside it rains pathetic fallacy.  
I consider explaining show vs. tell  
but it'd only work to  
characterize me:  
part of her alliterate clientele.  
"Back again?" she smiles,  
"More coffee, sweetheart?"  
I nod. I try not to fall apart.

—Kelly Conway

Submit your Micro-Fiction,  
Poetry and Feedback to  
Creative@DalGazette.com



IT'S NOT TOO LATE: ONLY 4 ISSUES LEFT!

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US!

CONTRIBUTOR'S MEETINGS  
MONDAYS, 5:30PM  
ROOM 312, The SUB





## Peter Kelly's year in review

### Mayor showed cracks in 2011

Ben Wedge

Opinions Contributor

2011 was a banner year for Peter Kelly. He was a key player in the execution of the Canada Winter Games, he opened the new Harbour Solutions plants, he made inroads with the famous Occupy protesters, he promised to end the practice of secret meetings and he moved forward on many issues facing Haligonians.

In short, Peter Kelly did what he could to prepare for a rumoured fourth run at the Mayorship of the Halifax Regional Municipality. Of course, the informed observer knows that painting almost any of the above issues in a positive light takes an extreme amount of bending the truth.

The Canada Games were well executed, with two weeks of competition and fun taking place around the city and province. Having attended many of the concerts on Grand Parade, I can attest to the festive mood that caught the city and held it for a fortnight.

The Canada Games brought an unexpected opportunity for Kelly: the public loved the temporary speed skating oval and rallied to save it. Kelly voted in favour of the oval and

led the discussion around naming rights. The decision to sell the naming rights for the oval is a matter complex and divisive enough to warrant a column of its own, but Kelly ultimately supported Emera (owner of Nova Scotia Power) in its bid to have its brand displayed at the site. Thus ends the remotely positive aspect of Kelly's year.

.....  
**“Goodbye, Peter Kelly. You will not be missed.”**  
.....

Tim Bousquet of *The Coast* doggedly chased the issue of Mary Thibeault's estate, but the issue failed to stick. In short, Kelly is the executor of the estate and has, for nearly seven years, violated court orders to actually take action on the file and pay the individuals named in the will. Bousquet accused Kelly of having sold a small parcel of land in the estate to the city so that the city could bundle and sell the land—and its adjacent properties—to developers looking to

increase Halifax's urban sprawl.

In mid-February the article was reprinted with new allegations that Kelly embezzled \$165,000 from the estate, 25 per cent of its estimated original value. Finally, the major local outlets picked up the story and it received national coverage. Even still, Thibeault's estate remains tied up, losing investment value and providing diminishing benefits to her heirs.

A person of moderate ethical standards would surely excuse him or herself from chairing a meeting in which a report by the Auditor General—naming the chair as a responsible individual in a scandal—is discussed. But Peter Kelly chaired the meeting in which the report that lay much of the blame for the concert scandal solely on his shoulders. Since merely chairing a meeting is boring, Kelly insisted on cutting the mics of councilors who asked questions that weren't in the form of: “Halifax is a wonderful city full of rainbows and unicorns and it's all because of you, right, Mr. Mayor?”

Draw your own conclusions here.

This past fall, the Occupy protests began consuming the world's attention and Haligonians began pitching tents on Grand Parade. Kelly was

unsure what he, as Mayor, should do. Finally, after the group began to grow, he went down and talked to them face to face. With Remembrance Day looming, he told the protestors they'd have to leave and invited them to pick any other location in the city. The protestors thought this was acceptable and moved to Victoria Park, taking great pains to leave Grand Parade Square squeaky clean.

A few days later, the rain was driving and one of the more vocal Occupiers—John Thibeault—was with Kelly at the Remembrance Day Ceremonies. They reportedly spoke amicably, shook hands, and did things that normal human beings do. Then, as the crowd began to disperse, the city's bylaw team showed up at Victoria Park and told the protestors that Kelly had ordered them to be evicted for violating the no-camping bylaw.

The police rolled in and the eviction turned messy in a hurry. Kelly was quick to point fingers—the eviction was approved, apparently in secret, at a council meeting and he had only one vote. The fallout of that day is also worthy of its own column.

Finally, Kelly vowed to end the secret meetings. His year was on the up and up, so *The Chronicle Herald*

requested to run a major year-end interview. He obliged, and the result was probably the biggest hit on Kelly's reputation in years.

Laura Fraser asked pointed questions, and Kelly attempted to duck and dodge them. She refused to accept his answers and kept pressing. Kelly came off as a bumbling, incompetent guy who was used to always being in control and unquestioned. His composure went by the wayside and his answers became farcical. *The Herald* printed the interview, blow-by-blow; Kelly-bashing was no longer restricted to the alt-weeklies.

Peter Kelly's tenure as Mayor started to show major cracks in 2011. With a wide field of already declared contenders, the race for his seat is constantly in the spotlight. After Bousquet ran the revised version of the article on Thibeault's estate in mid-February, Kelly announced he would not seek re-election. Hardly the resignation the public sought, but a victory all the same.

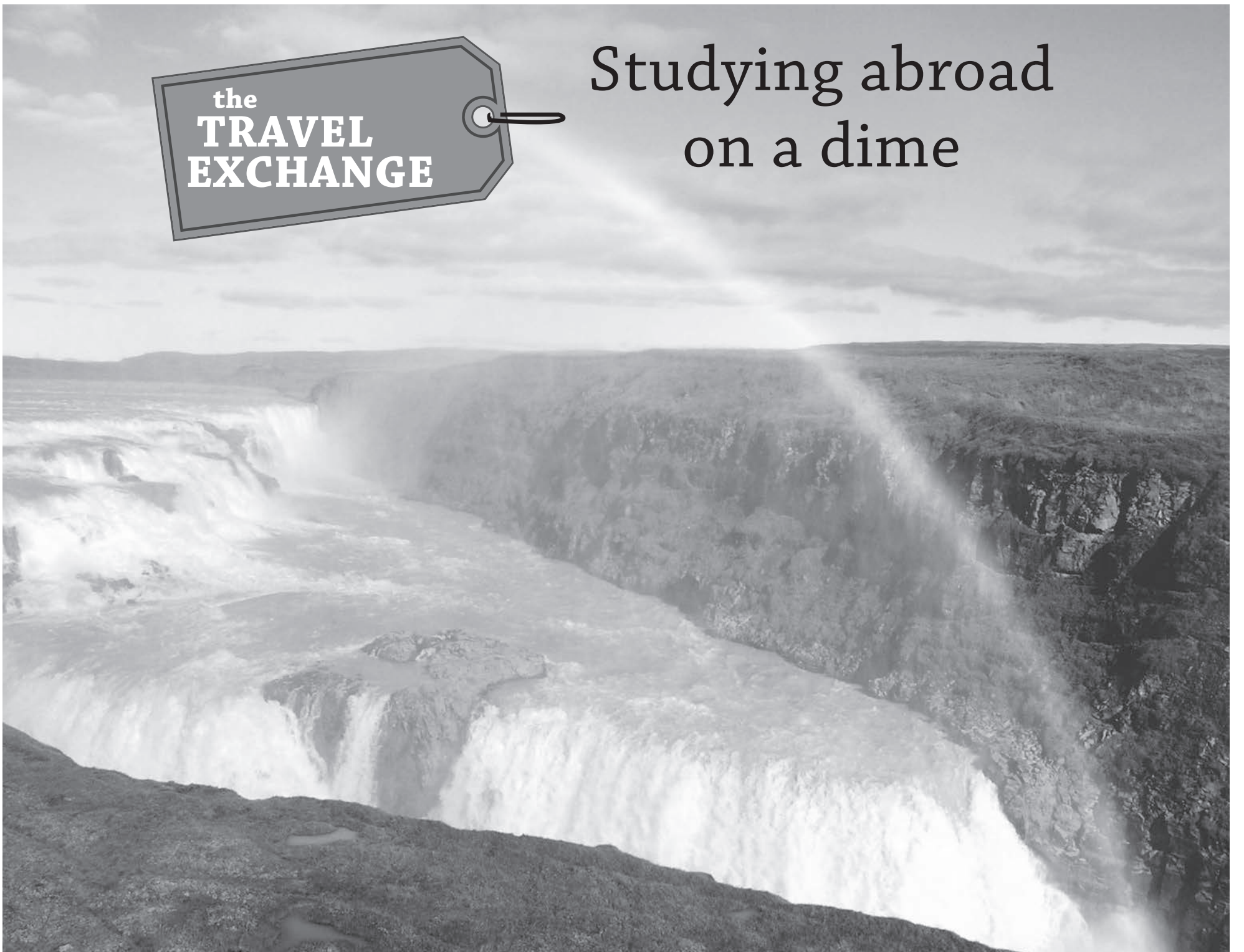
Goodbye, Peter Kelly. You will not be missed. ☹

The Occupy eviction was one of many failures orchestrated by Peter Kelly in 2011. ••• Photo by Ian Froese



the  
**TRAVEL  
EXCHANGE**

# Studying abroad on a dime



**Karin Murray-Bergquist**  
Travel Columnist

The true cost of living abroad is not in getting there, but being able to stay. It's easy to look at a plane ticket as the largest financial obstacle of going abroad, but unfortunately (not to put anyone off the foreign exchange experience) there are more significant and frequent costs to consider. But with a careful budget and self-control, it is possible to avoid running out of funds.

My own reference point on this topic is Iceland, one of the most notoriously expensive countries to live in. Being a rock in the middle of the Atlantic that relies heavily on imports can be inconvenient.

While costs will vary from country to country, there are some strategies that apply more widely and I will try to emphasize these.

When arriving in any new country, the first thing to do is to listen. The small, local secrets are worth finding out and not always easy to locate. Nobody wants to spend a month buying coffee from the nearest Starbucks equivalent when there is a charming, inexpensive coffee shop just in the next block.

