

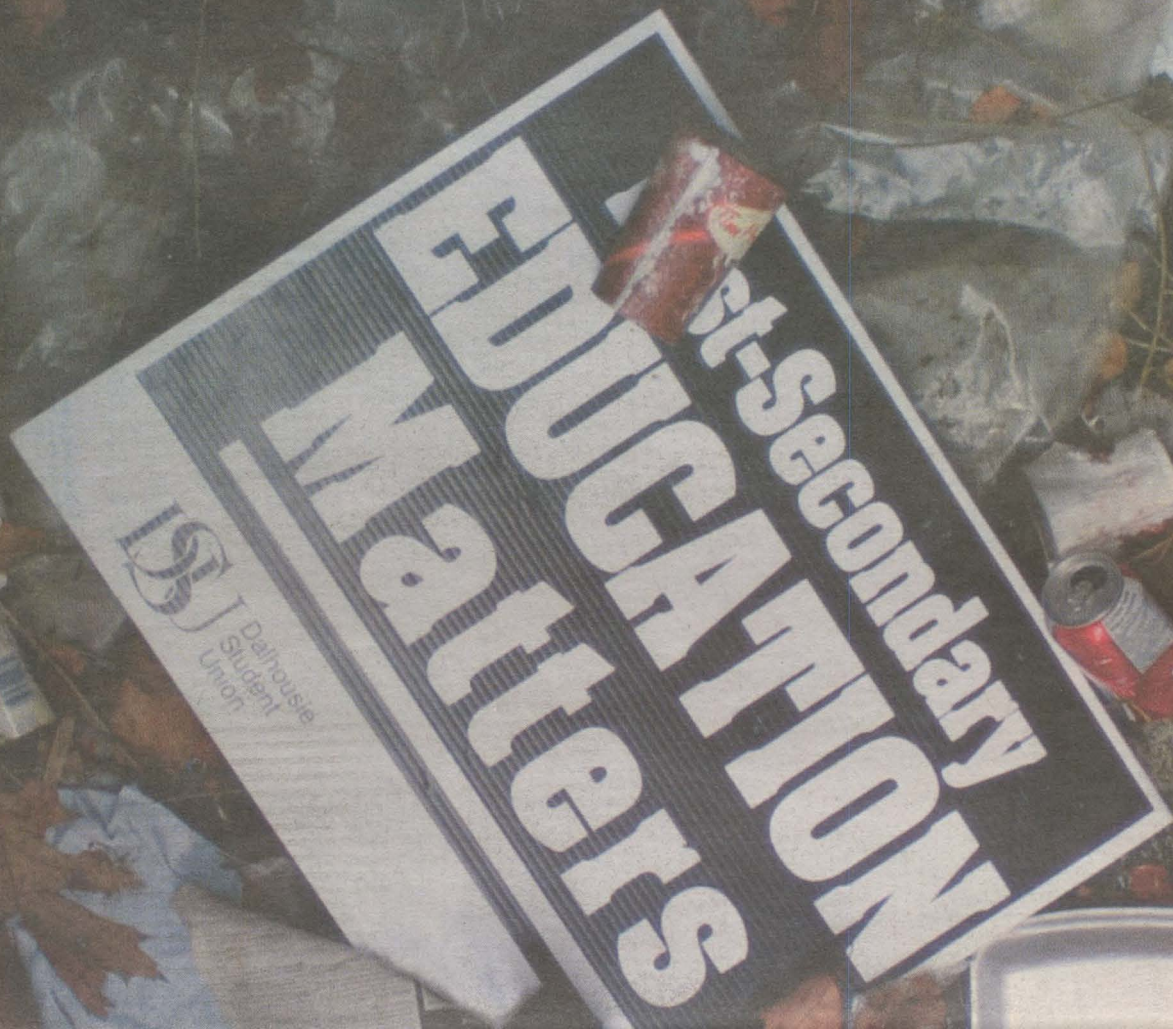
FREE

January 12th to 19th, 2006

ISSUE 138-15

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette



University funding has been stuck in the government's gutter for 12 years. Will PSE rise from the rubble? Pgs 5 - 8, 11

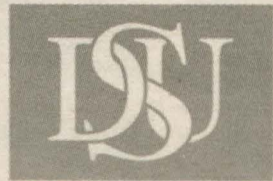
PLUS

Afghanistan Revealed pg. 13

Is spirituality the new religion? pg. 12

Women's b-ball goes for playoff bye pg. 18

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



DALHOUSIE
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UNION

UPASS at Dal

UPASS

Last week I received a number of queries about the UPASS and I am going to offer some general information in this column. The UPASS came into effect on January 2nd 2006. A couple of years ago, Dalhousie conducted an online survey of all students with the purpose of gauging students' interests in a UPASS. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and the University proceeded to negotiate a UPASS agreement with Metro Transit.

There are three locations at which you can pick up your UPASS: the Dal Card Office at 1443 Seymour Street, Student Accounts in the basement of the Henry Hicks Building, and Student Service Centre on Sexton Campus. There is no deadline for picking the pass up. Metro Transit has also implemented three new bus routes.

The #40 goes from Mumford to the buss stop by the Grad House via Chebucto and Oxford. It runs every half hour between 7 am and 7 pm with no weekend services.

The #41 goes from the Bridge terminal in Dartmouth to the bus stop by the Grad House via Barrington and South Street. It runs every fifteen minutes between 8 and 9 am, and every half an hour between 7am and 7 pm with no weekend service.

The #42 goes from the Lacewood terminal in Clayton Park to the bus stop by the Grad House via Main Ave., Bayers Rd., Robie (with a stop at Carleton Campus), and South St. It runs every half an hour between 7 am and 7 pm with no weekend service.

For more route and schedule information call 490-4000 between 7:30am - 10pm or visit the website: www.halifax.ca/metrotransit.

Teaching Awards

The DSU will be awarding our Teaching Awards later this term. If you have an instructor that you think deserves recognition for their creative teaching abilities or a favorite professor you want to tell everyone about, this is your chance. To nominate a professor or instructor (sorry TAs are ineligible for this award) for the DSU Awards for Teaching Excellence 2005-2006 check out our website, or contact VP Education, Jen Bond. Nominations close on February 8th. Awards will be given in each faculty.

Federal Election:

From January 17th to 20th each party will have a table in the Lobby of the SUB, and on January 23rd there will be two Polling stations in the SUB. If you want to know how to register to vote or want more information on any of these events check out www.dsu.ca or contact Jen Bond dsuved@dal.ca.

There will also be an **All Party Forum, Tuesday January 17 at 7pm, Alumni Hall - University of King's College.** The panel members include Andrew House (Conservative), Peter Mancini (NDP), and Mike Savage (Liberal).

On Monday, January 23rd come watch the results of the federal election on the big screen in the Grawood! A special "Canadian" edition of trivia will start at 7pm followed by election coverage at 9pm. Join our seat distribution pool and win great prizes! Contact Jen Bond dsuved@dal.ca for more details.

The next meeting of the DSU Council will be January 25th at 6:30pm in Room A222 on Sexton Campus.
All are welcome.

February 8th is the DSU's **Annual General Meeting.** It will take place at 6:30 in the McInnis Room. Pizza and pop provided.

On January 19th the DSU will be hosting the second **Society Fair** of the year. From 12 to 3 pm the McInnes room will be pack with Societies of the DSU showcasing what they do and how you can get involved. If you are looking for something to do besides studying this term, the Society Fair is for you.


Ezra Edelstein
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Democracy: a mixed blessing?

Elections in Canada are seldom pretty — but that doesn't mean you shouldn't care

"Democracy forever teases us with the contrast between its ideals and its realities, between its heroic possibilities and its sorry achievements."—Agnes Repplier

Vote. Rinse. Repeat.

On January 23rd, 2006, as our national political campaign grinds to a halt, the last of its negative ads aired and the bulk of its political polemic delivered, many Canadians will face a simple check-box choice made even simpler by the advent of the partisan election ballot. Curtains will be drawn, lead will strike paper and — when all is check-boxed and done — a new Canadian government will have been chosen to lead our great country into the second half of this decade.

Vote. Rinse. Repeat.

But many Canadians will wake up on Jan. 23 facing a different, more subversive choice: whether or not to vote at all. And, for one reason or another, millions will choose to spend the few minutes or so it takes to vote doing something else.

Of course, democracy in Canada has never been a simple creature. In less than a century, the federal system of this country has gone from being one of the most centralized in the world to one of its most decentralized. Quebec's recalcitrant nationalism — that immortal separation myth that, no matter where one goes, continues to dominate Canadian political discourses and identities like a looming monolith — has proven to be a poisonous thorn in the side of Canada's own national myth for almost half as long.

Vote. Rinse. Repeat.

Attempts to bridge the gap between Canada's "Two Nations" have either been met with indignation (Charlottetown), disappointment (Meech Lake), or indifference (The Clarity Act). Ours is a nation that is held hostage by the very principles of its federal construction; they prevent it from coming to full fruition, instead dooming it to a cyclical pattern of near-suicide and, in these referendums' aftermath, painful and costly attempts at political reconciliation that often alienate well before they unite.

As both Adscam and the current political campaigns have painfully pointed out, democracy in Canada is often a mixed blessing.

There are many things in this cruel and chaotic world that bring both pleasure and pain. Some of them are

fairly mundane: bad weather, while generally disruptive to human activity (and doom for many a fine leather shoe), usually brings much-needed nourishment to the plants and animals that fill our natural environment.

Others still are the products of our own doing. Work, although often painful, dull and difficult, is rarely better appreciated than at the end of a long day, or after a paycheck has been cashed.

For us students, that tingling feeling we get in our fingertips after passing in a monstrous essay or report follows this pattern. We feel a weight lifted off our shoulders after doing such work — and we are filled with a proud sense of relief, accomplishment, and morbid fatigue. We know in the back of our heads that we are one step closer to our degree, and that the pain, for the most part, will be worth it.

In fact, nothing in this great, chaotic and cruel world comes without unavoidable costs and side effects. Cars pollute; airplanes crash; drugs become addictive; cigarettes and alcohol destroy one's health.

(And love, Nazareth once famously sang, hurts.)

