

FREE

ISSUE 137-18, February 3rd 2005 - February 10th 2005

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Gazette



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WILL APATHY WIN AGAIN?**

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QUEEN OF THE HARDWOOD**

**UNIVERSITY AVENUE:
IT'S BACK, BABY!**

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

PRIVACY INVASIONS ON CAMPUS?

ROMAN POLANSKI: KNIFE IN THE WATER

DALHOUSIE STUDENT UNION



DSU Council Meeting

The DSU Council would like to invite all Dalhousie students to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday February 9th at 6:30pm in the McInnes Room. The Council will be taking care of general business as well as Constitutional Amendments. Please see www.dsu.ca for proposed amendments.

Society Info

Indemnity Form:

The Indemnity form has been replaced with the Acknowledgement Form. To access the form, go to www.dsu.ca > Student Life > Info for Societies.

View the DSU's Audited Financial Statements (Year ended March 31, 2004) at www.dsu.ca > About Us > DSU Finances

DSU General Elections

The DSU General Elections are slated to be held March 8-10, 2005. Nominations will open February 7 and run through the 17th.

Open positions include:

- President
- Vice President (Internal)
- Vice President (Student Life)
- Vice President (Education)
- Senate (4)
- Board of Governors (1)

Dalhousie students interested in being a poll clerk should check the student employment website or pick up an application from the student employment office

For more information contact CRO Ann Berringer at election@dal.ca.

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Catherine Cooper
Editor-in-Chief

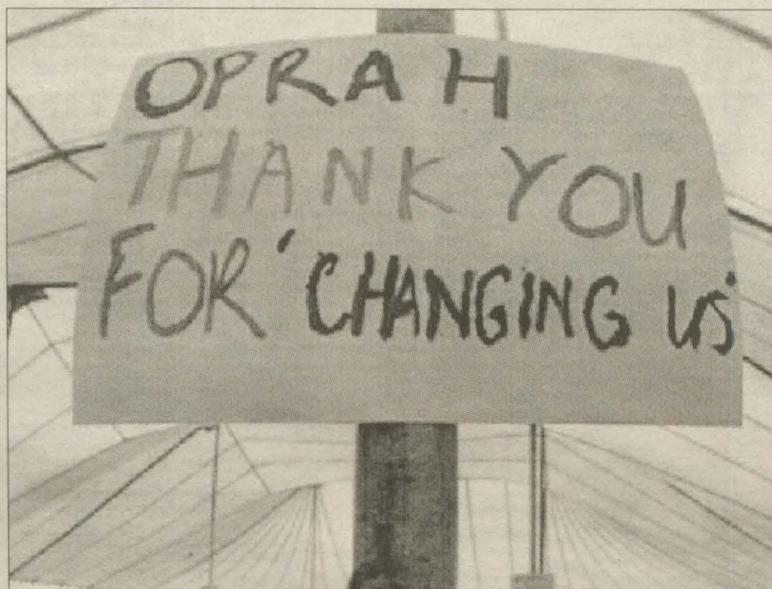
In his address at the National Ceremony to Honour Victims of Asian Earthquakes and Tsunamis, Paul Martin commented on the increase in awareness that many say has resulted from the disaster. "A planet that daunted intrepid explorers of old, a world once regarded as impossibly vast, has been transformed into an intimate community," Martin said.

As a result of this new awareness of the world as a global village, many anticipate an increase in humanitarian aid that extends beyond response to the Asian crisis. For the purposes of this editorial, I will set aside my scepticism and assume that this is the case. But the impulse to help is only the beginning—knowing how to help is a much trickier business—one that can lead to more questions than answers. One question, which I hadn't even considered until recently, is how cultural biases affect the ways that we help (or try to help) others.

This term I decided to start a student society to collect books and raise money to send them to Sierra Leone—the poorest country in the world. It never occurred to me that this plan might be problematic until I talked to someone who had grown up in an ex-colony, learning Western history and Western values from English books. The problem, she said, wasn't necessarily that she had learned these things, but that she had learned that they were superior—and studied them at the expense of studying her own language and culture.

While I still think that sending books to a country where there is often only one textbook per classroom is ultimately a good thing, I have a different perspective on it now. It can be hard to see objectively how the cultural context in which we live—the things that we value—determines how we try to help others.

When Oprah did her Christmas Kindness tour in South Af-



rica, she travelled around putting on huge tent parties for hundreds of children. She told the children that she had come from poverty and that they too could overcome it if they had an education. She told the little girls that they were beautiful because someone had told her that she was beautiful once and it had meant a lot to her. She sent them

It can be hard to see objectively how the cultural context in which we live—the things that we value—determines how we try to help others.

home with shoes, clothes, books, school supplies and full bellies. But what else did those children take home?

On the show's website there is a picture of a huge sign made by African children that reads: "Oprah, thank you for changing us." But if they did leave changed, was it for the better in the long run, or will those children spend the rest of their lives seeking a vague ideal—the Reebok sneakers, the white bread sandwiches—that is actually meaningless and has nothing to do with the realities of their lives? Oprah gave those kids a great Christmas party while the tent was up, but wouldn't they have benefited more from having that money

and effort put toward building something that will last?

Another organisation that brings Christmas presents to children in developing countries is Samaritan's Purse, a Christian aid organisation that has come under fire for exporting fundamentalist Christian values through humanitarian aid. The organisation, run by Billy Graham's son Franklin, runs Operation Christmas Child—a project that sends shoe boxes full of toys, candy, school supplies, etc. to developing countries. The group has been criticized before for trying to convert those in need, as they include Gospel booklets in each box that they send. Of course, the boxes bring joy into the lives of children in need, but at what cost?

Even the best intentions can go awry or be less effective than they could have been when we don't think about why we are helping and consider the implications of the kind of aid that we offer. While some aid projects disseminate Western culture or values unintentionally, others do so by design. It is important to know the motives of the organisations that you support and to think carefully about your own motives and preconceived notions. I hope that people do feel a greater sense of social responsibility in the wake of the tsunami, but I also hope that people are aware of what comes with the aid that they give.

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If you are interested in contributing to the *Gazette*, feel free to email us your article to: gazette@dal.ca or better yet come to our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 4:30 Room 312, Dal SUB.

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Visit www.dal.ca/sec for more information.

DALHOUSIE
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Inspiring Minds

Minister of Justice Talks Same-Sex At Dalhousie

Philip Carpenter
Staff Contributor

In a passionate speech on Jan. 28, federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler spoke to a full house in Dalhousie's Weldon Law Building about same-sex marriage and what he called the "Constitution Revolution."

Cotler gave an enthusiastic speech to make the case for his government's proposed same-sex marriage legislation, framing the issue in the context of rights and noting the impact the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* has had on Canadian society.

But Cotler also made it clear that his government wants to extend the right to civil marriage, not religious marriage.

"No religion can be forced [to perform a same-sex marriage] if it is contrary to their beliefs," said Cotler, pointing out that the Charter also protects freedom of religion.

Cotler thinks the legislation balances freedom of religion with minority rights. "You cannot have less protection for one minority than you do for others ... You cannot cherry pick your way through," he said.

The minister also addressed claims that this debate is a case of the courts usurping the authority of Parliament—and undemocratically making important policy decisions.

"It was Parliament that enacted the Charter and empowered the courts to rule on [its] interpretation," said Cotler.

Referring to Parliament's reference on same-sex marriage to the Supreme Court of Canada, and the ability of parties to speak at the hearings as interveners, Cotler said that the legaliza-

tion of same-sex marriage "is a process initiated by Parliament, moved forward by the people, sanctioned by the courts and is now back in the hands of Parliament."

Cotler was not without his critics.

When questioned why his government will not use the notwithstanding clause to circumvent the Supreme Court's advice, Cotler objected to using the clause in principle.

"I object to a notwithstanding clause that can override human rights," he said.

Another audience member asked the Minister about the Liberal policy requiring Cabinet members to vote in favour of the

You cannot have less protection for one minority than you do for others

...You cannot cherry pick your way through."

—Federal Justice Minister Irwin Cotler, speaking at Dal about same-sex marriage

proposed legislation while allowing Liberal backbenchers a free vote. In response, Cotler stated that Cabinet was expected to support the government bill and that he was hopeful that the majority of the Liberal caucus would do so. He noted the bill has the support of the New Democratic Party, the Bloc Québécois and even some Conservative MPs.

Cotler expects the legislation to pass.

VOLUNTEER!
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Ready, Set, Go: The race to replace Curtis McGrath will begin soon. / File Photo

It's Almost Election Time Again DSU elections approaching fast

Sarah Vanderwolf
Staff Contributor

It is going to be a very busy term for Chief Returning Officer Ann Beringer as she works to increase voter turnout and decrease spoiled ballots in the upcoming DSU elections.

The first stage of the election is the nomination phase, during which hopeful candidates fill out nominee packages, available from room 214 of the SUB until Feb. 17, and obtain 25 signatures from fellow Dalhousians. On Feb. 18, Beringer will announce the verified candidates. Their campaigns kick off on Feb. 28, the first day of classes after study break. The election itself takes place March 8, 9 and 10.

All 16 polling stations on Dal's three campuses will be equipped with laptops in addition to the traditional paper ballots. Voters will log in using their student number and password before voting online, a process that should remove "a lot of the human error component," says Beringer.

In previous elections, many paper ballots have been discounted because of voter mistakes, like voters failing to check off at least one graduate student

representative for the Senate.

With electronic voting, the voter's "ballot" cannot be submitted until it has been filled out properly, therefore reducing the number of spoiled ballots. Electronic voting is also more cost-efficient, since a team of counters will not have to be paid to sit up until 4 a.m.

Because 60 per cent of the votes in last year's election were submitted electronically, changing the voting process even more was logical. But paper ballots will still be available upon request for those who prefer the old system.

CRO Ann Beringer will play a pivotal role in the DSU elections.

election protocol.

An alleged campaign violation during the 2004 elections disqualified Kevin Wasko, elected as DSU President. This year's restrictions remain stringent. All posters must be taken down by the evening of March 7, the night before the election. Each candidate is permitted to send three mass emails during the campaign, to a maximum of 75 addresses.

Candidates are also required to limit campaign spending to \$250 and refrain from putting campaign materials in the libraries. Any candidate who does not follow these regulations will be

DSU Dates:
Feb. 17: last day to pick up nominee packages
Feb. 18th: announcement of candidates
Feb. 28th: campaign kick-off
March 8-10: elections

Not only is she head of the elections committee, on which five people sit, but she must moderate the forums held during the campaign and approve all campaign materials, including posters and newspaper ads. She must also fine any candidate or campaign staffer who fails to follow

fined.

Last year's voter turnout was 21 per cent; this year's goal for voter turnout is 27 per cent. Beringer points out that many students have shown interest in being nominated, so the 2005 DSU election could be even more eventful than the 2004 edition.

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The Meaning of Munro Day

Katie Maskell
Staff Contributor

Every Dal student appreciates the Friday free of classes that occurs every February. The day can be used to deal with the schoolwork starting to pile up, to head out to the slopes for the DSU ski trip, or to just sleep.

But why do we have this winter holiday? And who the heck is Munro?

Born in 1825 near Pictou, N.S., George Munro was a teacher at Pictou Academy by the age of 19. He left the teaching profession in 1856 citing health reasons, but in reality he had simply chosen to become a Presbyterian Minister. At 31, Munro headed off to New York City.

After learning the ropes of magazine and mail-order publishing at Appleton's, a N.Y.C.-based publisher, Munro began his own magazine, *The Fireside Companion*, in 1866. It found success in both the U.S. and Nova Scotia.

In 1879, Munro took a well-deserved vacation to Halifax at a time when Dalhousie, the school his son had attended in 1874, was in a financial crisis so severe there was even talk of Dal shutting down.

When informed by his brother-in-law John Forrest of Dal's troubled financial situation, Munro vowed to assist the university with one of its most pressing concerns—funding for a replacement of the chair of physics. He offered a \$2,000 annual pay cheque to the new chair of physics; in comparison, the premier of Nova Scotia at that time only received \$2,400 per year. With that donation, the George Munro Chair of Physics was born.