If the university in question has a buddy system, as the University of Reykjavik does, buddies can often assist newcomers in finding the student-friendly (read: cheap, delicious

and open late) eateries and shops.

However, sometimes the best places to shop are more obvious than this. In Reykjavik, it's hard to miss. The local flea market, open on weekends from nine to five, sells everything from fresh fish to old stamps, and displays a great range of second-hand, inexpensive clothing. What an observant exchange student can take from this is that it is important not to overlook the big places in the search for smaller ones.

Using what advantages exist for students is another important strategy for those studying abroad. One of the easiest ways to save money on an exchange in Europe is the Erasmus Student Network card, a convenient way to save on a variety of things, including phones, shopping and beer in pubs. The card also provides discounts on Erasmus events, which, contrary to the name, are not reserved solely for European students in the Erasmus programme. These events are open to all foreign students and include weekly parties, cultural events and occasional trips. However, students buying the card should first be certain that they intend to take advantage of the opportunities it offers, as it is fairly costly itself (just under \$50.00) and not worth it if it goes unused.

Another major cost of living abroad is travel. The urge to explore when living in a new country is strong and

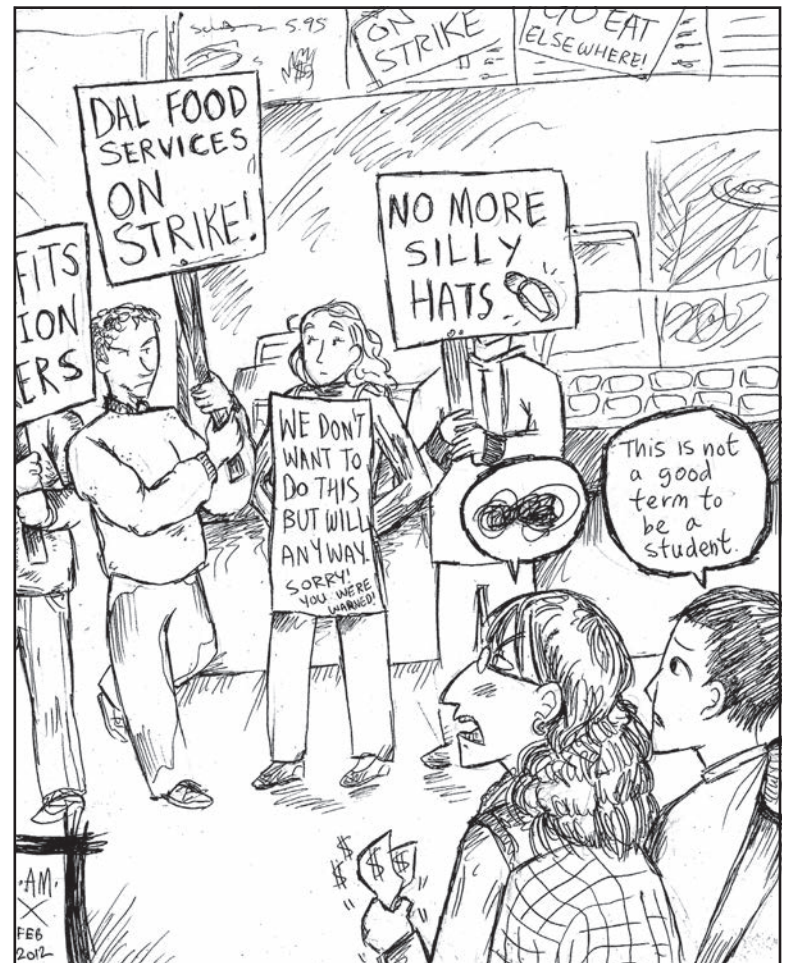
unfortunately it is not always possible to find a decent public transit system. Iceland does not share the convenient network of trains that Europe enjoys, mainly because a bridge that big would be very expensive and look a bit silly. Where convenient public transit fails, it is again best to look to the locals for help.

In some countries, hitchhiking is the norm (though most do not recommend this for the solo traveler). In some countries—Iceland included—ride-sharing is fairly common and keeping an eye on rides going in the right direction can pay off. Renting a car with a group and sharing the cost of fuel and rental can be fun and worth it, giving a student a chance to go road tripping with new friends.

As for overall saving, the best advice available is to be observant. Asking questions and paying attention to your surroundings are the easiest ways to find good deals. This principle applies to every city. The local people will know where to look, so making friends in the city or town of study—while highly recommended on its own merits—is useful. Listen, take advantage of student discounts and bonuses, and if there is no free bus pas provided with your student card, walk. ☺

Not everyone has access to golden waterfalls, like Iceland's Gullfoss.

••• Photo via Japense Wikipedia



# FAIR FOR ALL

Dalhousie joins the fair trade battle

Kevin Linklater  
Opinions Contributor

It seems these days we are constantly being told humanity must change direction from its present course in order to avert impending catastrophes. Problems ranging from environmental degradation, social upheaval, resource depletion, and a laundry list of other maladies are blamed on modern business practices and other forms of rapid economic growth. While many different alternatives and initiatives have been brought forward to deal with some of these issues, I would like to focus on one in particular: fair trade.

Fair trade is not a new idea (the concept has been around in some form or another for roughly 50 years), but the movement is becoming increasingly popular and seen by some as part of the solution to the world's problems.

So what is fair trade?

Fair trade is an idea that emerged in the early postwar years in order to help producers of primary commodities (coffee, sugar, tea, etc.) to obtain better prices for their products. Over time, a number of organizations have emerged championing fair trade values. The largest and most widely recognized organization today is Fairtrade International, a standard-setting body that grants licenses to companies to market their products as fair trade certified using the Fairtrade Certification Mark. So when someone speaks of fair trade, they are probably more accurately referring to the designation given to a product supply chain by Fairtrade International.

The concept of fair trade generally seeks to reform the current trading system. Conventional trade often results in extremely poor incomes for farmers in the developing world. Only a small fraction of what consumers pay for products such as coffee or tea finds its way back to the farmer that grew the crop.

“Fair trade shouldn't be viewed as an end in itself.”

Fair trade seeks to change this by doing a number of things: ensuring democratic decision making among farmer's organizations so that producers have a say in how Fairtrade Premiums are invested; ensure workers are paid minimum wages and are able to bargain collectively; encourage sustainable farming practices and local development.

Fair Trade designations can be applied not only to individual businesses, but also to groups of businesses, campuses and even cities.

The University of British Columbia became the first fair trade designated campus in Canada in January of last year. Here at Dalhousie University, the student chapter of Engineers Without Borders (EWB) is working to obtain this designation for our campus. Sophie Henderson, a member of the Dalhousie chapter, is spearheading the push to get the Dalhousie

campus the Fair Trade designation from Fairtrade Canada (the national arm of Fairtrade International).

“The Fair Trade Campus designation is playing a huge role in a movement that EWB Dalhousie chapter is trying to spark on Dalhousie Campus and in the Halifax community,” says Henderson. “As a national organization, EWB Canada has been working hard to achieve Fair Trade Campus designations across the country to create a catalyst for this greater trade justice movement.”

Henderson agrees that promoting Fairtrade Certified products isn't the be-all and end-all, but the first step in creating a fairer economy.

“The thing is, the Fair Trade Campus designation is not the final goal,” she says. “It's not an end to anything, but instead it's a means to creating a more socially engaged, conscious, and active community.”

Progress is being made. Both the University Club and the Grad House sell locally grown foods and all coffee served is Fairtrade Certified. Furthermore, all coffee serviced by Aramark is now Fairtrade Certified and they are in the process of adding Fairtrade Certified teas.

There are criticisms of the fair trade movement, and the impact of fair trade in the broader scope of all trade that occurs is indeed quite small. However, fair trade shouldn't be viewed as an end in itself, but a step in a new direction of broader social change. ☺

You can find Fair Trade products at the Grad House and University Club.

••• Logo via Fair Trade USA



## Occupied: Should masturbating in public washrooms be socially acceptable?



Mina Atia

Sex Columnist

Recently after class I went into the washroom and accidentally walked in on a one-man show: A guy in one of the stalls was going at it, masturbating furiously, with what I assume to be his right hand.

The experience—which involved a few subtle moans and the unpleasant sounds of fast hand movement—made my visit to the little boys room very uncomfortable. I don't know if he just didn't notice that someone had walked in on him, or he actually just didn't care (being in the middle of such a pleasurable activity makes it really hard to stop, even if it's for mere common decency), but the entire situation was totally uncomfortable, and I was left completely shocked and horrified.

After leaving the washroom with what some would consider to be a traumatic experience, I started wondering why it is socially unacceptable to masturbate in a public washroom.

I had the urge to go ask my friends if they would ever rub one out, or flick it or masturbate in public. Most answers were followed by a look of disgust, as if the question should not have been brought up in the first place. But I chose to face the fact that this kind of thing happens, and some of us have at least thought about it on occasion, even though societal norms dictate certain public washroom etiquette.

A friend of mine actually called the behaviour to be exhibitionistic. Exhibitionism, for those of you who are unfamiliar, is the act of indecently exposing one's genitals in public to non-consenting individuals. It mostly leads to sexual gratification for the perpetrator.

In this particular case, knowing the frequent number of visitors who could walk in can easily be classified as a form of exhibitionism. When you think of it that way, the excitement of exposing your act through sounds can be enticing in a kinky way.

But is it truly unethical or socially unacceptable? Where do we draw the line?

To me, it seemed clear in that moment, standing in the middle of the washroom, that I was not OK with this kind of behaviour. But after thinking about it for a while, I found it hard to determine what was unacceptable about the situation.

If you think about it, the washroom is a place of relief. You go in and expel whatever needs to be ejected (pun most definitely intended). Whether it is urine, feces or semen, relief is relief. The public washroom provides a facility where such service can take place and be executed with the most comfort possible.