Democracy, one of man's most ingenious and persuasive ideas, hasn't seemed to escape this bottomless chasm of mixed bags.

And Canadians are acutely aware

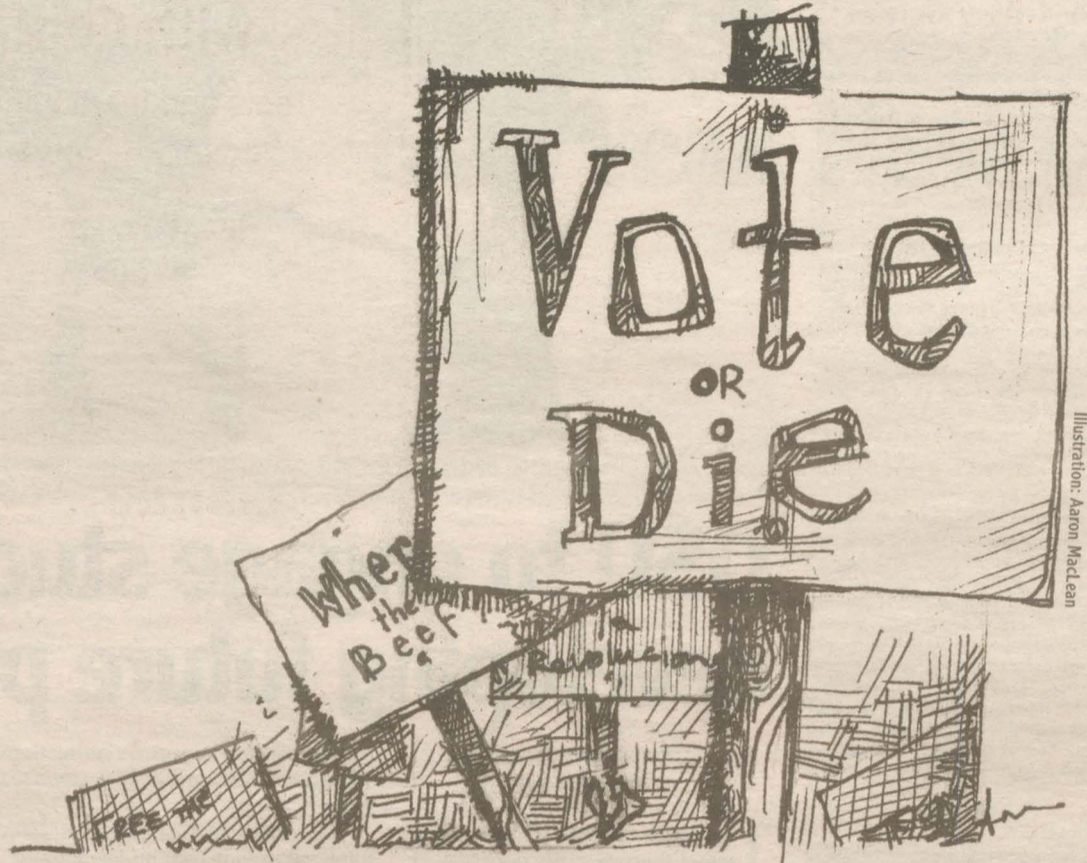


Illustration: Aaron Maclean

Election coverage in this issue:

- Pg. 5 Lobbyists on Grits' tuition plan
- Pgs. 6 & 7 On the People: Halifax's electoral candidates
- Pg. 8 Editorial: PSE finally on the agenda
- Pg. 11 Debating the vote

of this.

It probably never occurred to the founding fathers of Western democracy that the fruits of their labour would one day become mired in a widespread, epidemic swath of apathy. It would dismay Locke, Rousseau and Smith to see millions of citizens living in democratic countries simply choosing not to vote while millions elsewhere fight — and die — for that very privilege.

Nevertheless, voter turnout in Canada and across the developed world has steadily declined for decades. In 1988, almost 75 per cent of eligible Canadians voted. In 2004, only 60 per cent did. So while countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, Indonesia and the Ukraine have all literally shed blood for the privilege of having a say in their national goals, we have simply stopped caring.

And the biggest culprits are us. Canada's pride and future. The youth vote.

More so than any other demographic, we do not vote. According to Elections Canada, only a quarter of us

turned out to cast a ballot in Canada's 2000 election — far worse than the U.S.'s 34 per cent in the same year.

To be sure, there are many excuses. Canada's "first-past-the-post" system of constituency voting means that all votes going to losing candidates are effectively "wasted," even if a margin of victory is slim.

And like in the U.S., rural constituencies in Canada are heavily weighted against their urban counterparts — not every vote in Canada is equal.

Perhaps the worst of them — especially for the youth vote — is the perceived lack of alternatives. While attending a leader debate get-together this week (read: an excuse for political science students to drink beer), one of my colleagues said that she didn't want to vote for any party. "None of [the candidates] are good leaders," she said. Sadly, even if you do prefer an alternative — the NDP or, say, the Green Party — the "wasted votes" effect hardly inspires anyone to act on it.

Elections Canada confirmed

these fears in a 2002 study aimed at explaining why the youth demographic simply didn't go to the polls. Among the top reasons: we're too busy, the candidates aren't appealing, and we're simply not interested.

In the context of this year's political campaign, these sound like legitimate excuses. Our national leaders fail to impress, and their parties fail to do anything but continue to spout rhetoric. Québec could very soon want out, now more than ever. And the irony is that the country I believe most of us do care about — Canada — could come to a very sordid end because we failed to give a damn.

Because we had better things to do with those few precious minutes of our time.

U.S. writer and playwright Jane Bowles once wrote that "voting is one of the few things where boycotting in protest clearly makes the problem worse rather than better."

Truer words could not be spoken. Our system was designed to allow room for change. And it should be used.

On January 23, get out and vote. It's that simple.

"The system is broken" argument is a defeatist one that actually accepts the status quo, instead of rejecting it. It will take political change in Ottawa to make a new, better system. It will take votes. Ignore likelihoods and polls — vote for who you think will best represent the Canada you see yourself living in.

If none of this appeals to you, take the effort to go to the ballot box and spoil your ballot. Abstaining from voting is not a statement of any kind but laziness.

On January 23, get out and vote. It's that simple.

Questions? Comments? Hate mail? Send your thoughts to Chris LaRoche at editor@dalgazette.ca.

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Please visit www.dal.ca/sec for further details on these and other upcoming events and how to purchase tickets.

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Upcoming Events

Summer Job Fair
February 15th, 2006
10:00- 3:00pm
McInnes Room, SUB

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



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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.

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All students of Dalhousie University, as well as any interested parties on or off-campus, are invited to contribute to any section of the newspaper. Please contact the appropriate editor for submission guidelines, or drop by for our weekly volunteer meetings every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the Dal SUB. The Gazette reserves the right to edit and reprint all submissions, and will not publish material deemed by its editorial board to be discriminatory, racist, sexist, homophobic or libellous. Opinions expressed in submitted letters are solely those of the authors. Editorials in The Gazette are signed and represent the opinions of the writer(s), not necessarily those of The Gazette staff, Editorial Board, publisher, or Dalhousie University.

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Contributor meetings take place every Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB starting the first week of the new year. Our offices are officially closed from Thursday December 1st 2005 until the first week of 2006. Whether you want to write, give us ideas, or take pictures, we can find a place for you.



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Major can help you.



Free agent entrepreneur Tim Mary said traditional management models that feature a top-down approach to providing leadership are outdated. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

DSU to engage students in developing future plan

REID SOUTHWICK
News Editor

The DSU's strategic plan aims to mend the severe disconnect with students that it currently suffers from, said general manager Craig Kennedy during the program's launch on Jan. 9.

Low participation and voter turnout in DSU elections are evidence that a plan to change the face of the union can't be filed in a report that gathers dust, Kennedy told a group of roughly 35 councillors, staff and executive members seated in the McInnis Room in the Dal SUB.

Consequently, Kennedy said the plan must be informed by the direction of students, councillors, executive leaders, staff and the entire university community.

"We need to engage with more people than we have in the past, at deeper levels than we have in the past, and that starts today," he said.

The program, which Kennedy said is the first of its kind in the country, is spearheaded by free agent entrepreneur Tim Mary, who has been involved with such high profile projects as working with violent street kids in Holland and helping the European Union develop its informal education policy.

"The challenges we are facing today... are problems that all student unions in the country are facing right now," he said. "So, there are a lot of eyes watching us as we move into this process and we're not bashful about aspiring for this to be a model for other student unions in the country, we'd very much like it to be that way."

The program, known as "Destination DSU," aims to set in motion a pattern of annual activities that engage students and the university

community at large in setting the strategic direction of the student union.

The first event aimed to determine the union's own understanding of its strengths and weaknesses that organizers said will set the stage for a public forum to be held on Jan. 27.

Participants sat around tables in groups of four, discussing such topics as the current lack of communication between the union and students, and the need for a mechanism that students can use to tell the union what they want to see in their student government.

"I find most of the time the DSU works backward," said Chris Ide, the union's science representative. "It should be the students communicating to the DSU rather than the DSU telling students what they've done."

Pat Martin, director of facility operations, said a key challenge for the Grawood is determining why some events attract students in great numbers, such as the Wintersleep concert on Jan. 3 when roughly 350 people attended, and why others only draw a small crowd.

"If we figure out that out, then we'll know what we can do to solve the problem," he said.

Mary, who is organizing the program with colleagues Claudia Chender and Sera Thompson, said traditional management models that feature a top-down approach to providing leadership are outdated.

"That doesn't work in a world and a society where we are moving at such an incredible pace, and there is such incredible diversity and such enormous amounts of information."

Leaders of organizations across the globe need to develop ways that allow them to deal with that level of diversity change and information

Timeline of "Destination DSU"

Jan. 27 • Imagine DSU
Open forum for all members of the university community to discuss the desired future direction of the DSU

Feb. 17 • Pre-election café
DSU election candidates will meet with union staff, council and executive members to learn about the change process involved with the new strategic plan, and the issues facing elected positions to ensure they run on platforms on which they can deliver

March 10-12 • Retreat #1
Incoming and outgoing executive, along with staff, will discuss the outcomes of the previous two events and the desired procedures to implement them

April 27-29 • Retreat #2
Incoming and outgoing executive members, along with staff, will discuss transition of executive members

May • Pilot of "Destination DSU"
Implementation of outcomes of previous four events

overload, he said.

