

FREE

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Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

The Will to Rebuild

Jacob Deng holds in his hands all it takes to bring hope to a family in his native Sudan.

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What makes an artist?

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Alexa McDonough in the hot seat

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This is a weekly communications about happenings around the DSU.
Check it out, right here every week.



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The Politics of Education – A Brief Version

As I write my weekly article on the happenings at the DSU I am sitting in our nation's capital, Ottawa. By the time this goes to print, much of what I am about to describe will have already happened. I will be writing a follow-up article when I return to Halifax. VP Education, Jen Bond and I are in Ottawa this week representing Dalhousie students at the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations Annual Lobby Conference. We are here to lobby the federal government for improvements to post secondary education in four key areas. . These points are contained in the pre-budget submission of (CASA) that was submitted to the government of Canada in early September. The four points are as follows:

1. The Federal Government should take a leadership role in working with the provinces and territories to create a Pan-Canadian Accord on Post-Secondary Education. Only with a national vision will we be able to move forward and ensure that ours is the best system of post-secondary education in the world
2. The federal government should re-invest in post-secondary education by creating an independent Canada Education Transfer. This dedicated post-secondary transfer payment should be funded at a minimum of \$4 billion annually to address the funding cuts experienced by our post-secondary system.
3. The government should expand the new Canada Access Grant for students from low-income families. The grant should cover all years of study, not only the first year, and cover a percentage of total educational costs, not simply tuition.
4. The government should conduct a holistic review of Canada's student financial assistance programs. The review should address the needs-assessment process, focusing on allowing all students to afford a post-secondary education and allocating funding towards grants targeted at improving access for under-represented groups such as Canadians from low-income families and Aboriginal peoples.

Over the next week, Jen and I as well as a number of students from other universities across the country will meet collectively with over 140 members of parliament, senior bureaucrats, and policy advisors. Over my three years of involvement with the DSU I have never fully appreciated the significance of this annual conference. This year CASA's lobby conference is particularly exciting. For the first time in probably thirty years post-secondary education (PSE) has eclipsed health care on the public policy agenda. In addition the Prime Minister, all three provincial parties, and PSE stakeholder groups have unanimously supported the creation of a Pan-Canadian Accord on education and dedicated education transfer, an idea that CASA came up with and has lobbied on for the past ten years. This has significant implications for the future of PSE in this country. Almost every student politician runs on a platform of lowering tuition, and for the first time we may be able to actually achieve this. I look forward to lobbying the federal government on behalf of Dalhousie students and will provide an update on our efforts next week.

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be November 23rd at 6:30pm in Council Chambers on the second floor of the Student Union Building. All are welcome.

We have a number of events coming up at the Grawood. As usual we have our wing night on Wednesday. On Wednesday, November 23rd the Mellotones will be playing.

On Friday November 18th, **Tony Lee, XXX Hypnotist** will be doing his thing in the Grawood. The event starts at 8 pm, tickets are \$6. This is a hugely popular event, so if you are planning on coming out, get there early if you want to get in.

We have also started weekly **Margatini Football Mondays** at the Grawood. The bar opens at 7 and closes at 12, if you're looking for a place to check out the game, stop by.

See you around campus, stop by or call anytime.
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Fed up with corruption, Canadian voters might soon be going to the polls. So what?

A growing sense of political irrelevancy means that many of us simply no longer care — and that's dangerous

CHRIS LAROCHE
Editor-in-Chief

By now, most Canadians with eyes and ears are well aware that some \$100-million worth of a \$250-million-dollar advertising sponsorship program has disappeared under Liberal leadership.

They are also aware, having been beaten over the head by a media deluge, that great sums of this money — potentially all of it — was divvied out in kickbacks and cash awards to bureaucrats, public servants and the private sector executives of the advertising firms selected by the Quebec branch of the Liberal party.

Some have called the entire idea of the advertising campaign — aimed at capturing Quebec voters after the near-miss 1995 referendum — misguided from the start.

Others have supported former Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's initial decision to try and sway Quebec's voters back from the brink of separatism.

The advertising campaign was launched with the interests of a single, unified Canada in mind, they say.

Intentions aside, it has long been obvious that something went horribly wrong.

But do the average Canadian students — those of us who are not student politicians, heads of societies or aspiring political scientists — actually care?

My guess is no — and here's my explanation: we feel irrelevant anyway.

And that's a dangerous way of thinking.

The rhetoric spouted by Canada's federal opposition is certainly damning. The Liberals are mired in a "culture of entitlement" and "corruption" — words taken straight out of the official Commission Inquiry report.

The sponsorship scandal, the opposition argues, was an inevitable product of the Liberal party's corrupt culture and inept governance.

It's a travesty, they say. Maybe the worst scandal in Canadian political history. Canadians need to recognize that the Liberals must be booted out of office and punished, en masse, for their crimes.

Well, you can count this voter — and probably my entire demographic — out.

It is often difficult to avoid succumbing to the ongoing political dialogue of the day and use this column as a partisan mouthpiece.

To be sure, it is not my place to tell students who to vote for. Vote for whomever you want.

But the ongoing the sponsorship scandal has made it clear that the Canadian political landscape has



Jean Chrétien, former Prime Minister of Canada, posing for a photo after having said... something or other....

reached an impasse: I don't see going to the polls to rid Canada of the Liberal "scourge" as being all that useful. Not only do alternatives to the Liberal party appear tenuous at best, a bigger devil has been discovered.

No, it isn't Chuck Guité, the high-level bureaucrat taking most of the blame for the scandal.

It isn't the red-faced, baseball bat-swinging Jean Chrétien Canadians saw on TV two weeks ago either.

Instead, the devil is something that can't be made stand on trial, or answer questions in a scrum.

The devil is ... drum roll please ... the fact many of us simply don't care.

To be sure, blaming the sponsorship scandal on voters, taxpayers and the future generations of Canada is quite a stretch of logic. In fact, I'm not making this inference.

The scandal is a terrible thing that should not have happened, has wasted taxpayers' money, and has exposed widespread government corruption in one of the world's least corrupt nations.

But the term, "culture of entitlement" doesn't readily apply to the Liberal party, or even the scandal. It's a normative misnomer. No one feels entitled to stolen money. Thieves see an opportunity to steal money and,

in the absence of real consequences, they go for it.

This is not "entitlement." It is theft, hidden in the complex mires of government bureaucracy.

"Culture of entitlement" applies more readily to another group, however — young Canadians.

I am one of them, so allow me to speak in first-person for a moment.

I live in one of the most stable democracies in the world. I do not have to worry about being driven from my homes, oppressed or killed without reason.

I am not alone: a quick survey might find that the greatest worry for an average student might be a mid-afternoon test, or having to buy groceries.

When something like the sponsorship scandal strikes, it is easy to see why many of us simply don't care, despite the fact we live in a supposedly corruption-free society. We see government as unchanging — the heads spouting the rhetoric change — but conditions don't. Education continues to cost more, sure, but other than that, how does Parliament Hill even matter?

I'll bet a dollar — perhaps not my bottom dollar, but a dollar nonetheless — that most students who picked up this paper and started reading

this editorial didn't get too far.

They probably realized they were reading something about the sponsorship scandal by paragraph two or three and, having been drowned in a deluge of recent adscam coverage, they quickly directed their eyes somewhere else.

Why?

We're sick of politics.

Without drowning this column in numbers from Statistics Canada, I can affirmatively say that Canada's young demographic doesn't vote enough, doesn't pay much in the way of taxes, and certainly doesn't have much sway in the power structures linking Parliament Hill with the rest of Canada.

Is it because we just don't care?

I don't think so. Global civil society — i.e. protesters, corporate responsibility campaigners, and activist groups such as the Halifax Peace Coalition — has never enjoyed more mass participation. There is a definite link to be found between student participation in civil society and the relative success many of these groups have had in changing the dynamic of the public political discourse.

But we still don't vote enough. And, even including civil society, we still don't have much power at

the "top," where power suits throw around money and votes and, if you'll allow me to make a real stretch of logic for a moment, "make things happen."

The irony is that in 10, 20 or 30 years, we will be forced to grab onto the reigns of this beast, and steer it in our own direction. If anything, the recent events in Canadian politics prove that direction is, and always will be, very, very important. And regardless of whether you care much about the \$3 the sponsorship scandal has cost you or not, apathy does not present us with any clear directions.

So what is the solution? How can Canada's youth feel relevant in today's political system, and get involved?

To be frank, I don't know. The sponsorship scandal has not directly affected my life, or the lives of any students I know. It likely cost each of us \$3. Our day-to-day affairs remain unchanged. Some of us care, to be sure, but how do we voice that concern? Getting involved in politics doesn't seem to bridge the gap — if I were Prime Minister tomorrow, most Canadians would probably paint me the same colour as all the other seemingly old, crusty men working the system: I'm white, and I've got a French last name. And if I ever get into any office, I'll likely be old and crusty too.

If we choose to vote, we have relatively little to vote for. Canada's first-past-the-post system means that "having a meaningful role in the political process" is really a far-off myth enshrined in some official document. Especially if you vote for the losing candidate.

But does solving political apathy simply entail better political representation? If we had more minorities and women in Parliament, would more youth come out to vote? Would we feel more involved in the power politics of Ottawa?

Perhaps. But more proportionate representation may not uproot the causes of concern: we live in a nation that, despite some political corruption, many unfair socio-economic disparities and a lack of minority representation in all spheres of life, is essentially as stable as they come. Unless we pack up and move to Norway.

It may take a sudden case of clear and present danger — a major threat to our stable existence as Canadians — to get the apathetic lot of us involved. Sadly, that clear and present danger wasn't the sponsorship scandal. Even worse, however, is the idea that this great slap in the face will come far too late.

Have a comment or suggestion?
Email editor@dalgazette.ca.

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THE FINE PRINT

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Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB. You can also drop in to our offices anytime after 5:00 p.m. on Monday or Tuesday. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.

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"We have a Conservative leader that is so promiscuous that he changes his mind every other day about who he wants to be in bed with," says Halifax MP Alexa McDonough. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

The Gazette grills McDonough

AARON GILLIS
Staff Contributor

Federal opposition party leaders have demanded that the Prime Minister call an election in January. Following NDP leader Jack Layton's Nov. 9 announcement to join the Conservatives and Bloc to bring down the government, *The Gazette* asked Alexa McDonough, the New Democrat MP for Halifax, what's got her party thirsting for the polls.

Gazette: During the federal budget earlier this year, your party was able to exert a strong influence. By moving toward an early federal election, is the NDP missing out on an opportunity to make policies your party feels are relevant to Canadians?

McDonough: The reason we were able to make substantial gains in the spring is because it was very evident that there had been promises made to Canadians that were absolutely not kept in the budget.

And adding insult to injury, [the Liberals included] \$4.3 billion dollars in tax cuts for corporations that Paul Martin had not promised in the election and had not mentioned in the election.

In fact, what he did was attack Harper for having made such promises, and then turned around and proposed doing it himself.

So, there was a clear set of serious, serious omissions in that budget that we were able to have considerable inputs on.

You know what everybody comes up to me and says? They say, "Let's get rid of these arrogant Liberals as fast as we can but let's not do it be-

fore Christmas." And that's what we're prepared to do, is to put all that together and say, "Well, let's get what we can get done as long as the House is sitting to make it work for Canadians. But let's get on with clearing the air and having an election after Christmas."

Gazette: Your party currently enjoys enough status in the House to hold the Liberals to account. After an election, you may not enjoy that ability, depending on the redistribution of seats.

McDonough: There are always gambles, there are always risks and there's never any certainty about the outcome of an election. But we feel very positive about our record of achievement. We have a record to run on now, based on a year and a half of achievement.

People know what the options are: a Liberal government that is as arrogant and unaccountable as ever, and more and more in the clutches of the Bush administration, which is truly senseless, if not terrifying, to most Canadians.

We have a Conservative leader that is so promiscuous that he changes his mind every other day about who he wants to be in bed with.

And we have an NDP with a pretty solid record of getting things done for people and we're prepared to go to the polls. We're optimistic, but it's in the hands of the people.

Gazette: Is there a risk, with an election coming so close to the release of the Gomery report, of voter anger in Quebec fuelling the separatist movement, which would take

votes away from your party?

McDonough: The Liberal corruption that's caused what's happening in Quebec is probably one of the low points of Canadian history. It was worse than corruption. It was caused by completely missing the point about what it is that Quebecers really wanted from the Canadian government.

You know, what [Quebecers] really wanted is progressive government. They really wanted to see that this government was prepared to deliver on the kind of social democratic aspirations of Quebecers. I mean, it's a great irony, really.

But nothing that the NDP is going to do today, tomorrow or next year is going to undo the damage of that Liberal corruption. It's a problem. It's a big problem.

Gazette: What was the aim of Jack Layton's proposal on Nov. 9 to table a resolution in the House of Commons, calling on the Prime Minister to dissolve the House in the first week of January?

McDonough: We really feel that it's a practical proposal in a situation where there are many dilemmas. But I can tell you that what people are saying is, "We want to have our say on this corrupt Liberal government, sooner rather than later, but not too soon. Wait until the new year."

We're willing to be in the hands of Canadians as to how they want to change it.

Better to give them the say than have arrogant Liberals that refuse to realize that they're a minority government.

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Angela Weal waits in the doorway of her dilapidated apartment for the city take action against her landlord. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Dal students live well; HCAP aims to help the rest

CAMERON FLEMING
News Contributor

Her windows are broken. Her ceiling is stained by water damage. Her front door lets in daylight and cold air, and there are holes made by mice in her walls. Six months after moving in to her one-bedroom North-End apartment, Angela Weal was losing hope that her landlord would fix the problems she says he promised to fix.

"I sat there. I cried. I said, 'I'm leaving here. I'm breaking the lease,'" says Weal. But she says that wouldn't solve the problem — it would only pass the problem to the next tenant.

With the support of the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty, Weal went to the Halifax Regional Council. City officials are now considering the proposals she and HCAP presented to councillors on Nov. 8 that aim to tighten the enforcement of by-laws concerning rental property maintenance.