At the same time, who amongst us can say they haven't had sex in a public washroom or know a friend who has? Sex in public washrooms in bars or clubs is pretty common nowadays.

So why can't this type of tolerant reaction be applied to those who masturbate in public washrooms? It's still a sexual act that involves just one person. It almost feels discriminatory to deny individuals the pleasure of such sexual act. Given the circumstances, those who engage might for the most part be single.

Just cause you're single doesn't mean you can't have washroom sex. So just do you and ignore the rest of us. ☺

Just make sure to wash up afterwards.

••• Icon via .FreeSignage.com



Erica Eades Arts Editor



## Beauty in the kitchen

### How to create a DIY beauty routine

Rachel Eades  
DIY Columnist

Look into the bathroom cabinets of your average 20-something woman (and probably a lot of 20-something men, too), and you'll find piles of barely used skin care products collecting dust. Moisturizers, face masks, body scrubs, shower gel, spot treatments, hair masks—you name it. There's probably at least three different types of each product in your bathroom.

If you added up the total cost of all of these products, you'd probably faint. They're not cheap in the first place, and the cost is even harder to swallow when you consider the fact that a lot of those products never get used, as we find ourselves buying every new product that hits the shelves, only to default back to our old standby after using the new stuff twice.

Thankfully, there is a way to reclaim your cabinets and stop blowing half of every paycheque at Shoppers Drug Mart: you can make your own skin care products using basic ingredients from your kitchen! You can literally make just about every skin care product you can think of (except sunscreen) at home, but I'm just going to share recipes for the more basic options that use typical household ingredients.

#### Brown sugar body scrub

A brown sugar body scrub is ridiculously simple to make and works just as well as any store-bought scrub, without the chemicals and additives. It works wonders on the dry, flaky, itchy skin that plagues many people through the winter months.

To make it, simply mix equal parts brown sugar and olive oil, and rub over your skin to exfoliate. You'll want to hop in the shower after this treatment to wash it off, and if you put any on your feet, make sure you don't slip getting into the tub.

#### All natural acne spot treatment

Even if your teenage years are behind you, most young adults still have to deal with occasional breakouts. Store-bought remedies are expensive, and assuming you're only dealing with an occasional spot here and there, a homemade antiseptic should be just as effective—and much cheaper.

To make your homemade spot

treatment, just mix two tablespoons of organic honey with enough cinnamon powder to make a paste. Dab a bit of the paste onto your trouble spots, let it sit for about 20 minutes and then wash it off with warm water. Repeat daily until your skin clears.

#### Soothing DIY face mask

This face mask is perfect for soothing that dry, tight feeling your face tends to get during the winter months after too much exposure to dry air and cold winds.

To make it, mix together one cup of plain Greek yogurt, half a cup of uncooked oatmeal and one teaspoon of honey in a bowl until well-blended.

Use an old makeup brush or your fingers to smooth the mixture evenly over your freshly washed face and neck. Let it sit for 10 to 20 minutes (until it feels dry), then wash it off with warm water. Apply a light moisturizer to soothe your skin even more.

#### Tricks for shiny hair

To get your hair looking shiny and healthy, you'll first need to eliminate excessive product buildup. The quickest way to do this is to rinse your hair with a cup of apple cider vinegar before shampooing in the shower. If your hair really needs help in the shine department, you can make a simple hair mask by mixing an egg with a mashed banana and applying it all over your hair. Leave it on for 10 to 30 minutes (10 for fine hair, 30 for thick/coarse hair). Wash it out and continue with your usual hair routine.

To sum up, I'll also throw in a couple of bonus tips that don't actually count as recipes, because they're only one ingredient. First of all, organic honey is an excellent moisturizer. Try rubbing some on your lips before bed, or rubbing it into cracked heels to soften them (put an old pair of cotton socks over top while it absorbs). If you're struggling with under-eye circles or puffiness, chill a couple of thin slices of potato in the fridge and then place them over your eyes for 10 to 20 minutes while you take a quick power nap.

And there you have it—a complete skin care regime using only your kitchen basics! ☺

Greek yogurt soothes dry winter skin.

••• Photo by Sérgio (Savaman)  
Savarese via Flickr

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# STREET INTERVIEW

## Do you feel safe in Halifax bars at night?

by Katrina Pyne & Jonathan Rotsztain



"Absolutely—I'm 6'2", 260 lbs"

**Brendan Robinson**  
3rd-year anthropology



"If I'm with friends I do"

**Caitlyn Parsons**  
2nd-year arts



"Yes—the ones who can't handle their liquor cause the trouble"

**Adam Colen**  
Custodian



"I don't go to bars much"

**Sarah Fraiser**  
2nd-year medicine



"Yes—I've never had any problems"

**Claire Brousseau**  
1st-year health sciences



"Yes—I go out in big groups"

**Rory Remy**  
1st-year health sciences



"Yes—when I'm with friends"

**Fatemeh Riahi**  
masters of computer science



"Yes—unless it's really late and I'm alone"

**Sarah Digdon**  
2nd-year MLIS



"Oh yeah—I go out with friends"

**Brendan Sangster**  
4th-year theatre



"Yes—I've never seen anything go down"

**Alex Hoggarth**  
4th-year neuroscience

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## New designer and entrepreneur seeks delicate balance of art and enterprise

Michaela Cavanagh  
Arts Contributor

On a rainy Thursday evening in January, Johnny Martin and a few of his friends gather around a table at the Seahorse Tavern, sharing pitchers of beer in the dimly lit, and completely empty, bar. What might look like just another pre-Mellotones rendezvous is actually a well-deserved break from an exhausting afternoon photo shoot. Dark-haired and unshaven, Martin definitely looks the part of a brooding artist. Flanked by two sets of models, clad in only Martin's tank tops and a pair of jeans, along with his faithful photographer and a few extras, Martin is in his element.

Martin is using the bar as a backdrop for photographing a set of images to complement his first clothing line. Coming out under the label he's created, Amerigo Clothing, Martin's vision is equal parts business and pleasure. Amerigo Clothing is named after Martin's great-grandfather, an Italian ship designer from Livorno. The line of T-shirts and tanks he's been busy single-handedly designing, marketing and curating for over a year will be released in just a few weeks under the label CHEAPER Collection.

But how did Martin get from point a: high-achieving Dalhousie economics student on the fast track to investment banking, to point b: first-time designer and entrepreneur? It's a question even he doesn't quite know how to answer.

"I guess I kind of stumbled into it," he muses.

Growing up in Calgary with stints in both Russia and Egypt, Martin came to Halifax in 2008 to complete the foundation year programme (FYP) at King's. "Anyone who knew me at King's knew I liked clothing,"

he says.

After FYP, he transferred into economics, but cut his studies short once he realized his interests lay elsewhere. "At a certain point I realized I couldn't do something that I didn't believe in," he says.

Once he'd graduated with a 15-credit degree in economics, Martin started creating and designing an aesthetic for shirts: low-cut tanks with his own designs on them made "from scratch," while taking a few classes at NSCAD to learn the basics. "I had to learn to make clothing," he says.

While Martin says what he learned at NSCAD helped him, the lessons that mattered most were the ones he got outside the classroom. "I think it's more important to surround yourself with like-minded individuals," he says. "That way your peers are your judges, as opposed to one, overseeing teacher."

When Martin was just starting out, he called up Dov Charney, CEO of American Apparel, to ask for some advice. "All he said was to 'just keep hammering at it.' And that's what I've been doing."

But for Martin, it's always been about more than just the clothing. "When I was a kid I worked at a bookstore and I really loved the fantastical aspect of storytelling and really just the act of creation."

Originally, Martin says he wanted to make movies. He says he still hopes to someday, "but I realized that movies require more capital than other artistic endeavours, and I decided to do clothing instead," he says.

But on that rainy night in January, Martin was putting the finishing touches on a series of photos now being edited into a tableau. More than just advertising the shirts, Martin sees the tableau as a mini-movie—

as something that tells a story in an artful way. He developed the story behind the tableau and the shirts at the same time, hoping to create "something that really reaches out and grabs the viewer."

He says he's not sure when it evolved into both, but Martin sees himself more as a producer than either an artist or an entrepreneur. "It's just as much about the story and the dream itself—what's behind it—as it is about the clothes. The shirts are just one way to express this artistic moment."

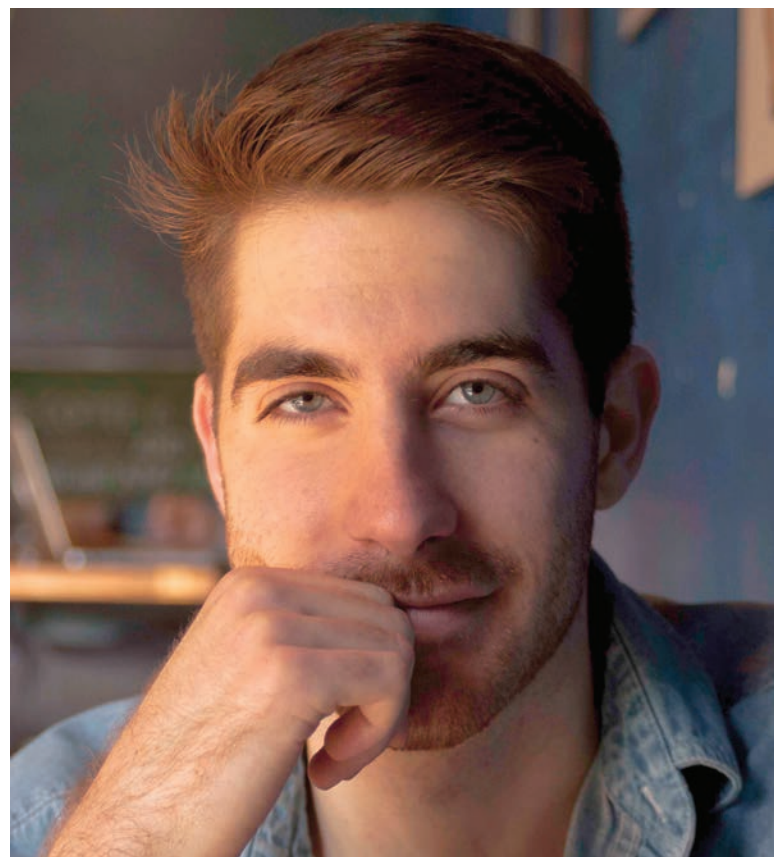
The designs behind the shirts themselves came from a poem Martin wrote. He says the shirts feature fragments of the poem, and when you put the shirts together, you have the full poem and the full picture.