The DSU, for example, features the greatest number of societies than have been active in at least the past five years, with roughly 215 groups.

"And the only way we [meet those needs] is by learning how to create the spaces so that people we are meant to be leading can figure out their own problems," he said. "That is the type of leadership that needs to be modeled."

Students miffed U-Pass didn't make King's a stop this month

AARON GILLIS
Staff Contributor

Many students are upset the University of King's College hasn't adopted the U-Pass at the same time as Dalhousie.

The U-Pass, which costs full-time students \$58 per term, allows unlimited access to Metro Transit buses and ferries throughout the academic year.

Many King's students assumed their school would receive the universal bus pass at the beginning of this month when it became available to Dal students.

"A lot of students are upset; a lot of students are surprised," said Will English, president of the King's Student Union. "We share the same e-mail account with Dalhousie, so we got the email saying we were getting it, so it sprung a lot of confusion

among our students."

A second email, sent to students on Jan. 3 by the King's administration, said the university would not be included in the U-Pass program at the current time.

The exclusion of King's from the U-Pass program prompted some students to form a protest campaign entitled "U-Pass My Ass."

Organizers didn't respond to *The Gazette's* interview request sent by email.

English said that the campaign didn't gather much momentum after it began in early December.

"A couple of King's students started this interesting movement while drinking at our bar one night," he said. "It's pretty much fizzled, though. The campaign pretty much stalled at one poster and a couple of emails."

King's administration will be working to obtain the pass for Sep-

tember 2006, said English. Metro Transit spokesperson Lori Patterson, who confirmed that discussions with King's administration will take place later this month, said the U-Pass would "probably not" be introduced at King's in time for the fall semester because of the potential impact of an additional 900 riders.

Patterson said Halifax only introduces the pass to one university at a time, due to the resulting increases in ridership on the transit system.

But English says the need for new or modified routes, which the city created prior to its introduction of the U-Pass at both Dal and Saint Mary's University, shouldn't be a factor in the introduction of the pass at King's.

"We're on all the Dal routes anyway, so we should be fine in that respect when Metro Transit gets around to us."

Outbreak at Dal puts students under

AARON GILLIS
Staff Contributor

A local mumps outbreak is centred at Dalhousie University, according to public health authorities.

"All of the cases had a link to Dalhousie," says Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, medical officer of health for the Capital District Health Authority.

As of Jan. 6, the CDHA had confirmed 16 cases of the virus, a number that's unusually high, says Watson-Creed, which led to authorities labelling the series of cases an "outbreak" in November 2005. Halifax typically experiences one or two cases per year.

The first case occurred at the end of September, and the majority of diagnoses weren't made until late November and early December.

Mumps is spread through contact with fluids from an infected person's mouth or nose. The current outbreak has probably been confined to the university community because the people are in contact with one another regularly, says Watson-Creed.

All of the 16 people infected with the virus had been immunized. The vaccination isn't 100 per cent effective, says Watson-Creed, but still prevents widespread distribution of the virus compared to unvaccinated populations.

"We would expect that, with the level of immunization that we have in Nova Scotia, the outbreak really can't take hold and run rapidly through the population," she says.

The authorities don't know for sure where the virus originated, says Watson-Creed, though the Dal strain is genetically linked to a strain that circulated in New England last summer, which came from Ireland.



Dal student Paul Yeoman was diagnosed with mumps on Dec. 5, and quarantined for nine days.
Photo: Rafal Andronowski

"With an outbreak of this nature, that's often the case," she says. "We may never get that entirely clear."

While the virus is spread the same as measles or chickenpox, complications are more serious, ranging from arthritis to meningitis and encephalitis, so those who contract the disease are forced to undergo a period of quarantine.

"Those complications are not common," says Watson-Creed. "By and large, people are able to manage their illness at home and they start to feel better in about [three days]."

Dal student Paul Yeoman was diagnosed with mumps on Dec. 5, and quarantined for nine days.

The graduate student relied on friends to bring groceries, because he wasn't allowed to leave home. Yeoman had to speak to them through a door.

"I felt pretty rough for a few days, but after the first period of quarantine I started to feel pretty decent," he says. "It's only supposed to last three or four days, the sort of intense pain that you have, and then after that you can sort of function properly."

Mumps symptoms include painful swelling around the jaw, fever, and cold-like symptoms. People often think of "chipmunk cheeks" when they think of mumps, says Watson-Creed. Male patients may also experience tenderness or swelling of the testicles.

"For a couple of days it was pretty bad, a lot of pain around my ears and lower jaw," says Yeoman. "I puffed up under my chin as well, so you really can't eat a lot because it hurts to eat."

Vaccinations are given for mumps during childhood in most North American and European nations as a preventative measure.

"Not all parts of the world do that, so mumps is still what we consider an endemic disease," says Watson-Creed.

The outbreak will officially end at least 50 days after the last case is reported.

"At this point, where we've had a case after Christmas, it would be well into March until we have a sense whether or not the outbreak is over," says Watson-Creed. "We're considering the outbreak as ongoing."

50/50 plan to cover portion of tuition, not cost of education - lobbyists

REID SOUTHWICK
News Editor

The federal Liberals' post-secondary education funding package announced on Jan. 5 has still not considered the entire cost of education, the DSU's external lobby groups say.

But the package is likely another sign the party is taking notice of the need for accessibility to the country's universities and colleges.

"I would hope that this announcement, and hopefully many more subsequent announcements like this one, means that Canada is really trying to take steps forward in improving its post-secondary education system, making it a priority," says Jen Bond, chair of the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations and DSU executive member.

"But ANSSA and the DSU would like to hear a lot more recognition about the costs of education, not just tuition," she says, referring to expenses such as rent, food, books and supplies.

The 50/50 plan advanced by the Martin Liberals would make all students eligible to receive direct payments of up to \$3,000 to cover tuition

costs for their first and fourth years of study. The Grits have pledged to implement the program in September 2008 through the Canada Student Loans Program if they win the Jan. 23 election.

The deal would encourage prospective students to not only enroll in universities and colleges across the country but also to finish their academic programs, says Zach Churchill, president of Saint Mary's University Students' Association, a member of ANSSA.

And a more educated population, which the program aims to ensure, will give Canada a sharper edge in challenging economic powers such as India and China in the global market, says Churchill.

"If we don't take steps to better our education system and make it accessible, then we're not going to be able to compete globally," he says.

At home, roughly 70 per cent of jobs will require a post-secondary education in the next five years, and only 40 per cent of Canadians currently have a post-secondary diploma or degree, according to a 2004 government report on the Canada

Student Loans Program.

"[The 50/50 plan] is getting this message across that post-secondary education doesn't just benefit students," says Bond. "It benefits the society as a whole."

But the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations, the DSU's federal lobby group, says post-secondary education would still not be accessible for students from lower income families under the Liberal plan.

Despite Martin's claims, the \$3,000 barely covers half of tuition fees, especially in the Atlantic region, says Ryan Conrod, chair of CASA's board of directors. The additional costs of education would continue to provide too great a barrier for Canada's less advantaged prospective students, he says.

Conrod says he recognizes that the 50/50 plan is a step in the right direction and he will work closely with the department of human resources and skills development to help ensure the funding reaches students if the Liberals win the election.

"Any policy that promotes access to PSE is only positioning Canada to be in a more prosperous situation."

Uni-Briefs

DAL BRIEFS

Dal researcher hopes for healthier communities

A Dalhousie population health researcher plans to track Halifaxians around their communities to help urban designers build healthier communities in the future.

Daniel Rainham will strap Global Positioning System units on volunteers from both healthy and sick neighbourhoods, as identified by census data, and track their movements. Rainham is looking for people to test the system before the full study begins in the spring.

Rainham told the CBC that he was interested in finding out if there's a difference in the spatial patterns of people who are healthy and those who aren't. A study by the Heart and Stroke Foundation released in 2005 found suburban and rural dwellers are more likely to drive everywhere than urban dwellers, so are at higher risk of being obese or overweight.

Some U.S. suburbs build shops and services closer to people's homes, but researchers can't yet discern the long-term health benefits.

Facilities management's new management system goes live

Dal's new facilities management system, FAMIS, was launched in December 2005 as part of plan to streamline processes and improve efficiency in the department.

FAMIS, purchased in December 2004, will allow the department's clients to enter their own work requests, obtain billing information and receive faster responses to unplanned maintenance needs.

The program is one of the department's initiatives under a new strategic planning process that resulted in a reworked mission statement and the development of specific goals and objectives for the coming years.

CROSS CANADA SHORTS
CEMF scholarships to attract women to engineering

The Canadian Engineering Memorial Foundation launched four new \$10,000 scholarships for the New Year in hopes of encouraging more women to become engineers.

The Inco Memorial Masters Scholarships are available to women working on a Masters degree in mining engineering or a related field, and include a work placement at Inco Limited.

While women account for nearly 60 per cent of undergraduates in Canada, only about 18 per cent of them are enrolled in engineering, down from more than 20 per cent in 2001.

Women represent just 10 per cent of the 160,000 licensed engineers in Canada.

CEMF works to attract women to engineering so they can contribute in a "truly inclusive manner," and also to honour the memory

of the 14 women who died in the Montreal massacre at L'Ecole Polytechnique in 1989.

McGill draws up harassment policy in wake of hazing scandal

The McGill University Senate recently approved a new policy on harassment and discrimination, after the university's administration cancelled the football season following a hazing scandal last fall.

The policy establishes procedures to address complaints prohibited by law. Critics at the university, however, referred to the policy as a "step in the right direction," but called for a broader policy that would address more subtle forms of harassment and discrimination, not just those that are illegal.

An office to deal with equity issues on campus has also been established under the policy, which will aim to raise awareness on issues of diversity and equity. The office will also educate students about orientation activities to prevent hazing incidents like the one that rocked the country last October, and resulted in the cancellation of McGill football for the year.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

George Bush addresses international education summit

U.S. president George Bush addressed a summit of university presidents last week, who had gathered at the behest of Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings to discuss international education.