Weal's appeal comes at a time when there are hints the housing situation has never been better for Dalhousie students. The university's Off-Campus Housing office usually receives many complaints from students about bad landlords. But there haven't been any this year, according to associate director Verity Astephen.

A large number of vacancies has

allowed students to be more selective this year, says Astephen.

"If they don't like what they see, they don't get it."

But that's not to say problems with landlords don't exist. And when there are problems, they can be difficult to fix.

Angela Weal, for example, took her case to the city. Building inspectors issued an order to her landlord to repair the property but the order expired at the end of October and her apartment remains dilapidated.

Under such circumstances, building inspectors are authorized to take action, which could include making repairs to the property themselves and charging the landlord. But Weal says enforcement officers have told her that no action can be taken until April.

HCAP says tenants who try to file complaints are often discouraged by city officials who say there would be little point.

"The main problem is that there are no penalties for landlords who ignore the city's laws, the province's laws and their basic obligations to other human beings," says HCAP's Eva Curry.

In addition to tougher enforcement of existing bylaws, HCAP proposes that rent be paid in trust to the tenancy board if repair orders go unheeded. The city would then use the

funds to pay for the repair work and landlords would only start receiving rent again when they repay the cost of the repairs — and administrative expenses — to the city.

The Investment Property Owners Association of Nova Scotia represents landlords. Its executive director, Rex MacLaine, says he's open to HCAP's ideas.

"It's hard to disagree with the intent," he says. "I would agree that the by-laws are in some cases not being enforced."

MacLaine says property owners still want to be assured that landlords can defend themselves against bogus claims, but adds, "Slum landlords are out there. If something can be done about them, so much the better."

But Dal's Off-Campus Housing office says students should remain vigilant when looking for places to live. In a renter's market, students may be able to afford to be more selective.

"We advise students to read the lease before signing," says Astephen. Although the office does not investigate landlords, it does track the complaints it receives and offers extensive resources on its website.

As for Weal, she's not giving up her fight against her landlord. She's already thinking about what to do when her lease is up.

"I may stay just to piss him off," she says.



Mel Hurtig says Canada's close proximity to the United States poses a unique challenge to sovereignty and makes Canada more vulnerable to American influence.

Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Canadian sovereignty at risk, some say

AARON GILLIS
Staff Contributor

Canada is at risk of losing its national identity, according to a Canadian author and policy analyst.

The country's independence is under fire by politicians and the business community, said Mel Hurtig, founding member of the Council of Canadians, a nationalist think-tank, during a speech on Nov. 8.

"The overarching responsibility of patriots in this country has to be the constant battle against politicians and a corporate oligarchy that is prepared to abandon Canadian independence and sovereignty for their own selfish goals," he told a crowd of roughly 20 people seated in a lecture hall in the Dalhousie Law Building.

Hurtig said values advocated by these groups, such as greater foreign investment and reductions to social programs, are a contrast to values held by mainstream Canadians.

"All you have to do is look at the public opinion polls, regardless of who the pollster is, and you'll see that ... the business elite in this country think exactly the opposite [of most Canadians,] whether it's on the war in Iraq, missile defence, or social programs," he said.

Hurtig's remarks come as the Canadian government seeks public input to a new International Policy Statement, released in April 2005. The statement attempts to integrate the areas of diplomacy, development, defence and commerce within a sin-

gle policy.

Tamara Lorincz, a Halifax Peace Coalition member, said during a town hall meeting on Nov. 9, that the new foreign policy statement needs to avoid the influence of American values, especially in regard to the integrated focus on defence.

"The good stuff in the IPS is greatly outweighed by the bad," said Lorincz, adding that the militarization advocated in the policy statement would circumvent established international agencies such as the United Nations. "This is how our money is being spent, and it's just not right."

Hurtig says Canada's proximity to the world's most influential and nationalist nation poses a unique challenge to its sovereignty.

"It makes us more vulnerable," he said in an interview with *The Gazette*. "It's not only the big country next door. Unlike what happens in Europe, it's the big country next door that speaks the same language we do."

But Hurtig said it's possible for Canada to withstand the challenges imposed by the presence of the U.S.

"We do that very simply by not selling off the ownership and control of our country. Then we work with like-minded nations of the world who also fear the superpowers," he said. "The majority of nations are like us. They want to be masters in their own house. It's not a difficult thing to do, as long as you have politicians who have a spine."

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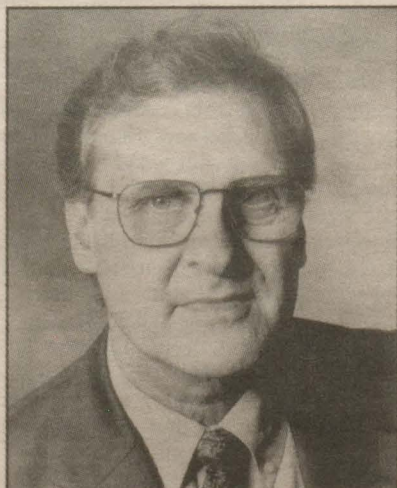
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Monday, November 21, 7:30pm

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www.dal.ca

Sudan refugee launches 'goat campaign' to bring peace to region

REID SOUTHWICK
News Editor

Jacob Deng wants to help rebuild the communities in his battered homeland in southern Sudan.

As roughly 900,000 families return from refugee camps to their villages destroyed by decades of civil war, they will need the basic necessities of water and food to survive.

To fulfill both facets of need under a single effort, Deng, 23, is launching a fundraising campaign to purchase goats that he will bring to the Dinka and Nuer tribes in the area surrounding his home village of Duk padiet.

"The least we can do is bring hope to families who are going back to their homes for the first time in many years," says Deng.

The neighbouring tribes, once forced to fight each other by the Sudanese government to weaken the region, now need to restore their relations to help ensure the fragile peace is upheld, says Deng.

Nuer militias working for the government killed most of Deng's family in 1991. But he says he wants to rebuild trust and a sense of community between the two peoples.

"I don't want to seem like Nuer is an enemy to me because they killed my mom and my five brothers and nephew," he says. "To me, they are not enemies."

"I want to find a common ground where we can build for the future generation instead of going back to what has happened already."

As the founder of Wadeng Wings of Hope, a non-profit organization committed to raising funds for children's education in southern Sudan, Deng is launching the goat campaign as a sign of goodwill between the tribes.

A female goat, which costs roughly \$35 CDN in southern Sudan, will give the Sudanese not only a source of milk but also a source of income as



Jacob Deng is raising money to buy goats for former Sudanese refugees who are returning to their homes after the 22-year civil war. Photo: Rafal Andronowski

its offspring can be traded for food, tools and other basic needs.

The Dalhousie chapter of the Wadeng Wings of Hope will organize the fundraiser, which will run from Nov. 18 to Dec. 15.

"Our main goal at Dalhousie is to get the community involved," says Cheryl Watts, president of the DSU society. "We want students to look at what is going on in Sudan as part of our global community. These people are just like us and they deserve to have the same opportunities."

Sudan has been plagued with civil war between the Arab Muslim-dominated north and the Christian, Animist and African groups in the south for roughly 50 years. Although

peace was achieved through a series of agreements in 1972, war broke out again when the government in the north introduced Sharia law and dissolved three federal states in the south.

Although differences in religion were key sources of the conflict, many critics agree the war was fueled by the government's reluctance to lose its influence over the oil fields in the south.

In January 2005, the southern rebels and the government signed a treaty that gave autonomy to the south for six years and laid plans for a referendum on independence.

During the 22-year conflict, Deng struggled for survival as a refugee

living on the eastern borders of his battered country. He lost all traces of his family when the Sudanese government forces raided his village in October 1987.

He woke up to the sounds of gunshots and his neighbours screaming. Military officials burned the houses, raped and kidnapped young girls and killed young boys.

"I smelled the blood that morning and the weather was so dry and windy," he says.

With no choice but to flee, Deng, then five years old, ran from his village to find only his nephew in a crowd of neighbours that gathered in safety several kilometers from their destroyed homes.

Members of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, the forces that protected the south from the government in the north, found the displaced villagers and guided them out of the country.

After nine years of refugee life, Deng was tired of going for days without food.

He left the camp in Kakuma, Kenya, and travelled back to Sudan. There, he raised money to attend school by trading his clothes and bag for tubes of tobacco, which he later traded for goats.

Although the money he raised from the sale of the goats was only enough to fund the early stages of his education, Deng was able to rely on the goodwill of teachers and United Nations officials to shoulder the rest.

Now living in Halifax, where he is earning a degree in business and administration at Compu College, Deng wants to empower the people of his homeland with the ability to claim the future of their country.

"I feel we have wasted so many generations and so many lives have been lost," he says.

He formed WadengWings of Hope to raise money to build a school, which he says is essential given the low levels of literacy in the region.

"And to me, a basic education is important so that everybody understands what is the importance of life," says Deng.

But he says parents will not allow their children to go to the school until the rifts between the Dinka and Nuer in the area are mended.

Goats were a symbol of hope for Deng throughout his struggle for survival in Sudan. And he says bringing goats to the tribes as offerings of hope and goodwill will start the healing process between the tribes.

For information on how to make a donation: forgottenchildren@hotmail.com or visit www.wadeng.org.

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Uni-Briefs

DAL BRIEFS

Federal government announces Canada Research chairs for Dal

The federal government announced four new Canada Research Chair (CRC) positions at Dalhousie Nov. 10.

The university will receive a total of \$3.8 million in grant money to cover the research chairs' salaries for the length of their tenure, as well as the start up costs for their work.

Dal's Vice President (Academic and Provost) Sam Scully says he's pleased with the announcement.

"These are terrific people. They are all new people to Dalhousie that we've recruited from across Canada and the United States," he says.

James Fawcett, one of the new researchers, will investigate brain repair. Aaron Newman will study cognitive neuroscience and David Waisman will conduct research on the spread of cancerous tumours. Christopher Richardson will work on developing vaccines to prevent viral diseases.

The CRC program approves new chairs three times per year. This time, the feds announced 126 chairs across the country, totalling \$102.2 million in funding. Eighty-three of the positions are new projects, and the rest are renewals.

CANADIAN CAMPUS

UBC students protest new Starbucks

Students at the University of British Columbia protested the opening of the fourth Starbucks on their campus last week. The protestors say they weren't consulted before the new franchise was opened in the Student Union Building, a claim the university and the coffee company

deny.

The protestors are also afraid that the café will take business away from student owned businesses nearby. Starbucks says that although a small percentage (less than 10 per cent) of revenue is returned to the parent company, the majority goes back to food services and is used for improving their facilities.

Not all students feel the new franchise is a bad thing. UBC student Cole Hendrigan, a frequent Starbucks patron, told his campus paper he welcomes the new coffee store. "If I could find a good Mom 'n' Pop shop that sold good, dark, organic coffee, I would go there 100 per cent of the time, but there isn't one," said Hendrigan.

Laurier paper loses union's support

The student union at Wilfrid Laurier University has withdrawn \$14,000 worth of planned advertising from the school's student newspaper, *The Cord*. Union president Dan Robert says the advertising decision had been contemplated for several years because the paper's depiction of the university differed from that of the union's, adding that *The Cord's* view was "incorrect."

The Cord's editor, Brandon Currie, says the union didn't agree with the paper's criticism of its actions and the relationship soured within a few weeks.

A recent article, entitled "A gentleman's guide to getting laid at [Wilfrid Laurier]" further complicated matters at *The Cord*. The story sparked backlash from students and advertisers, some of whom temporarily withdrew their advertising in protest.

Currie says after an initial reduc-

tion in issue size, the paper is now back to normal and will not suffer from its loss of student union ad revenue.

Robert denied the union pulled their funding because of the article, saying it does not censor the paper's content.

McGill clubs fear name loss

A dozen student groups at McGill University fear they will soon have to drop the word "McGill" from their titles. The McGill administration has liability concerns with outside groups that use its trademarked name. Similar concerns in 1999 prompted administrators to ban the use of "McGill" in the names of newly-formed societies.

The administration says a 2004 lawsuit that confused it with the Student Society of McGill University shows that the university needs to address the situation in order to avoid further confusion and liability. McGill also says it's particularly concerned about a TVMcGill broadcast called *Cooking While Drunk*, which features some nudity.

TVMcGill, McGill First Aid, and the McGill Cancer Society are among the student clubs and societies that could be affected by the latest McGill-name decision. One group estimates it could cost several hundred dollars to replace T-shirts, bags, and other marketing material with "McGill"-free substitutes.

FTAA summit protested in Montreal

Up to 400 people disrupted the downtown Montreal streets on Nov 11 during a protest against the Summit of the Americas held in Argentina. Police were already present when people started to gather around 4

p.m. Officers followed the crowd as it marched through busy intersections, obstructing traffic.

Demonstrators eventually completed their march and began piling furniture in the street. The cheering crowd burned a U.S. flag before setting the furniture ablaze. Riot police pushed the crowd out of the streets, clearing the fire and making several arrests.

Leaders from countries in North and South America were meeting last week in Argentina to hold negotiations regarding the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) and other bilateral trade agreements. A 2001 FTAA protest in Québec City, Que., drew over 20,000 supporters, resulting in the use of police tear gas and the arrest of over 200 people.

South of the Border

Students jailed following death-by-hazing

Four California State University, Chico, students have recently been sentenced to jail terms for their involvement in the death of fellow student Mathew Carrington. The 21-year-old died last February from water intoxication during a fraternity pledge that involved hazing.

Hazing involves abuse or humiliation as part of initiation to clubs, fraternities, and is also common in the armed forces and on sports teams. Carrington died of heart failure after he and another "pledge" were ordered to drink water from five-gallon jugs and douse themselves as part of their initiation to the now-defunct Chi Tau fraternity.

The California case is one of the first in the U.S. in which fraternity members faced felony charges for a hazing-related death.



Gazette

Editorial

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and

to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

The views of the Editorial Board are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

The time is right for PSE funding increases

Over the last two months, a number of unprecedented post-secondary education funding breakthroughs have been made at both the provincial and federal level that offer great opportunities for students and the organizations representing them.

Nova Scotia Premier John Hamm, whose government cut funding for post-secondary education (PSE) from an all time high to an all time low over its tenure, announced his retirement last month, paving the way for the election of a new premier.