Munro's generosity was not the ultimate solution to Dal's

In 1879, Munro took a well-deserved vacation to Halifax at a time when Dalhousie, the school his son had attended in 1874, was in a financial crisis so severe there was even talk of Dal shutting down.

dilemma, although the school's future was no longer quite so bleak.

Problems arose again when Professor De Mille, chair of history and rhetoric, passed away. Munro stepped forward and offered another \$2,500 annually, but only if his brother-in-law took the position. Forrest accepted the offer and became the George Munro professor of history and rhetoric in 1881.

five Munro professors on the basis of 5 per cent, the capital sum needed to endow the professorships was \$250,000." Between 1880 and 1894, George Munro provided an additional \$83,000 for various Dalhousie needs.

George Munro died in 1896, his name immortalized with a day of leisure. But in case you're wondering, he didn't leave any more gifts to Dal in his will.

On Another Campus

Neal Cody
Staff Contributor

More MUN Graduates Stay Put

According to a recent survey, more graduates of Memorial University in Newfoundland are choosing to stay in their home province. Last year, 22 per cent of Memorial's graduates left the province, compared with 28 per cent in 2000. Out-migration is a problem for Newfoundland and Labrador, which has seen a decline in its overall population since 1996. In 1997/1998 alone, more than 11,000 people left. Education experts point to a decrease in tuition fees, and a corresponding decrease in debt load, as the main reason why students are now more likely to remain on the island.

Professor Killed in B.C. Mudslide

Students and faculty at B.C.'s Capilano College are in mourning after computer science professor Eliza Kuttner was killed by a mudslide that struck her North Vancouver home. The Jan. 19 mudslide swept away one other home after three days of more than 30 cm. of rain. Kuttner's husband, Langara College teacher Michael Kuttner, was pulled from the wreckage and taken to hospital.

tal in critical condition. Classes at Capilano were cancelled for three days and a tsunami relief concert was postponed out of respect. Eliza Kuttner was known as being someone who worked hard for her students. Organizers say the concert will likely become a benefit for the Kuttner's 14 year-old daughter, Anita.

SFU Approves Corporate Professorship

Simon Fraser University has approved the creation of a new corporate-funded professorship, but there is concern that the university may lose its freedom to award endowments as it sees fit. The Royal Bank of Canada Financial Group donated \$600,000 to SFU in October to establish a new position, the RBC Financial Professor in Technology and Innovation. While SFU already has several corporately-funded positions, RBC has asked that this professorship be held by the dean of business administration. Critics say this circumvents the regular evaluation process and violates university policy. University senators raised further questions about abuses of power when it was revealed that the current

Continued on Page 7...

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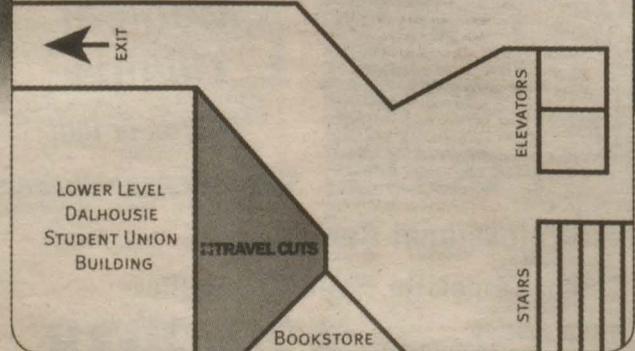
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Snow Makes Getting Around Difficult for Some



Can Dal be made accessible. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Jess McDiarmid
Staff Contributor

Snowy streets and sidewalks make transportation difficult for most people, but getting around is especially hard for those with reduced mobility or wheelchairs.

Michael Murphy, Dal's manager of Environmental Services in the Department of Facilities Management, says that access ramps, street corners and curb cuts for accessibility are a priority for campus snow removal. "Obviously, depending on the size of the storm—or recently, the three storms in one week—clearance in general becomes more of a challenge and a time-consuming process, but the same priorities exist," he says. Murphy says that he's not aware of any specific complaints during the past couple of years.

Lynn Shokry of Dal's Student Accessibility Services says that things have improved around campus. But there are still problems when the snow on stairs isn't cleared close enough to the railing for people to hold on and when ice accumulates by curbs,

making it impossible for wheelchair users to get over them. Another problem has arisen in the past when the city-owned median on University Ave. hasn't been cleared of snow. "So the student who is using crutches or a wheelchair will have to go into the street to get across," says Shokry. Despite these dangers, Shokry hasn't received any complaints this year.

First-year King's student Carrie Gilbert has had a hard time this winter because of a disability. "If it storms, it's really hard getting around outside. I have to get people to help me because it's so slippery and I find that hard, because I want to get to class on time and either it slows me down or [I can't make it]," says Gilbert. "I think people should be made more aware of this problem so that something can be done about it, because it's extremely frustrating on a daily basis, dealing with the normal stresses of college life, to have this added to it."

King's has a different snow removal service than Dal, and Gilbert says more needs to be

done. "I think they need to work towards having things cleared as soon as possible," she says, "because it seems they put it off, and it makes me angry to go out there and nothing's cleared. They have to realize, not just for people with disabilities, but other people could slip on the ice or accidents could happen."

Gilbert isn't able to leave campus often. "If I want to get off campus, that's extremely difficult, especially now," she says. With many of the city's sidewalks still not properly cleared, it's hard, if not impossible for people with reduced mobility or in wheelchairs to get outside.

Under the city bylaw S-300, property owners are required to clear sidewalks bordering their property, all the way out to crosswalks, and to clean out snow and ice from curb cuts within 12 hours after a snowfall. But these duties are often neglected.

"Generally, people in wheelchairs are housebound in the wintertime ... There's very few manual wheelchair users that are out in the winter," says Charlene Murphy, a sales representative at MEDICchair, a wheelchair store in Halifax. The maximum amount of snow a chair can get through is about an inch, she says, and any slush makes it impossible to push through. The narrowest wheelchairs are about 22 inches wide, making many sidewalks and corners too narrow to pass through in the winter.

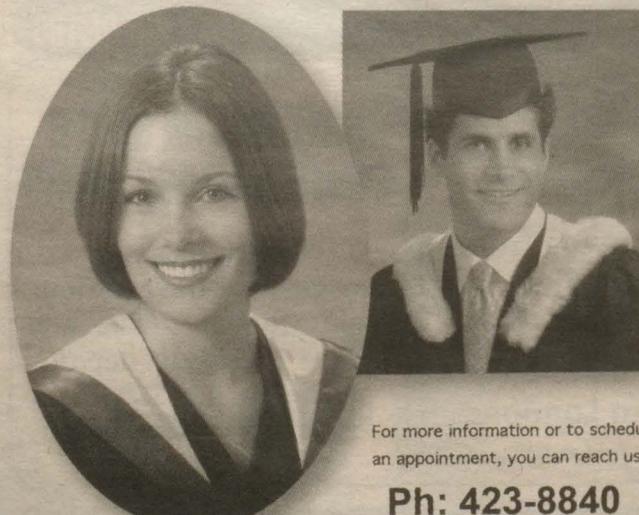
Ben Marston is a paraplegic wheelchair user. "Curb cuts are the big thing. It's not so much the sidewalks themselves, it's that a lot of times, the sidewalks are completely clear, then you get to the curb cuts and there's just a 'V' where people walk through but you can't get through with a chair," he says. "They haven't shovelled out around the curb cut, just shovelled up to the curb, so you have a six-inch curb to get over. As far as I'm concerned, any snow is too much."

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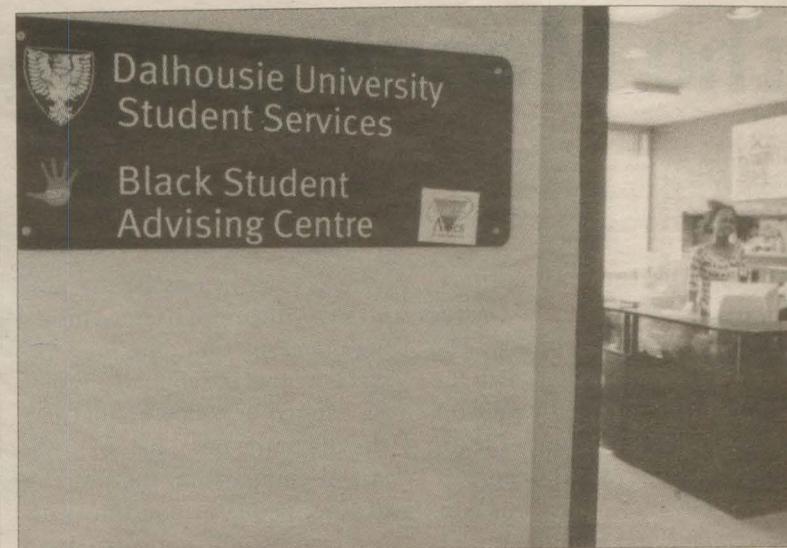
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The Black Student Advising Centre is just one of many organizations participating in Black History Month. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Black History Month at Dal

Laura Hynes
Katie Maskell
Staff Contributors

February is Black History Month and this year gives cause for extra celebration: 2005 is the 400th anniversary of African settlement in Canada. Halifax's many African-related societies, including some at Dalhousie, are hosting a series of events to commemorate the occasion.

Dal's Black Student Advising Centre is one such organization. In 1989, Dalhousie was the first local university to create a Black Student Advisor and office. Today, the office is located on the fourth floor of the SUB and is headed by Barb Hamilton-Hinch. "It is very important to showcase the positive initiatives of Dalhousie on campus," she says, many students and staff are not even aware of the Black Student Advising Centre.

In addition to the Centre, Dalhousie is home to at least six African or black student associations, and the Black United Students Association is one of the most active. According to Jason Jackson, the society's president, the group's aim is "to effectively promote and infuse our rich black culture into the general

university sphere."

The Black Student Advising Centre, the Black History Month Association and the James Robinson Johnston Endowed Chair in Black Canadian Studies—this year represented by Dr. David Devine—will host a series of events during February. The festivities will include lectures, film presentations and book launches. Dalhousie's official mass emails will include weekly trivia questions on African-Canadian history that can be answered for various prizes. There will also be an open house and a gala dinner to commemorate African heritage and the considerable contributions of African-Canadians to Nova Scotia.

While Barb Hamilton-Hinch believes African Heritage Month is a great opportunity to promote black history, she is determined to increase student awareness of the Advising Centre and its associated societies on a more regular basis. "Although we appreciate the presence in February, we want to be a presence 365 days a year."

For information on the societies mentioned or to learn more about Black History Month events, visit www.dal.ca/~bsac/ or www.dacos400.ca.

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www.thefamilyfocus.ca

Privacy Invasions: Are Students At Risk?

Meaghan MacSween
Staff Contributor

On the afternoon of Sept. 11, 2001, a group of shocked students walked into a first-year Political Science class. The professor—an expert in defence policy—told the class in a hushed, sorrowful voice that the political world had changed forever. Since that day, Canadians have watched security issues trump privacy concerns in the U.S., and there is a new development occurring south of the border that concerns university students all over North America.

According to a recent article in the *New York Times*, the Bush Administration has proposed new legislation that would allow the government to have access to the records of individual university students.

Until now, the U.S. government has only had access to the information of students on financial assistance, in addition to general student enrolment and graduation statistics. The new system, however, would be like a tracking device, following students through their individual university journeys.