On the meeting's agenda was how to attract foreign students to the U.S. and encourage American students to study abroad, as well as to emphasize the role of international education to the "national interest."

After Bush extolled his sympathies to Ariel Sharon, he aired his support of the national security language initiative.

"I've had a little problem with the language in the past, so... if you've got room in the initiative for me, let me know," he said.

Bush then told the presidents that Rice was a "heck of Secretary of State," and Donald Rumsfeld a "heck of a Secretary of the Defense."

He also said there was a need for soldiers and diplomats to speak the language of the area they serve in, so they can tell people that freedom is the universal way of life and they should give women and young girls a chance to live in a free society.

"When Americans learn to speak a language, learn to speak Arabic, those in the Arabic region will say, 'Gosh, America is interested in us,'" said Bush. "They care enough to learn how we speak."

Bush also reassured university presidents that he'd sort out visa difficulties for international students, so the "youngsters" could get educated in America and see the compassion of the U.S.

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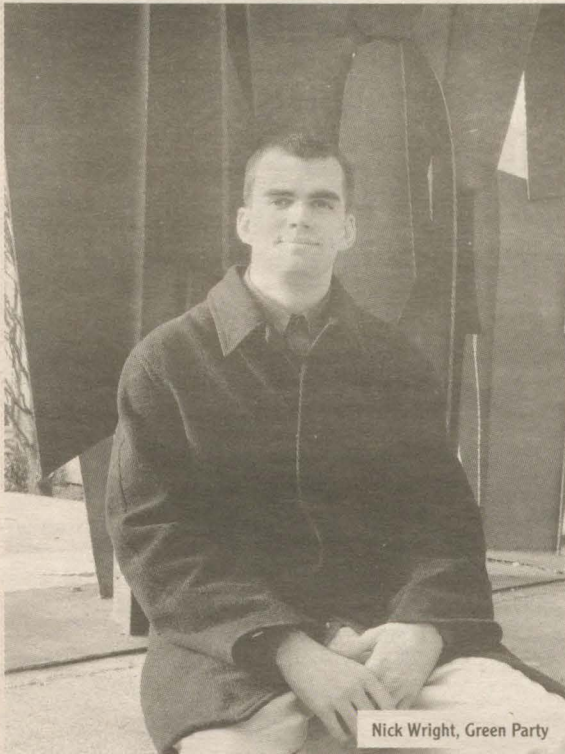
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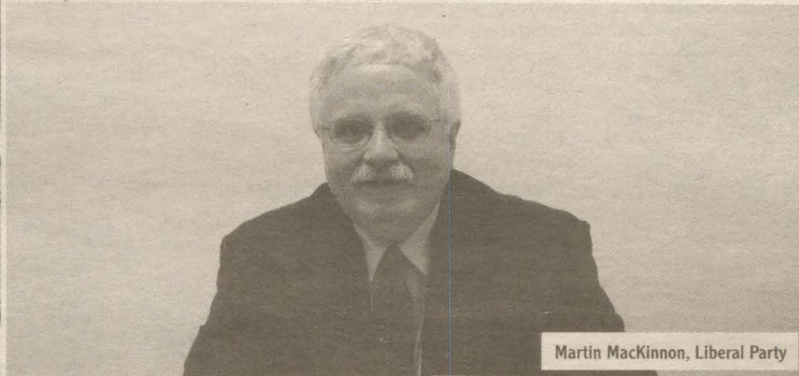
Halifax's candidates strut their stuff



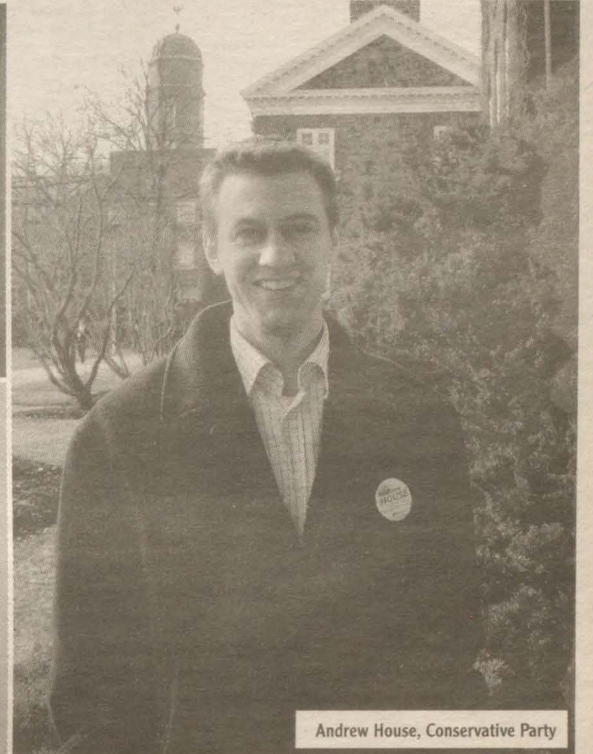
Nick Wright, Green Party



Alexa McDonough, NDP



Martin MacKinnon, Liberal Party



Andrew House, Conservative Party

JESS McDIARMID
Assistant News Editor

Halifax's large student population will soon be going to the polls — and students who aren't permanent residents here are eligible to cast a ballot for a local candidate. New Democrat Alexa McDonough has held the Halifax riding since 1997. As leader of the federal NDP from 1995 to 2003, her top-gun status in the NDP party has likely served in her favour at the polls.

In the 2004 election, however, McDonough claimed a narrow victory over Liberal candidate Sheila Fougere. Fougere, described by McDonough as a strong candidate, lost to the incumbent by a margin of just over 1,000 votes. Will the Liberals' new promises of huge cash injection into post-secondary education (PSE) threaten the NDP candidate? Will voters, for the first time in almost 20 years, turn to the Conservatives? Will the rising Greens attract enough ballots to take the party to Parliament Hill? Which candidate has what it takes to win over the Halifax electorate? Here's a look at who the candidates are and where they stand:

Martin MacKinnon

Party: Liberal Party of Canada
Age: 50

Occupation: Vice President of Finance for Eastern Rehab, part time professor in management department at Saint Mary's University

Education: BA in political science and history (St. FX.), MBA (St. Mary's)

Duration of residency in Halifax: 20 years

Favourite local bar: SoHo's

Hottest movie of 2005: "one I haven't seen yet" — because he's been so busy

What he did on New Year's Eve 2005: went to Pogue Fado, the Split Crow, Peddlers' Pub, Cheers, and a couple other bars (neither he nor his campaign manager could remember which ones), then to city hall

Dumbest thing he did in university: partied too much

When the Liberals came into power 12 years ago, Canada's economy was one of the worst in the G8, says MacKinnon.

This forced the new government to make difficult decisions, like cutting back funding to health care and education.

Now that the economy is in order — there's been a surplus for the past eight years — the Liberals are able to reinvest in health care and PSE, he says, including the announcement of billions in additional funding for PSE revealed last week.

Though the government has enjoyed surpluses for years, MacKinnon says it can only reinvest gradually, as resources allow.

"We have to be careful not to get into the wild credit card economics that the NDP would do," he says.

MacKinnon, who has been involved with the Liberal Party since

the early 1980s, says he's most proud of the party's balanced approach to the economy and its recent reinvestment in health care and PSE.

"[The Liberals are] making sure that students that want to go to university get to go to university," he says. The party's latest plans for PSE have been called a "step in the right direction" by the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations.

Locally, PSE is the most important election issue, says MacKinnon, because students play a large role in Halifax's culture and economy. Health care is also a top priority, along with efforts to reinvigorate Halifax's port.

MacKinnon says he's confident it's time for a change in Halifax. He hears a lot of concern about Halifax's representation in Parliament, he says, and about the Conservatives and the NDP bringing down the gov-

ernment before Justice Gomery's full report is released.

"Through opportunism, and that's all it can be described as, the NDP decided to take down the government now," he says. "That's what people are upset by. They're very concerned and they may just show that in their ballot."

While MacKinnon says his least proud moment as a Liberal came with the sponsorship scandal, he applauds Paul Martin's "transparency" in dealing with it, and says only a few people in the party were involved.

"The assumption is that the Gomery inquiry is front and centre at the door, and it's not," he says.

"What people want to talk about is getting the economy straightened out."

Andrew House

Party: Conservative Party of Canada
Age: 29

Occupation: lawyer
Education: BA in political science (Dal), LLB (Dal)

Duration of residency in Halifax: 12 years

Favourite local bar: The Nail and Kneecap

Hottest movie of 2005: *Lord of the Rings, The Return of the King* (actually 2003)

What he did on New Year's Eve 2005: dinner with friends, celebration at Grand Parade Square and a house party

Dumbest thing he did in university: As an honorary member of Dal's Women and the Law Society, House volunteered to break into the society

Continued on opposite page

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Candidates, con't...

Continued from previous page

office to retrieve a cash box needed for a barbecue fundraiser taking place. After other society members hoisted him over a divider into the office, he knocked over a bookcase, which trashed the office.

Andrew House says he probably would have waited another 10 years before entering politics if it weren't for the sponsorship scandal and the Conservative Party's interest in running young candidates.

"I came to a place where I could no longer accept the direction in which our government was going," he says.

"The sponsorship scandal really solidified my resolve to try and make a difference."

This election, says House, isn't only about ideas on where the country is going, but about fixing systems that are broken, like the accountability of federal ministers.

A Conservative government's very first act of parliament would be a federal accountability act, he says, to make sure an excess of power isn't in the hands of any one person in the government.

"This is what drives me crazy, when you think about the level of taxation that we have in Canada and how that money is being used," says House.

"Not only does it sit in a massive surplus of over-taxation, but it actually being spent on partisan purposes, when it's supposed to be for the benefit of all Canadians."

In Halifax, the biggest election issue is health care, says House, as a shortage of anesthetists is currently threatening to reduce operating room capacity in the city. The Conservatives' platform, he says, includes plans to fly people to other provinces for procedures if necessary, and to streamline accreditation for doctors who immigrate to Canada.