The premiers of the Atlantic Provinces, including Hamm, also announced that they would shift the focus of their federal money demands from healthcare to PSE.

The Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA), for its part, issued a press release at the beginning of November calling for Hamm and provincial Education Minister Jamie Muir to meet with students and other PSE stakeholders. The premier and the minister agreed.

In the federal theatre, the Canadian Association of Student Associa-

tions (CASA) met last week with federal Finance Minister Ralph Goodale to discuss funding for PSE. On Monday, Nov. 14, Goodale announced a \$2.75 billion boost to PSE funding over the next five years, along with a \$1 billion innovation fund for higher education and an extra \$2.1 billion for university research funding.

With both a federal and a provincial election looming in the coming months, the opportunity to put PSE funding issues in the political limelight has never been better.

Students must ensure that this opportunity isn't wasted. Active lobbying efforts are needed to win the support of potential candidates, and support from the larger public for renewed funding for PSE.

It is of paramount importance that our student organizations, and we as individual students, hit the ground running to a better future for our universities. Post-secondary education must not fall under the radar again, especially while the resources and finances are available to rejuvenate the PSE system and, by implication, Canada's future.

Sudan matters to us all

At the age most Canadians enjoyed their first day of school, Jacob Deng struggled to find food at a refugee camp on the western border of Ethiopia. He ate leaves and the roots of plants to survive, and many of his friends who traveled to neighbouring villages in search of nourishment were killed for their efforts.

He lost all traces of his family, save his nephew, when he was forced to flee his village in Southern Sudan as it came under attack from government forces.

Deng spent much of his childhood running from the gun. Traveling from one refugee camp to the next, he could think only of survival. But he knew that an education was his only ticket out.

The majority of Dalhousie students likely couldn't fathom the sacrifices Deng was forced to make to achieve his goal.

He traveled for miles on his own through the war-torn plains of Sudan, at the age of 14, just to exchange his belongings for money.

He then moved from school to school for the short durations that they would take him. Without much money, or a reliable source of food, he had to convince those with resources and influence to take him in and help him with his mission.

His tenacity served him well: he eventually earned an education.

Deng's story cannot be denied by changing a TV channel, or flipping a newspaper page. He is now a resident of this city and a former student of Dal, and he hopes to return by next September.

He represents just one of the four million Southern Sudanese displaced by decades of civil war between the northern and southern regions of the country.

He is the face of the suffering that plagued the people of the ravaged land. And as many of them return to their destroyed homes in the wake of a recent peace agreement, Deng exemplifies the will to rebuild.

Deng's campaign to raise money for goats — to be given out to Sudanese villages — aims to heal the war-torn rift between the Dinka and Nuer tribes. By giving villagers a sense of hope, it will lay the groundwork for a larger campaign geared toward building a school so children will not have to undergo the struggles Deng faced when he strove to get an education.

It costs just CDN \$35 to buy a goat in Southern Sudan. A simple donation provides villagers with a source of food and means to trade for other necessities.

Although Dalhousie students face financial constraints of their own, we have the opportunity to help reduce the effect of a humanitarian crisis whose face is now much closer to home.

Gazette: Opinions

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

Contact: opinions@dalgazette.ca

Letters: letters@dalgazette.ca

VENT: PRINTING ESSAYS ON CAMPUS

Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

My lack of a laptop or personal printer haunts me throughout the year, but the feeling is never more prominent than during bi-annual term-paper time.

Every year it's the same story — I find myself sprinting from the basement of the Killam, to the Learning Commons, to the FASS and back again in a futile search for a free computer.

If you're lucky enough to find a computer, don't think that spells the

end of your troubles, because the next step is paying to print your essay.

Of course, Dal seems to want to make printing as difficult as humanly possible, so they force students to maintain three separate accounts on their Dal card: one for the lab in the FASS, one for the learning commons, and one for the basement of the Killam.

If the printer is working, you may be lucky enough to print your paper without becoming too irate. If you

don't have enough money on your card, however, you will be forced to trek to the circulation desk in the Killam, add more money to your card, then go back to your computer lab of choice to transfer the funds over to the appropriate account.

Then print.

It's enough to make one subsist on no-name Kraft dinner for an entire semester in order to save enough to buy one's own printer!

Andre Boisclair and the cocaine cabinet

BRENDAN MORRISON
Staff Contributor

Ahh, there's nothing like the surfacing of backroom executive-level drug use that stirs a little uproar. Not so much over some small-time schoolhouse reefer, but when it involves public officials railing back the big leagues, citizens tend to blow their whistles.

And so it is that the young, hip, ego-tripping Andre Boisclair, front-runner in the leadership race of the Parti Quebecois, finds himself in a media attack over a rather "touchy subject." Boisclair has admitted to allegations that during his rein as a cabinet minister for Lucien Bouchard, his nose may have graced the mirror once or twice. Well, it turns out that for some silly reason, the over-sensitive media seems to think there's something scandalous about a cabinet minister snorting coke.

But why is this? What is the real cause of these criticisms? There's widespread disenfranchisement among youth voters in Canadian politics, and perhaps this incident points to the root cause. The problem in Canadian politics isn't that Boisclair is snorting yao, or that Ralph Klein is boozing his face off, or that Gordon Campbell is drunk-driving around Hawaii. It's that our premiers never seem to party with us. We recognize there's a party going down, and we'd like to get in on it.

Not to dive into some sort of a character debate, but perhaps some debate should be undertaken — say, over Boisclair's character. At first glance, it would seem that Boisclair's former chief of staff embezzling \$30,000 from the government to feed his own cocaine habit could seem a wee bit objectionable. But, it's possible Monsieur Boisclair is simply a grass-roots oriented politician who

had taken up an innovative new funding initiative. As my own personal drug dealer observes, "Man, governments be taking from our pockets all the time. It's nice to see that some of 'em are reinvesting in the community."

Cocaine is an interesting public subject in our society. We like our rock stars on it; we need our comics to dabble in it. But when it comes to the administrators who dole out the public purse, we'd prefer that they preoccupy themselves with cutting taxes, not lines.

Yet, despite the media circus over the admission, PQ members still predominantly support Boisclair. The fervent discussion over his drug use doesn't seem to be hurting Boisclair's popularity too significantly. At the time of writing, he remains the clear leader in the race, and is expected to blow his competition clear out of the water, and likely straight up his nose.

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Bismillah Irrahman Irrahim

The Passing of the Tonggs

I want to let the student body know that I will be on the road, travelling to Timbuktu and returning in the next few months. I am officially "passing the tonggs" onto Mustafa, who's been entrusted with taking care of all students. Thanks for all your support in September and I'll have a "LOVE YA BACK" special when I return. Also, I plan to start the book bursury upon my return.

Please email me (thadawgfatherphd@hotmail.com) while I'm on the road at and look for my updates in this space in the coming weeks.

- Tha Dawgfather Ph.D (Professional hot. Dawgger)



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What is an artist? Here's our take

ASHLEIGH GAUL
LINDSAY DOBBIN
Arts Junkies

To Plato, artists were entertaining but useless contributors to society. He kicked them out of his Republic. Toronto seems to have taken his principles to heart: the city's artists are generally exiled to NOW Island, a.k.a. Ward's Island, a.k.a. Stray Cat Island in the centre of the harbour.

Even within Dalhousie, the definition of the word takes on a different meaning from department to department. Those who reside in the Chase building would have you believe that the only artist ever was Escher. A biologist's definition of an artist, as taken from a first year lecture, is "probably just another failed biologist who bungs up the Golgi in all our textbooks." To archaeologists, the skeletons of artists are frustratingly incomplete. Within the English department, almost eighty percent of the required readings are written by dead authors.

So what is an artist?

And if an artist is successful, what is the product?

In the field of music, Britney Spears may produce a "CD," or a "disc," but Bob Dylan creates a "record." Visually, while James Cameron may create an entertaining "movie," David Cronenberg creates "films." That Bob Dylan's last album was not widely available on vinyl and that the strict definition of "record" makes reference to the gramophone seems irrelevant. That the application of antiquated terms to contemporary artists deemed successful confers an automatic endurance on their art seems more to the point.

When a relatively obscure musician dies, a press release is automatically sent out to the major music stores in North America. It details the deceased's entire back catalogue, highlighted suggestions for the buyers, and a list of postmortem releases. Since Ray Charles's death last June, three of these releases have garishly plastered their covers with his new crown: "genius" in both English and Portuguese.

It seems the only commonality in the definition of an artist is the inherent belief that the only good artist is a dead one. —AG

If you look in the dictionary for an apt description of what an artist is, you won't find a satisfactory answer. You will find, however, some very cryptic definitions (read: "a de-

scriptive term applied to a person who engages in an activity deemed to be an art" from Wikipedia) and some very specific definitions (read: "one who pursues a practical science, traditionally medicine, astrology, alchemy, chemistry" from the Oxford English dictionary).

One should not rely on dry dictionary definitions, however, for a description of what is a very personal endeavour: art. As Ashleigh said, there is not a universally accepted definition of an artist — it depends on who you ask.

But there must be something all artists have in common, right?

Well, we all have the potential to be artists. When we are born, I believe that we possess an insurmountable amount of creative energy. Children tend to be unaware of what they are doing, just do, and see things for what they could be and not for what they are — "That's not a blanket and two chairs! That's a castle!"

That creative spark becomes repressed in many because we are socialized to think rationally, which dampens creativity. The general process of teaching within the Canadian public school system is a good example of the repression of creativity.

Rather than posing problems, fostering understanding, and encouraging students to critically examine ideas and then integrate them into their lives, most teachers just give students information with little explanation of where it comes from and, therefore, treat them like objects.

But some are able to maintain that creative energy. Why is this? Generally speaking, those who become artists have felt alienated in some way or another in their life. Whether it has a physical, mental, or socioeconomic basis, an individual who feels alienated tends to sit on the outside, looking in. They either resist processes of socialization, view them through a critical lens, search for alternative groups where they could belong, become introspective or all of the above.

An artist is, therefore, not defined by what tools they use or what they produce, but by their inner disposition, which is filled with creative energy and childlike wonder. The artistic demeanor is revealed in many aspects of a creative person's life — not just in the easily identifiable artistic endeavours of painting and writing music. —LD

What do you think an artist is? Let us know by sending an electronic letter to arts@dalgazette.ca.

Scuba diving reveals an underwater world

HEIDI HARDING
Staff Contributor

This past weekend I had the pleasure of experiencing my first real scuba dive. Diving is fantastic — it's like visiting a different world. You swim and float about in the water, while watching fish, crabs and shrimp flee from your bulky figure. As our instructors said, "Scuba diving is not a graceful sport."

Before getting into the water, divers have to get all geared up. You have to struggle into a bulky neoprene wetsuit, and strap on a weight belt (usually around 30 pounds of lead weights), a clunky "buoyancy control device" and your air tanks. Top this off with a hood, mask, and three-fingered gloves, and you become a large, heavy black creature, nearly indistinguishable from the other divers. Your flexibility drops to near zero, and the sheer weight of your gear is something to be reckoned with.

Once you enter the water, it's a whole different story. The water takes a lot of the weight off your back, and the result is an amazing adventure. I had a purely magical moment when I watched a baby flounder swim across the seabed. A flat fish with two eyes on top might strike you as a very odd creature, but when you watch one in its natural habitat you discover that it actually looks pretty fine gliding across the bottom.

If it were not for my toes be-



It's better down where it's wetter!

coming increasingly numb, and the fear of running out of air, I probably wouldn't have left the water. Everywhere I looked, life flourished — making the thought of empty, desolate stretches of ocean floor an almost unbelievable thought. Even in the deepest, darkest depths of the ocean, research has shown that there are strange new creatures with amazing adaptability.

Yet these empty, desolate stretches exist — but not naturally.

Instead, the vacant areas come as the product of destructive fishing practices, such as bottom trawling. This form of fishing is when a large heavy net is dragged across the bottom of the ocean, picking up all the fish (commercial size or not), plants, corals, and other marine life that get in the way. This results in something

known as by-catch, which refers to all the commercially unimportant things the net drags up.

Many scientists regard bottom trawling as one of the leading causes of reduced biodiversity and severely declining fish stocks around the world. Fishermen do throw back the "unimportant stuff," but it's often already dead, damaged or injured beyond recovery. It certainly is not what one could call sustainable.

It's surprising that most don't know about these empty tracts of ocean.

If the average person could only see the life that is down there, they would understand the travesty that we are carrying out upon our oceans. It certainly hits you hard when you see the world under the sea for yourself.

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TOP 10

- 1 **"TODD McCALLUM'S NEW SEX CLASS" MAKING THE FRONT PAGE OF DAL.CA** Even his superficial classes are super-official.
- 2 **IT IS UNIVERSALLY ACKNOWLEDGED** that any man in possession of his own wits must be in want of Keira Knightly.
- 3 **WHY KEEP THE SAME TITLE FOR THE MOVIE ADAPTATION OF PRIDE AND PREJUDICE?** *Get Rich or Die Tryin'* was already taken.
- 4 **SNOOP DOGG'S NEW BRAND OF HOT DOGS ARE BEST WHEN COOKED** Until they thizzle.
- 5 **THE COMEDIC GENIUS OF "THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID"** Funny, in a slanderous sort of way.
- 6 **SKELETONS IN THE PARTI QUEBECOIS' CLOSET** Who would have thought the 1980s party scene could become the new separatism
- 7 **NBC TELLING MARTHA STEWART "YOU'RE FIRED"** Was it really necessary to send Donald Trump as the messenger?
- 8 **SOMALIAN PIRATES TRYING TO HIJACK CRUISE SHIPS** Arrrrrrridiculousness.
- 9 **50 CENT IN HALIFAX** He'll take you to "the Candy Shop." And he's not talking about The Freak Lunchbox on Barrington Street.
- 10 **PAUL MCCARTNEY BEAMING HIS PERFORMANCE OUT TO RUSSIAN ASTRONAUTS IN OUTER SPACE** I bet they wish they were "Back in the USSR."