Critics claim that the information collected could be mis-

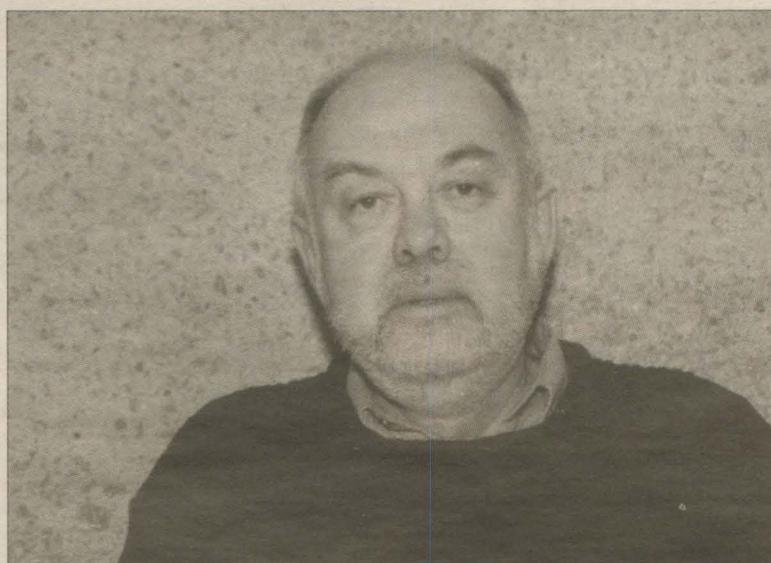
used. "We're in a different time now, a very different climate ... There are no protections for student privacy," one representative of an American advocacy group for university students told the *New York Times*.

As the line between privacy and public access becomes blurred in America, it is only reasonable to examine the rights of Canadian students. Just what kind of information does Dalhousie have on its students? And, most importantly, is that information safe?

"We accumulate a significant amount of information about students," explains Eric McKee, Dal's Vice-President of Student Services. This information includes high school transcripts, university grades, residence applications, scholarships, disciplinary situations and participation in extra-curricular activities.

While many staff and faculty members have the potential to see this data, their access is closely monitored.

"We don't automatically provide people with the right to use students' information," says McKee. "It has to be required for the particular work that they are doing." For example, if Dalhousie has a copy of a student's resi-



"We accumulate a significant amount of information about students."
— Eric McKee, Dal's Vice-President of Student Services
Photo: Rafal Andronowski

dence application, the information on the application can only be used for the purpose of finding that student an appropriate living arrangement.

Halifax-based privacy lawyer David Fraser confirms that this is the case. "The person accessing the information must have a purpose. The information can only be used for the reasons that it is collected for," he says.

This purpose-driven approach seems to be the biggest difference between Nova Scotia's system and the potential new American law.

Besides university policy and the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, the rights of Nova Scotia university students are protected under legislation called the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, better known as FOIPOP. For the most part, this legislation seems to be doing its job, Fraser says. "Universities in Nova Scotia have always been very respectful of students' privacy."

You can access FOIPOP in the University Calendar or learn more about it by visiting www.dal.ca/FOIPOP.

Dal Societies Hard at Work on Sustainability

Chantelle McGee
Staff Contributor
Sarah Harrigan
News Contributor

As Dal becomes more environmentally-friendly, the Senate Committee on the Environment (SCE) and the Corporate Environmental and Social Responsibility (CESR) Society are working hard to cultivate the idea of environmental sustainability on campus.

Dr. Tarah Wright, chair of the SCE, says the 12-member group is rewriting Dalhousie's environmental policy. "We have consulted with over 300 people on campus on how to best imple-

ment the policy," she says. The policy itself was brought to the Senate in fall 2003 for comments, but there were "major concerns about the financial implications for implementing the policy ... It is slow-moving, but we want it to be thorough."

The SCE has also created an award, to be given out for the first time this March, that recognizes groups or individuals making Dal a greener campus.

One of the most important accomplishments of the SCE is the creation of DEEP-R, AKA Dalhousie Environmental Educators, Practitioners and Researchers. "Our purpose is to bring together people across campus who do environmental work, be-

cause they are so fractionalized," Wright says. This enables Dal researchers in different disciplines to network.

Does Wright believe in the dream of an environmentally-sustainable campus? "It can happen," Wright says. "It is a matter of will from both the student population and the administration level. I believe that if enough students demand this from Dal, they will listen."

Though student support is necessary, so is a dramatic change in ideology and vision. "Universities, in general, are so fragmented," Wright explains. "We don't show the connections between disciplines. It would mean a real change in the way

Dal would conduct classes." The SCE has looked at a plan to have each department offer one course with an environmental component, and to develop faculty workshops on how instructors could make courses relevant to sustainable thinking. These steps would help create what Wright describes as an "ecologically-literate student body."

According to Ramona Ryan, student representative to the SCE, this change in overall philosophy is the most fundamental and undoubtedly the most difficult step in greening Dal. The environment, she says, spans across all areas of community and academic life.

On Another Campus, con't...

Continued from Page 5...

dean of business administration was involved in negotiating the deal. SFU officials insist that negotiations followed proper policy and deny there were any conflicts of interest.

Police, Students Clash at York

Police were called in to break up a Jan. 20 rally at York University that resulted in five arrests and three injured officers. About 30 students were protesting the inauguration of President George W. Bush in a campus auditorium that university administration had deemed off-limits for such activity because of its proximity to classrooms. The students were asked to leave repeatedly, but refused. A group of police officers eventually approached the group and wrestled several organizers to the ground. Police say two officers were punched and one had hot coffee thrown on him; one student, Nicholas Birtig, was also taken to hospital. Protestors say that police kicked and punched them, using excessive force. "[The police] started hitting him repeatedly," said Konstantine Kilibarda, referring to Birtig, "and when he lifted his head, it was just covered in blood." Kilibarda, an academic researcher for Cambridge University, was arrested and detained for seven hours. York officials cancelled classes and exams in rooms near the demonstration, saying the noise had been too disruptive for them to continue. The following day, a crowd of between 300 and 1,000 attended a rally in the same auditorium. Organizers say they were protesting against the actions of the administration and police. Photos and videos of the protests can be found at http://auto_sol.tao.ca/.

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SUPERBOWL Party, Feb 6th

8 | Opinions

THE HONOURS PROGRAM

Where has all your majesty gone? You were the dazzlingly romantic ideal for a scholarly degree, but now it seems you have been reduced to a common wench—whose beauty has long faded and prestige been long dissolved. All you are in the history department is an extra 70-page essay. And for what? The distinction of "with honours" at the end of your diploma? What's "honours"? It is not hand, nor foot, nor arm, nor

face... nor any other part needed for academic survival. Would not graduating with a string of As be just as sweet? And so would "honours" be were it not "honours" called... retain that dear perfection of learned mind.

Vent (Li Dong)

RUGRATS

I've got no problem with the Killam Library being packed with students during the university midterm and exam season—that's the way it should be. But packed with high school students during their exam period, this is ridiculous. The entire library has been infested with these little turds for the past two weeks and they're driving me nuts. How do I know they are from high school: no facial hair, drinking juice instead of coffee

and every five seconds their cell phones blare, usually to the tune of Snoop Dogg's "Drop it Like It's Hot." Grab your grade 11 algebra textbook and get the %&# out of the Killam.

Vent (Quentin Casey)

Racism in European Sports

Connor Robinson
Opinions Contributor

I often take flack from friends and family over my compulsive interest in professional sports. My girlfriend once asked whether I could have done better on the LSAT had I been able to replace the useless sports stats that clutter my brain with the ability to do logic games. I also had a professor who once went Marx on me and called sports "an opiate of the masses." So when I am forced to get philosophical on why I am such a devoted fan, I often suggest that sports are like the arts, politics, and religion... a microcosm of life in itself.

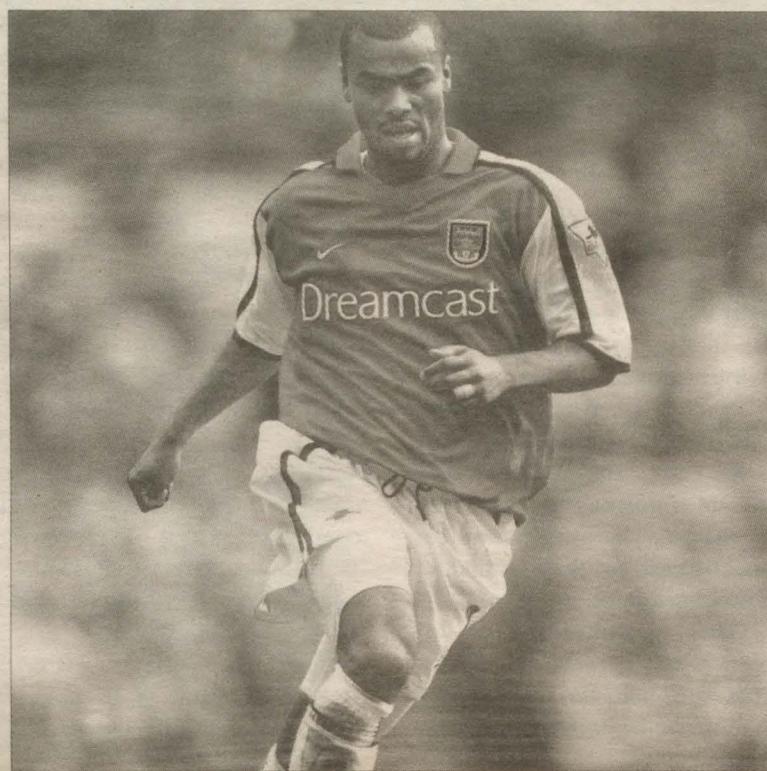
Before Christmas, the European sports microcosm offered a window into a broad and ugly racist culture that seems to be lurking under the surface in some of the continents most cosmopolitan centres.

On Dec. 12, locked-out NHL players were on tour in St. Petersburg when some vodka pickled Russians threw banana peels at Toronto's Anson Carter, the only black player on the trip.

A month earlier the coach of the Spanish national soccer team, Luis Aragones, was caught on camera using a racist slur while referring to Arsenal superstar striker Thierry Henry. As of now he has received little censorship from the Spanish soccer bureaucracy.

But the vilest incident in Spanish sports occurred in a "friendly" between Spain and England, when thousands in the crowd began chanting monkey noises whenever England's Shaun Wright-Phillips or Ashley Cole, both black, touched the ball. This incident, unlike Aragones or the Russian drunks, cannot be dismissed as the action of an isolated view.

This got me to wondering, could you ever picture such an incident happening at a North



Thousands in the crowd began chanting monkey noises whenever England's Shaun Wright-Phillips or Ashley Cole, both black, touched the ball.

American sporting event? Sure, we have problems: Ron Artest went into the stands to beat-up some goon throwing rubbish, someone stole Sidney Crosby's Team Canada jersey and Randy Moss pretended to moon the crowd at Lambeau field. But such an ugly racist action playing out over two hours and perpetrated by thousands and thousands of fans is almost incomprehensible in a North American context.

Nor is this European racism limited to soccer hooligans. Both Germany and Austria have highly active Neo-Nazi political parties. Liberal Holland has recently witnessed attacks against mosques after the murder of Dutch filmmaker Theo Van Gogh. France has, for a half century, had to deal with the social chasm caused by the influx of Algerians. Even a welfare-state utopia like Sweden has been condemned by the UN for its treatment of immigrants and refugees.

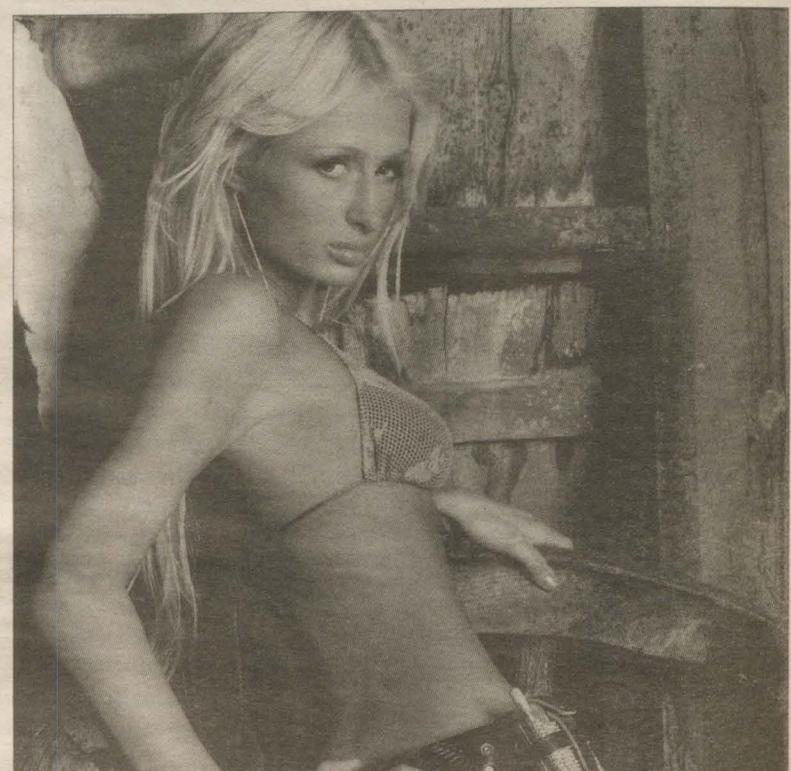
Even slimier still, Europeans

have taken to using the word "xenophobia" to discuss this phenomenon.