He wants to see the economy "take off" and the city's ports operate at full capacity, he says. House also points to crime as an important issue in the city, as Halifax boasts the highest rate of violent crime per capita in the country.

The Liberals' recent announcement of billions for post-secondary education amounts to "electioneering," says House, and won't get results for average students.

Under the Liberals' 50/50 plan, announced last Thursday, the government would pay half of the first and last year of students' tuition, up to \$3,000.

The Conservatives will change the formula for calculating student loans so students can make their own way, says House.

"The stark reality is that most [students] are on their own and we need a government that reflects that reality and is willing to help students based on what they're making, not what their parents are [earning]."

House also says the Conservative plan to change the federal funding formula for PSE to the provinces from its current per-capita basis to a per-student basis would reduce tuition by an estimated \$1,000 over the long term.

Alexa McDonough

(incumbent)

Party: New Democratic Party

Age: 61

Occupation: Parliamentarian

Education: BA (Dal) MA in social work (Dal)

Duration of residency in Halifax: 60 years

Favourite local bar: Jane's on the Common

Hottest movie of 2005: *The River King*

What she did on New Year's Eve 2005: went to a Lebanese community celebration, then to a house party... and arrived home at 1:30 a.m.

Dumbest thing she did in university: spent too much time partying and not paying attention to politics

Alexa McDonough, Halifax's Member of Parliament since 1997, became the leader of the NDP in 1995, after serving as an MLA for more than 10 years.

Running in 2004 was tough, she says, because Paul Martin "got away with generating false hope" by promising to restore \$7 billion for education, and in Halifax, PSE is a key issue.

"And less than a year later, he brought in a budget without one stinking cent, not one red cent, to honour that promise," says McDonough. Following the initial budget, the NDP pushed through an amendment that included a \$1.5-billion increase for education.

"The only money since the last election that has come forth is the result of the minority government and having an NDP that was hardworking, strategic and politically savvy enough to get [that money] into the budget."

McDonough says the Liberals' recent announcements of plans to inject billions into PSE and launch programs such as the 50/50 plan don't steal the limelight from the NDP's platform, which includes tuition reduction and banning private, for-profit universities.

"It's a bit like the arsonist who becomes the firefighter," she says. "[People won't believe it], not unless they're brain-dead."

McDonough says the NDP knows what needs to be done for PSE and that she's been fighting for it "tooth and nail" all along.

"What people are really, really turned off by is the bidding war going on between the Liberals and the Conservatives, promising all kinds of things that they have each consistently opposed or refused to do for the last 10 years."

Morality and integrity, along with healthcare and the environment, is another key issue in Halifax, says McDonough. The coming election was called because the Liberals refused to address healthcare's "erosion" and wouldn't support the NDP's anticorruption package, she says.

"When they refused to begin moving on that, we said, 'It's over,'" she says. "We couldn't possibly give a convincing argument on why we should keep [the Liberals] in power."

In the lead-up to this election, McDonough says there's a new energy coming from students and the public.

She says she thinks she's been an effective voice for Halifax over the past nine years.

"I accept the verdict of the public, and the public, on all three occasions, has spoken and expressed their confidence," she says. "And I'm appreciative of that."

Nick Wright

Party: Green Party of Canada

Age: 23

Occupation: student

Education: BA in philosophy (King's), currently working on MBA/LLB (Dal)

Duration of residency in Halifax: 7 years

Favourite local bar: Tom's Little Havana

Hottest movie of 2005: a book, *The Oil Factor*

What he did on New Year's Eve 2005: went partying in Toronto

Dumbest thing he's done in university: took metalogic (a course about the logic of logic)

The most important issue facing Halifax is environmental sustainability, says Nick Wright, and that's why he's running for the Green Party, which he says is the only one that offers a vision he finds appealing.

"The nature of our society and culture has to change significantly over the coming years, and the Green Party is the only party that recognizes this as an issue," says Wright.

Fossil fuel prices will rise significantly by 2010, he says, and governments need to promote alternatives to deal with the increase in energy prices.

The Green Party would implement a "smart tax," which would increase taxes on environmentally harmful products like fuel, and use the additional revenue to subsidize sustainable things like public transit, wind energy and environmentally-friendly initiatives. The tax will promote people making positive decisions, he says.

The tax also takes "true cost" into account, says Wright, by considering not only production costs, but the cost of environmental and social harm.

A lot of people misunderstand the Green Party, he says, and think it's only about the environment.

"That's not the case. The Green Party believes in socially progressive policy, it believes in fiscal responsibility and environmental sustainability."

The federal coffers have had surpluses for years, he says, so money is there for socially progressive policies.

The party wants to ensure everyone has access to PSE, which will make Canada more competitive in a knowledge-based economy, says Wright, and ensure jobs are created. The Greens also oppose wealth taxes and deficits, he says.

Wright also says the Green Party is against a two-tiered health-care system, and is the only party that focuses on prevention as part of its health-care plan.

The Dal student is in it to win, he says, but also looks at the long-term political future of the country. Political parties with over two per cent of the vote in the previous election, or five per cent in a riding where the party had a candidate, get \$1.75 per vote every year.

"We have to look not only in the short term, but in the medium and long term," says Wright. "If I don't win this election, we can get more people voting and build infrastructure."

Voting Green isn't a vote flushed down the toilet, says Wright.

"Doing what you believe in is not a waste," he says. "It provides funding for the party to build."

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If your name's not on the voters list, you can still vote. Just take acceptable ID with you when you go to vote. To find out where to go, and what forms of ID are acceptable, call the Halifax office of the returning officer at 422-4276.

If you're not able to make it to the polling station on Jan. 23, you can vote in the advance polls on Jan. 13, Jan. 14 or Jan. 16.

You can also vote at the office of the returning office anytime up to 6 p.m. on Jan. 17. The office is at 6169 Quinpool Road, Suite 221.

For more information, visit Elections Canada at www.elections.ca or call 1 800 463-6868.



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.

PSE finally on the agenda

The Liberal government, rocked by scandal and crushed by a no-confidence vote, has finally brought post-secondary education into the public debate.

It has taken 15 years of gargantuan tuition hikes bringing students to their knees — coupled with federal budget surpluses over the last eight years — but political leaders are finally making sweeping promises to feed the starving Canadian PSE system.

PSE is higher on the priority list this time around for good reason. Not only are Canada's universities in dire need of funds, but in the last election, only 22 per cent of 18 to 20 year olds bothered casting ballots at all.

With margins in the polls as close as they are, winning over the youth of the nation and inspiring them to vote could be the difference between a seat or no seat — a government or no government.

Students at Dalhousie and across the country must seize this perhaps limited opportunity to make the election count for them, as political parties of all stripes vie to blast their PSE platforms into the limelight.

Prime Minister Paul Martin, the man responsible for slashing funding to PSE 10 years ago, and who was lambasted by student organizations for his silence on PSE during the last election, recently announced that a Liberal government would pour billions into education. His promises include, among other things, paying half the tuition of every student's first and last year of university, up to \$3,000.

The NDP has reiterated its plans to reduce, then freeze, tuition, as well as prohibit private universities, and

create needs-based scholarships to replace the Millennium Scholarship Foundation.

The Conservatives vow to lower the amount parents are expected to contribute to their children's education and increase family income thresholds for student loan eligibility.

The party also would provide tax credits for school books and exempt scholarship and bursary money from taxation.

All three main parties have included the creation of a dedicated social transfer for PSE in their platforms, a move called for by student lobby groups for years.

Such interest in PSE from mainstream political parties has not occurred in recent times.

Parties have made promises during election time before, and subsequently broken them. A recent example: in the last election, the Liberals promised to create a dedicated transfer, worth \$7 billion, which never materialized.

Some of the promises made now may well be forgotten by whatever party ultimately wins the election this time around.

If students turn out to vote in great numbers in 2006, however, it will prove to the political leadership of this country that youth are a force to be reckoned with.

And maybe next time, politicians will continue their attempts to romance the student vote. Paying attention to PSE and other important issues for youth in the ivory towers of Ottawa could even become status quo.

But students have got to vote to make that happen.

DSU plan needs student response

This term marks a critical point in the legitimacy and value of this university's student union. With the executive's election campaign closing in, students will soon be asked to select committed representatives who are capable of defending students' interests in the emerging areas of concern in their respective portfolios.

More importantly, students will need a mechanism that enables them to ensure their student government meets their demands in these areas and others.

Regardless of which party wins the federal election, both the new DSU President and Vice President (Education) must have the resolve and dedication to effectively work through the union's external lobby groups to ensure the governing party delivers on its election promises.

Both the Conservatives and Liberals have committed to a dedicated transfer for post-secondary education.

The Grits have also vowed to implement an abundance of additional policies that would ease the burden of higher education, including the creation of a funding formula that would ensure that money follows the

student to his/her place of study.

The considerably high number of student societies, roughly 215, will place significant demands on the incoming Vice President (Internal) to adhere to the diverse range of needs. When the new grants policy is drafted, this member must also make certain that it is successfully implemented.

Now, more than ever, Dalhousie students have a vested interest in how their union is run. But a simple tick at the ballot box is no longer the only avenue available to ensure students' needs and demands are met.

On Jan. 27, the DSU will be holding an open forum for all students, as well as members of the entire university community, to discuss the future direction of the union and how it can more effectively serve the interests of its constituents.

This event aims to set in motion a pattern of similar activities that will take place annually. But the process will only be legitimized if students recognize their implicit relationship with their student union and attend the event.

All students have the responsibility to weigh in, and it's in their interest to do so.

Gazette: Opinions

Opinions Editor: Sarah Vanderwolf

Contact: opinions@dalgazette.ca

Letters: letters@dalgazette.ca

VENT: SPENDING THREE WEEKS AT MY PARENTS' HOUSE Sarah Vanderwolf / Opinions Editor

While the free food, free transportation, and welcome familiarity of the place where I grew up are nice to have at Christmas time, all of the frustrating things my family does drive me crazy enough to wish I was back in Halifax.

My family doesn't use heat in the winter because oil is expensive. Instead, we keep a fire roaring in the fireplace 24-7.