"Bite me/ Lick me/Kiss me deeper. Don't worry, baby, I can afford it/ These days love is cheaper," reads the complete poem on one of his tanks. The tanks are all loose-fitting, soft black creations, delicately screen-printed. On the front is a stylized set of lips, and on the back is a scripted fragment of the poem.

"It tries to conjure up that feeling, that place you are at the time, that place of love," he says.

The shirts and the tableau are just two aspects of a mood he's trying to express, he says. "There are a lot of people doing shirts, and people have enough shirts. I wanted to make something special and unique to show how deep the artistic expression goes."

Currently Martin is only producing tanks, but he's got big hopes for his next collection and says he's not short on ideas. But as of now, Martin's keeping those to himself. All he'll let slip is that he "wants to graduate to a more sophisticated form. I still want to use the paradigm of the story, and




How did Martin get from Point A: high-achieving Dalhousie economics student on the fast track to investment banking to Point B: first-time designer and entrepreneur?

••• Photo supplied

as that grows, who knows?" he says.

Michael Beedie, one of the actors in Martin's narrative photo shoot, says he's sure this is only the beginning. "He's one of the most driven and passionate people I've ever met. He's full of vision and ideas ... And while they're not necessarily always feasible, I think he's one of those people who will succeed or will simply die trying," Beedie says.

Martin says this past year has been a long, hard road for him, but "it's all about the process."

At the end of the day, he just wants to stay true to that kid who loved stories: "You want to be true not just to yourself, but to what you were when you were innocent, when the world was but a dream." 



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## Toronto alt-rockers bring latest LP to Halifax

The Wooden Sky to play Mar. 3 at the Seahorse Tavern

**Frances Dorenbaum**  
Arts Contributor

We all love to people-watch. Sitting in a café as I wait for a friend or enjoy a drink, I watch people pass by the window and like to imagine their professions, how they spend their free time, what their relationships are like, what makes them happy or sad. I, and my fellow raconteurs, imagine and create the stories of their lives. It's our indirect way of trying to make human connections in such a busy and big world.

Gavin Gardiner, The Wooden Sky's front man, says he often wonders about the lives behind the faces he sees through car windows.

"I have this weird sensation when I'm driving on the highway and I look into someone else's car and see someone there. They have an entire life story that they've gone through, and experiences that they've had: pain and loss, happiness and joy," he says. "I've just sort of been thinking about that lately—the bigger picture of other people's lives and trying to find my place in that."

The third album of the Toronto alternative country rock band is a col-

lection of bittersweet stories where, for a moment, we may enter into the lives of others we are often curious about. After moving away from storytelling on the group's second LP, the band was comfortable returning to that form of expression. Though the lyrics in the album are poetic and fictional, many of the stories in the songs are not just imagined, but are in part based on Gardiner's life.

"Child of the Valley," for example, is a story song, but it's also based on my mom's family and her upbringing, and how that has influenced my life, and trying to understand how it has influenced her life," says Gardiner.

While the lyrics of "Child of the Valley" express a story of overcoming burdens (told by three narrators: a grandfather, a mother and a daughter), the melody emphasizes the weight of the stress. The heavy bass drum encumbers the narrators throughout the verses. The guitar mimics the trotting of horses as if the story is told on a long journey, and the searching tone of the chorus reveals the vastness of the terrain to be covered. Gardiner's deep voice gorgeously emits a haunting senti-

ment, giving the tune a lonely cowboy sort of feel.

"Malibu Rum," takes us into another story, this one of distance and disappointment. The "ooo's" of the back up singers, along with the dreamy melody, capture that hazy, warm feeling of being tipsy that temporarily comforts the narrator from his sadness.

**"The third album is a collection of bittersweet stories where, for a moment, we may enter into the lives of others."**

"I was trying to explain to everyone what kind of feeling I wanted it to have, and I said, 'What I'd like it to sound like is, you're in Las Vegas and

you're going there to get married, but you end up in a shitty hotel and the air conditioner is broken and it's dripping water onto the carpet. It's supposed to be this happy moment, but it's kind of sad," says Gardiner.


Gardiner has a gift when it comes to storytelling, as most of the lyrics show a story, rather than tell one. Hannah Arendt, a great thinker who has some extraordinary thoughts on understanding others' actions, once said, "Storytelling reveals meaning without committing the error of defining it." Gardiner does exactly this as he attempts to explore forgiveness throughout the LP by placing himself in the shoes of others.

"A lot of the songs I wrote on the record ... are about trying to understand this idea of forgiveness—how you can actually forgive someone who has done something awful to you and put you through so much and to actually have the forgiveness to still show the person compassion. It's a process I have been trying to understand, especially from someone else's point of view."

The process of understanding was even included throughout the recording of this album as the band told

these stories in different spaces. Some songs were recorded in an enormous church, allowing the group to really hear the music and their voices, almost creating "a sense of empathy," as Gardiner put it.

In order to keep these songs close and personal as they tour the album this winter, the band hopes to do a series of house shows. In such a cozy setting, Gardiner will be able to cross the threshold of the car window he's always looking through to connect with the person behind it, and of course his fans can get to know him beyond his stage persona.

"It is a very intimate setting when you are coming into someone else's home," he says. "It's fun to not have a huge divide with the stage, and in a big venue you don't meet anybody that comes to your show. It's just that interaction, that connection that we thrive on while we are on tour." 

The Wooden Sky will be joined by Toronto alt-rockers Great Bloomers this Saturday night at the Seahorse Tavern. ••• Photo supplied

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tunes review

# Otis Taylor—*Contraband*



**Simcha Walfish**  
Arts Contributor

Otis Taylor is no ordinary bluesman. *Contraband* is the latest installment in Taylor's Trance Blues Project, his ambitious, over-a-decade-long effort to create a highly idiosyncratic style of music that sounds very little like the blues others are playing but somehow feels much closer to the core of the blues.

The way Taylor usually describes it is that many of his songs borrow a technique from Western African music in which the song stays on one

chord instead of changing. Since we usually judge the passing of time in a song by following its chord changes, we can listen to his songs for 10 or 15 minutes and not even realize that it hasn't changed.

If you've ever listened to him, you know the product is more often than not an extremely interesting, raw, often quite dark, style of music, and this album is no exception. Taylor sings gruffly and plays the banjo and guitar on a set that clocks in at just under an hour without any fluff or filler. It starts out strong with "The Devil's Gonna Lie," helped by

the remarkable pedal steel guitar of Robert Randolph who plays on a few other tracks. Taylor is a master storyteller, not shying away from sensitive issues like the slave trade in "Contraband Blues" and race in "Blind Piano Teacher" about the relationship between a young lady of mixed racial origins and an older man.

Taylor often changes the dynamics of his songs dramatically, switching seamlessly from banjo romps like "Banjo Boogie Blues" or "Yellow Car, Yellow Dog" to the minimalist "2 or 3 Times" and "Open These Bars" to full band electric workouts on "Con-

traband Blues" and "I Can See You're Lying."

The highlight of the album is "Never Been to Africa", another song in which Taylor's storytelling ability is on full display. Backed by his guitar, an electric guitar, an organ, and some very light percussion, Taylor mournfully and convincingly sings: "Cold sweat running down my leg/ I can feel the gas running 'cross my face/ Don't need to walk, but I'll fight anyway." This song and the whole album feature some of Taylor's best songwriting, grittiest vocals and most memorable instrumentation. **G**

## TOP 8 SPRING TRENDS: A fashion double-take

Rose Behar  
Simone MacLennan  
Fashion Columnists

### 1950s Domestic—Pastel, prim, high-necklines, shifts

**SM:** This is feminine and beautiful, a reminder that we can be both sexy and covered up. It's perfect for those days when you need to be tasteful (job interview, anyone?) but still want to be stylish. Conversely, I love pairing pieces that channel this trend with somewhat less demure outfits. Vintage stores in town have some really gorgeous pieces, and of course, Sweet Pea does as well.

**RB:** I've always been a sucker for this trend. Who hasn't? Mad Men, Pan-Am, The Hour—these shows all capitalize on nostalgia for the good old days of fitted suits, high-waists and the day-time pump.

### Sporty—form-fitting, durable fabrics, bright blocked colours

**SM:** I loathe this trend with every fibre of my being.

**RB:** I have to smile. I have a tendency to agree with Simone on this one, but what I do love about sporty pieces is the fantastic juxtapositions you can do with them. Bright sneakers with a flowy, feminine top? Neoprene and lace? Visor and a mini-skirt? The options are endless!

### Prints—Large floral, mixed, bright colours, geometrics

**SM:** I'm always happy when I see that trend reports are still talking about floral prints. They are my absolute favourites. Mix it up this season by rocking floral (or the print of your choosing) in unexpected places. My current obsession is floral with menswear.

**RB:** OK, now it's my turn to make a face. I will be perfectly honest, I don't understand florals. I can't wear them, they're not my style and I don't know how to pair them with things. But if I could ever get into florals, it would probably be now, because of their bold brightness this season. As for prints comprised of block colours and geometrics, that modern art sort of look is totally up my alley. I delight in the flamboyant simplicity.