The term Xenophobia is clinical and academic—and it softens the bite provided by the appropriate word, racism. George Orwell would likely pitch a fit over such a clear prevention of language.

So why does Canada look so often towards Europe but away from the United States for liberal social policy and moral clarity? For example, any discussion of health care privatization is generally bludgeoned to death by shouts of "We won't be the 51st state." Yet when the xenophobic Swedes began privatizing some health services this summer, the idea started to have traction in Ottawa.

Canadians should forge their own course, but if we vilify the U.S. for the "cultural Chernobyl" of Britney Spears and Wal-Mart, what should we do about the veiled hatred in the old-world?



What is it about being dumb that is so "hot" right now?

Simply Successful Simpletons

America's hunt for the next top airhead

Lina Hussain
Staff Contributor

I watched in complete shock as an advertisement of the new season of Paris and Nicole's *The Simple Life* flashed across my friend's TV screen. As if the first season of *The Simple Life* wasn't horrifying enough, this time they're not on a farm and they are interns. Yes, interns; in an office. My friend and I both turned to each other and screamed, "What the hell is this?"

What is it about being dumb that is so "hot" right now? For some reason it seems like the dumber you are, the more likely you will make it to Hollywood. Jessica Simpson and the infamous "Is this tuna or chicken?" incident threw her name into one of the top Hollywood celebrities. Paris and Nicole's "What is Wal-Mart? Is that, like,

where they sell, like, wall stuff?" incident also somehow put their names in headlines. Of course it didn't hurt that Chicken by the Sea tuna brand and Wal-Mart got free advertisements, probably boosting sales for both companies by two hundred percent. If you have been watching TV lately, you would know that Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie are back for some more "blonde moments."

I wonder: do producers sit around and brainstorm about who will be America's Next Top Airhead? Do they then gather around and instruct the girl(s) to act as stupid as possible?

Hollywood has had its share of blondes, going as far back as Marilyn Monroe. But anyone would be able to tell that there is a huge difference between the grace and charisma that Marilyn

Continued on Next Page...

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Letters

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Game Theory

The *Gazette* editorial in the Jan. 20 issue (137:17 royal fashion comments excluded) was a groundless attack on a misunderstood subject. First of all: WWII games were around even before the days of Mario Brothers 3 (e.g. Silent Service, 1942, etc.), unlike Mr. Casey's suggestion. Video games get called disrespectful for recreating Normandy; Saving Private Ryan gets academy awards for it. Outraged with the Medal of Honor: Front-line game tagline? It pales in

Video games get called disrespectful for recreating Normandy; Saving Private Ryan gets academy awards for it.

comparison to "Train them! Excite them! Arm them!...Then turn them loose on the Nazis!", the tag line of an Oscar winning WWII movie you might know. Nobody seems to have problems with the multiple war movies released every year, but here is another baseless attack on violent video games. Both forms of media are just entertainment, but one does not get respect as media or art. Video games deserve more artistic merit than a lot of film and literature out there deserve. A small community enjoys this art while others who are ignorant about it, just complain.

James Friars
2nd year engineering

The Media at Large(r)

I am writing in response to Charles S. Wright's letter (*Gazette* 137:17) in which he accuses me of hypocrisy in my article, "The Media at Large." Mr. Wright argues that the *National Post* editors were justified in featuring a mural of baby Jesus and Mary on the front page of their Christmas Eve issue on the basis that the majority of Canadians, 72 per cent according to the latest cen-

I don't know what kind of Canada Mr. Wright thinks he is living in, but it certainly is not mine.

sus, are Christians. Apparently, Mr. Wright prefers to think of his country as homogenous and to have his media support and celebrate this "ideal." Put another way, Mr. Wright would have the minority of Canadians marginalized in the interest of the majority. This is a disgusting argument. Our constitution protects the interests of all citizens and the media is responsible for doing the same. I don't know what kind of Canada Mr. Wright thinks he is living in, but it certainly is

not mine.

Mr. Wright also completely misunderstood my criticisms of the media's coverage of the SARS epidemic. I argued that for more than two months, Canucks were "inundated with news of travel advisories, quarantines, hospital closures and increasing numbers of suspected cases." Notice the word: "inundated." I was not "complaining" that the media covered these issues. I merely stated the media covered them in a manner that was disproportionate to the threat and provided sound evidence in support of that claim.

Mr. Wright charges that if the media did not cover the story the way that it did, health officials would not have been as motivated to stop the spread of the disease and more people would have died. While there is some truth to this argument, there must be a balance in the way the news media presents crises to the public. Month after month coverage of a disease that threatens a small portion of the population has the potential to breed fear where it is not warranted. And I proved that in the SARS case, it did.

Reid Southwick

War Games?

Dear Mr. Quentin,

I would request that the editorial column be saved in the future from such imbecile outbursts.

If you really were checking computer games, then you might have noticed they carry a well implemented violence and age rating for people interested to buy.

The game you mentioned is little about violence and more about war strategy. Real senseless violence and gore is more in games like Grand Theft Auto, Doom and a lot of recent movies, in a lot of detail is given to blood and flesh.

If you want to ban these war games, then we may as well ban all war novels that involve killing the enemy, all war movies and all games that carry any element of strategy. Those seeking violence generally settle for Quake, Grand Theft Auto etc.—whereas these war games have a certain strategic appeal to them.

You mention how thousands of soldiers died in these wars. Yet if you really cared about dying soldiers, why didn't you protest against a recent *Gazette* article labelling peace protestors as neo-hippies? Why be selective?

You ask how many men and women died defeating the swastika symbol which Prince Harry arrogantly flashed. If the Germans had information that Hitler was the illegitimate grandson of Salomon Meyer Rothschild (Walter Langer, the Mind of Hit-

ler), I doubt any one of them would come forward to support it. It seems he was creating the circumstances for Germany to be absorbed by the Soviets. Yet this timely piece of information was denied to the Germans by whom? The very same press which today ignores the fact that Bush, being the redneck conservative, and Kerry, being the Jewish liberal, are distantly related and belong to the same Satanic society ("Skull and Bones of Yale"); and that the Federal Reserve Bank is suing American currency is a private corporation.

All this pertinent information flies over your head and instead a video game catches your eye?

M. Knight

letters@dalgazette.ca

Simply Successful, con't...

Continued from Previous Page...

Monroe left behind and today's Jessica Simpson.

The question remains: why are we so infatuated by these shows? What do we get, as an audience, out of watching blondes act with complete air-headedness? Why do we like to watch Jessica, Paris and Nicole make idiots of themselves on television? Maybe it boosts our self-confidence because we end up thinking, "Oh my God, she's so dumb. I would never do that." So we feel superior to the breed of dumb blonde girls acting as dumb as they can be. Yet I can't help but wonder if it's us they're making fools of. It's saddening to think that these girls are making millions per minute based solely on their abilities to be brainless. Maybe we (college students) should feel sad for ourselves instead. After all, who needs an education?

So have our standards of who we are spiraled downwards? Are we comparing our intelligence levels with the breed of airheads that is slowly taking over the world?

You see, if we compare ourselves with these TV blondes, we

I wonder: do producers sit around and brainstorm about who will be America's Next Top Airhead?

will end up lowering our standards of intelligence. Soon, and before you know it, you will say "I don't eat buffalo" when offered buffalo wings.

Here's some advice to anyone (preferably female) who wants to make it to Hollywood: dye your hair blonde, get some lipo and botox and act like a total ditz. You'll get there in no time.

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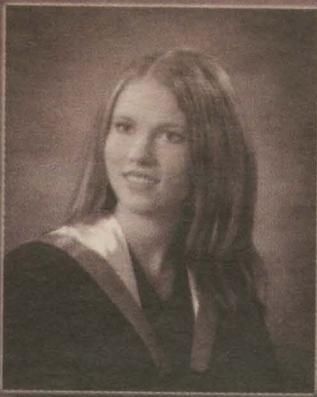
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Winter, like, sucks.

Winter Blues

**The season wreaks havoc on our
morale**

Phil MacKenzie
Opinions Contributor

I noticed a slight trend in this past month's worth of confessions, and that's that everyone is miserable! Maybe all students have miserable spells at the same time of the year, kind of like how certain groups of girls have PMS at the same time of the month. Anyway, I'm sure winter has something to do with it.

Winter is an interesting phenomenon. Early humans evolved under the hot sun, and lived happily day after week, month after year. Then ages and ages later, our race became anxious and explored, learned, moved, and lived elsewhere. So here we are, unnaturally solidified in four months of frigid temperate, fending our lives securely.

Of course, thanks to electric and gas heating, insulation, roof and wall, glass and door, bed and duvet, we can fabricate quite the comfortable little niche... physically, anyways, but the effect on our minds can be outright glacial. With blizzards of lost and loathing desperation, storms of misery and banks of cold hearted thoughts and feelings, the winter is not the first choice for human hibernation.

I think that's our problem: all of our fellow land mammals up here in the north sleep right

through winter. As a matter of fact, it has been scientifically proven that particular genes found in a hibernating squirrel are also found in homo sapiens. Shouldn't we take this as being somewhat of a natural hint? Wouldn't it be pleasant? Come winter we could just open presents and immediately curl up in a safe, warm hole: "Goodnight all! Wake me up when Phil sees his shadow..."

Unfortunately, that's not how it works. Instead, we tread through mounds of work and shovel through heaps of despair just to make it through a single day of this temporary yet emotionally slippery climate. After all, being descendants of the apes (who work, mate, and play year 'round), I understand our will to persevere. We're tough spirited—any true Canadian can vouch for that.

Perhaps university kids would have a better time studying through summer and taking the winter off to work and sleep. That would certainly dispel this winter solstice misery. Though, come to think about it, that would make activities such as camping, canoeing, Frisbee golfing, roller blading or hacky-sacking harder to find time for in the available sun. Ah well—just stick to the system, I guess.

Here's to the winter term.

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Sartorial Eloquence



Photos: Nadine LaRoche



vogue vagabond: Christina Flemming, 22, third-year journalism

couture obsession: shoes, purses and jewelry
fashion icon: Madonna

most embarrassing wardrobe item: green pleather pants, "but one time I went mud sliding and I split them up the seam. No loss."

favorite label: Free People

shopping destination: Biscuit

can't-live-without favorite: A T-shirt with the image of the Queen on it that reads, "God save my fashion."

music that curves her style: "If I'm listening to Cher or the *Chicago* soundtrack, it sometimes influences the way I dress in the morning."

on Christina: Shoes by Nine West. Skirt by Anneox. Cami by Club Monaco. Wrap sweater by naughty. Jacket by Club Monaco. Scarf by Laura J. Fauquier. Earrings from Silverstone. Ring from Destiny. Makeup by Lancôme.



Streeter

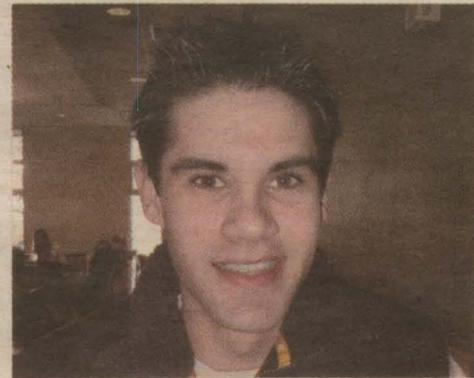
What is something every student should do before they graduate from Dalhousie?