This means all our clothes smell

like fireplace, wood must constantly be chopped down and hauled into the garage, and I spend three consecutive weeks sneezing and wiping my eyes because of the smoke in the house.

Then there's my sister's annoying habit of chattering in the middle of television shows and movies, and my dad's tendency to read anything he finds remotely interesting or amusing aloud. And let's not forget the joy of attending

family reunions and explaining over and over again what one's plans are for the future (in my case, next year).

Christmas vacation functions not only as a time to see family and old friends and rekindle the special bond you have with them, but it can also act as a strong reminder of why you sought a life apart from them in the first place.

As is often said, sometimes less is more.



Metro Transit has improved of late, but it still doesn't appeal to most city-dwellers. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Metro Transit offers one-of-a-kind experience

JOEL DURLING
Opinions Contributor

Because Halifax is such a sprawling, spread-out city, transportation is of major concern to most Haligonians. Many people still rely on the conventional automobile as their source of transportation. Others (particularly students), however, prefer to rely on a more economical option: public transportation.

Although Halifax is considered a major urban center in eastern Canada, being the largest city in the Atlantic provinces, the city doesn't offer any trolleys, subways, sky-trains, or other modern methods of mass transport. Instead, Haligonians must make do with a wacky system of buses, a commendable wheelchair accessible bus deemed Access-a-Bus, and two ferries that cross the harbour to Dartmouth, often affectionately known as the "dark side."

This conglomeration of services is collectively referred to as Metro Transit. Since Dalhousie has finally succeeded in procuring bus passes for its students, I expect that many more university students will be using Metro Transit in the coming weeks. As such, allow me to offer a few insights into a typical Metro Transit experience.

Metro Transit was established in

March 1981. Its formation combined the separate Halifax and Dartmouth services offered at the time. Recently, Metro Transit has added routes servicing the areas of Sackville and Cole Harbour, thus bringing more users into the downtown core.

In the past, I've been an occasional and sometimes frequent user of the renowned Halifax transit system. I have thus compiled many helpful hints for the thousands of Dalhousians who may overwhelm Metro Transit this term with their shiny new U-passes in hand.

It's not uncommon to be greeted by a bus driver sporting an obviously polyester, standardized uniform. A lot of drivers I've encountered seemed unhappy with their jobs and are often in no mood to chit-chat.

If you're lucky enough to get a seat when you board a bus, you'll notice that they're plastered with a lovely multicoloured, abstract pattern or a simple blue or brown synthetic material. Once you sit down, the jutting plastic in the crack of the seat will promptly drive into your tailbone, forcing you to grimace.

Unless you have reading material or some other type of entertainment with you, you will be forced to find something to stare at during the course of your trip. You can either stare across the bus at that man

wearing the Chip and Pepper T-shirt, stare ahead at the back of someone's hairy neck or gaze at the many bus ads that never seem to change.

To add to the discomfort, the diesel engines are loud, the ride isn't smooth and you'll definitely experience the force of inertia over and over again.

Despite these inconveniences, I'll admit Metro Transit has improved of late. A number of capable second-hand buses purchased within recent years have replaced much of the aging fleet. Also, the use of bio-diesel has made the fleet more environmentally friendly.

The addition of the Metro Link service has made commuting much easier for a number of Haligonians and the implementation of the U-pass for St. Mary's students, and now Dalhousie students, has made transportation less of a strain on many students' wallets.

Even so, public transportation still doesn't appeal to most city-dwellers. Many still consider the automobile the most desirable mode of transport. It won't be until gas prices skyrocket beyond reason, traffic becomes intolerable, parking spaces cease to exist and all of the world's oil dries up that the bus will supplant alternate means and no longer be referred to as the "loser cruiser"



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“Harperisms”

“Fundamental human rights are not a magician’s hat from which new rabbits can constantly be pulled... Same-sex marriage is not a human right.”

House of Commons, February 16, 2005

“I don’t know all the facts on Iraq, but I think we should work closely with the Americans.”

- Report Newsmagazine, March 2002

“I think in Atlantic Canada... there is a culture of defeat that we have to overcome.”

- May 2001

“Canada is a Northern European Welfare State in the worst sense of the term.”

- 1997, speaking to American right wing group, The Council for National Policy

“It’s past time the feds scrapped the Canada Health Act.”

- As VP, National Citizens Coalition, 1997

The View South of the Border

“Why does President Bush hope Christmas comes a little late this year? Because on Jan. 23, Canada may elect the most pro-American leader in the Western world. Free-market economist Stephen Harper, leader of the opposition Conservative Party, is pro-free trade, pro-Iraq war, anti-Kyoto, and socially conservative. Move over Tony Blair: If elected, Mr. Harper will quickly become Mr. Bush’s new best friend internationally and the poster boy for his ideal foreign leader.”

Patrick Basham, *Washington Times*, December, 2005

A Conservative Government means:

- No help for tuition, only tax credits which don’t help us now
- Private health care for the rich
- Tearing up the Kyoto Accord
- Reopening issues such as gay marriage and a woman’s right to choose
- A \$12 billion deficit if he keeps his election promises

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TOP 10

- 1 **THE NEW TRENDY TILTED GLAM SHOTS OF THE DSU COUNSELORS IN THE SUB** Almost as crooked as the university itself!
- 2 **THE ASHLEE SIMPSON SEX TAPE** Impossiblee unoriginal.
- 3 **NO U-PASS FOR KING'S STUDENTS** When was the last time a King's student passed anything anyway?
- 4 **HOWARD STERN DROPS THE F-BOMB ON HIS SATELLITE RADIO SHOW** About as surprising as Al Bundy flushing a toilet.
- 5 **JUSTIN POGGE**
Sticking it to all those jerks who made fun of his stupid name.
- 6 **WATCHING SOMEONE ELSE CHEAT ON AN EXAM AND THEN TELLING ON THEM** Stop being such a Negative Nancy.
- 7 **ENGLAND CHOOSING "A CUP OF TEA" AS ITS NATIONAL ICON**
In a related story, France chooses a featureless white flag.
- 8 **THE OMINOUS DEATH OF JOHN SPENCER, WHO PLAYED A VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ON "THE WEST WING"**
Watch your back, Cheney.
- 9 **HOSTEL TOPPLING NARNIA IN THE BOX OFFICES**
Apparently a brave-hearted lion is no match for a bloody head on a stick.
- 10 **BRITISH WOMAN MARRIES MALE DOLPHIN NAMED 'CINDY'...**
... and justifies it with "I'm not a pervert"

HOT

"Lazy Sunday"
White Russians after the game
The "Squirrat"
Real poetry
The Grawood (Really!)
Political cartoons
"My Lumps"
Fisherman's Friends
Group projects
Chuck Norris facts

NOT

Regular SNL sketches
Weeping Russians after the game
The "Liger"
All that free verse crap
Finding sarcasm where none exists
Actually watching the debates
Dal's mumps
Your friends
The over-achieving group captain
The Gazette's "facts"

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

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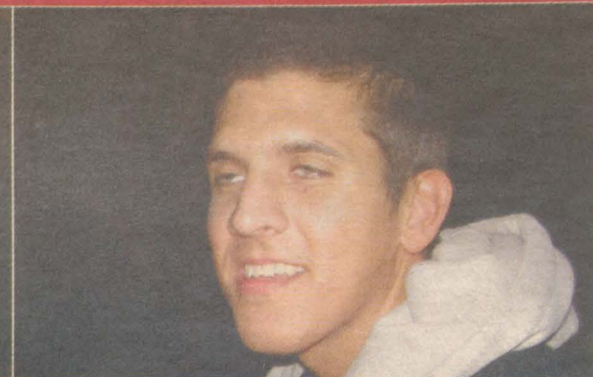
STREETER

How does religion affect your life?



"Forgive me father, for I have sinned. It has been 15 years since my last confession."

Lisa Upshaw, third-year nursing



"It gives my life a path and it helps me follow that path."

Matt Verwoird, third-year philosophy



"It teaches me not to think in absolutes."

Paul Legere, fourth-year philosophy and engineering



"Coffee is my religion, because after a few cups I feel inspired."

Suzanne Lee, fourth-year neuroscience



"It doesn't, because I'm a nihilist. I have a cat named Schopenhauer."

Rebecca Pate, fourth-year English



"It's good because it brings people together in celebration."

Taylor Robertson, first-year law



"It makes me want to be a better person."

Jessie Robinson, second-year marine biology



"Well, I'd like to be a priest. I'd sit on the altar and blast gas or something. [editors note: we didn't make this one up, he actually said this.]"

Joey Ryba, 26th-year poopyojo.com fan

Got a question you want to see answered by students? streeter@dalgazette.ca

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Debating the vote

Zoë Caron
Opinions Contributor

Throughout my teens, I vowed that when I finally turned 18 I would only ever vote for the candidate with the best platform in my region. When that chance came, I voted Green and "Yes" for the Single Transferable Vote Referendum question in British Columbia.

Now 20, I feel such a deep fear for the future of Canada that I will sink to voting strategically to avoid an outcome in which Stephen Harper's campaign succeeds.

Not only would this be bad for Canada, but it would also stunt important cooperative progress being made on the international stage. The environment remains within the top four priorities of Canadians — probably even higher here in beautiful Nova Scotia.

But the topic lay silent in Monday's English-language debate.

If the Conservative government receives a majority, our country's stewardship to the land and waters will be forgotten, and the international agreements that Canada has proudly supported will be put through the office shredder. Federally, the Conservatives would pull out of the Kyoto Protocol, which subsequently pulls them out of the Montreal Action Plan.

Although the Kyoto Protocol is not a perfect solution to environmental degradation, countries have had 8 years to negotiate its terms before ratifying in Feb 2005. There simply isn't enough time to start from scratch again — a step backwards that would be disrespectful to the citizens of this country and the rest of the world.

Even as a minority government the Conservatives pose a threat.

The Kyoto Protocol has the potential to greatly improve the Canadian and global economy. If we exceed our 6 per cent greenhouse gas reduction goal, we will be in a situation to sell our extra carbon credits. The more carbon credits we sell, the more money we will have to put directly back into funding renewable energy resources and even further

reduce our greenhouse gas emission and overall environmental impact.