### 1920s Jazz Age—flapper style, fringe, geometric prints

**SM:** I adore fringe. It is the most fun thing to wear (and dance in). Vintage stores have really interesting dresses that draw on this era, or are even right from the era, and H&M has some really cute items inspired by it as well.

**RB:** I love the fringe too. Actually, the last fantastic flapper dress I saw was on none other than Ms. MacLennan herself. With a smoky eye and a little attitude? It can be a very sexy look. But I can't lie, I'm a little frightened by the dropped-waist.

### "Neoprene and lace? Visor and a mini-skirt? The options are endless!"

### Sheer/nude—translucent, sexy, lingerie-style

**SM:** I'll say it night now: this is my favourite trend. What makes these pieces is the fact that you've deliberately chosen to show off, well, whatever it is that you're showing off! With these pieces, you'll want to keep the rest of the outfit super casual and toned down (think knee length skirt, jeans, flats—you catch my drift).

**RB:** You know who's done this trend justice recently? Rooney Mara. Such elegance and sex appeal. It is indeed of utmost importance to keep a look with cut-outs and sheer areas very minimal. This is not something you load a bunch of accessories on to; this is something you have to let speak for itself.

### Shorts—tailored, printed, structured

**SM:** Any excuse to show some leg is good in my books. Pair super structured or tailored shorts with something a bit wilder on top. Rocking a

printed pair (you go, girl) means that they are the focal point, so keep the rest of the outfit simple. I would recommend The Gap or Club Monaco for these. They've done some lovely tailored bottoms in the past.

**RB:** Love this! Shorts can be so much fun, not just boring basics. I love the idea that you can wear a white tee and just let an amazing pair of red striped, structured short-shorts be the focal point of the outfit. Pile on some wooden accessories, some nice flat sandals, and really give the jungle explorer look a try. Classy, but playful.

### Pastel—baby pinks and blues, sherbert oranges and yellows

**SM:** Pastels are the most fun if you like to imbue a touch of femininity into an outfit without it becoming too girly. I'm a fan of colour blocking pastels, just like last year's neons. American Apparel does great separates in every colour under the sun, and they're probably your best bet, along with Banana Republic.

**RB:** Pastels. Hmm. A troubled relationship for some skin tones, mine included. I always think they look better on a tan. But, pale girls, I think we should maybe think twice about this fear. There are surely some colours that will look good on us regardless of whether they're pastel or not. Flaunt it! And if not with your clothes, at least on your nails. Because really, these colours are too cute and feminine to pass up!

### Cropped—retro crop tops calling back to 1950s/1960s beach wear

**SM:** I'm so happy this trend is back. Who doesn't love some midriff? Avoid looking super nineties by showing off the top half of your stomach (ribcage area) as opposed to below the navel. Pair a high-waisted skirt or shorts with your cropped top. American Eagle has some really cute ones.

**RB:** One word to describe my happiness at this coming in trend: Whee!

The snow is nearly gone, so don't hesitate to get shopping and put some spring in your step. **G**

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Ian Froese Sports Editor



TOP LEFT: Tigers bring back the men's banner after losing to UNB last season; TOP RIGHT: Daniel You and Angus Rhuland come up for the block. ••• Photos by Andrew Meade via The Brunswickian  
BOTTOM LEFT: CIS No. 2 seeded Saint Mary's are league champs, beating Dal in four sets; BOTTOM RIGHT: Rookie Tara Gowan goes for the hit. ••• Photo by Normand A. Léger via Université de Moncton

# TIGERS MADE FOR VOLLEYBALL

## Men reclaim conference supremacy, women fall just short

Ian Froese  
Sports Editor

Three minutes was how short the span was Feb. 19 to determine AUS volleyball glory. For Dalhousie, involved in the men's and women's finals, a 1 - 1 record is something to brag about.

The afternoon didn't begin so great, however, as the women lost to what was simply a more dominant team. The nation's second best team, the Saint Mary's Huskies, won their fourth title in seven years with a 3 - 1 triumph over the Tigers in Moncton.

Minutes later, at 3:51 p.m., the men's team turned Dal's fortunes for the better, winning a championship match that was never in doubt. They swept the defending champion UNB Varsity Reds in two games to recover the AUS banner in Fredericton.

### Men's squad tames AUS

While Saint Mary's women's team was beyond jubilant after winning their banner, Dal's men's team was a lot more controlled. They looked like

a team who had won a title before, and, in fact, they have. 24 in the past 25 years, to be exact. This year's championship, however, meant a lot to the group. The Tigers got redemption.

"The way they responded after the match on Sunday, I thought, was perfect," said Tigers head coach Dan Ota at the team's first practice after the finals last Wednesday. "Every championship is obviously special, but after losing last year I'm sure no one is taking any of these for granted, and that's good. I'm glad they'll value this and not just see it as a step they have to take on the way to nationals."

Dal got the redemption they were looking for, sweeping the Varsity Reds in two straight games. After a 3 - 1 defeat earlier that weekend at the Dalplex, UNB fell to the same 3 - 1 score in their own gym.

Game 2 was a close match until UNB basically gave up in the fourth set. After taking the opening frame, UNB evened the contest in the second set, winning the nail-biter 26 - 24. The Tigers, however, would not

lose another, coming out on top 25 - 19 and 25 - 20 to win the title.

"I always felt throughout the final match, and even leading up to it, that we were going to control how the match went and our play was going to dictate the outcome," said Ota. "I told our guys that we may have to wait for our opportunities to get the separation to win the game and that's exactly what ended up happening."

This year's victory is extra sweet for Dal considering the shock last year's defeat brought. UNB stealing the AUS banner snapped Dal's 24-year reign on top of the conference.

"After winning I started really thinking a lot about all the events that came last year and how I felt after that and how much better it felt to actually win," said graduating left side Graeme Higgins. "This is a really good feeling."

The Tigers have now turned their focus to nationals. The sole Atlantic representative will face the country's top seeded team and the reigning national champion Trinity Western Spartans in the quarterfinals Mar. 2.

The bout will be a challenge for the Tigers, but they say they are ready for it.

"I think a lot of teams are going to underestimate us, and rightfully so, we haven't had the best track record," said setter Angus Rhuland. "But we're peaking at the right time."

### Women tumble in championship

In the end, Dal's women's volleyball team was not meant to take home the AUS banner.

The Tigers came into the championship against Saint Mary's as underdogs, and they left the court as such, losing to the superior team. The Huskies deservedly won the league crown with a 3 - 1 triumph Feb. 19.

"It's disappointing because we had a really good team," said Dal captain Kirstie Shepherd. "but sometimes it doesn't work out your way."

Winning the championship helps right a wrong for Saint Mary's. The league-leading Huskies were surprisingly upset in the 2011 final to UNB and were obviously motivated to

avoid the same fate against Dal.

While the Huskies have been near the top of the conference table for years, it's a new phenomenon for the Tigers. The black and gold have steadily improved under the watch of head coach Rick Scott, now in his fourth season. After missing the play-offs for the third consecutive year in 2009, Dal has seen better results in each subsequent campaign.

The team's "night and day" improvement has not gone unnoticed by Shepherd. The graduating senior was given the floor after the final match to say a few words to her teammates.

"I told the girls that I didn't want to play with anybody else in the world. I was so proud of them," she said. "They knew how much this game meant to us [graduating players], and they really wanted to win it for us."

Along with Shepherd, the Tigers will also bid farewell to fourth-years Courtney Giesbrecht and Lauren Smith.





## opinion: Too little, too late for men's hockey

Miraculous turnaround leaves Dal with something to salvage

**Arfa Ayub**  
Staff Contributor

In some ways Dalhousie's men's hockey team didn't have the type of season they were expected to. And yet, in other ways, they did: they missed the playoffs.

Having put an end to a seven-year playoff drought the year before, the Tigers basically started the year with an 11-game losing streak that saw Dal fall to the league basement as if they had never left.

The team, however, turned their season around, but what some would call a miraculous comeback fell just short.

The Tigers weren't supposed to screw up this year. They only got better during the offseason adding veteran leadership in fifth-year transfers Zachary Firlotte and David MacDonald—the only member of the team to have won a CIS championship. The thought was their experience would come in handy as the Tigers sought to establish themselves as a competitive AUS team.

Turns out, the veterans' experience wasn't enough.

A dismal first half in which the Tigers struggled with nearly all aspects of their game, from goal-scoring, to defence and goaltending, left fans wondering what went so wrong. Their only source of wins, in fact, came from the often weak St. Thomas Tommies.

Injuries to key players like veteran

goalie Bobby Nadeau, Patrick Daley and forward Brad McConnell just made Dal's already depressing situation even worse.

Something about the team changed upon their return from an apparently much-needed holiday break. Maybe it was the coaching swap which saw Pete Belliveau step down and pass on bench boss duties to assistant Chris Donnelly? Or perhaps it was the return of their many injured players? Regardless, we will never know what caused the team to play with an extra jump in their step. They played like they should have in the start of the year, as if they had something to prove.

Whatever the case, the change brought results. Players began to play, and along the way Dal earned valuable points against Moncton, Saint Mary's, St. Thomas and most surprisingly a victory and an overtime loss against the UNB Varsity Reds, ranked No. 2 in the country at the time.

The Tigers team everybody had been waiting for paid a visit, even decreasing the gap between themselves and the sixth and final playoff spot to just one point. It all led up to an intense final weekend of the season that unfortunately eliminated any remaining playoff hopes the team had.

One can only wonder what would have transpired if that same team showed up earlier in the season. Dal's improbable victories proved the

Tigers had it in them all along; they had the ability to battle it out with the best in the conference. The logical question then becomes: What took them so long?

Yes, injuries affected the team's play in the first half. If healthy, they should have been better. Instead, the Tigers found themselves mired in an 11-game losing streak that would come to haunt them as they nearly completed an astonishing turnaround into the post season.

Seven wins in a 28-game schedule isn't much to brag about, and for Dal it was enough to make them miss the playoffs by seven points, reminiscent of their previous playoff absences.