"Have sex... period."
- Tara Berthier,
fourth-year history



"Go to a strip-cardio class!"
- Ann-Louise Fitzpatrick,
fourth-year English



"Get thrown out of a bar..."
- Duncan Cody,
first-year health sciences



"...and get thrown into the drunk tank."
- Annie Pattillo,
first-year arts



"Make it into the 'Streeter.'"
- Kim D'Ambrogi,
fourth-year sociology



"Write something that will be published in the *Gazette*."
- Reid Southwick,
second-year political science



"Sleep with Chris LaRoche..."
- Eva Tache-Green,
first-year computer science



"Get laid in a cemetery."
- Chris LaRoche,
fifth-year necrophilia

JESSICA WHYTE SAYS

Books on Tape (<http://www.beatpunk.com>) from L.A. plays the *Seahorse* this Friday, Feb. 4, 10 p.m. The group is currently dominating the Canadian electronica charts, and did so throughout 2004 as well. Let's give them a huge welcome. Admission is \$5.

FARLEY MOWAT SAYS

Sing your life at the Pavilion—where dancing is not a suggestion. Saturday, Feb. 5 is the day to pay \$7 to view *Sharp Like Knives, A/V* (in case you didn't take Jessica's advice), *Death By Nostalgia* and *Money*. Show starts at 7 p.m.

LINDSAY DOBBIN SAYS

Even I can afford \$2. Which happens to be the cover charge for the *Sweet Tenders*, *the Stolen Minks*' and the *Maynards*' show. It's all happening Tuesday, Feb. 15 at Stage Nine. To catch all three acts, show up precisely at 9:30 p.m.

CHRIS LAROCHE SAYS

Don't you just hate forgetting to get groceries on Saturday and spending muchos paraguas at Pete's Frootique the next morning? Try going to the famed Halifax Market instead. It's open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Keith's Brewery Building on Lower Water St. (as if you all don't already know that). Bringing your own booze is not recommended.

Hot Spots

The Chronicles Lead The ECMA Rap Race

Dalhousie hip-hop group enjoying success, CBC airtime

Natalie Pendergast
Arts Editor

Halifax's best-kept secret has finally come out of hiding.

For the last two years, while the Goods released LP after LP, Classified ripped through battle after battle and Kaleb Simmons was trilled his way to the Canadian Idol finals, local hip-hop trio the Chronicles remained locked up in a bedroom, tirelessly piecing together melodies, rhymes, and harmonies.

Then, the impossible happened: they group was discovered. Enter Dennis Field, long time producer and engineer, owner of Denmark Productions recording studio, and a previous Going Coastal/Much News Juno and MIANS song-writing competition judge. In August 2004, he lent an ear to Chronicles Dave Dalley, Jah Jarreau Hayward, and Nhuri Bashir. The group experimented with some riffs and raps—and pounced on the chance to record them. With the ECMA in mind, Field advised the threesome to work for the necessary components needed for an artist to be eligible for an award.

"Dennis sat us down and said, 'look guys, you have something here; you just have to cut a six-song album and you'll get a nomination,'" Jarreau Hayward said.

Field's encouragement was completely an unexpected for the three Dalhousie students, who formed the Chronicles a few years ago from common musical interest.

And they're an unlikely group: Dalley is a Newfoundland Rock & Roll enthusiast, Bashir is a Bermudan DJ and an active member of Dal societies—and not only does Jah Jarreau Hayward write and rap all the lyrics for the group, he is a talented athlete to boot.

"I moved here for high school



The Chronicles: Nominated for the "Urban Single Track Recording of the Year" award at the ECMA's. Photo: Rafal Andronowski

when I got a sport scholarship to go to Halifax Grammar School," he says, nonchalantly. "I now play on the Dal soccer team."

The two Bermudans agree that Nova Scotia was a good move for them, but there is one thing they miss from home.

"The high schools used to have mini battles in Bermuda and we used to write funny lyrics about each other," Hayward says. After catching a whiff of the battle scene here, the Chronicles didn't feel they fit in to the exclusive Halifax hip-hop club. "We don't really pay much attention

to www.halifamous.com; there's a lot of gossip and drama," Dalley says. "But it may hurt us because

and jammed every so often just for the fun and love of music. "We used to have freestyle Fri-

"We would just use electronic drums to record [the songs] then give it to the drummer so that he could write his own percussion for the album. It's very important to us that there's no computerized music on the album."

-Dave Dalley

no one has ever heard of us."

Instead of trying to live up to the cliquish network, the Chronicles kept a low-profile

days where we all got together to make a lot of noise," Nhuri says, laughing. "It got me kicked out of Quinpool towers."

But all those loud sessions were not for nothing. "We had been making songs for a long time in my bedroom or in his bedroom," says Nhuri. "It was only recently though that we actually decided to put some money into it—pocket money."

The boys have more ideas and lyrics than they have time to record. "Black Thought from the Roots has always been a big influence for me. I want to develop my own style so I'm an individual, and so that I'm not just a carbon copy of everybody else,"

says Hayward.

"I had a fear about my lyrics that I write too negatively for what I feel, but I always write about what's real. A lot of my lyrics deal with social challenges and different ideologies about life, but lots of times it's just my random thoughts from when I'm walking on the street or catching the bus or in the shower. And then I put them all into a song."

"Angel Eyez," a moving ballad on the Chronicles' LP, was written about Hayward's mother, who died in 1998. The song is accented by the soft, soulful harmonies of featured Dartmouth songstress Kyla Tingley. "The rap verse is about one day when I foolishly riding my motorbike and I pretty much almost died," Jarreau Hayward says. "I felt like my guardian angel was looking out for me so 'Angel Eyez' is my mom. And Kyla really made the song beautiful."

Although the Chronicles don't perform their own percussion on the album, they sought a way around using electronic rhythm to garnish the melodies. "We brought in the drummer from the Jimmy Swift Band and he did all the drumming," says Dalley. "We would just use electronic drums to record it then give it to the drummer so that he could write his own percussion for the album. It's very important to us that there's no computerized music on the album."

Currently on the best sellers list at CD Plus, the trio has sold more than 200 copies of *Strugglin'* since its release in October 2004. What's the reason for its popularity?

"We're extremely eclectic. Nhuri and I have a reggae and hip-hop background, and Dalley loves rap," Says Jarreau Hayward. "My grandma has a CD and it is definitely and easy listening album for all people, all generations and belonging to all genres."

Nominated for the "Urban Single Track Recording of the Year" award at the ECMA's, The Chronicles album, Strugglin', is among four others up for the win, including two each from Dion Todd and Pimp Tea. Check out the Chronicles at www.denmarkproductions.com and watch for them on the televised ECMA award show on CBC Sunday, Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. (8:30 NT), live from Centre 200 in Sydney, N.S.

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Film Review: *Knife in the Water*

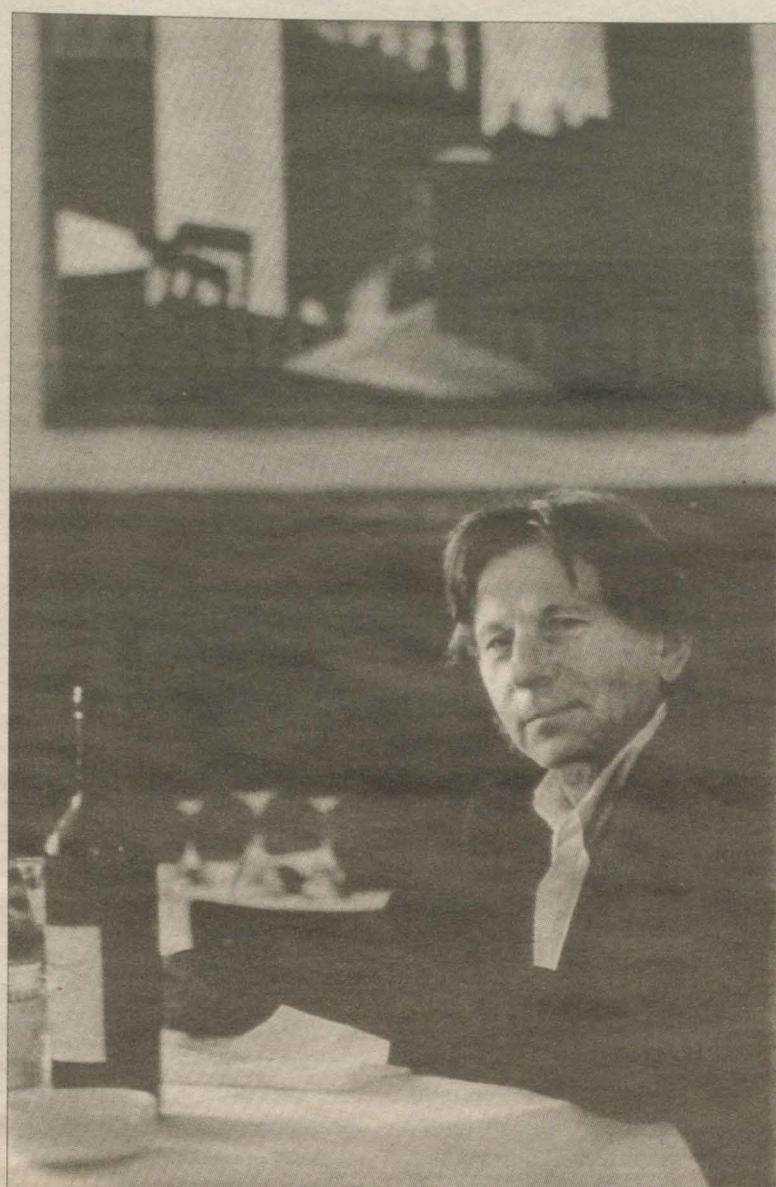
Roman Polanski's second wave

Sarah Vanderwolf
Staff Contributor

Every Wednesday until April 6, the Dalhousie Art Gallery will be presenting a series of films by the great Polish director Roman Polanski. While Polanski's most recent film, *The Pianist*, has brought him much fame and attention, his body of earlier works deserves recognition as well. Susan Gibson Garvey, the Gallery's director and curator, says that any artist's early works are important because they offer insight into his or her artistic development. The Gallery's first showing in the Polanski series was a set of shorts filmed between 1957 and 1962, in which "you can see [Polanski] forming his ideas," says Ms. Garvey.

On January 26, the Gallery showed *Knife in the Water*, Polanski's first full-length feature film. The film is in Polish with English subtitles, and follows the story of a couple who pick up a hitchhiker (after nearly running him down with their car) and subsequently invite him to go sailing with them for the weekend. The rest of the story is a "taut psychological thriller" about the relationship between Krystyna and Andrzej and their reaction to the hitchhiker.

The film is mostly serious, although there is one comedic scene in which the young hitchhiker, a totally inexperienced sailor, loses control of the boat while Krystyna and Andrzej are swimming. The film explores many themes that reappear in Polanski's later works, such as sexual tension, insecurity, antagonistic aggression, humiliation and violence.



Roman Polanski, director of *Knife in the Water*.

The film is also pleasing to the eyes and ears. Virtually the entire story is set on an eye-catching expanse of water, and the jazz score (including an impressive saxophone solo) adds further ambience to the film.

As a result of Polanski's terrible experiences in Poland during the Holocaust, many of his films are very dark, most notably *The*

Pianist and his version of "Macbeth," which is a "particularly gruesome interpretation," says Garvey. Nevertheless, Polanski's memorable films offer great psychological insight and visual appeal.

The Gallery will show films by African-American directors on Tuesday nights, 8 p.m., from Feb. 1 to Feb. 22. Admission is free.