Climate change is the most pressing issue in the world today. Our oceans are getting warmer, letting hurricanes race up the coast. The polar ice caps and world's major glaciers are, slowly but surely, receding. Climate is already changing — and this is just the beginning.

The environment is certainly not the only item for the federal agenda — but it is a topic that has been too easily overlooked; this is our future we are talking about. Jack Layton has committed to reducing Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by 25 per cent by the year 2020, and with a plan. Paul Martin has committed dollars and cents, but we are still waiting for him to put his money where his mouth is.

On the other hand, the Liberals have one of the best Environmental Ministers this country has ever seen (Stephane Dion). Stephen Harper is keen on nuclear energy — as is Martin — and he doesn't even have an environmental platform. Oh wait — he will give a 16 per cent tax break to anyone with a bus pass.

(Thanks for coming out, Steve.)

At the polls this year, I will be voting strategically to do everything I can to not allow a federal Conservative government to result. This means Alexa McDonough for the NDP here in Halifax — but I think that she would get the vote either way, as a highly intellectual, personable, and environmentally aware politician.

If Canada's electoral system were proportional, we would not have these strategic problems. With representational voting, it is possible to have a combination of seats in parliament that proportionally represent the views and concerns of a nation — letting us throw away the farce of 'strategic voting.' If we want to be heard and use our right of a democracy to the fullest, this is what we need. We must demand the rights we have as Canadian citizens to have our country governed by those whom we can trust.

But until that time comes, voters will have a hard time to vote with their hearts — let alone their heads.

Strip clubs morally reprehensible

JOSIP VACI
Opinions Contributor

There's a large debate regarding the proposed opening of the strip club Sensations in downtown Dartmouth. A band of neighbours to this proposed strip club are protesting the action, while promoters of the strip club argue that strip club patrons have a fundamental right to this entertainment.

As it stands, a person is free to operate as well as attend a strip club in this country. But having the right (or freedom) to attend or operate one doesn't mean that participating in such activity is right, or beneficial for our society.

When you look at a nude girl for your own gratification, you are using her. When someone goes to a strip club, they use the strippers as a means to an end (their own gratification) in a very morally reprehensible

way. When you use people, you don't truly love or respect them, and hence you deprive them of their own worth, which hurts both them and yourself. Having an establishment that permits the degradation of the human person cannot possibly be a right in any moral context.

Sex and other intimate actions like those exploited in a strip club are meant to be had with one person. A strip club promotes usage — rather than monogamy, love or trust — and thus "strips" people of their human dignity, whether they agree or not. We aren't talking about a minor use when we talk about using strippers, or anyone for one's own selfish desires; it's a severe use that deprives a person of their human dignity.

When people are used in a sexual way, against their will, society calls it sexual harassment. We recognize the damage done by this act to the person being victimized. Sexual harassment

doesn't harm a person physically, but it is wrong because the harassed person's inner self is severely violated. The damage done to the person being used (sexually harassed) is severe and it is real.

The difference in strip clubs is that the stripper gives consent to being used.

Just because one is free and willing to do an act, however, doesn't make it right.

Just because both parties consent to the act of using one another, and in addition are free to do it, doesn't make it a right.

There is a reason why the residents of Dartmouth have banded together, from the atheist to the deeply religious. The reason isn't arbitrary, but it is this: using strippers as a means to an end is wrong, and ultimately, no one has the right to open a strip club, whether in Dartmouth or beyond.

Letters@dalgazette.ca

IAT a lifesaver, but not a moneymaker
Dear Editor,

I sincerely and fervently encourage Dalhousie to further the investigation of Immuno-Augmentive Therapy for blood-borne cancers. Perhaps the open-mindedness of academic institutions and the encouragement of youth can be the one thing that can bring this therapy out from under the deep and US-enforced banishment it now operates.

I have had three family members all treated with IAT, they are still with us and living well primarily due to this extremely effective treatment.

IAT is listed as a quackery on a number of high-profile cancer organizations for completely unreasonable and easily disputable "observations." In his October 25, 2005 editorial, ["Alternative cancer treatment once swept under the rug: return it to the public debate."] Reid Southwick details some of the more sickening moments in just how easy it is for large organizations to shut down the little guy, but the mystery goes much deeper.

The truth is that IAT is simply not going to be a moneymaker for a large business.

It doesn't require a hospital stay, expensive equipment or specially trained blood workers or doctors. It's made from un-patentable materials (four blood proteins found in everyone's blood, easily distilled by centrifuge) and cannot be mass-produced because everyone receives customized treatment for his/her body.

The real tragedy is that IAT simply cannot support the voracious needs of big business — that golden vice that chokes the US and most of the world. No one here in the US is ever going to try to get this treatment through the system. It will be up to smarter, more reasonable people to do this.

O Canada, please save us!

Sincerely,
Jenny Jones
Framingham, Massachusetts

Editor needs and Editor
Dear Editor,

I am not a regular reader of *The Gazette*, but a copy recently came over my "desk" and I flipped through. I was happy to find a feature of year-end music picks from your staff. This is a tradition that spans the ages in

college media, and for many, features like this are a place to turn for serious music review, and for people who aren't music-obsessed, it's a way to learn about hidden treasures they may have missed.

Fantastic that you would carry on this tradition by printing the feature, full of keen music nerds writing thoughtful blurbs about the music that touched them this past year. And then you had to ruin it.

The Gazette's own editor inserts himself into an otherwise serious and thoughtful series of reviews with useless garbage. By inserting your own careless, useless drivel you come across as either A) mocking the writers who seem to care about good music, and seem interested in writing seriously about it, or B) attempting to make yourself appear cultured and interesting, or to feel connected to the world of popular music beyond your subscription to Spin.

Please know that I have no problem with your choices of music, just the blatant lack of effort put forth, and the subsequent cheapening of an otherwise great feature.

Chris Reynolds

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Spirituality is our common religion

SARAH VANDERWOLF
Opinions Editor

For the 56th consecutive year, members of the Baha'i faith have organized World Religion Day, when members of all faiths are encouraged to recognize "the common denominators underlying all religions."

The World Religion Day website proclaims the "prime cause of age-old conflict between man and man has been the absence of one ethical belief, a single spiritual belief — one moral code."

Since organized religion has unquestionably been a major source of violent conflict and millions of deaths throughout the history of civilization, the aim of World Religion Day is an honourable one.

It's dubious, however, whether the attempts of Baha'i followers to foster "interfaith understanding and harmony" have met with any success since the holiday's inception in 1950.

At this time last year, for instance, I interviewed the two faculty members of Dalhousie University's Comparative Religion department, and

was surprised to discover that they did not support World Religion Day — nor were they even aware of when it was.

They explained that as professors at a non-denominational institution, it was inappropriate for them to endorse any particular faith, including the Baha'i. Moreover, they said the aims of World Religion Day may be offensive to some who do not wish their faith to be compared with another possibly fundamentally different faith.

And, in reality, most organized religions do differ fundamentally. Despite the similarities the Baha'i draw between many of the major religions, such as their common values of generosity and compassion, it seems preposterous to expect members of these religions to compromise their views in order to arrive at "a single spiritual belief."

Differences exist not only between religions, but within them. Catholics and Protestants hold many distinct values and beliefs that have deeply affected the lives of their followers for centuries. Major world re-

ligions differ on other fundamental questions — such as who to worship, how to worship, how to behave, how to treat women, how to treat strangers, how to eat, how to wash, how to pray, when to celebrate, what to believe, what to condone, what to condemn and how to live.

There are still many religious differences in the world, which too often erupt into violence, despite the 56 years that World Religion Day has been in existence.

Despite all of these differences, I believe there is still one quality that does unite us all: our common humanity. This phrase may sound tired and clichéd, but it holds real meaning. Despite the vast differences between people's lives and subjective experiences, we are all members of a life force that is present here on Earth, and likely in other parts of the universe yet unknown to us.

In blogger Mark's article in *The Skeptical Inquirer*, the self-described "software engineer, political pundit and civil engineer" writes that he experiences spiritual feelings most strongly when he's able to witness

"nature in her finest," such as when he arrives home "to see a spectacular sunset displayed in all its finery with my house as the foreground. It awes me that such exquisite beauty can be a result of such complete randomness."

During such experiences, Mark writes, "I feel almost attached to the nature around me," becomes aware of "what an amazing place our universe is," and feels "a universe that is alive and multidimensional across space and time. When this connectedness permeates me as a presence, when I feel in touch with its harmony and vibration, that's when I feel spiritual."

In contrast, Mark says the elaborate architecture of churches and cathedrals is meant "to skew reality and suggest the supernatural," instead of encouraging feelings of connectedness and harmony.

Contrary to the beliefs of many religious pundits, it's clearly possible to be spiritual without being religious. Religion's true purpose is to foster a sense of community, purpose, and belonging amongst its members, to instill constructive values, and to en-

courage a positive attitude about life and human experience.

Perhaps secular spirituality would be a better means of achieving these goals. An appreciation of our role in the universe, however small, could in fact be considered the one "true religion." Contrary to all organized religions, achieving a sense of spiritual well-being through the awesome qualities of nature and subjective experience does not exclude anyone.

Unlike the Baha'i invention of World Religion Day, perhaps a greater appreciation of our collective role as a living race — cultural and religious differences aside — will foster a greater sense of understanding and harmony.

At an international community such as Dal, it's especially easy to realize just how much people all over the world have in common.

During my time at Dal, I have met students from Kenya, Tanzania, Barbados, Jordan, Germany, Syria, Oman, China, Norway, and India, and have instantly recognized many of the same qualities I see in myself and the people I grew up with.



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Ratings have been steadily climbing for the American interpretation of *The Office* since its second season debuted this fall.

Since purists who refuse to accept anything but the original British series remain only a small cult, the improvement must be attributed to overall freshness of the tangent this

series is on. This version compliments the style and form of the original (which, by the way, is perfect) so it's no longer an insult to hear "I like *The Office*, is the British one any good?"

Early episodes looked, according to one critic, like an invasion of the body snatchers. But the actors and writers have since made the

characters stand out from their originals, especially Rainn Wilson's Dwight Schrute — the toady character — who often steals the show.