HOT

The Goblet of Fire
World Series of Poker
The lameness of blogs
Selective hyperboles
Asian/American relations
Youth Club Records
Rolling papers
Holiday commercials
Territorial pissing
Jane Austen adaptations

NOT

The Arcade Fire
Drunken casino visits
The lameness of reviewing blogs
"The Best Band Ever!"
Asian/American cuisine
Neverland Ranch's Youth Club records
Term papers
Santa skipping Halifax cause there's no snow
Being piss poor
Pall Wall remixes

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

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STREETER

What do you think of your current place of residence?



"Bedford is pretty sketch."
 Ahmed Rostom, third-year neuroscience



"It's home. It's cool."
 Julu, sixth-year psychology



"I think that it's too far away. I live in Beaverbank."
 Cindy Melvin, second-year psychology



"Transportation bites. I live in Beaverbank too."
 Greg Blackmore, first-year undecided



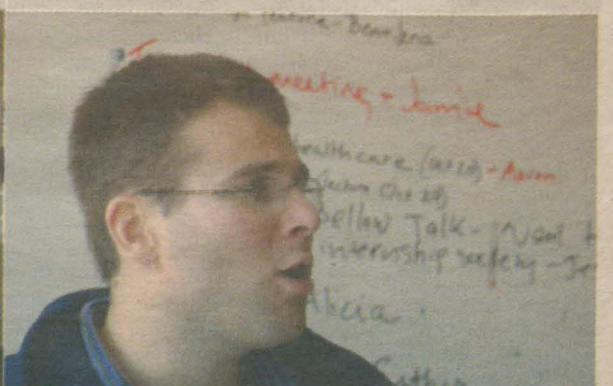
"I live in Cow Bay next to a concrete moose."
 Josh Zruna, second-year science



"I have to walk 45 minutes to the nearest bus stop."
 Krista Simpson, second-year ultrasound technology

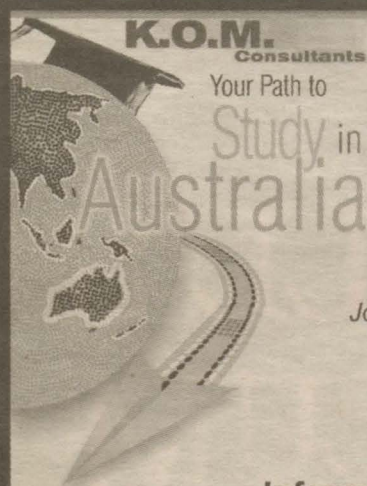


"It's expensive, but I live with ten other guys, so it's a show."
 Nima Malek, second-year chemistry



"It was pretty swank up until the incident involving a bottle of rum, some bananas and an unfortunate game of feces toss."
 Joey Ryba, third-year Planet of the Apes extra

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Today's musicians not just half-hearted imitators

RAY CORKUM
Staff Contributor

You've heard it before — the foundational principle for many of today's music reporters:

new artist + nostalgia / credibility = the next big thing

Ironically, today's music (rock 'n' roll in particular) is more often defined by comparing it to what has passed, rather than what is up-and-coming. Today's artists are scrutinized next to legends and icons whose talents often eclipse the potential of those following them. Talented, credible musicians are often expected to fill the shoes of someone who may have walked a very different path, thereby forcing the artist to become something else.

More dangerous to artistic progression is the "new Dylan syndrome." It has become common practice within the music media to deem an upcoming singer or band the second coming of a revered act. Artists saddled with this affliction are presented with an oftentimes insoluble problem — how to remain true to themselves and their music with the weight of the past hanging around their neck.

Conor Oberst must grow weary of such trials. The Nebraska born singer-songwriter has garnered acclaim and a feverishly loyal following in the years since his debut album, *Letting off the Happiness*. A gifted and diverse musician, Oberst and his band Bright Eyes seemed poised to make a difference in a stagnating music scene.

Then came Bright Eyes' standout album, *Lifted*. Soon, Oberst's name was on the lips of every member of the music media. He was hailed by *Spin Magazine* as "the next Bob Dylan" for his passionate, acoustically-driven album that is diverse in content and sound in execution.

Oberst is not alone in having been levied with this dubious distinction. It seems that any creditable songwriter will inevitably endure this "praise." Elliot Smith and Nick Drake were both chosen by the media as our very own "voices of the generation" — the same badge forcefully pinned on Dylan's chest years ago.



Bright Eyes, hailed by *Spin Magazine* as "the next Bob Dylan."

Dylan is not the only musician to which our current artists are compared. Other artists who have been elevated to messianic levels have their own "spiritual successors." Jesse Malin and Pete Dinklage, for example, are both the heirs to Bruce Springsteen. Oasis has been called (in absolute journalistic audacity) the "continuation of the Brit-pop triumvirate began by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones."

According to *Uncut* magazine, Nine Black Alps (an up-and-coming band hailing from London) are here to "kick start the Grunge revival" as the next Nirvana.

The list goes on and on. You may ask what the danger of such comparative journalism is. These artists (the Beatles, Dylan and Nirvana) are some of the most influential, talented artists in the history of rock 'n' roll, so why shouldn't every artist be held up to the most stringent of expectations?

The problem is multi-faceted. For starters, music created today is not the same as music of yesterday. The world is a different place, and its soundtrack should be viewed as such.

Just as we do not praise the half-hearted blatant imitators of great music, we should not attempt to

create "successors" who run the risk of living forever in the shadow of a memory.

Therein lies the second problem of this syndrome. How did you react when you read some of the names throughout this article? These artists' memories and musical catalogues carry an inherent weight and value. Would you ever be able to convince a Beatles fan that Noel and Liam Gallagher are the Lennon and McCartney of this generation? Such blasphemy would get you a Beatle boot to the head.

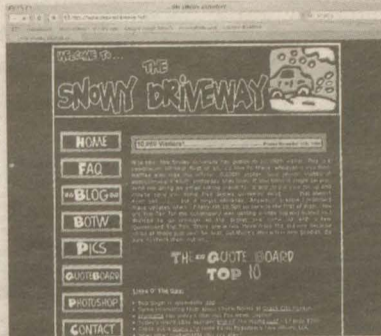
Nostalgia and iconography have startling effects on people. How can we have another Bob Dylan? Bob Dylan the man can't even live up to Bob Dylan the icon (a fact he has acknowledged repeatedly). As for the artists that have been saddled with the "new Dylan syndrome," they too must endure expectations that define the artist, in lieu of creativity and talent speaking for itself.

The days of musicians being bound and tethered to the past must end. An entire generation of music will pass by unappreciated if we cannot accept it for its own merits, instead of for the puffed-up expectations and delusions of grandeur that our nostalgia and limited memories have created.

Blogwatch

Your site, your words, your life... reviewed

Staff contributor Li Dong reviews Dalhousie students' weblogs in The Gazette's latest column, *Blogwatch*. If you are a Dal student, and you want your website reviewed, please e-mail the url to blogwatch@dalgazette.ca.



The Snowy Driveway

www.snowydriveway.net

Imagine you're a stereotypical male computer nerd. You play Counterstrike. You build towers for fun. And you use Linux.

Now imagine a surge of godly power was sent from heaven through your computer and traveled up your mouse, penetrated your skin cells, zoomed up your capillaries and right into your deepest desires before shooting out of your left ear.

Then, just when you think it's all over, the surge collides with a lone shred of estrogen floating in the air (pizza girl must've been over earlier) to produce — poof! — your dream girl!

What would she be like? Does she have proficient abilities in Photoshop? Would she be able to deliver the phrases "Pwn3d" and "j00 4r3 n0t l33t!!1" with a straight face? Has she big, giant, flirtatious eyes?

If so, then "The Snowy Driveway" is for you.

Stephanie Pelley's little corner of the Internet is actually more than just a blog. It's a whole website containing pictures, links and even a quote board.

You know all those obscure websites out there with random stuff that's kind of funny? She sifts through all of that to bring you the top-shelf material. Admirable work if you ask me.

If you grew up on video games you'll probably find that you relate to Stephanie's site quite well. Now if only she wasn't a figment of your imagination you'd be all set. Oh well. Back to *Quake* it is.



Mike Smit: Embrace the Insanity

www.mikesmit.com

I'm not going to lie to you. If Mike Smit changed the name of his blog to "Who is Mike Smit?" he would've gotten five stars. Hands down.

I really can't get over the fact that his name bears such close resemblance to the rapper "Mike Jones" whose debut album *Who is Mike Jones?* is deadly addictive. A reference to *Who is Mike Jones?* would've sent his coolness factor through the stratosphere.

Anyway, where was I? Oh yeah, Mike Jones... he's really not that great of a rapper, his lyrics aren't complicated like Jay-Z's or Nas', but his production team is top-notch. Their appeal comes from their creation of beats that makes you want to bob your head, you know?

That and the fact that saying "Mike Jones" is extremely catchy. Just try it. It rolls off the tongue. It gets into your head and you'll need a nail gun to get it out.

Mike Smit, however, differs from Mike Jones in a certain number of ways. For one thing, Mike Smit doesn't rap. I would describe his flow as "monotonously ranting." The dryness of his humor puts the island of Britain to shame.

As a big shot in the computer science department, Smit's blog seems to get a lot of traffic. It's entirely conceivable that he has the most popular blog in all of Dalhousie. So really, what's my beef here? Why do I insist on talking about the rapper instead of the student?

A while back when I was Googling my own name (don't pretend like you don't do it) I came across a comment that someone had posted on mikesmit.com. The comment read, "I was just chatting with Li Dong, and mikesmit.com came up A LOT. Stalker or annoyed and jealous *Gazette* writer?"

Now, I have no idea who posted that comment, or what context it was in, or whether it was even me who drunkenly typed it and posted it in Internet-land so that I would forget about it, and then one day find it again and go on a savage mission of revenge like that guy did in *Memento*.

Nevertheless, the point is: who is Mike Jones?



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Stephen Colbert, what are you trying to do to me? I had such high expectations when you left *The Daily Show*. You were my secret favourite. Sure, Jon Stewart has infinite charm, but you've mastered the deadpan like no one else.

Remember "this week in God" when you gave up the God machine button for Lent, or

when you finally cracked up after missing the button? Now Rob Corddry has taken over and you've been reduced to a mere Jon Stewart wannabe — and not a particularly good one either.

The Colbert Report is just so disappointing. I had such high hopes for the show, but you're

doing the same thing Jon is doing, just not as well, and right after him, too.

Sure, "the word of the day" is pretty funny, but that's it. And relying on bullets for comedy is a bit sad. I've already seen the funny news on *The Daily Show*, and your interviews leave something to be desired. There's only enough

room for one fake news show in this town.

Please just stop. Go back to *The Daily Show* and once again make it your personal challenge to make Jon crack up.

You know you want to, and we'll all love you for it.

ARTS HOLE: The sad state of fake news

Saman Jafarian / Staff Contributor

BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN
LINDSAY DOBBIN
Arts Editors

The idea of forming Youth Club Records came to local musician Andy March after reading a *Maclean's* article that detailed the Arcade Fire's unique success. The indie band from Montreal had broken onto the international music scene, not backed by any major label. The article went on to list several other Canadian indie success stories and the small labels that had coaxed them forth.

It was then that March realized Halifax was not being represented.

"Halifax wasn't even mentioned in the article," says March. "I realized that was a huge crime because the Canadian indie movement basically started here, and then those bands finished their time and nobody took up the slack."

March describes Sloan and Thrush Hermit as instigators of a scene that eventually found its way to Montreal and Toronto.

"They all broke, they were all going to be huge stars," says March. "Some of them were, some of them fizzled out."

March says he believes the momentum of the movement was never quite passed down into the hands of the next generation of musicians. Since Halifax's indie hey-day, most local performers have been flying by the seat of their pants on a hunt for the secret to Sloan-caliber success.

And while Montreal and Toronto have certainly been placed on the map by bands such as Broken Social Scene, the Arcade Fire and Godspeed You! Black Emperor, Halifax's talented and diverse music community remains relatively unknown.

A partnership and a philosophy

There are a number of smaller record labels functioning in Halifax such as Just Friends Records, Divorce Records, Out of Touch Records and Dependent Music. But as Dependent Music ups its marketing ante for heavy hitters Wintersleep and Contrived and becomes more well-known across the nation, this record label is becoming increasingly less of a collective-based indie label.

On the other side of the coin, Just Friends — featuring the likes of The Sweet Tenders, Brent Randall and The Maughams — is basically a collective of, well, friends that don't involve themselves too much with marketing and publicity outside of Halifax.

And while a few of the bands on



Seedling record label plans to grow with fresh and local artists

the aforementioned labels have encountered cross-country success, March says there is little interest among Halifax's purest of indie labels to expand to the scene at large.

"We need somebody who has got their ear to the ground, and is willing to pick up the people and put them together," he says.

March believes his label is more ambitious and focused than a friendly collective, yet not so profit-driven as to lose sight of his creative prerogative.

"I don't expect to make money," says March, who took out a loan to cover the expenses of starting and running the initiative. "I expect for it to grow and grow and grow."

Tyler Messick, label partner and songwriter of the Museum Pieces, deals mostly with the public relations aspects of Youth Club.

"He has been in the industry for a while... his contacts, and his networking skills are vital to the label," says March about Messick. "He also owns the studio where the bands record."

Since it's so soon after the formation of the label, there hasn't been many clear lines of responsibility drawn between March and Messick. The lack of divided responsibility is not only because the record label is still in its youth period, but also because of the organic nature of its philosophy.

"We're shooting for something organic, in the sense that it is both natural but also living and growing and thriving," March says.

Toronto label Arts and Crafts' set-up is particularly inspiring to March, and an approach he considers putting to work with Youth Club.

"Their approach, I realized, is they find bands with a common style

or thread," says March.

Arts and Crafts is no longer just a means of promotion for its bands, but instead represents a distinct style and sound, he says.

March is also a fan of Montreal's Constellation Records. "They generate something that all put together has meaning," he says. "The label is an artistic statement. It's a really beautiful thing."

March says this route is a big possibility for Youth Club Records and its bands Special Noise, Sharp Like Knives, the Museum Pieces (which March is a member of) and soon, reggae band Verbal Warmin'.