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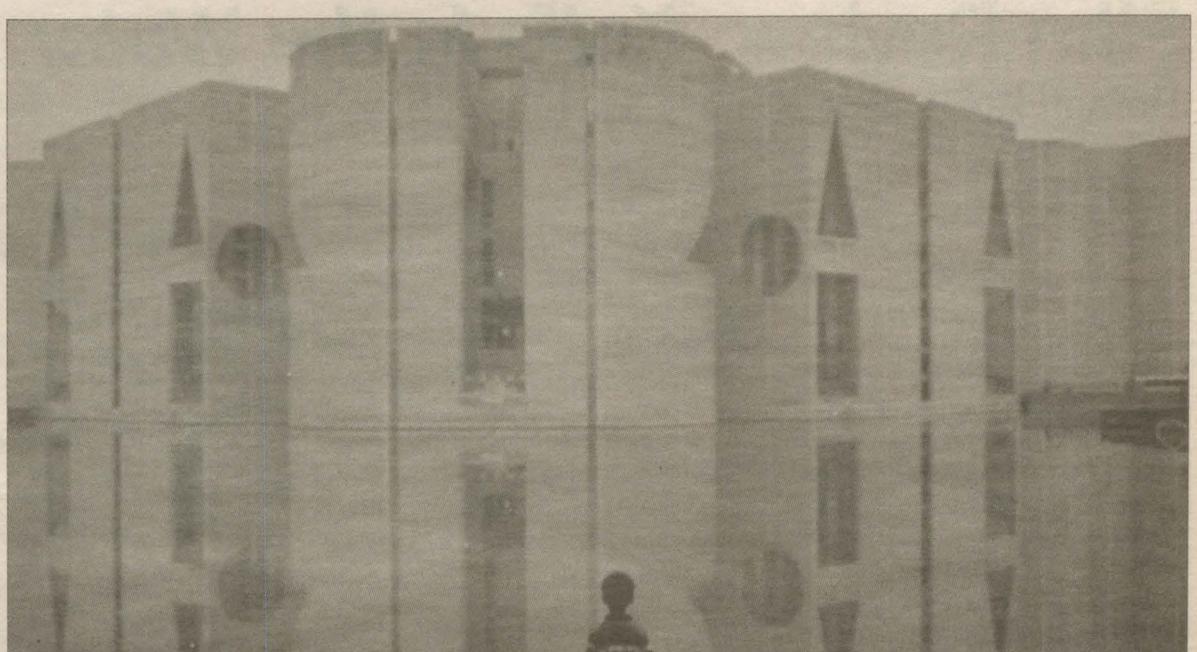
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My Architecture finally makes it to the Art Gallery theatre after weeks of blizzard rain-checks.

Film Review: *My Architect*

Unraveling the Mystery of Louis Kahn

Bridgette Sullivan
Staff Contributor

A son's journey finally made it to the screen of a small theatre at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia last Sunday afternoon, having been postponed because of last week's blizzard.

Nathaniel Kahn, the journeyman the film's title refers to, is the illegitimate son of famed Jewish architect Louis Kahn. Found dead of a heart attack in a restroom at Penn Station, the renowned architect lay unidentified in a morgue for three days.

Having just returned from India on business, his passport was found on his body—and his address was crossed out for unknown reasons are still under speculation. Kahn's former mistress and Nathaniel's mother, Harriet Pattison, remains convinced that the state of his passport was a sign that Kahn was at last going to leave his wife Esther to live with her and her young son. For most of his life, Nathaniel has held on to the treasured notion of a father whose plans to become a permanent fixture in his son's life were rubbed out by his sudden death.

My Architect is not only an attempt by the younger Kahn to uncover the mystery of his father's life and death, but also a way for Nathaniel to come to terms with who his father actually was, and the manner in which he treated so many of the ones he professed to love. Louis Kahn's family values can be understood by the very fact that he had three—an "official family" with his wife Esther and daughter, and another daughter and son by two different women in later years. The slight architect, whose face had been badly scarred by the severe burns he had received as a child, was able to keep his many lives a secret until his death in 1974.

Although *My Architect* dedicates a great deal of energy to the exploration of Louis Kahn's personal life, it does a magnificent job of showcasing the Estonian-

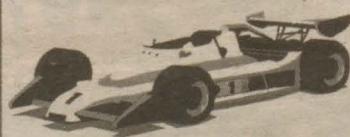
born, Philadelphia-bred architect's work. Buildings such as the Kimbell Museum in Fort Worth, the Richards Medical Center in Philadelphia and the Exeter Library in New Hampshire are perfect examples of the timelessness and monumentality Kahn wanted to convey in his work. Although the architect was able to garner some success late in life, he was never able to achieve the same fame and fortune as many of his colleagues.

The two-hour documentary, shot entirely in black and white, chronicles Nathaniel Kahn's journey towards understanding exactly who his father was, and what defined him. And in talking to such acclaimed architects as I.M. Pei, Philip Johnson and Frank Gehry about his father's works, as well as seeing his creations across the United States, India and Bangladesh, Kahn takes shape as a man who was defined not by what he was, but what he was not.

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Wanderlust

Eternal Ethiopia

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Staff Contributor

Like so many young adults my first impression of Ethiopia was of famine, and desertification. Ethiopia has come a long way since the cause célèbre heyday of the 1980s, and it is now one of Africa's best-kept travel secrets. For those who are seeking something unforgettable, Ethiopia will surely deliver. The people are friendly, the terrain is lush, and the memories will last a lifetime.

Ethiopia is certainly reachable, and daily flights connect Europe to the capital, Addis Ababa. This sprawling metropolis is one of the fastest growing cities in Africa, with three million of its five million residents arriving just in the last decade. It can also be a frustrating city to visit, as few streets are signposted, except for the main street, Churchill Ave.

Because many tourists come to Ethiopia to see the countryside, Addis Ababa has emerged as an important stop to check e-mail, stock up on canned foods, mosquito netting, water purification tablets and typical western foods like pizza and Coke. Addis Ababa is also a great place to organize tour guides and transport to some of Ethiopia's isolated destinations.

Before heading into the Ethiopian hinterland spend a few days in Addis Ababa to take in the city's cultural highlights. The Mercado is the largest open-air market in Africa, and is a fantastic spot to pick up tapestries, masks, and local handiwork. The Ethnographic Museum celebrates Ethiopia's claim as the cradle of humanity. Here, visitors can behold Lucy, a 3.5 million year old fossil that is



one of the human race's earliest ancestors.

Overland transportation in Ethiopia requires patience for haphazard schedules and rutted roadways. If comfort is more imperative to your travel plans then fly around the country. Ethiopian Airlines services some forty rural airports, and fares are cheap. One of the most popular attractions is located in Bahir Dar, a thirty-minute flight from Addis Ababa. Situated on one of the largest lakes in Ethiopia, it is here that the Nile begins its northbound journey to the Mediterranean. Experience the roaring thunder of the Blue Nile Falls; local guides can be hired in Bahir Dar.

In the foothills of Ethiopia is Lalibela, home to the famous rock hewn churches. It is important to note that Ethiopia is the only Christian country in an otherwise Islamic part of Africa. Ethiopian prophets are deeply religious, and these churches are a testament to their faith and devotion. In the 1100s, God spoke to King Lalibela in a dream, and as a result the King ordered these churches to be built. They are carved directly out of the bed-



Rock hewn churches of Lalibela

Mursi Warriors wearing lip plate in Jinka

rock, and are unlike any other places of worship on the planet.

Tourism infrastructure in Ethiopia is scarce, but visitors are welcome. One of the warmest characteristics of Ethiopians is their friendliness. Take your time and don't rush, you will be rewarded by locals who want to help you on your journey, to ask you questions about where you are from, and to express gratitude for having chosen their country for your trip.

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Comunikozi
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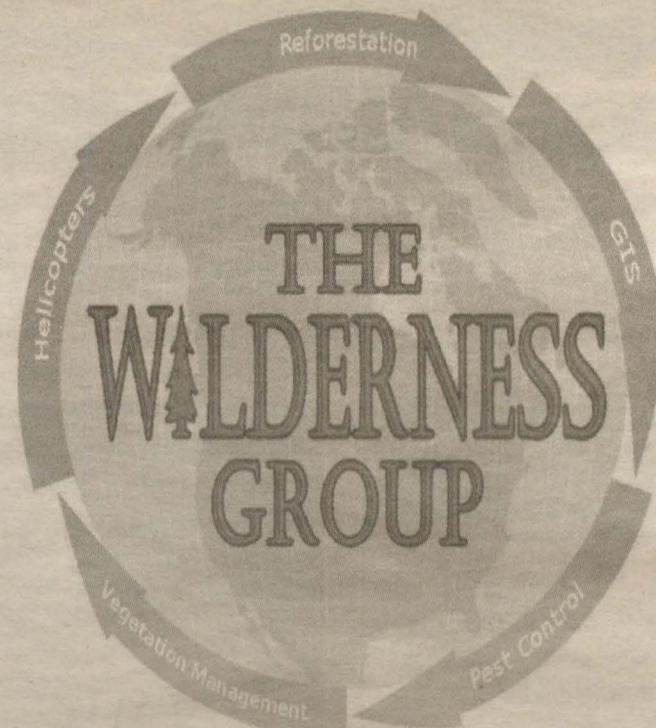
Although the sound quality on *When Red Comes* reminds me of my old Fisher Price tape recorder, the vocals could use some fine-tuning and the lyrics are childish, Comunikozi can count raw talent and creativity to their credit. The melodies and tunes are impressively catchy and at some points show surprising musicianship for such young chaps. The mix of rap, reggae and pop makes for an interesting assembly of sounds that seems to work for the group. But the electronic percussion, bad sound and lackluster vocals make the album a less-than-desirable listen. -N.P.



It Dies Today
The Caitiff Choir
(Trustkill)

Death metal, even with emo/existential lyrics, is still just that: death metal. You can't pretty it up, you can't harmonize it and you can't make it relaxing. It is death and hard and gritty. *It Dies Today* is a group of five young and handsome gentlemen who have an unfortunate desire to merge two unique types of music into one dysfunctional marriage. The Caitiff Choir is jam-packed with big-words: dichotomy, degeneration, amaranth, etc.—but big words don't equal eloquence. It takes wisdom, experience, heartbreak and hard living to be able to write well. Any Tom, Dick and Mary can go out and buy a thesaurus. These boys should go back to junior high and read some George Orwell. They are too young and stupid to be thinking on an existential plane. -N.P.

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Report Card Alpha Flight

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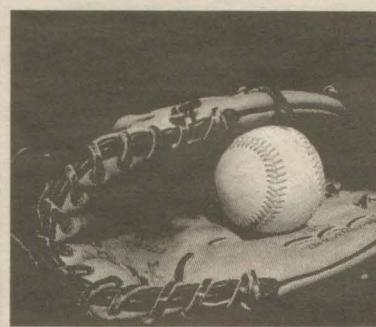


Date: January 28, 2005
Venue: The Attic
Reporter: Christina Stefanski
Photographer: Christina Stefanski
Stage Presence: A
Audience Reaction: A+
Sound: A
Effort: A+
Get it On Ability: A++

Alpha Flight is a talented hip-hop crew of rappers and DJs, mainly from Halifax, that also collaborates with hip hop artists from different parts of Canada. They released their first LP, "Battle Royale" at the Attic on Jan. 28. The show featured many hip-hop artists who currently involved in the Halifax scene—Apt and DJ Josh, and Alpha Flight members Ghettosocks, Mr. Bix, Y-Rush and Jabba Tha Cutt. The atmosphere of the night was set by the premiere screening of "Transition"—a freight graffiti video produced by Rail Side Films. The video inspired the artistic vibe of the night, revealing shots of graffiti throw-ups on different walls and trains throughout Halifax. The audience was charged with high levels of energy as people danced enthusiastically around the fire that Halifax hip-hop artists set ablaze. Apt lit the first match as he delivered clever rhyme patterns in a speed that was flawless in timing. DJ Josh's impressive technical skills on the turntables and Apt rapping over his own creative beats revved up the crowd. Alpha Flight was like a flame meeting fumes of gasoline when four of its artists came on stage. Y-Rush and Jabba Tha Cutt sparked the audience's attention as each DJ demonstrated exciting tricks and manoeuvres on the turntables. Mr. Bix's soothing voice projected a strong delivery of his lyrics that kept the set moving, and Ghettosocks's high energy, witty punch lines and reflective lyrics kept the beat of the night going on.