But despite the many struggles the squad faced, their turnaround gives fans reason to hope; a hope that while the team, to say it nicely, was not the best they could have been, they nearly salvaged their season. It evokes hope that all was not for lost. The players might say they regained their confidence, others would simply call it luck.

As the Tigers start a new chapter in their history: moving away from Memorial Arena, a rink they have called home for the last 30 years, let's hope they can take the confidence they gained—and maybe a little luck—in their quest to fight the league's elite. **G**

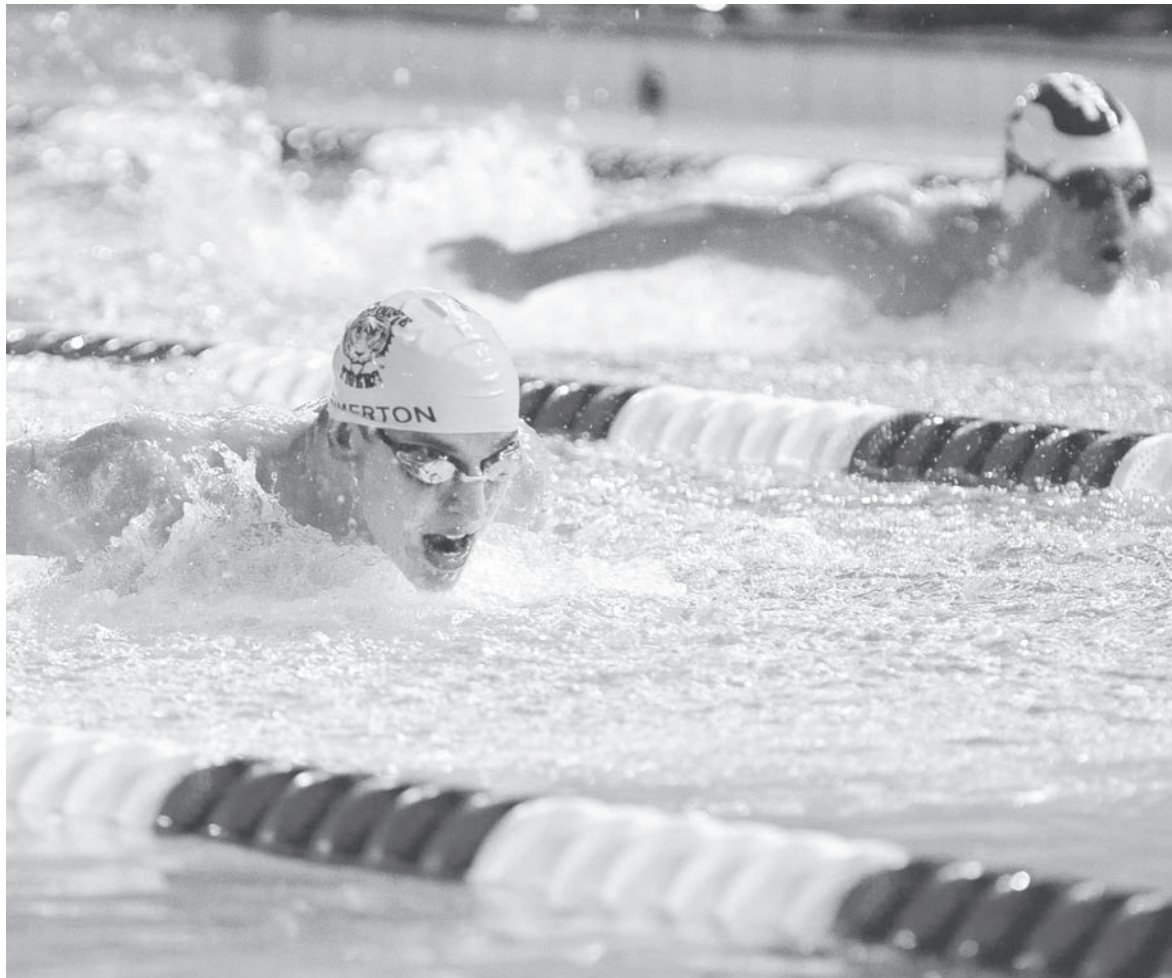
Here's hoping Dal eyes not just the puck but a playoff spot as well next season.

••• Photo by Martina Marien

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



With the ball, Tessa Stammberger helped the Tigers earn their playoff berth with a 1 - 1 record this past weekend. UNB needed to beat Dal by 14 points in the season-ending game to make the playoffs over the Tigers. Instead, they lost 85 - 69. Dal enters the AUS championship this weekend at St. FX. ••• Photo by Omar Bawhab



## Tigers have respectable swim on national stage

### Sharpe leads the way with CIS gold

**Paula Sanderson**  
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie's men's and women's swimming teams placed sixth and seventh respectively at last weekend's CIS championship in Montreal.

The finish was a strong result for the women, but a frustrating standing for the men.

Entering the meet, the men's team was ranked fourth in the country, and their goal was to place in the top five. The end result left them 2.5 points behind fifth-place Laval and three points behind fourth placed Alberta.

Dal's men's team finished with a total of 234 points. UBC won the meet handily with 558 points.

"It was a little disappointing," says

Tigers coach David Fry. "Afterwards you analyze all the things that could have been different but the bottom line is they had a good meet."

Individually, the men broke several AUS records and achieved four medals.

David Sharpe once again stepped up to the plate for Dal, winning the 200 metre butterfly with a time of 1:57.13.

Fry says the time was a personal best for Sharpe in a short course pool. Sharpe has been working on the 200 metre butterfly all year, hoping to compete at the 2012 London Olympics. Sharpe is currently ranked third in the country but needs to place first to make his dream a reality.

Sharpe also took home two bronze

medals in the 50 metre backstroke with a time of 25.24 and the 100 metre butterfly in 53.91 seconds.

Chris Reith also did well racing to second place in the 1500 metre freestyle with a time of 15:19.86. Reith now holds the AUS record in that event.

"We were really happy for Chris," says Fry. "He's quiet by nature, and he's quietly been getting better over the years."

Bryan Fumerton, Simon Boilard and Joe Ur also swam strong at the meet.

Ur broke the AUS 100 metre freestyle record for a spot in the top 16.

Fry describes Fumerton as the "unsung hero of the meet," placing in the top eight in three different races.

The women's team finished a strong seventh.

At the beginning of the season, the women's goal was to place in the top ten. Going into the meet, they were ranked seventh nationally and maintained that standing, coming in seventh with a total of 202.5 points.

UBC also won the women's championship with 811.5 points.

Fry was pleased with the improvement his team showed this year.

"We are really happy with their performance," says Fry. "We didn't expect any medals from the women's side but they did incredibly well."

The women's side broke multiple AUS records including both freestyle relays—the 4x100 and the 4x200 relay.

"The 4x200 relay record had stood for some 12 years, so it was nice for them to finally get that one," says Fry. ☺

*A number of Dal swimmers will be in the pool next at the Olympic trials in Montreal Mar. 27 to Apr. 1.*

**LEFT:** Graduating swimmer Bryan Fumerton placed in the top eight in three different races;

**RIGHT:** Dal's David Sharpe, middle, celebrates his gold medal win in the 200 metre butterfly.

••• Photos by James Hajjar via jhphotosportive.com

## GET INVOLVED, GET ACTIVE AND LIVE WELL @DAL!

Dalhousie University's Department of Athletics and Recreational Services offers Dal students plenty of opportunities to get active, meet up with friends, show your competitive spirit and take your mind off the books! You can also head to Dalplex with your student ID and unwind while staying healthy.

**FRIDAY**  
March 2

**Subway AUS Women's Hockey Championship**  
@ Memorial Arena  
Games at 3pm & 7pm

Free for Dal students!

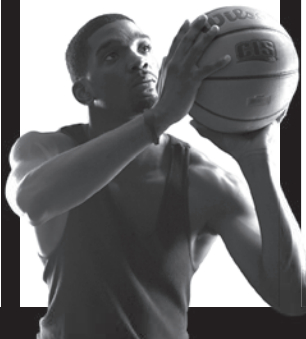
**Subway AUS Men's Basketball Championship**  
Quarter-final  
DAL vs. CBU @ 6pm  
@ Halifax Metro Centre

Check [daltigers.ca](http://daltigers.ca) to see how the Tigers progress!

**SATURDAY**  
March 3

**Subway AUS Women's Hockey Championship**  
@ Memorial Arena  
Games at 3pm & 7pm

Free for Dal students!



**SUNDAY**  
March 4

**Subway AUS Women's Hockey Championship**  
@ Memorial Arena  
Championship Game @ 2pm

Free for Dal students!



**MONDAY**  
March 5

Get in the groove with our **GROOVE FIT**, taught by Ryan Cairns!  
**Dance + aerobics + strength training = A FUN WORKOUT!**

Free for Dal Students, tonight at 7:45pm in the fieldhouse.

**TUESDAY**  
March 6

Did you know...if you're a **Dal student**, you're already a **Dalplex member!**  
Drop by today with your DalCard and work up a sweat!



**WEDNESDAY**  
March 7

Rise and Shine and SWEAT! Get your workout in early - **Boot Camp is in the fieldhouse at 9:30am** and it's **FREE for Dal students!**

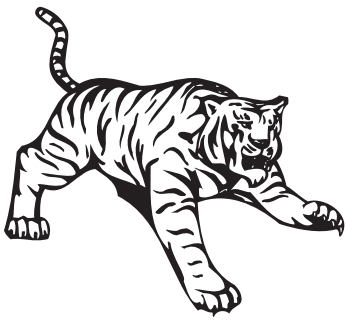


**THURSDAY**  
March 8

Connect online with **Dalplex and the Dal Tigers** on Facebook & Twitter!