The fresh roster

March seems wholeheartedly enthused to discuss the Youth Club's bands, in particular Special Noise.

"I went to see them once, I actually cried after," he says. "I was so blown away. They were 19 and they blew my mind completely. I had never seen such incredibly and purity."

Jef Simmons of Special Noise reciprocates this amicable feeling.

"They're pretty down to earth guys and very personable. They're very easy to work with," he says. "We're all friends."

In the case of Special Noise, guitar and drums duo Jef Simmons and Greg Napier had already recorded an album and were looking for someone to pay for it. Somewhat affiliated with Out of Touch, the band hooked up with Youth Club. March paid for the pressing and printing of the self-produced album, in addition to doing a lot of the promotion.

Messick believes that his songwriting for the Museum Pieces is influenced by the style of Sharp Like Knives and Special Noise. The bands were all fairly different when they

joined the label but time together at each other's shows and as friends has made the diversity of sound and image more cohesive.

"Musically it's interesting to feel a camaraderie with them and then also translate that into a personal camaraderie," says Messick.

The hardships and beauty of working in the music industry

Thus far, the challenges March has encountered with Youth Club have been entirely logistical he says, adding "the fact that I am completely ignorant to any of the processes involved and just learning as I go" as another.

March says that he puts pressure on himself to take on the role of a center. He says he wants the bands he works with to feel as though he's taking them in a forward-looking direction. It's important for his presence to be reassuring to those affiliated with Youth Club, he says, but confidence can be hard to maintain while learning the ins and outs of running a small label.

"No one is going to teach me either, because it's secret knowledge," he says. "No one wants me to know."

March points to the management mentorship program that the Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia attempted to initiate as an example. The program would give \$50,000 to an aspiring manager who could find an experienced manager as a mentor, he says.

"The program completely failed because no manager is going to pass on their knowledge, not when it's taken them 30 years to figure out what the hell to do as a manager," says March.

Although March seems frustrated with the music industry's secretive-

ness, he says the unstructured nature of the institution makes it wonderful.

"There's no standards, there's no governing body. I can put out any record that I want to," he says.

As for large labels such as EMI and Universal, March is predicting their demise. "They're going down man, they're going down fast," he says. "They know it, too. What has Warner put out that anybody cares about? It's a joke."

March says smaller labels are more viable units of business due to the little cost it takes to run them. On the other hand, major labels will invest millions of dollars into a release and "build this one huge cannonball to fire out."

Smaller labels have proven to be creatively superior to the majors, says March, and more effective in generating loyal fan bases. Major labels are now using indie-cred to their advantage by buying mini-labels because March says "they'll make way more money [this way] than if they fake it themselves."

Gordon Lapp, Executive Director of the Music Industry Association of Nova Scotia, agrees with March.

"[Small indie labels] take the money and strategically spend it. It's not a shotgun approach," he says. "They just don't have the money to drop a half a million dollars on a new release and as a result it's becoming a more efficient spend. The indie labels or small labels are starting to really make a mark."

What's next

What March would like to see for Youth Club bands is a break into the Canadian community, where they can be discussed and recognized at a national level. Ideally, the bands would be in demand as performers not just in Halifax, but also beyond, growing organically with a solid foundation.

To do this, Messick says the next step for the label is to get national exposure and distribution.

"From there it's game over," he says, referring to how the label mates will be able to focus more on creating music and fostering a solid fan base.

With Youth Club Records, March hopes to develop a process that allows bands to continuously grow.

"They grow and grow, and people tell their friends," he says. "It's an organic concept."

Visit www.youthclub.ca for more information. Look in next week's issue for a discussion on small, indie labels.

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What is an artist?

On campus art exhibit celebrates the creativity of Dal and King's community

Laura Day
Libby Stoker-Lavelle
Staff Contributors

Are you an artist? The Dalhousie Art Gallery is holding its 52nd annual student, staff, faculty and alumni exhibition in December. The gallery is accepting original art of any kind, and is open to all artistic interpretations, amateur or professional.

This open invitation provokes the question, "What defines an artist?" To find an answer, *The Gazette* took to the streets and asked Dalhousie students and Haligonians their view.

We first hit the concrete at the LSC, where we got the reluctant answer: "creativity." With this ambiguous beginning, we promptly left the science building and turned to the bustling SUB. There, we interrupted Dal student Meagan Berryman at her studies. Meagan identified an artist as: "Someone with a special inclination to draw, paint or sing, or with special insight or talent to create beautiful things."

On the lookout for some talent, we encountered Dan Smeby, a NSCAD student with a decidedly post-modernist viewpoint.

"An artist is someone who makes art, and everything can be considered art because everything is created," said Smeby. "A bench can be considered art, a plant, a door: everything is scripted and everything is made either functionally or aesthetically."

Dan said his outlook was inspired by Duchampe's famous piece "The Fountain." In 1917, Duchampe, an infamous artistic revolutionary, signed a urinal with a fake name, took it off the wall and displayed it as artwork. Of course, this caused massive uproar in the art world, but it also arguably changed it forever.

Like it or not, "The Fountain" is still one of the most talked-about pieces of all time, and a recent poll of 500 art experts deemed it to be the most influential modern artwork.

If a urinal can be art, then perhaps anyone could be an artist. Given this logic, we left the Dalhousie campus and turned to the sandwich artists at the nearest Subway.

Dana, sandwich artist extraordinaire, was eager to chat about something other than sliced meat, veggies, and bread varieties. According to Dana, an artist could be a sandwich maker, or "anyone who puts their feelings into their work."

On the lookout for such an individual, we tracked down a few Dalhousie theatre students, who know a thing or two about displays of emo-



One of these is not like the other: Britney Spears may produce a CD or a disc, but Bob Dylan creates a record

tion. Emerald, an actress in her fourth year of the theatre program, said an artist is "someone who can take an idea that they have and present it to an audience. An artist shouldn't be pigeonholed into the artistic community. An artist is simply someone who can present an idea to an audience. Whether that idea flies or not doesn't matter. You don't have to be successful to be an artist."

With Emerald's definition in mind, we came across CKDU station coordinator Michael Catano who had a very different interpretation. Catano said an artist is "someone who can parlay a photograph of a photograph into 1.2 million dollars."

Catano was referring to Robert Prince, a controversial photographer whose photograph of an old Marlboro ad recently set a record at Christie's auction house, selling for \$1,248,000. Some might object to Prince's piece being defined as artwork, and Prince as an artist.

According to Steve Baur, a music professor at Dalhousie, an artist is "someone who makes something provocative or interesting that has no practical purpose." In this case, Prince certainly fits the bill.

Down the hall from Professor Baur, we found Nick, a Dal student and pianist, who says the term artist is used to distinguish between being an instrumentalist and something higher.

"A 10-year-old prodigy may be able to play a piece perfectly, but they are unable to express anything that is particularly profound," said Baur. "An artist is something you aspire to be beyond the purely physical skill."

On the hunt for the profound, we ventured downstairs to the Dalhousie Art Gallery, where the "Just My Imagination" exhibit is taking place. Sur-

rounded by intriguing art pieces, we encountered Julie, a NSCAD student who said an artist is "someone who responds creatively to their environment and has an ongoing discourse with their surroundings and with issues that impact them and the lives of others that are close to them."

We liked this answer, because most university students — of art and otherwise — are constantly responding to their environment and reacting to issues around them. Throughout the past century and beyond, university students have actively engaged with their surroundings, using their creativity and idealism to effect change in the world.

So hey, maybe we're all artists after all.

After we questioned Julie and her fellow NSCAD students, they turned the tables and asked us how many times we had explored the Dalhousie Art Gallery. Our answer was pretty shameful, but not so extraordinary: while many NSCAD students visit the gallery at least once per exhibition, the average Dal student is oblivious to this great resource right on our own campus.

According to Susan Gibson Garvey, the Dalhousie Art Gallery director and curator, "An artist is someone who keeps us awake, or someone whose art work keeps us awake, awake to our senses and feelings, awake to issues and ideas, awake to the primary amazement that anything should be."

The 52nd annual student, staff, faculty and alumni exhibition opens with a reception on Thursday, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. and runs until Dec. 18. The DAG is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit artgallery.dal.ca for more information.

sweet café space. The French toast is fabulous and everything tastes impossibly fresh. The menu and prices seem to vary week to week but the breakfasts are generally pretty affordable.

All the Dish

Libby Stoker-Lavelle
The phat lady

You woke up with the taste of beer in your mouth. You're hungover, cranky, and hungry. What you need is some good breakfast. Preferably something you can pay for with the change leftover from last night's revelries.

To help you fill that aching belly, here's a rundown of my personal favourites, from the greasy spoons to classier joints.

The Greek House on Quinpool Road offers up a super cheap, super big "jumbo" all day breakfast with coffee for \$3.49. The food is decent for the price, but nothing fancy. The potatoes are pretty fantastic though.

Cafe Vienna on Windsor Street is worth the walk to the North End. For \$5.15 you can get a plentiful turkey bacon and egg breakfast. For a few bucks more, there's an awesome Mediterranean plate. They have lots of vegan selections and everything

tastes pretty healthy — you won't leave feeling like the bottom of a deep fryer.

Mother Tucker's on Lower Water Street serves up a massive all-you-can-eat Sunday brunch buffet for \$12.95. It's pretty dark inside and the food isn't remarkable, but the made-to-order omelettes are delish. Plus birthday girls and boys eat free.

Cora's on Dresden Row, beside Pete's, serves up incredible breakfast and brunch plates with very generous portions. The food's a little bit pricey (plan on spending \$10 to \$20) but worth it. If you're not a big sauce fan, ask for less, since the kitchen tends to go a bit overboard on some dishes. Most of the menu is delicious and the raspberry and Nutella crepes are unbelievable. On weekend mornings the wait is long, so go early or late to avoid the 11 a.m. rush.

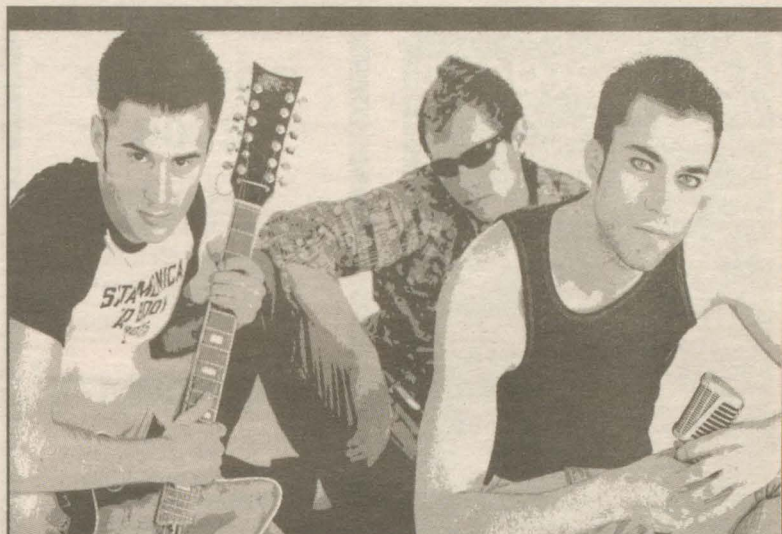
Annie's Place on Birmingham Road, off Spring Garden Road, makes delicious homestyle breakfast food in a

Jane's On the Common on Robie Street is also worth the walk North. The food, coffee and service are amazing and the atmosphere is charming. Breakfast will probably cost you \$10 and the menu is limited. But every dish is fabulous, fresh and just big enough. It's a small and popular spot, so there's usually a five to fifteen minute wait.

A few places I don't recommend:

The Ardmore Tea Room on Quinpool Road: some students swear by its cheap all-day breakfast, but I found the food and the service pretty poor.

Smitty's on Tower Road: the food isn't great, and not particularly cheap. Plus, most of the customers are over 70 years old, so it feels wrong to be laughing about how drunk everyone was the night before. And really, isn't that the best part?



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DAVE WENTWORTH
Sex Gourmand

Often when we eat a banana or lick a popsicle we are not trying to arouse sexual attention from onlookers. Food has been used, however, in a number of ways to convey images of sexuality, and to spice up sex life in the bedroom.

The first time I heard about food and sex was in junior high. I grew up in the valley and I had heard of guys drilling out a hole in the side of a watermelon and fucking it.

The next year, there was a rumor floating around about a girl in the next school over who used a frozen banana during masturbation and ended up in outpatients to have it removed after her vagina tightened around it so hard that it would not release the foreign fruit.

While I believe that the frozen banana debacle was more of an urban myth, I have heard of guys using watermelons to add something new to getting off.

Food is fun because it can be implemented on a number of levels, making it accessible to lovers that want romance, and others that like their sex more hardcore. Take for example strawberries and chocolate. Nothing could be more romantic than feeding strawberries to your partner, licking whipped cream and chocolate fondue off each other's hotspots and seducing your partner for some hot mouth to mouth with a succulent strawberry jutting out from your pursed lips.

As with most things, your imagination is really going to limit how far

you take things.

Ice can be a hot way to involve food into your play but avoid messes caused by foods like chocolate and honey. First, and this is especially pertinent with winter coming up, make sure that the room is hot. You do not want to ruin the moment with a chill or chattering teeth.

One great icebreaker (pun intentional) is "figure skating." This technique involves a couple making out while exchanging an ice cube back and forth. It chills the lips and will allow you to lick and nibble your partner and leave them begging for more.

One way to enliven oral sex is by crushing ice in your mouth before going down on your partner. He or she should appreciate the newness of this sensation, not only from the initial shock of your cold mouth on their warm jewels, but also the feeling of your mouth returning to its original warmth while they are receiving oral attention.

There is a wonderful and timeless saying that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach. Nowhere else is this more true than when it comes to aphrodisiacs. Coffee, in moderation, is a perfect mood enhancer and will give your partner plenty of energy to burn off during the night.

Spicing things up can also be very literal.

In Chinese medicine, black licorice and nutmeg contain aphrodisiacal properties for women. The value of these foods is not just sudden. Pineapple and honey, both of which are aphrodisiacs for men and women, also keep impotence at bay.