SuperSex in the SuperCity

Pitchers and Catchers



Pitcher? Catcher?

Dave Moriné-Wentworth
Sexpert

Dave, help me settle an argument with some girlfriends. We're wondering what exactly top and bottom are when it comes to gay guys. What's the difference and how can you tell if a guy is either top or bottom? Can a guy be both?

A: Let's put an end to all this confusion... simply put, a bottom is the receptive partner in anal sex and the top is the penetrating partner.

When a guy describes himself as a bottom, he is indicating that his preference is for receiving (like wise, a top has a preference for giving). There are some guys who do prefer both, and will identify themselves as versatile. Now, some guys take it a step further and will call themselves

"total tops" or "total bottoms," to ascertain that they are strictly one way or another. Common slang terms in the gay community to indicate sexual preference include: pitcher (top), catcher (bottom) and switch hitter (versatile).

When it comes to telling if a guy is top, bottom or versatile, the only true way is to ask. However, when gay guys cruise each other for casual sex there are some methods that are used to non-verbally communicate their position penchant. Specific telltale signs do vary from region to region, but may include armbands—a band on the right arm for a top and a band on the left for a bottom, and versatile guys having a choice. Another common example is in leatherwear, where guys who sport a chest harness are tops, with a bottom dressed in assless chaps.

Just how many gay guys are there out there? It seems like the more guys I meet in class are gay. Is being gay on the rise?

A: There are more studies on the occurrence of homosexuality in males than you can shake a stick at. While some estimates go as low as 4 per cent, and others as high as 37 per cent, the most

commonly agreed-upon statistic is one in ten guys.

Is there a pink revolution going on with regards to the number of gay guys out there?

I would argue that this is not necessarily the case. Though it's easier to live out of the closet, gays and lesbians comfortably expressing their identity in public, en masse, is a very recent development. Fears based on social prejudice and negative outlooks on the gay community kept many gay men and women secretive about their true desires.

Now, being gay has almost become chic with gay soap operas like Queer As Folk and successful out celebrities like Ellen DeGeneres.

All of these pro-gay messages have made it an easier place for a sizeable portion of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community.

Although students may observe an increased visibility of gay individuals, it is important to remember that a university campus is typically an environment with an educated and informed population: the social climate is more tolerant. In a more rural locale, people may not be so accepting, thereby keeping many people veiled about their true feelings.

ATTENTION LOVERS!

Next week is the annual *Gazette Sex Issue*, which this year happens to fall on the week of Valentine's Day. We are planning to print an "I Love You" forum of notes, quips and messages from one student to another. If you would like to send a message to your significant other, or to a secret crush, please email all submissions to gazettearts@gmail.com by Sunday, Feb. 6. Please note that all messages must be twenty words or less.

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Dalhousie's Official Engineering Student Newspaper

CSIE 2005



Carol Anne Johnson
Sextant Contributor

With maritime flair, 32 Dalhousie industrial engineering students packed it up to jet set to the city of Toronto to attend the 25th annual CSIE conference. This year the CSIE (Canadian Society of Industrial Engineers) conference was hosted by the University of Toronto. The weekend was in full throttle by the time we graced the airport lounge and donned our near-private airplane. With the common goal of networking and 'sociables' shared among us, we let loose into the Sheraton Centre Hotel, ready to show off our Dalhousie pride.

This "pride" ultimately resulted in Dalhousie being the runner up to the coveted Golden "I" Award, attributed to the school with the most gusto and conference involvement. Though the late night partying left most with only a few hours of sleep, the seminar attendance was impressive. Four senior IE students (George Dimitropoulos, Scott Fitzgerald, Mike Hickey, Jeff Nephew) participated in the design competition and did an amazing job representing Dal. The clubs were tight and the 'interaction' between schools was *incredible*. Everyone had a good time, and all appreciated the snow/recovery day Monday. Next year Dalhousie will host CSIE at Casino Nova Scotia, where I am sure we can outdo the record 33 complaints (in one night) we received this year.

DUSCES News and Events

This weekend, Sexton campus is sending a group of students to compete in the Atlantic Engineering Competition. The competition pits students from all of the engineering schools across Atlantic Canada against each other; categories open to competition include corporate design, debate and, of course, senior design.

Correction - Iron Ring Ceremony

The sextant would like to apologize for publishing the incorrect date. The Iron Ring Ceremony will be held on March 2, 2005. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



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Iron, Cold Iron

Joseph Healey
Sextant Contributor

"Gold is for the mistress - Silver for the maid - Copper for the craftsman, cunning at his trade."

"Good," said the Baron, sitting in his hall, "But Iron - cold Iron - is master of them all."

- Kipling

For final-year engineers on Sexton Campus, the words cold and iron are linked to many thoughts these days. For myself, the thought of the cold walk down the Brunswick St. wind tunnel to school is the first thing in my mind before I tumble out of bed. The thought of less than 26 days to the Ritual of the Calling of an Engineer and receiving my Iron Ring is the motivation that causes me put on my MUN toque and head to class.

The Iron Ring ceremony is for the engineers, the convocation is for the parents. The ritual and ring have no association with any university or engineering organization; they are governed and administered by the founding Seven Wardens organization. The ring symbolizes the pride and unity of the engineering profession. More importantly, it reminds the wearer of the need for humility, an obligation to a high standard of professional conduct and a regard for public safety.



The Ring is presented to the new engineer by a senior engineer. It is multifaceted with many defined edges. It is worn on the little finger of the working hand and wears and polishes with time, symbolizing the polishing of the engineer's skills.

The Ring Ceremony is the most important date of the undergraduate engineer's studies, and as many of the Sextant readers have noticed, there has been a countdown on this page for numerous issues. I have long stopped counting the years and months to count the days, starting when I toured the city's bars in celebration with some of last year's Iron Ring recipients. With the challenge of engineering being workload management, I often forget the day of the week, and have long given up trying to remember the date without looking at a watch or computer. This makes the figuring out the countdown a challenge. Engineers may be able to differential equations

- but count backwards, forget it.

The solution to keeping engineers on time and the anticipation growing is to place a countdown clock in the most visited place, the T-Room. After hearing the request for a countdown clock suggested at a Sextant Campus Advisory Committee Meeting, two DSU executives proved that Sexton campus is not disregarded by all. Jonathan Wilson, vice president of finance and operations, and Marc Szepes, VP student life, ran with the idea, finding, purchasing and installing a very well designed clock in the T-Room that is now centered above the bar.

The clock was unveiled to the great fanfare of a normally very busy T-Room last Thursday night by Jonathan and Mark. The clock now displays the days, hours and minutes down to the tenth of a second remaining before the start of this year's Ritual Calling on March 2, 8 p.m.

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Volleyball vs. UdeM
men Feb. 4 @ 7 p.m.
Volleyball vs. UNB
men Feb. 5 @ 8 p.m.
women @ 6 p.m.

Track and Field meet Feb. 5 @ 6 p.m.
Hockey vs. SMU men Feb. 4 @ 7 p.m.
Hockey vs. Acadia men Feb. 5 @ 7 p.m.

National Track and Field #1's
Adrienne Power: 60-metres, 300m
Leanna McLean: 1000m, 1500m
Women's 4x200m relay

Sports Briefs



Jeff Weiler is looking to the CIS podium. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Tigers Charting Course to National Success

Mike Tweedale
Staff Contributor

The Men's volleyball team is currently enjoying another successful regular season campaign. While rarely losing a single game, the Tigers have rolled through their opponents at an impressive rate this season and cemented their reputation as the giants of AUS volleyball, winning 16 of 17 matches. This year's

team is big, enormously talented and currently plotting a course toward CIS success.

"We're building a team to win," says head coach Dan Ota, who, during 10 years with the club has enjoyed annual dominance of the Atlantic conference. Winning the berth into the CIS championship and the AUS every year is routine, but the Tigers

Continued on Next Page...

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McKay Leads the Way for Women's Basketball

Jenn Casey
Staff contributor

The girl's basketball team has its sights set on first place and this weekend they have a chance to make inroads on that goal.

First place is currently occupied by Memorial—and after some recent hard fought games, the Tigers have pulled themselves within eight points of MUN.

This weekend the ladies are set to travel to Newfoundland for back-to-back games against Memorial. The two teams are in the same division so each game is worth four points, which could potentially leave Dal and Mun in a first place deadlock.

But it won't be easy: Memorial has only lost one game this season and boasts a perfect record at home.

The Tigers hope that one of their star players, Ryan McKay, can help them complete the lofty mission of winning both games.

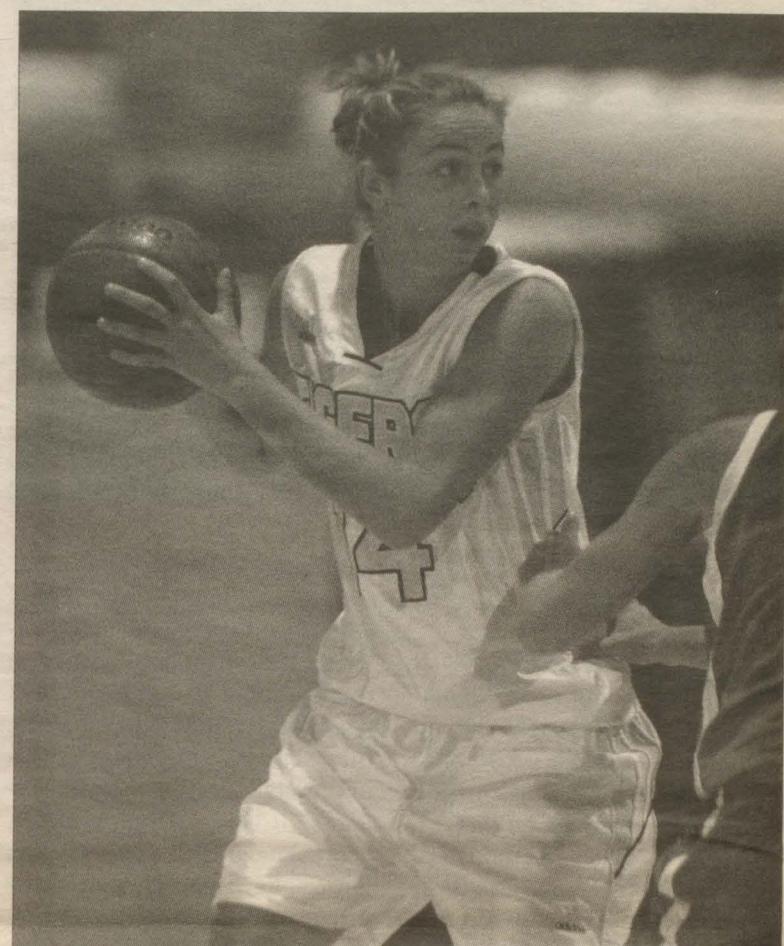
Mckay, the starting point guard, has been putting up staggering numbers this season. She was Dal's top scorer in six of 11 AUS games and is averaging over 14 points per game.

"She's a quiet leader, she leads by example," says coach Carolyn Savoy. "She's a quiet person and rather humble. But she's one of our best players."

Despite losing their last game against Memorial 79-63, the Tigers are confident that they are up to the task.

"I think we have to win the games that we're capable of winning," says McKay, a third-year Kinesiology student. "And there have been a few games that we haven't played to our potential..."

Dubbed by the coaching staff



Ryan McKay has been pivotal in the Tigers' success. / Photo: Nick Pearce

we need to do that all the time."

Lately the Tigers have been doing just that—and winning. Since the holiday break they have won all but one of their five games.

That one blip on the radar screen came at the hands of UNB. Savoy says that one of the main reasons they lost the game was because McKay only put up two points.

"She was only one for seven on the night, and she didn't shoot enough. I think that was the problem and we needed to do a better job of getting her open."

After their road trip to Newfoundland, the ladies play a Dalplex home game against St. FX on Thursday, Feb. 10. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

as the team's hardest worker, McKay wouldn't repeat the two-point performance. The next night she answered the call in a win against UPEI, putting up 20 points.