**WWW.ATHLETICS.DAL.CA**



# TIGER TONING

## HARD GAINERS: WHEN BODY TYPE STANDS IN THE WAY OF BULGING BICEPS

Colin Hebb  
Health Columnist

.....  
*"We always hear about those people trying to lose weight, but what about those of us with the opposite problem? I am trying to gain weight and have been pumping the irons and trying to eat as much as I can. Any advice on how I might improve my progress?"*

—Skinny McBony

This article is dedicated to the little guys (and girls) who can't seem to pack on the pounds. For years, you have been made fun of for being too small and for eating whatever you want without worrying about a bulge. I mean, you'll have trouble getting sympathy from the majority of us who have to think about those calories and the nasty consequences of having that slice of pizza after the bar, but your concern is still valid.

.....  
***"How do you fight the body type you were given and build those rippling muscles you've always wanted?"***  
 .....

So, how do you fight the body type you were given and build those rippling muscles you've always wanted, or at least put on a few pounds of fat?

Building muscles takes more than just lifting heavier weights, and that goes for everyone. You can't build a house without bricks, and, similarly, you can't build muscles without the necessary materials.

The building blocks of our body come from protein. While protein is counted in the body as 'calories' and, therefore, a source of energy, its primary purpose is to build tissue, including muscle. That's why after you work out and rip your muscles to shreds, the building blocks for recovery, protein, must be present in your body to get it done.

This is accomplished by ensuring there's an adequate supply of protein—which most of us achieve—and the amino acids that come with it. This, however, does not mean you should down a ridiculous amount of protein at one time, even after a

workout. The reason for this is our body can only process so much protein at once. In fact, if you have way too much, it can be toxic to the body. That's why a steady supply of protein throughout the day is preferred, with a good shot post-workout, too.

What many people forget is that protein can also be a source of energy, and if you're not maintaining adequate levels of carbs, your body may turn to the protein, depleting your 'bricks' for growth. This is where the hard gainers find their biggest disadvantage.

The hard gainers have super metabolisms that burn energy at crazy rates, which is why an energy surplus or weight gain is more difficult. This also means their bodies must turn protein to energy more often, making it harder to keep building blocks available for growth purposes.

To combat this, hard gainers need to take eating to a whole new level. The calories they consume must be significantly more inflated than the rest of us and a good mix of carbs, fats and protein is also important.

As mentioned already, protein consumption should be kept high throughout the day. Fats should also be inflated (as this calorie-dense source makes reaching a high calorie count easier) but chosen carefully. Saturated and trans fats provide almost no benefit and should still be avoided. Though, the good fats (poly and mono fats) can be consumed safely in greater amounts. A few good sources of these fats include nuts, fish and oils.

Finally, carbs are where you are going to need to focus your work. This is where you can combat the mighty metabolism head on. Constant carb-based snacks and plenty of protein will help keep a consistently high level of energy flowing through your body and protect those amino acids (proteins) from being taken away. Be careful of consuming too much sugar though, there are still nasty consequences other than weight gain that sugar can inflict. Check out the glycemic index online for a good reference of which carbs you should consume and which to limit.

So, onward hard gainers! Eat like you've never eaten before, but do it smartly. Look online for more great food choices for hard gainers! 🍌

**Breakfast of Champions.**  
 ••• Photo by Angela Gzowski



*Send your fitness-related questions to Sports@DalGazette.com and check back in the Gazette weekly to see if your question gets answered*

# Women's hockey playoff preview

## Dal hopes late-season success translates to playoff glory



Brittany McMacken, who had the nod for the majority of games in the beginning of the season.

.....  
***"We have all the confidence in the world. We have to play hard and stick to our game plan."***  
 .....

Also in the Tigers' three-team round-robin pool in the playoffs with St. FX is the fourth-place UPEI Panthers. The season series between the opponents is knotted at two games apiece. Both of Dal's losses to the Panthers came in overtime.

Fraser thinks that having this winning streak under their belt is going to be a confidence booster as they enter the AUS championships on home ice.

"(Right now), we're all in a good place," said Fraser. "We're all very confident and we've been playing well as of late."

Leblanc takes pride in their underdog role going into the playoffs.

"The league is so close this year," Leblanc said. "I think any team can win on any given night."

With all the talk of what the ladies can and can't do to be successful, Fraser summed it up best.

"We just have to win three games." ☺

**The Tigers will look to make the net a busy place during the championships.**

••• Photo by Martina Marien

**Graeme Benjamin**  
Sports Contributor

.....  
 The Dalhousie women's hockey team is hoping Cinderella is on their side entering the AUS championships.

There was no doubt the ladies were going to make the playoffs with Saint Mary's in the midst of a lacklustre season. The question entering the final weekend of regular season play, however, was where Dal would land in the standings.

Despite their best efforts, the Tigers ultimately could not claw their way past the sixth and final playoff

spot. With St. Thomas's surprising overtime victory over the Moncton Aigles Bleus Feb. 24, the outcome of the Tigers and Tommies game Feb. 26 was insignificant.

The Tigers began the AUS championship round-robin against the No. 1 seeded X-Women on Mar. 1.

With a three-game winning streak entering the playoffs, the Tigers are optimistic. Head coach Sean Fraser believes the ladies are ready for whatever comes their way.

"We have all the confidence in the world," Fraser said. "We have to play hard and stick to our game plan."

Elizabeth Matheson, the captain of the Tigers, feels that success is within reach if the team can overcome their tendency to get lazy and make sloppy passes.

"We need to stay focused for the whole 60 minutes," she said. "It's something that we haven't done all season."

For the Tigers to be successful, they are also going to need strong and consistent play from all-time team points leader Jocelyn Leblanc. Leblanc leads the team in goals with 23 on the season and is ranked fourth in the league with 35 points. She also had a season-

ending hat trick in Dal's shutout win over the Tommies Feb. 26.

Leblanc, though, wasn't one to take credit for her team's success.

"I contribute a lot of our success to my linemates Jenna (Currie) and Nichol (Robin Nicolson)," Leblanc said. "We've all been working together successfully, especially over the past weekend."

A big question mark hanging over the Tigers this weekend is who will tend the crease. The red hot Zoe Zivolak has been seeing a lot of starts of late, including a shutout in the last game of the regular season, or rookie

**SUBWAY WOMEN'S HOCKEY**  
**AUS CHAMPIONSHIP @ DAL**

**Thursday, March 1**  
 Game 1: 3pm StFX (1st) vs. DAL (6th)  
 Game 2: 7pm UdeM (2nd) vs. STU (5th)

**Friday, March 2**  
 Game 3: 3pm UPEI (4th) vs. Loser Game #1  
 Game 4: 7pm MtA (3rd) vs. Loser Game #2

**Saturday, March 3**  
 Game 5: 3pm UPEI (4th) vs. Winner Game #1  
 Game 6: 7pm MtA (3rd) vs. Winner Game #2

**Sunday, March 4**  
 Championship Game at 2pm

Games take place at Dalhousie Memorial Arena and are free for Dal students with ID!



It will be either Brittany McMacken, in net here in early January, or Zoe Zivolak in the crease for the Tigers. ••• Photo by Rob Grandy

Pool A	Pool B
1. St. FX	2. Moncton
4. UPEI	3. Mt. Allison
6. Dalhousie	5. St. Thomas

**CHAMPIONSHIP COVERAGE THIS WEEKEND:**  
**DalGazette.com**

**WWW.DALTIGERS.CA**

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# Men's basketball playoff preview

## Young Tigers squad will be challenged

Jason Savoury  
Staff Contributor

“Ups and downs,” and “rocky” were the words used by graduating forward Robert Nortmann. “It’s been a roller coaster,” said head coach John Campbell.

When it comes to describing the season so far, everyone on the team seemed to be singing from the same hymnal: if Dalhousie’s men’s basketball season was indeed an amusement park ride, you would have had to reach for your barf bag more than once.

To be honest, a rocky season was expected. Dal basically graduated their entire starting roster, leaving last year’s bench to take on quality minutes this season. It wasn’t easy. The team had a gut-punching 1 - 4 start to the season. Their turbulent season landed them a final record of 9 - 11, and fifth seed in the playoffs, both a far cry from the team ranked second last year that rolled through the competition on their way to AUS glory.

Their saving grace, according to Campbell, is that come Mar. 3, it’s a whole new ball game.

“We get to throw this whole season out and we get 0 - 0 records.” Yes, this Friday, the Tigers get the chance to wipe the slate clean, starting with No. 4 seeded Cape Breton Capers. The two teams battled evenly to a 2 - 2 record this season with each taking a home and road victory against the other.

The Tigers, however, are hoping for a bit more of a home field advantage as the entire AUS Champion-

ships will be played at the Halifax Metro Centre, “We’re hoping that the Metro Centre becomes a positive for us,” said Campbell. Nortmann echoed his sentiments, “It’s a fun experience having [the fans] come out and have a good time.”

The Tigers will certainly need that boost if they manage to make it past CBU. Dal has a collective 1 - 5 record against St. FX and Acadia this season, the top two seeded teams this season, and Dal would have to face at least one of those teams if the Tigers plan on winning back-to-back championships.

For a team with such daunting foes looming, Dal’s biggest opponent may be themselves.

“We’re struggling right now to put together a good effort over the course of 40 minutes,” Campbell noted, highlighting the team’s inconsistencies have not been game-to-game, but seemingly moment-to-moment.

Obviously, it’s a challenging road ahead for the Tigers to win the conference banner, but Campbell spared a few thoughts on what winning two straight titles would mean to the program. “We’re trying to establish, I guess, an identity that we are a perennial contender.”

Having already won two of the past three championships, a third title in four years would definitely cement that reputation for the Tigers. All they have to do is become this year’s Cinderella. ☞

Robert Nortmann will need to come up huge for the Tigers in his final AUS championship. ••• Photo by Pau Balite



### AUS MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

#### QUARTERFINALS

Friday, Mar. 2

(5) Dal	vs	(4) CBU	6 p.m.
(6) SMU	vs	(3) UPEI	8:15 p.m.