Dalhousie University

MSc Clinical Vision Science with concurrent Graduate Diploma in Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology

This professional two-year graduate program offered by Dalhousie University in partnership with the IWK Health Centre's School of Orthoptics/Ophthalmic Medical Technology provides students with unparalleled research opportunities in the vision sciences along with extensive clinical practice to prepare them for the profession of orthoptics/ophthalmic medical technology.

Orthoptists/ophthalmic medical technologists are allied health professionals who perform a wide range of diagnostic and highly technical procedures and, in consultation with an ophthalmologist, plan, implement and monitor treatment of a wide variety of ocular disorders, including disorders of binocular vision and ocular motility. They are engaged in a wide range of activities including research into ocular motility, education of other eye care professionals, patient education and vision screening.

The program involves 7.5 class credits, two extended practica and a thesis in an area of vision research. Students are permitted to exit the program after two years (prior to completing a Master's thesis) with a Graduate Diploma in Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Medical Technology.

Applications for the MSc (Clinical Vision Science) program beginning in September 2006 are now being accepted. Applicants must hold a four-year bachelor's degree with a minimum B average (GPA 3.0), with at least one undergraduate class in human anatomy and/or physiology, and a class in psychology with a laboratory component. Exceptional students may be accepted without these prerequisites on the condition that they are fulfilled either prior to or concurrent with the program. Work/volunteer experience in the health care field is considered an asset.

Students whose native language is not English must demonstrate the ability to participate in a graduate program conducted in English prior to acceptance into the program. The minimum acceptable score on the TOEFL test is 580 for the written test and 237 for the computer test. Financial assistance may be available to qualified students.

Deadline for applications is March 1, 2006.

Further information is available from our website www.dal.ca/cvs or by contacting

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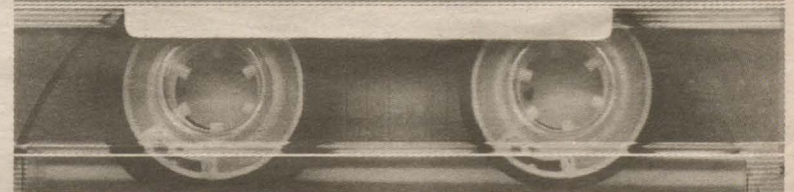
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Burn Baby Burn



ANYWHERE BUT HERE

SIDE A: LAURA STONE / Staff Contributor

This week's Burn Baby Burn is by no means trashing Halifax. We love the 'fax in all its end of term, work-infested, blistering-winded glory. It's just that sometimes, in the middle of an essay-induced panic attack, you need some tunes to soothe your weary, all-too-static soul:

- "Kokomo" - The Beach Boys
- "California Love" - 2pac and Dr. Dre
- "Island in the Sun" - Weezer
- "Graceland" - Paul Simon
- "New York, New York" - Ryan Adams
- "Ohio" - Neil Young
- "London Calling" - The Clash
- "Omaha" - Counting Crows
- "I Left My Wallet in El Segundo" - A Tribe Called Quest
- "Viva Las Vegas" - Elvis Presley

SIDE B: LIBBY STOKER-LAVELLE / Staff Contributor

Let's face it: it'll be getting pretty damn cold very soon, and all those final papers are quickly approaching. If you'd rather be baking in the sun or backpacking through Europe, here are a few tunes to fuel your escapist fantasies.

- "Sittin on the Dock of the Bay" - Otis Redding
- "California" - Mason Jennings
- "Mexico" - James Taylor
- "The Hideout" - Sarah Harmer
- "A Sailboat in the Moonlight" - Billie Holiday
- "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" - Israel Kamamawiwo'ole
- "Paris in the Springtime" - Ella Fitzgerald
- "Homeward Bound" - Simon & Garfunkel
- "Africa Bamba" - Santana
- "La Isla Bonita" - Madonna

The Gazette is looking to hire a hard working, responsible web designer to maintain and update our website over the course of the school year. Must be proficient with content management systems and be able to meet deadlines with little supervision.

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Open Letter to Rick Mercer

Dear Rick Mercer,
 You obviously don't know me but we go back to my pre- and early high school years. When it started to be rerun on Fridays, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* was described by my mom to me as a "bit East Coast" compared to *Royal Canadian Air Farce* (hey, it was on right after *Mr. Bean*). But I was hooked at first sight.

I can remember David Letterman's New York sensibility seem so far removed from my experience; it was a relief to have a cool, ironic and satirical news show with a cool ironic cast member such as yourself right here in Canada (and years before *The Daily Show* with Jon Stewart).

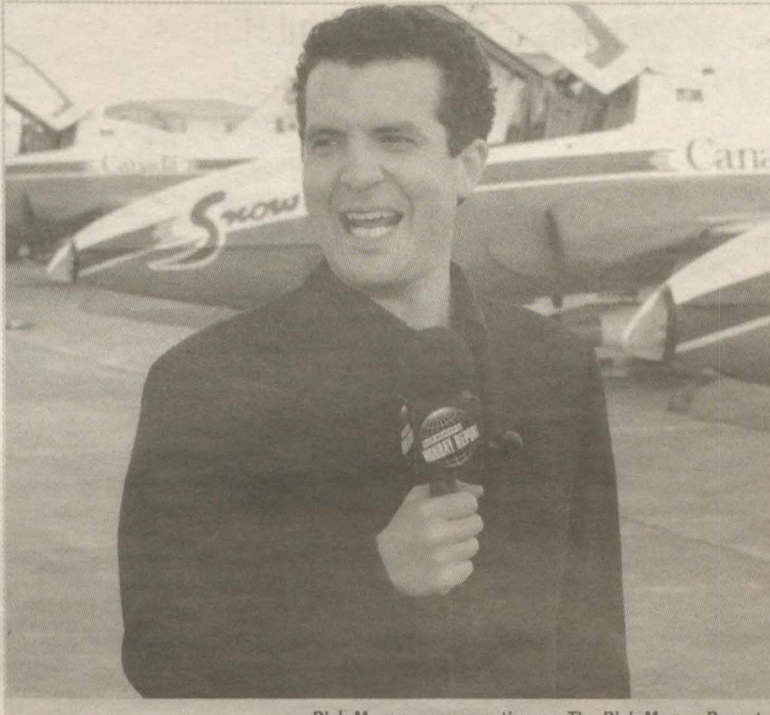
Back then, I didn't know where Newfoundland or Halifax was. Why I should care about Canadian politics (to make fun of it, duh!) or what to do on Friday nights after *The X-Files* fled to Sundays? Watching a funny-looking and funny-sounding guy being subversive and rude for a living made my painfully mediocre school grades seem more like a character boon than a flaw.

Thanks for that, man.
 And now the third season of your new show, *The Rick Mercer Report*, started on Nov. 6 and I am, frankly, underwhelmed.

For the past couple of years we have been forced to watch you go out on veritable dates with politicians and show off your string of Canadian-show-biz-star friends, which, thanks to the American-celebrity influence in our Canadian culture, no one watching is very impressed with. It's embarrassing to watch the guy who once rolled his eyes at the tome-like parliamentary resume of Prime Minister Chrétien hang on to every word of minority government, "By-the-skin-of-his-teeth" Prime Minister Martin.

Just like I was forced to listen to a thousand lectures from teachers about my potential, I am going to give you one of those talks.

I suppose the irony was that I got a lot of those talks in science classes where the only potential I showed



Rick Mercer, um, reporting on *The Rick Mercer Report*.

was my ability to synthesize what I learned on *Bill Nye, The Science Guy* into even more simple terms.

Maybe you like being the go-to guy for desperate "I'm hip, I'm with it" image softening? If so, that is sad. For a while back — when you just left *22 Minutes* and *Talking to Americans* was the first program, other than hockey, all Canadians sat down to watch together — you were poised to become the Canadian version of the colossal comic beacon Jon Stewart. Sorry to use the Jon Stewart comparison but what he does is use humor to tell what usually feels to me like the truth... there is nothing truthful or humorous about taking Belinda Stornach skating on the Rideau Canal... unless, of course, she falls on her ass. But you are so nice nowadays, you would probably edit that out.

So what happened? Was it the switch from Halifax to Toronto, ensemble to solo that mellowed you out? Possibly it was having all that money, potential and limelight thrust upon you that made you feel

reluctant to bite any hand that could potentially be feeding you.

The only other example of this phenomenon I can come with is, again, Jon Stewart. For a few weeks after *The Daily Show* moved into a flashier new studio, the show suffered with a sense of dislocation. But theirs was likely because Stewart and the writers felt they didn't quite deserve their windfall and they got over it in about three weeks.

Mr. Mercer, it has been three years.

I think of when I turned on *The Daily Show* for the first time and I now refer back to that night as when I started on the heavy stuff. This country maybe doesn't need a Jon Stewart clone or a late-night Letterman type but it does need someone who offers a counterbalance to the overwhelming bombardment of information by telling a joke.

You were that person once, how about giving it another stab?

Sincerely,
 Hillary Titley

Double Take

Play traces the descent of a superficial paradise into a realistic Hell

COLLEEN COSGROVE
 LAURA TRETHERWEY
 Staff Contributors



Land of the free? Actors carry the beginning of the end. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

The topic is American politics. A modest Wisconsin country home is the setting and a minimal cast of four hopes to entertain and provoke controversial thought in the minds of those in attendance. This is the play *God of Hell*, which runs at the Neptune Theatre until Nov. 27.

Written by Pulitzer Prize winner Sam Shepard, the play is a dark comedy that focuses on various realms of American politics and its affect on the people living in a small, country town.

The play's length is disappointing — only lasting a little over an hour — but the messages presented and the heavy subject matter make it seem longer. And that's a good thing.

Everything from the set to the dialogue are simple and to the point, proving a great contrast to the daunting and uneasy topic of American national security and the state of liberal democracies around the world. The play puts a light spin on the heavy topic and the four dynamic characters unabashedly portray every classic stereotype adding an ounce more of humour and yet another controversial topic for audience members to swish around upstairs.

God of Hell will consume your time for an hour but leave you thinking about it with both a smile and a look of concern on your face. The

smile is for the good laughs you had with friends, and because it's so easy to laugh at USA's flaws. And the look of concern is because these flaws undoubtedly penetrate our modest Canadian society and the "new America" *God of Hell* outlines so well. - CC

By no means would I claim to be a fragile audience member, but *God of Hell* pulled a theatrical "fast one" on me.

This "razor sharp comedy" never mentioned tragedy. By the middle of the play, nevertheless, even a nervous laugh would have been entirely out of place — even immoral. How did this happen? The modest, light beginning of *God of Hell* contrasts so strongly with the final scene of total dilapidation that audience members will find themselves feeling nostalgic for the play's initial scene.

This contrast, however, is the strongest aspect of the play.

Admittedly, a narrative that traces the descent of a superficial paradise into a realistic hell is nothing unique. But while *God of Hell's* storyline is not the most original, it's the style and grace with which the play deteriorates that is overwhelming. Even the most rigorous pessimist will not foresee the horrible changes taking place in the play — meaning the audience experiences shock and horror along with the characters.

Audiences will be disappointed in *God of Hell* if they are looking for a play that makes a lark out of the corruptness and insanity of the modern world. Instead, be prepared to see the beginning of the end of the United States of America, which Sam Shepard, the playwright of *God of Hell*, believes to be fast approaching. - LT

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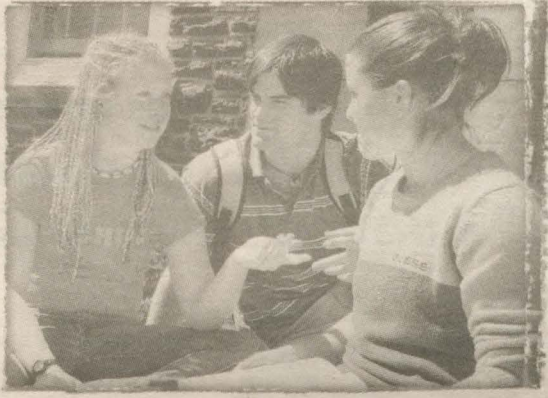
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Spin Spin Sugar

Sarah Harmer *I'm a Mountain*

Having been a fan of Sarah Harmer's previous two albums, I bought her latest release, *I'm a Mountain*, despite my misgivings towards the album's bluegrass/country genre.

Harmer's new songs will be a departure for the listener who has become accustomed to her delicate, poetic and poppy sound.

Producing an album completely in a certain music style runs the risk of alienating some listeners, but her take on the bluegrass eliminates the harsh twangyness that spoils most country songs.

The song "Goin' Out" sounds like a scaled-down version of a song that could easily fit in with the dreamy, melodic sounds of her earlier album, *All of Our Names*.

"Escarpment Blues" may be the nerdiest protest song ever written with Harmer listing the geological arguments against rock mining on the Niagara Escarpment in wonkish detail.

Harmer has created an engaging genre album and, despite sounding stylistically different from her previous two albums, it has the same en-



veloping effect — the perfect companion for quiet, lonely afternoons.

- Hillary Titley

Report Card

THE GRASS / Grad House / Nov. 10, 2005



Reporter: Eric Wainwright
Stage Presence: A-
Audience Reaction: B
Sound: B+
Effort: A-
Get-it-on-ability: A

Walking into the Grad House Thursday night to watch The Grass you could feel your good mood rising.

In support of the Dalhousie Integrated Sustainability Initiative (DISI) the band preformed for a packed audience. Caitlin Dolan and Katie McIntyre opened for the band with smooth harmonies, covering the likes of Ani DiFranco and Damien Rice with the violinist from the band adding depth to each ballad. The audience had yet to settle and was calmed by shouts of "shut up, this is good music" from friends of the performers.

Mackay Taggart and Nick Ball performed a short but powerful song concerning the pertinence of solar cooking before The Grass took the stage.

Crowded against the wall, the band members played with soul and comfort, reaching into their repertoire to mix their own songs with those of Neil Young, The Beatles and Bob Dylan. The audience, starving for space, surrounded the seven members of the band creating the impression that the music was a blend of every voice in the room.

Tables were cleared, people danced and the sound of "three chord country, jangly folk-rock, gritty 50s style power chording, mammoth arena rock and spirited do-wop group sing-a-longs" filled the air.