"We didn't really come out with any energy against [UNB] and the coaches told us that we needed a lot more intensity," says McKay after a two-hour practice. "And that's what we tried to do [against UPEI] and it worked."

On the men's side, Paul Chafe set a new meet record on his way to making it a Dal sweep of the 3000m while Jonathan Doucette was victorious in the shot put.

You can catch the track Tigers in action this weekend at Dalplex.

Big Weekend at the Track for Tigers

Michael Gorman
Sports Editor

The women's track and field team dominated Eastern Canadian universities at the prestigious McGill Team Challenge in Montreal last weekend.

The women won the meet, as well as six events. Five of those wins were also new meet records.

Adrienne Power lead the way with victories in the 60-metre, 300m and as part of the 4x200m relay. Leanne Huck, Lauren Grant and Joanna Hathcote teamed with Power for the win.

Leanna McLean also made her mark nationally with wins in her specialty the 1500m as well as anchoring the winning 4x800m relay. Monique Penny, Caroline McInnes and Hilary Burn joined

CONTRIBUTE!
Room 312 Mondays, 4:30, Dal SUB

Women's Volleyball Buckles in for Home Stretch

Joey Ryba
Staff Contributor

Despite a recent loss to the Acadia Axewomen, things are going according to plan for the Dalhousie women's volleyball team.

"It's in our program to be in the AUS Final," says head coach Kirk Yanofsky. "We have a veteran team. Last year we had a disappointing finish—our team is more committed this year and it's a better situation."

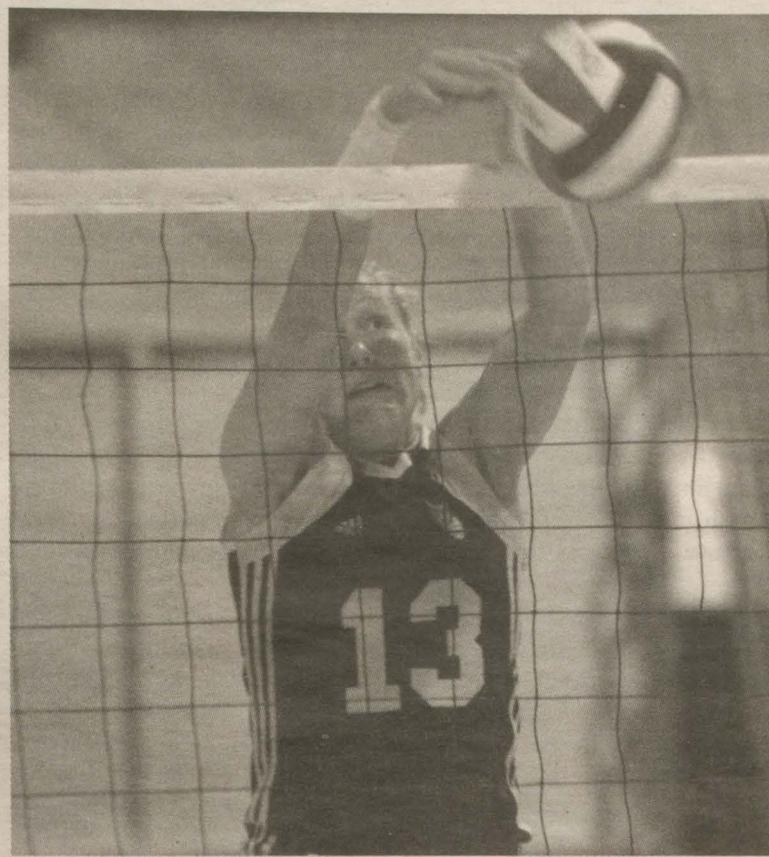
The Tigers struggled out of the gate, but quickly found their spot at the top of the standings.

"Early in the year we had to fight some adversity," says Yanofsky. "We needed to give our non-starters some action so they would develop. They struggled a bit, but they will benefit from the playing time. We need them to be in game form in case one of our veterans goes down."

The Tigers are currently in first place in AUS women's volleyball. They lead every statistical category, indicating they have good control over their play. In addition to Dal, Acadia and St. Mary's are near the top of the standing. The always talented St. F.X. and UNB are in the mix as well.

To remain dominant, the Tigers must have some top-notch players. Starting middle Jillianne Goulet, setter Leslie Marriot and left side Stacey Power are clearly the leaders on this squad.

"Leslie Marriot does an exceptional job at running our offence," says Yanofsky. "She always gives our players a good ball to hit. The way she sets makes our



Jillianne Goulet holds down the middle for the Tigers. / Photo: Nick Pearce

spikes unpredictable and difficult for the opposition to return.

"Stacey Power has developed into our most consistent player in terms of passing and attaching. She helps us play steady and regain control when needed."

Fourth-year middle Goulet also praises her teammates.

Goulet, a member of team Canada at the upcoming world University Games, agrees with her coach that the team was headed in the right direction.

"We had a slow start," she says. "We pulled up our socks and bucked down midway through the first half. We know we have

what it takes. We just have to perform at our level."

Goulet, an Ontario native, feels that the Tiger's position within the Atlantic conference is fine, but there's room for improvement outside. "Early in the New Year we played Sherbrooke and McGill. We were fine against McGill, but Sherbrooke hammered us," she says. "We took it easy over the holidays; however, for Sherbrooke, that clearly wasn't the case. We learned that in order to succeed we can't take any time off. We just have to believe in ourselves and stay consistent."

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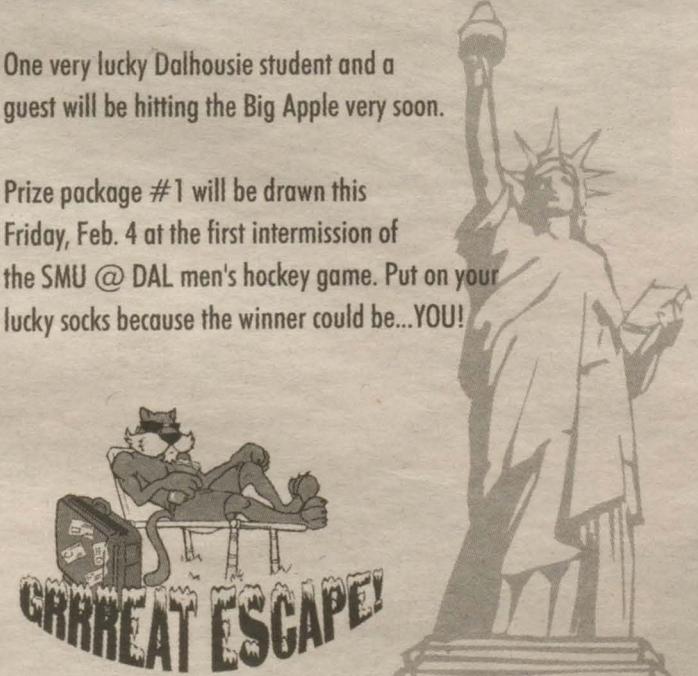
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Men's Volleyball, con't...

Continued from Previous Page...

haven't paid a visit to the national championship podium since taking home the silver medal in 1997. At that time, Ota was on the bench as an assistant.

"It's the priority," says the optimistic coach and architect of the current plan. "These guys are the most talented group I've ever coached." Considering his extensive university and national coaching experience, Ota's high praise suggests Dalhousie is ready to compete with the traditionally dominant teams from the West.

"We've got the right combination of size, skill and experience," says Ota. His current line-up is an impressive group of rookies, freshman and veterans. Off-season recruiting lured 6'10" Niklas Rademacher from the World Beach Tour. His sizable contribution complements a solid core of returning players that includes last year's AUS rookie of the year Adam Hotchkiss, 2004 playoff MVP Geoff Daniels and the two-time AUS All-Star and fifth-year veteran Adam Jones. So, can the team move to the proverbial next level?

2004 conference all-star Jeff Weiler isn't so cliché. "This year is part of a process," says the optimistic third-year kinesiology student. "We're not going put the cart in front of the horse and try to get ahead of ourselves."

Last weekend, the Tigers cruised through the first three of

four games of an interlock tournament, held in Montréal, with shutout victories against opponents from Montréal, Sherbrooke and McGill. But then something strange happened. The previously undefeated Tigers dropped their fourth and final game of the weekend to a charged up underdog squad from Laval.

But according to Weiler, the problem arrived at the right time. "It was the kind of wake-up call that we needed," he says. "We found ourselves in a pressure situation and we didn't perform when it mattered most, so now we know what we have to work on."

Weiler maintains that the team will profit from this humbling experience. "We've talked about it and understand what happened. We're not invincible, we know that. When we're playing in that situation again, we'll know what to do."

"Our goal is to be in the top three at the CI's," says Weiler, who believes the team is finding ways to steadily build momentum. But the reigning league co-MVP says the team has something else too. "We've got a character that we haven't had in the past. It's a fun level and the atmosphere on the floor is great. What can I say? I've never had so much fun playing the game."

The Tigers welcome U de M and UNB for Friday and Saturday evening matches at Dalplex. Games times are 7:00 and 8:00 pm respectively

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Les Hautes Pyrenees

Rafal Andronowski
Photo Editor

The Cirque du Gavarnie is huge. Located in the Hautes-Pyrenees in southern France, it is a geological marvel.

The waterfalls cascading down the sides are three or four hundred metres tall. The largest, le Grande Cascade, is the tallest waterfall in Europe and tops out at around six hundred metres. The inside of the cirque is criss-crossed by dozens of trails, and hundreds of people mill around, gasping for breath after the three-kilometre walk from the parking lot brings them from an elevation of 1,400 to almost 1,800 metres. This is where the waterfalls hit the ground, cascading in great plumes of ice-cold mist. Streams originating high up on the flanks of the 3,000-metre peaks trickle down the rock walls, forming mini-glaciers at the foot.

Our destination is a trail off to the right, heading somewhere, somehow, up the cliffs and deeper into the mountains. After stumbling around the bowl for a good half hour, following trails that take us nowhere, we finally find the trailhead. The French, it has become apparent, do not believe in trail markings.

"Uh, this is supposed to be a trail, right?" my brother asks guardedly.

"I guess so. A loop of the GR10, according to the map," I reply, checking map and compass

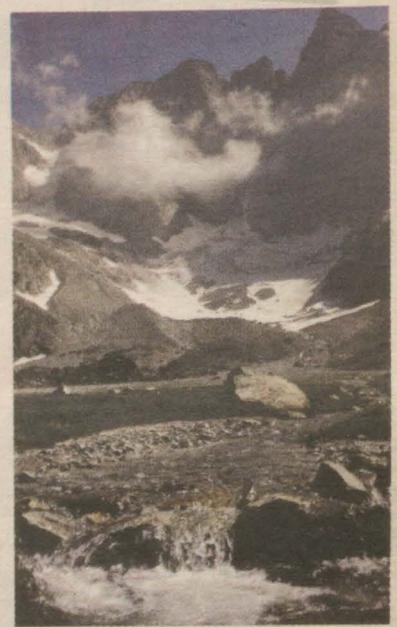
to verify we are indeed facing in the right direction.

The trail goes up the side of the mountain—or cliff as some might call it—winds to the left and disappears from view. As we sit on our packs, gathering energy, I verify the map again.

This part of the trail is known in France as "passage delicat." In North America, it would be a Class 4 route: you can go up without any protection, but being clipped into a rope is probably recommended. On my topo, there are no contour lines to be seen—just a gray relief denoting a cliff or similar impassable feature.

We shoulder our packs, strap poles to the sides and take one more sip of water. Choosing our foot and handholds carefully, we slowly crawl up the side of the mountain. One wrong step we would tumble down the cliff and down the sides of the bowl, probably stopping in one of the icy, meltwater streams.

After a few hours we finally top out around 2,400 metres in altitude—and on 'flat' ground. From here it's only another few kilometers and another couple hundred metres up to the refuge, so we stop to rest and admire the view. Taking shelter behind a rock to hide from the wind, we brew up some tea, munch on some biscuits and look down at Europe's highest waterfall and the hundreds of tourists we've left behind.



Photos:
Rafal Andronowski
Photo Editor