#### SEMIFINALS

Saturday, Mar. 3

TBD	vs	(1) St. FX	6 p.m.
TBD	vs	(2) Acadia	8:15 p.m.

#### CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday, Mar. 4

TBD	vs	TBD	2 p.m.
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Title dreams are within reach. ••• Photo by Pau Balite

## Tigers post season-ending victory Lopez sinks three-pointer to cap clutch fourth quarter

Jason Savoury  
Staff Contributor

It was the last game of the season. The stands were sparsely filled and Dal’s playoff ticket had already been punched. It seemed as if the men’s basketball team had nothing to play for, except for a bit of pride and retribution. Turns out, that was all the motivation they needed.

The Tigers closed out their regular season Feb. 25 at the Dalplex with a nail-biting victory over the UNB Varsity Reds, 78 - 75.

The win was a bounce back game for the Tigers after letting a close one slip away the night before against the same Varsity Reds. The season-ending win also gives the home squad a modicum of momentum going into the AUS championships starting Mar. 2 at the Halifax Metro Centre. The fifth-seeded Tigers will take on the No. 4 Cape Breton Capers in the quarterfinal

at 6 p.m.

As for UNB, the loss officially ended their season.

A tight game throughout, it was not until the fourth quarter when the drama hit a crescendo. In that quarter, the two teams tied or exchanged the lead 11 times. Neither team was able to expand their edge to more than five points as both sides played solid defence.

It was within those tight margins, though, that Tigers’ fourth-year guard Stephen Lopez was able to shine. With no one else scoring more than three points in the fourth, it was Lopez who took the team on his back, scoring 11 of his 17 points in the final quarter. It was Lopez who hit four of five shots from the foul line to keep his team within shooting distance. And, again, it was Lopez who, with 11 seconds left on the clock, drained a three-pointer with a hand in his face to give his team their last and ultimate lead.

It required a full team effort, however, to allow Lopez to be the hero in the fourth quarter. Dal’s player of the game was third-year guard William Yengue, who put up a game-high 23 points, including a perfect three-for-three from behind the arc, and added eight boards. Fellow third-year guard Casey Fox chipped in 21 points.

Special note should also be given to Dal’s Robert Nortmann. While it certainly was not his best game of the season—only eight points and three rebounds—the team’s sole graduating senior played his last game at the Dalplex. He was presented with a ceremonial plaque before the game by head coach John Campbell, and received a well-earned round of applause from the crowd when he fouled out late in the fourth.

The Varsity Reds were led in scoring by second-year guard William McFee. He had 17 points. ☞



# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Editor in Chief:  
Ben Wedge

March 2nd, 2012  
Page 1 of 1

## Dalhousie Faculty Association Strike Looms



Ben Wedge  
Industrial '13  
Editor in Chief

As you may no doubt be aware, the Dalhousie Faculty Association is in a legal strike position as of March 10th. The union representing full time faculty at Dal voted over 83% in favour of strike action.

The main issue is pension plan governance - for years, the provincial government allowed Dalhousie, along with every other major employer, to underfund the pension plan and pay benefits out of their operating budgets. It was only a matter of time before the land of rainbows and unicorns came to an end. In 2008, Dalhousie was approaching a point where beneficiaries outnumbered current employees. At the end of the year, the sub-prime mortgage crisis peaked and the value of Dalhousie's investments tanked. To make matters worse, several major employers across Canada went under,

leaving unfunded pension plans in their wake. The provincial governments responded by giving employers a short time frame to ensure their pensions were fully funded.

This is merely the background for the recent pension issues - Dalhousie has twice earned reprieve from the provincial government, allowing payments to be spread out over a longer period than some other employers in order to lessen the blow of reduced funding, increasing wages, tuition caps, and the loss in investment value. Even with all this, the University is trying to sign the unions on to a Joint Sponsored Pension Plan, where both Dalhousie and its unions are responsible to cover pension deficits. In broad strokes, this idea has been approved. As always, the devil is in the details.

At press time, the DFA and the university are still negotiating, though the provincially appointed conciliator has filed his report and the union can go on strike as early as March 10th. There is

the possibility of the strike being delayed if negotiations are going well, but it's hard to estimate what the chance of that would be.

What does this mean for us, the students? The University is adamant that a resolution will occur without sacrificing the semester. Such a move would be unprecedented. The nearest example is York University, which has extended class into the summer three times, though it has never written a semester off. The likely outcome for students, as relayed by Mike Tipping, a Dal alumnus, on a blog post at punditry.ca is a week or two of quasi-freedom and uncertainty. Material will be dropped from the syllabus, and exams could be converted to in-class assessments, which he argues put him at a disadvantage in his co-op job.

Luckily for engineering students the rigid structure of our program means that for anyone who is not graduating, the material can be worked into our next academic term. This liberty is not

available to most faculties, where course selection is akin to "pick your own adventure" with each student having a unique set of courses leading her to a degree.

There is little chance that financial compensation will be offered to students at the end of the year. This has never happened at a Canadian university. Some Dal students attempted to recover some money in 2002 but the challenge was dropped. In 2009 the Ontario government made some changes to the Ontario Student Assistance Program to ensure York students remained eligible during the strike, which occurred between two semesters, putting students in a position of not being enrolled for a short period.

Whatever the decision of the DFA, history is on our side, and the worst we should expect is a reduction in the amount we are taught this semester. Meanwhile, we should stay on top of our coursework and sit back to watch University President Tom Traves navigate his third DFA strike.



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Get Paid.  
Send articles to [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)  
100-200 words = \$15  
200-400 words = \$25  
400-600 words = \$30  
600+ = \$35  
Picture of the Week,  
Comic, Abstract = \$20

## CO-OP CORNER

Round II is underway until May 4. Offers can be received at any time.



Follow us on our new Foursquare page to discover tips about Sexton Campus!  
[foursquare.com/dalsextant](http://foursquare.com/dalsextant)

## DUES wants you!

Nominations for the DUES election are now open and run until Friday. The positions include President, VP Academic, VP Internal, VP Finance, VP Communications, and VP Outreach. All positions are offered on a fall/winter basis, so if you're out on co-op for half the year (or graduate at Christmas) you can opt for one of the two terms.

An important change was made at the most recent general meeting. Students who have completed two semesters in Upper Division (3rd year and above) are now eligible to run for President. This change was made due to the pending change in co-op terms, which would have left only Industrial and Chemical students eligible for the Presidency in the winter. Any engineering student is eligible to run for the VP positions.

The other major change this year

is around voting procedures. For the past three years the election has occurred online, using a ballot shared with the Dal Student Union. Due to scheduling conflicts, the shared ballot was dropped and voting will now take place in class. Voting will take place March 8th and 9th.

The positions require hard work and do not offer compensation, however, any former executives who have been in touch with *the Sextant* have enjoyed their time at the helm of the society. DUES is responsible for representing students in front of the Dean and the student union, as well as for planning events for engineering students. In practice, however, DUES plays a major role offering services which are normally offered by the DSU.

Take the challenge, collect 20 signatures, and put your name on the ballot for the 2012/2013 DUES executive!

## The Top 10 Iron Ring Rumours

The Iron Ring ceremony is upon us. In what is a bit of an annual tradition, we'll try to clear up some myths about the ceremony. We'll be accepting suggestions for next year's column at the official after party, which is one of the tamest nights of the year at the T-Room.

10 Gossip Geek's identity will be revealed at this year's ceremony.

9 Iron ring holders chant and wear robes covering their faces.

8 Food Science students get Iron Rings.

7 Due to budget cuts, this year's lunch will either be a hamburger and hot dog BBQ, a Chinese buffet, or an assortment of Aramark sandwiches (wait, isn't this more expensive than a sit down lunch at the Westin?).

6 Students will be required to use a single line entry, non-

programmable calculator (issued by the Industrial Engineering department), while blindfolded, to solve a math problem given to them on a stone tablet.

5 This year's Iron ring event is a discipline challenge. Make sure to buy a dress or suit in your discipline's color.

4 The Dean of Engineering sits on a throne the entire time, and if you look him in the eye you will burn alive.

3 A lamb is sacrificed.

2 You have the opportunity to join a polygamist cult during the ceremony.

1 Everyone is branded on their left butt cheek.

## News briefs

- DUES is running a quality of life survey to find out about your experience at Dal. The survey is available on the DUES website, [www.daleng.ca](http://www.daleng.ca).
- Pulling for the Kids will be

held March 27th from 8am — 8pm. Teams will pull cars around the loop in the Sexton entrance road to raise money for the Halifax Region Children's Aid Foundation. Contact

engineer@dal.ca for more information on this event or to register your team of five.

- The Sextant is looking for articles, please email us if you have any ideas.

- Discipline shirts are now available for purchase in the Design Commons for \$10. They feature the DalEng logo and a cog on the side.

## Sexton Events

**Friday, March 2nd**  
1:30PM – Engineering in the DC  
9 PM – T-Room Trivia

**Saturday, March 3rd**  
2 PM T-Room opens.  
9 PM Iron Ring party feat. *Live Boots*

**Thursday, March 9th**  
9 PM Live music (TBA)



## HALIFAX'S BEST TRIVIA!

Does your society have an event on Sexton Campus? Send an email to [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca) and we'll post it here!

The Sextant is published by the Dalhousie Sextant Publishing Society and aims to represent all of the students studying and living on Sexton Campus. If you have any concerns about the paper, please email [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca) and we'll arrange to meet and discuss them.

Editor-In-Chief: Ben Wedge  
Assistant Editor: Damon Surgenor  
Treasurer: Sebastian Manchester

Questions, Comments and to Contribute [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)



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	2	9		8			6
	3		6				5
		4		9			
			8		6		2
			2		7		3
5	8						1
8	6		4			7	
			5			4	
	9				2	3	



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One large Pizza with  
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