The band ended the night screaming Dylan's ageless question "How does it feel?"

Well it feels good when The Grass is playing.

Looking for exposure? arts@dalgazette.ca

Serial Fiction

ASHLEIGH GAUL / Staff Contributor

The apprenticeship of Quentin Spurlock: a de-flowered late bloomer
Quentin destroys his pod in the fifth edition of *The Gazette's* fiction column

Quentin hasn't eaten in a week. On Wednesday evening, having exhausted his admittedly meager store of artistic supplies, he emerges from the pod for the frantic few moments it takes to scour his closets and kitchen for materials in bathrobe, underwear, bed sheet, and shower and window curtain form. These shreds he twists into green and brown chaff like botanical balloon animals and pitches them into the open air.

By Friday morning, Quentin's hyperactive hands, absently grasping for a corner of tablecloth that has recently embarked on the journey of a metamorphosed ear of corn, enclose on a dusty pool of beaten bran. He lifts his hands to eye level and marvels at the new medium as it passes through his fingers like a preschooler discovering golden glitter. He spends the rest of the day swaying gently and musing on how bran is best to advantage dressed.

Quentin's "art" awakens his neighbours on Saturday morning as wheaty montages weave through

the lower balconies on descent. The source of the falls sits naked in his swinging pod, pasting the tan powder in agricultural arrangements onto his slacks and dress shirt with his own bodily effluences.

Later on that night, Quentin's realization that he is again out of material is closely followed by the realization that he is surrounded in material. He tears at his pod. Its lime green grain orders Quentin's ravenous slashes into neat long strips, as the destructor gradually emerges, first as a bobbing and disheveled head, and then as well as flailing arms and rhythmically diving shoulders. The artist's muscles bulge as the pod's supports gradually disintegrate. Robust green sinews wane to nets of tissue until eventually Quentin is supported by only a wavering capillary thread. The pod gyrates.

On Sunday morning, Quentin and the remnants of his pod sail over the balcony and burst open in the garden.

On Sunday afternoon, Quentin's editor arrives with the cartoonist's

weekly paycheck and an opened letter from Justiss Weissmuller. He shudders overtly and fixates on the apparent bloodstains in the parking lot and on a few of the garden's flower petals. He forgets to wave to Quentin and leaves.

Mrs. Weissmuller has this to say:
SO YOU THINK YOU CAN KEEP ON FOOLING ME?!?! - Dear Sir, by the way, or Id like to call you DEER sir cuz sir if I wasnt vegetarian I swear Id hunt you like a WOLF - but I'll tell you one thing that I'm not a LEMMING and I dont FOLLOW fools. I dont even KNOW what you were drawing last week....I think my kids now, I'll be back....oK WELL ITS FRIDAY AND i GOT TO MAIL THIS AND SO APPARENTLY YOU WERE DRAWING PLANTS AGAIN AND AS PER that SURE DRAW PLANTS AND i GOT NO PROBLEMS EXCEPT THAT ITS fuckin boring!!
sIGNING OFF,
MRS. JUSTISS WEISSMULLER

- THE END -

Celebrity Quote of the Week

"If I was stranded on a desert island, I would take my cat because I could play with him and he'd entertain me and I could eat him."

- Kirsten Dunst



The

SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

For Pete's Sake

PETER WHITE
Editor-In-Chief

We have all made a lot of decisions that have gotten us to where we are today. Sure, we may only be young, but already we question the choices that we have made. We wonder where we could be had things turned out a little differently. For me it all started when I noticed that I am now older than a wide range of hugely famous and financially successful people. I'm 22 years old, and for the most part feel fairly satisfied with my place in the world. But then I read that 'Lil Bow Wow' just turned 18 and is, according to his official website, a "music, film and television powerhouse".

Now I'm not trying to say that this 'Lil Bow Wow' character doesn't deserve his fame and fortune, Lord knows he does. How his hit movie "Like Mike" didn't win an Oscar, I'll never understand; but he can't be that much more talented than the rest of us. Is it possible that by making a few different choices I could be on MTV Cribs showing off my disgusting mansion? My obscene house that has a TV in the ceiling above my bed so that I don't have to waste energy propping myself up to see the one on the wall? Granted, no matter how many different decisions I made I could never be a Sidney Crosby. Some freak of nature with enough natural talent to choke a goat. But I see no reason I couldn't be a Macaulay Culkin. Some kid who happened to be in the right place at the right time and was paid millions to look cute alongside Joe Pesci and the late John Candy. That's it, I can see it now. If I had just made a few different decisions, I easily could have become a successful actor and not be rotting away in this mediocre life that I have now.

After putting a lot of thought into it, I've done what any bored loser would do in the same situation: I've gone back through my entire life to determine what decisions I could have changed in order to become rich and famous before I turned 20. Of course, there is no way to go back in time in order to carry out this plan. At least not yet. You never know what the future may hold, and it never hurts to be prepared. That's what the Boy Scouts taught me. The Boy Scouts also taught me that the Boy Scouts is the most boring thing in the world. That is an important lesson and I am forever grateful for it.

The changes will have to start very early in life. Almost immediately I will have to learn how to communicate with my parents and convince them to move. This will be tough as I didn't even learn to walk until I was two, but sacrifices have to be made. I'll never get a role alongside stars like Christopher Lloyd living in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia. Also, my dad will have to change professions. High school principals are important and all, but they very rarely rub elbows with anyone in a position to make me a superstar. In order to help my career, it would only be polite of Dad to learn the elegant diction of the legendary Michael Cain. Or at very least get the British accent.

Once we're in Hollywood, I'll spend my early childhood years working on my figure and doing a bit of hack work in order to get my foot in the door. Maybe I'll do a few of those diaper commercials where the kids run around bare-assed. That will force me to keep in shape, since you don't want to be seen naked on TV if your



assets aren't in perfect form. Also, I've heard that a number of famous actors/actresses such as Sylvester Stallone and Cameron Diaz did some soft core pornography before hitting the big time. I guess it sort of gives you a little kick in the pants, making you strive a little harder to make it. And when you're only two years old, there are limited soft core opportunities, so I'll have to take what I can get. This early work will be my first opportunity to get discovered and ultimately become rich and famous.

If for some reason I don't become insanely rich as a toddler, my second chance will have to be around the age of 10 or 12. This is the prime time to become a smart aleck, but ultimately cute and loveable little scamp in a sitcom or movie. In my real life at age 10, I was preoccupied with studying Dinosaurs. Like that was ever going to get me anywhere. No one famous studies Dinosaurs. Except Ross from "Friends" I suppose, but no one wants to be either Ross or that guy who plays him. So, in my new life I'll scrap the Dinosaurs, get a cute haircut, and learn how to deliver cocky sounding smart mouth lines while still looking cute and loveable. I wonder if I'll be able to befriend Michael Jackson like Macaulay did?

My next shot at fame and glory will be around the age 16, where I will have the chance to play an angst ridden junior high teen/pre-teen. Maybe I'll follow in the footsteps of one Canada's biggest teenage stars: Degraasi's Joey Jeremiah. In order for me to be half the success that Pat Mastroianni (the guy who played Jeremiah) had, I'm going to have to do pretty much the exact opposite of what I've done in my real life. My real junior high career involved very little except sitting at home alone watching "The Simpsons" and playing video games, and generally being a pretty happy loser. Far from the edgy, hip, youngster I would have to be in order



to become a child superstar. Also, I'd have to lose my fear of girls.

Now, with the flawless half assed plan that I have presented so far, it only stands to reason that by the time I turn 19 I will be an absolutely enormous star; but if by some strange twist of fate this hasn't happened, I will have only one last chance to become rich and famous before I turn 20. At this point in my real life, I would just be starting my University career, and obviously this decision has done very little to make me famous. So in my new life, I will most certainly scrap this whole engineering thing. But that doesn't mean that I won't be studying. Only instead of learning math or history, I'll be reading from the book of Zach Morris. Morris of "Saved By the Bell" fame is chosen to emulate in a tough decision over Will Smith from "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" for a couple of reasons. The main one being that I don't look so good with my hair in a fade. There is also the fact that I'm neither black nor a rapper, but those aren't nearly as important an issue as the fade. So Zach Morris I will become, and through the miracle of cosmetic surgery, I will transform my looks into that of a trouble making, yet ultimately sweet and innocent California teenager.

If you've made the mistake of reading this far into the article, you've surely noticed that I have brought forth an almost foolproof plan of becoming incredibly rich and famous before I turn 20. So all there is to do now is to sit back, and wait for the money to come rolling in. If I were you, I would try to become best friends with me right now, so that you can get in on the limitless cash that will be coming my way. Of course there is still the small hang up that is time travel, but I can only assume that it will clear itself up in the not to distant future. I mean, there has got to be some sort of benefit to me taking engineering for all these years.

Random Google of the Week

We take a standard, Sexton Campus related word or phrase, and plug it into Google Images search engine. If you've never done a random Google Images search, you haven't lived.

This week's searched phrase is:
"Batteries"



"Finally, something for the idiot who is tired of fussing with cords"

Send your suggestions for the Random Google Search of the Week to sextant@dal.ca

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Sports Editor: **Joey Ryba**

Contact: sports@dalgazette.ca

Women's 5-km

Top Dal runner: Janice Ashworth (silver medal)
Dal 10th overall

Men's 10-km

Top Dal runner: Paul Chafe (bronze medal)
Dal fifth overall

Men's hockey

Nov. 18 @ 7 p.m. Dal Arena,
Dal vs STU
Nov. 19 @ 7 p.m. Dal Arena,
Dal vs UdeM

Women's basketball

Nov. 19 @ 1 p.m. Dalplex,
Dal vs MUN
Nov. 20 @ 1 p.m. Dalplex,
Dal vs CBU

Men's basketball

Nov. 19 @ 3 p.m. Dalplex
Dal vs MUN
Nov. 20 @ 3 p.m. Dalplex
Dal vs CBU

Women's volleyball

Nov. 18 @ 6 p.m. Dalplex
Dal vs MUN

CIS CROSS-COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIP

Men's hockey
Dal 2 Acadia 6
Dal 4 STU 5
Dal 0 UdeM 7

Women's volleyball
Dal 3 UPEI 0

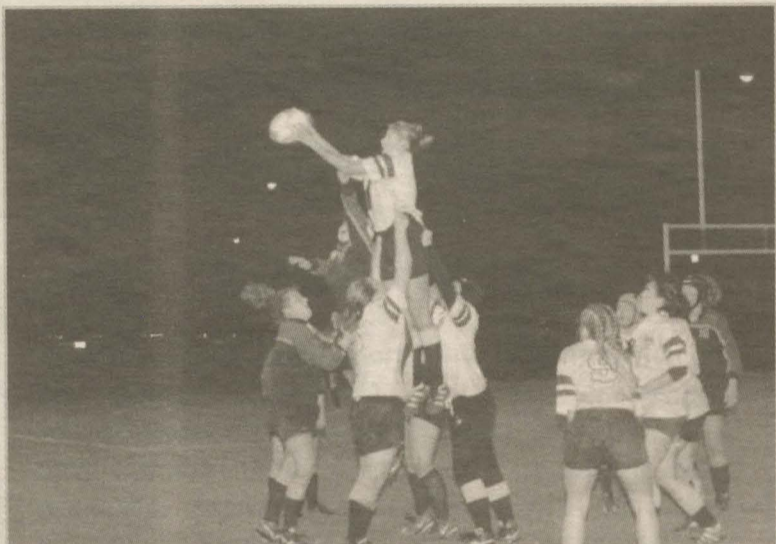
UPCOMING GAME SCHEDULE

Men's volleyball
Dal 3 UNB 0
Dal 3 UdeM 0

Women's basketball
Dal 54 UNB 58
Dal 57 UPEI 60

Men's basketball
Dal 64 UNB 67
Dal 71 UPEI 67

VARSITY RESULTS



Dal crushes Mt. Allison in the Women's Rugby League championship.

Women's rugby team wins back-to-back championships

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

The Dalhousie Tigers women's rugby team captured the Maritime University/College Women's Rugby League championship, defeating Mt. Allison on Saturday, Oct. 29 in Sackville, N.B.

The club league consists of Dal, King's, NSAC, CBU, Mt. A., UNB, STU and Holland College.

In the semi-final, Dal squared-off against UNB at the Halifax Commons. The Tigers were anticipating a good game, but proved too strong for UNB and outran them all game en route to a 36-5 victory.

In the championship game, Dal battled Mt. A. in front of a packed house. The huge, boisterous crowd hurled insults at the Tigers throughout the game. The Tigers channeled the crowd's energy and put together a strong 24-5 win.

"We effectively took the crowd out of the game by crushing their team," says Dal captain Lauranne Hutton. "We had a lot of big hits and it was the best crowd of the year. They weren't our fans, but it was nice to play in front of that many people."

Hutton says that it was a great feeling to win the championship, which was the team's second in as many years.

"The team was really excited," says Hutton. "There were a lot of first-year players with us and everyone was really pumped up."

Although undefeated, the Tigers improved with each game this season. The team was often plagued by injuries — so many, in fact, that Hut-

ton says that this year was the worst season for injury problems.

Fortunately, the Tigers had several players step-up to fill the void.

Eleven Tigers received all-star honours; five of the league's top-10 scorers were from Dal. Nickie Bourage, Charlie Muise, Lauranne Hutton, Lindsey MacKaskill, Alex Waters, Fiona Hysert, Many Wells, Rachael Doucet, Emma Placaz, Laura Hodgson and Jess Young were all named to the all-star team.

Jess Young, star of the team, balances her time between rugby and law school. Hutton describes Young as an awesome rugby player who's good for two or three tries a game.

Even though Young is a standout player, Hutton says rugby is a team game and one person can't win it.

"Although one person might score all your points, it's because the team has gotten the ball to them in good position and has supported them all the way down the field," she says.

One highlight of the season was the early October trip to Cape Breton. The Tigers took on the Cape Breton Capers at the Hub Field. The game was a lop-sided affair — Dal destroyed the Capers 62-0 — but not as lopsided as last year's match, when Dal won 108-0.

The Tigers capped off the trip with a Saturday night outing to Sydney's Smooth Hermans and the Rum Jungle.

The women's rugby team is currently on break, but will return to action in March when they compete in an indoor tournament in Truro, N.S. Kathryn Lewis and Glen Cook coach the team.

Coach Campbell wants to bring the love of basketball back to Dalhousie

DANIEL REED
Sports Contributor

After four years of quietly building his vision through trial and error, John Campbell, head coach of the Dalhousie Tigers men's basketball team, wants to give the fans something to cheer about.

General consensus has it that Dal's sports team fanbases are miniscule for a school of its size, and the basketball team's losing track record has done little to spark the student body's interest.

Last season, the men's basketball team averaged 174 fans per game. Coach Campbell says he thinks that this has been a problem, but feels the 2005/06 campaign will help his team to regain some much needed attention from the students.

"Everyone wants to be part of a winner," says Campbell. "So for us, it's important that we can take that next step and not only be competitive, work hard and be exciting, but actually win games. I think if we're able to do that, we'll be able to generate some excitement both on campus and off."

For years, the Dalhousie men's basketball team was arguably the bottom feeder of the AUS.

Last season, the Tigers sported a losing record of 7-14. The term "heart-breaking loss" summed up most of the team's contests. Provincial rivals such as St. Mary's, St. FX., and Acadia regularly provided tough competition for Dalhousie, and would end up outplaying the Tigers on a regular basis. Campbell's first four seasons at Dal have been no different.

Campbell says the players have put a relatively exciting product on the floor the last couple of years, especially in their style of play.

But they haven't been able to win a lot of games, which really makes it hard to gain any momentum.

Despite a track record that's not on their side, Campbell says the Tigers of 2005/2006 are a whole new story.

"In the preseason, our team's been very hard-working," says Campbell. "The hard work we've been putting in will allow us to go from being competitive, to now winning games."

The Tigers boasted a 6-2 record through the course of the preseason, and were able to string together a five-game winning streak to close out the team's exhibition schedule.



Dal men's basketball coach John Campbell wants to take his team to the next level.

Coach Campbell is depending on his fifth-year point guard and captain, Dan Bustillo, to motivate and spark a team filled with potential standouts.

"Dan Bustillo is our MVP from last year," says Campbell. "He's steady, and is like a coach on the floor in many ways."

Bustillo isn't the only player on the Tigers roster that's generating a preseason buzz. Senior wings Monte Francois and Matt Brooks have improved over the last few seasons and have put up big numbers in the preseason.

Brooks led the Tigers in scoring and rebounding last season, averaging 14.3 points per game during the preseason. And Francois, known to play a great lock-down defense, averaged close to 17 points a game in the preseason.

The title of ex-factor for the upcoming season rests on the second-year centre, Germain Bendegue. Campbell hopes Bendegue will provide his team with an inside presence that the Tigers haven't had in years. Bendegue's long arms and leaping ability grants him a rare capability to block and alter shots coming his way.

With the season about to start, Campbell is preparing for the competition he will have to face in the AUS, and calls the conference the toughest in the country from top to bottom. Aware that his team will be challenged every night, Campbell has assembled a hard-working team that thrives on tiring out its opponents. Campbell has set goals, and feels that once they are achieved, Dalhousie will be established as having a well-respected basketball program.

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Runners Ashworth and Chafe lead Tigers at nationals

MIKE TWEEDALE
Staff Contributor

In a calm breeze and under clear skies, 241 athletes representing 22 universities from across the country converged on Point Pleasant Park Nov. 12 to compete in the CIS cross-country championship hosted by Dalhousie.

For the second year in a row, the Dalhousie Tigers were led by the outstanding performances of Janice Ashworth and Paul Chafe.

On the women's side, the University of Guelph Gryphons prevailed over the Toronto Varsity Blues while Dalhousie finished 10th.

Ashworth finished second, 30 seconds behind the Blues' Beth Wightman, who covered the 5-km course in 16:54 to claim her third CIS championship in four years, and 13 seconds clear of Laura Moulton, who claimed third-spot for the Gryphons.

"I think [Point Pleasant] is one of the best courses in the country," said Ashworth. "It is just beautiful along the water and there are lots of different turns and ups and downs, which makes it really exciting to run — and there are lots of great places for the spectators to see you too, so that is really good for the energy."

It was a third consecutive silver medal in as many CIS appearances for Ashworth, who admitted that her best effort was not enough to get to the top of the podium.

"I thought maybe I could stick

with [Wightman] for longer, but she was just really on her game today," said Ashworth. "She dominated."

In the men's 10-km event, Chafe capped off an outstanding university cross-country career with a bronze medal finish.

Cristiano Mauzicio of the University of Windsor Lancers was unbeatable in claiming his second consecutive CIS individual title with a dominant performance. He covered the course in 30:16, 20 seconds ahead of runner-up Scott Arnald from the University of Waterloo, who shaded Chafe by six seconds.

The Lancers took their third consecutive overall men's team title and narrowly edged the Gryphons. The Tigers finished fifth.

Chafe set out this year to improve upon his fourth-place finish at last year's CIS championship. He increased his mileage during training in the early part of this year when he covered 120 km to 140 km per week in preparation to be in top form for his final university cross-country race.

Briefly raising his arms as he crossed the finish line in a personal best time was a gesture that expressed more than just the joy of one day's accomplishment. More significantly, the gesture was the culminating moment of years of work and a very successful finish to five years of competition.

Assistant coach Al Yarr said that Chafe ran a very smart and tough race.

"He gave everything he had and paced himself extremely well," said Yarr. "He realized that number one was out of the question and battled hard for number two and he got a third out of it."

Leading the chase group for much of the race's first lap, Chafe, who is known for combining leg strength with carefully planned tactics, also realized that getting to the podium wasn't going to be easy after witnessing the blistering pace set by Mauricio.

"I was leading the chase pack guys and I had a feeling that one of the leaders was going to come back, and I wanted to catch the guy in first, but it wasn't in the cards today, so I dug in and kept going," said Chafe.

Dalhousie's Robert Jewer and Matt Sheffield cracked the top-25 individual finishers, each breaking the 32-minute barrier by finishing in 31:30 and 31:48, good for 18th and 25th place, respectively.

Nicolas McBride, who was also competing in his final university cross-country race, put in the best performance of his career by breaking through the 33-minute barrier to finish in 32:42.

"It felt great to go out in my fifth year and just to have Matt and Paul here running well in their fifth year too," said McBride. "My goal was to break 33, and to come back after a rough October to do that is pretty special in the last race on the home course."

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

FEMALE ATHLETE



JANICE ASHWORTH
CROSS-COUNTRY

Janice Ashworth captured her third consecutive CIS silver medal this past weekend as Dalhousie hosted the 2005 CIS cross-country championship. Her time was 17:10 for the 10-km course at Point Pleasant Park and she led the Tigers to a team finish in 10th place. Ashworth is a third-year environmental science and IDS student from Dunrobin, Ont.

MALE ATHLETE



PAUL CHAFE
CROSS-COUNTRY

In his fifth and final national cross-country championship, Chafe raced his way to a podium finish for the first time. He won a bronze medal with his time of 30:42 for the 10-km course at the 2005 CIS cross-country championship. He was the top individual finisher for the Tigers who took fifth place in the team standings. Chafe is a fifth-year biology and history student from Railton, Ont.

Men's volleyball team focuses on AUS — despite history of dominance

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Staff Contributor

Dalhousie men's volleyball team is renowned at the Atlantic University Sport conference for strength and domination.

There are strong competitors of course, but few teams in the AUS have proven they have what it takes to really make Dal squirm.

The 2005/2006 season is no different for the Dal Tigers.

Sports enthusiasts abroad can recognize the unique feat of playing a team of lower caliber, and the amount of concentration it demands to focus on not lowering the level of your own play. Fourth-year star Jeff Weiler says the team uses these matches as a way to focus on their own play, not concerning themselves with the other side of the court as much.

"It's not that difficult [to not play down a level], but it is something we try to focus on," says Weiler. "Even if the team is not that competitive, there are still things we need to work on as a team."

The goal for all varsity athletes is to win a conference banner and move on to compete at the CIs. The men's volleyball team may be known to dominate, but Weiler enforced that they can't underestimate a number of their competitors and the focus must still be on their league.

"UNB is our toughest competitor," says Weiler. "In my opinion they have great coaching and are talented. We only beat them in five sets last year at AUs. We don't want to look past our league."

Once the team is through the gate and on its way to CIs, Weiler says the players' focus will shift to playing the best they possibly can.

In years past, Dalhousie has shown its competitiveness — but historically the matches have come down to five-set battles in which Dal misses the mark, by only a few points, in the crucial fifth set.

"We need to play well to get ourselves into that position, and focus on how to get there not on the outcome. The rest will all fall into place," Weiler says.

But playing against the best teams in the country is a new ball game. "The difference between playing 95 per cent and 100 per cent could mean a loss," he says.

"There is not a big difference between winning and losing and its difficult to play 100 per cent all of the time. When it comes down to it we just need to play as best we can."

Tough competitors may be few and far between, but the Dalhousie Tigers men's volleyball team is sure to put on a great show.

Weiler's remarkable digs in the back row and the overall talent of the men's team are sure to please the average volleyball fan.

Preparations for a successful season are in full swing. The team is traveling this season with trips to Manitoba, Quebec, and Saskatchewan.

The Tigers are broadening their experience, eying up competitors, and gaining momentum for that big competition in March: the CIs.

With great focus and a strong roster full of potential, the men's team looks poised for yet another banner year.

10 QUESTIONS

With Rob Dunphy, Dal Hockey Sensation

By: Jenny Cooper / Staff Contributor

Boxers or Briefs?
Boxers or none.

What do you do for a pre-game ritual?
So far, shaving my number in my chest: it gets the boys pumped.

If you could describe your Dal experience in one word, what would it be?
Hung-over.

Who's your dream girl?
Angelina Jolie.

Where can you be found on a Saturday night?
Drinking with the guys at The Pal-

ace, to celebrate a win or to forget a loss... either way, I'm drinking.

Do you watch *Desperate Housewives*?
No, but I watch *The OC* and *Prison Break* and I'd definitely like to meet those housewives.

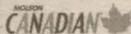
Give me your best skinny-dipping story.
After we won nationals in Jr. A., I dove into a pool with only my medal on. When I came to the surface, the coach's wife was standing nearby with her jaw dropped.

What do you think efforts of this year's sports editor?
He sucks, but his job gets him more

ass than a toilet seat.

If you were the king of the world for one day, what would you do with your powers?
I'd shut down Dal for the day and fly all its students to a tropical destination and party like its 1999. The Dal Tiger (Mascot) would obviously be there as well.

Given the option, would you shave off or wax off your body hair?
Neither. I'd get laser surgery so it would be gone forever; unfortunately, I'd have to get a new pre-game ritual like going to the Ardmore with Jonah.



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CIS Championship Photos

Photos by: Nick Pearce & Rafal Andronowski



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DALENDAR

Send your Dalhousie related events to: dalendar@dalgazette.ca (FREE)

Friday, Nov. 18

Free Hawaiian Shabbat Dinner
Hosted by the Jewish Students' Association
7 p.m. @ 1881 Walnut Street
[info: jsaeast@yahoo.com](mailto:jsaeast@yahoo.com)

Tony Lee XXX Hypnotist

8 p.m. @ the Grawood
\$6
[info: Tara.Berthier, dswvpsl@dal.ca](mailto:info:Tara.Berthier,dswvpsl@dal.ca)

Cuff The Duke and Two Hours Traffic

10 p.m. @ Stage Nine
\$8adv / \$10door

Centre for Foreign Policy Studies Seminar Series - Ear Candy: Canada and the Darfur Crisis

Lecture by Kim Nossal, head of department of political science, Queen's University
12 p.m. @ Life Sciences Centre Room 242

Free
[info: 494-3769](mailto:info:494-3769) or centre@dal.ca

Saturday, Nov. 19

Cuff The Duke and BA Johnston
10 p.m. @ Stage Nine
\$8adv / \$10door

Monday, Nov. 21

Lecture: Toward a Global Citizenship: Early Childhood Education and the Global Community with Stephen Lewis
7:30 p.m. @ Ondaatje Hall, McCain Building
Free
[info: Angela Trainor, \(902\) 494-6552](mailto:info:Angela.Trainor,(902)494-6552) or angela.trainor@dal.ca

Tuesday, Nov. 22

So You Want To Work In Animation?
A seminar with some of the over 250 people in Halifax who work in the animation industry
8 p.m. @ Dalhousie Art Gallery
Free

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Fritz the Cat
The first X-rated feature animated film
12:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. @ Dalhousie Art Gallery
Free

J.D. McLean Memorial Lecture: My Art, with Jose Antonio Valverde-Alcalde

5 p.m. @ Scotiabank Auditorium, McCain Building
Free
[info: Nancy Webb, n.webb@dal.ca](mailto:info:NancyWebb,n.webb@dal.ca) or 494-6984

Thursday, Nov. 24

An Evening of Ethical Consumption as part of Make Poverty History/Make Trade Fair with Oxfam
6 p.m.-9p.m. @ the Khyber Club, 1588 Barrington St.
Dinner with music, fashion show, guest speakers, entertainment
Tickets at door
[info: lbriscoe@dal.ca](mailto:info:lbriscoe@dal.ca)

Dijon year-abroad info session

11:30 a.m. @ McCain Building Room 1102
[info: www.dal.ca/dijon](http://www.dal.ca/dijon) or Natalie Wood 494-2430

Global Development Seminar Series: Sport and Grassroots Peacebuilding in Sierra Leone

12 p.m. @ McCain Building Room 2118
Free
[info: 494-3814](mailto:info:494-3814) or ids@dal.ca

Friday Nov. 25

Health Law Institute Seminar Series: Changes on the Horizon: Pan-Canadian Planning for Health Human Resource Needs
12 p.m. @ Weldon Law Building Room 312
Free
[info: Barbara Carter 494-6184](mailto:info:Barbara.Carter) or [Stephanie Revov 494-6881](mailto:Stephanie.Revov)

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