The love story between the only sane characters, Pam and Jim, remains as involved as Tim and Dawn's was in the original. The American producers resisted the urge to recast them

as a babe and hunk so their flirtation is touching rather than inevitable.

Pam's impending wedding date will be the hook for the rest of the season. Jim has some time left to tell Pam he loves her, for the rest of us to stay glued and for some new viewers to get interested.

ARTS HOLE: American interpretation of *The Office*

Hillary Tittle / Staff Contributor

A glimpse of Afghanistan

Author Nelofer Pazira is a human face behind the news

KAREN ORTON
Arts Contributor

In person, Nelofer Pazira is nothing like I expected her to be. I was initially sceptical, as I glanced over the jacket of her recently published memoir, *A Bed of Red Flowers*, before attending her presentation at an Amnesty International event at St. Mary's University in October.

She stares out from the photograph on the back of the book, coolly beautiful, and carefully made up. She appears distant and removed, and I have a hard time imagining her among the war-torn television images that I associate with Afghanistan, Pazira's homeland.

Yet when Pazira walks to the front of the room, after a showing of her documentary, she proceeds to dispel the misconceptions I had of her and of Afghanistan.

She starts out somewhat hesitantly, yet as she speaks to the audience, telling us of her childhood growing up in a war-ravaged country and of the Afghan people she cares for so deeply, she comes across as extremely committed and passionate. Pazira is driven by a desire to create change, and to help her country move beyond its recent troubled past.

Nelofer Pazira, 31, has a long list of accomplishments on her CV. Not only was her memoir published last year to critical acclaim, but she was also the star of the 2001 film festival favourite *Kandahar*, a film loosely based on events in her life. Pazira has made the documentary *Return to Kandahar*, about the real life events behind this film, and founded a charity for women called the "Dyana Afghan Women's Fund." She's also a journalist with the CBC and is presently working on a second book.

A Bed of Red Flowers details Pazira's childhood and adolescence in Afghanistan, and her family's immigration to Canada when she was 16 years old. In the late 1970s, a communist government gained power in Afghanistan and was accompanied by a large Russian military presence.

Pazira describes her coming of age within a climate of violence, fear



Pazira, a voice for dignity and respect, stands in war-torn Afghanistan.

and repression of dissent, where disappearances and suicide bombings were commonplace. From a young age, Pazira reacted against the Russian presence, inspired by the political activism of her father in his youth.

From throwing rocks at Russian tanks when she was 11 years old to joining a resistance movement in her teens, Pazira's childhood was a far cry from the experiences that characterize youth in Canada.

Pazira and her peers looked up to the Afghan rebel fighters, the mu-

jahidin, who were deeply religious and were committed opponents of the Russian regime. When she was 16 years old, Pazira and her family escaped and spent a short time living among the mujahidin in Pakistan. There, she saw another side to her childhood heroes through their repressive attitudes towards women based in their fundamentalist Islamic beliefs.

Pazira also describes her correspondence with her best friend Dyana, who stayed in Kabul when she left for Canada. She was worried as Dyana

became increasingly depressed, with the constant violence and repression taking their toll on a once happy and vibrant young woman.

Both *Kandahar* and *Return to Kandahar* detail the events touched on in Pazira's memoir, in which she returns to Afghanistan to look for her friend.

There is a scene in Pazira's documentary, *Return to Kandahar*, shown prior to her talk at SMU, where she speaks with a group of young women in a local university. The students are outspoken and engaging, offering their opinions and debating among

themselves as Pazira asks them about their experiences and impressions of university and of their country. They could be students in any class at Dalhousie.

Yet as the women file out of the classroom and prepare to leave the university, the scene no longer fits in at a Canadian university. Their distinctive features, lively faces and colourful outfits disappear under a wall of cloth, as they don their burkas in preparation for the outside world.

As Pazira makes her way through the hallways of the university with her film crew, her path is blocked by a group of angry young men. They have a problem with her interviewing "their" women for a Western audience. Pazira explains that these women decided to be interviewed, and that this was their personal choice. The men raise their voices in disapproval and indignation, and it's clear they don't understand her reasoning.

This powerful scene in Pazira's documentary is indicative of what her novel and two films are successful in accomplishing. They humanize a country and a people who are too often seen as foreign to people in the West. It's difficult to see the commonality of emotions and experience in a society, which is usually seen as "other" due to cultural and religious differences.

During her talk, Pazira explained that the one thing she wants young people to take from her book is an increased knowledge of Afghanistan's rich culture and people.

What is remarkable about Pazira is her idealism and desire to create change. She doesn't want to be slotted into either the Western or the Islamic side.

Instead, Pazira wants to be a voice for human dignity and respect — a perspective too often overlooked.

"We're coming to live in a world between two forces of extreme, the West versus the forces of fanatics, who only see the world in their own image," said Pazira as she finished her presentation. "Why can't we just be on the side of human dignity and respect?"

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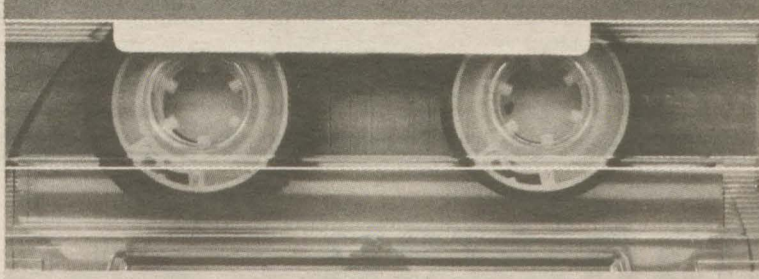
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Burn Baby Burn



TO ALL THINGS LOST

During the last moments, the intrepid — yet sometimes timid — arts editors lost contact during the great storm.

They had written their notes down and we're prepared to agree upon a theme for this week's Burn Baby Burn; however, that plan was soon abolished when the radio transmitter crashed to the ground after being suspended in the air for two minutes.

All the arts editors could do after that point of destruction is decide on their own theme and hopefully the other would pick something similar — or both will compliment each other.

Is this a test? That's for you to decide.

SIDE A: WALKING ON A JANUARY NIGHT Lindsay Dobbin / Arts Editor

Peace, simplicity and insulation are the things we need on a cold January night while walking through the streets. Estonian composer Arvo Pärt provides these elements within his musical environments.

"Spiegel im Spiegel" is the most beautiful song you will ever hear and it's a perfect compliment to any winter night. Pärt described his music best when he said, "I could compare my music to white light which contains all colours. Only a prism can divide the colours and make them appear; this prism could be the spirit of the listener."

- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt
- "Spiegel im Spiegel" - Arvo Pärt

SIDE B: SONGS YOU WISH WERE HUMAN BEINGS Bridgette Sullivan / Assistant

Have you ever listened to a song that personifies all the qualities that you want in a friend? Whether it's the tune, the lyrics or the essence of the men or women behind the music, there is often something about songs we wish that we could extract and mold into a person.

Some possess the sensitivity we want to hold our hand; others, the brash attitude that would throw snowballs at cars with us. These songs aren't just songs, they are good friends with which we could watch movies, go swimming or eat pork chops.

- "Through Being Cool" - Saves The Day
- "The Bed's Too Big Without You" - The Police
- "I Know What I Know" - Paul Simon
- "Meantime" - The Futureheads
- "Pin" - Yeah Yeah Yeahs
- "This Charming Man" - The Smiths
- "Good Weekend" - Art Brut
- "John Wayne Gacy, Jr" - Sufjan Stevens
- "Ke Ai Nu Ren (Adorable Woman)" - Jay Chou
- "Why Don't You Try Me" - Ry Cooder

The Showdown

Music, art and celebration come together in Duplex .02

CHRISTINA STEFANSKI
MAGEN POWELL
Staff Contributors

Duplex .02, the second annual New Year's Eve showcase, is more than just a party. The event, which involves spectators and artists from a variety of backgrounds, transcends boundaries by celebrating the merging of creative abilities.

Organized by Droppin' Science Productions and Lounge37.co, Duplex .02 featured performances by deejays, rappers, breakdancers and works from an array of artists.

Level One

Level one of the Khyber Club featured hip-hop performers by The Goods (Tachichi and Gordski), Anderoc, Alpha Flight, Backburner (Jesse Dangerously, Jay Bizzy, Wordburglar), Fax 4 (Markit, Boy III, Spesh-K, Quake), DJ Cosmo, DJ Y-Rush, Apt, Uncle Fester, DJ Josh, Cal and Kool Kryz.

The night's vibe was electrifying and the turnout was better than expected. Kool Kryz got the crowd started with loving Uncle Fester on the turntables.

Apt and Cal's performance was gripping. In between tracks, the two danced to jazz and swing breaks played by DJ Cosmo. And Fax 4 and DJ Lap One excited the female audience members surrounding them as the four heated up the stage.

Alpha Flight teamed up deejays Y-Rush and Josh who spun beats simultaneously for GhettoSocks. He impressed the crowd with tactful wordplay and new lyrics. DJ Josh's performance seemed to amaze the audience more than ever before.

DJ Anderoc's exquisite taste in hip hop got the audience jumping and dancing. It was a pleasure to see her rippin' it up.

Backburner's performances gave each of three emcees the spotlight. Jesse Dangerously, Jay Bizzy and Wordburglar each performed their



Jesse Dangerously and Jay Bizzy of Backburner (L-R). / Photo: Christina Stefanski

own tracks and Uncle Fester highlighted their strengths playing hip-hop bangers on the decks.

Jesse Dangerously rapped like a machine gun and he conveys one hundred ideas each time he grabs the mic. Jay Bizzy's confidence rode the beats and his charisma was reflected in the crowd's lively response. Wordburglar performed his title tracks, which define who he is: a comedian who raps.

The Goods proved that there is something in a name. Tachichi captured the audience's attention by spitting ambitious flows while standing on chairs. DJ Gordski's intricate cuts on the turntables marked the flare of the set. DJ Gordski ended the night with heartfelt wishes for a prospective new year.

Level Two

Urban art covered the Khyber's walls on both floors. Brilliant colors, textures and characters sprung to life, reaching out from a variety of media. Canvases, cans, toys and even a laptop were emblazoned with artists' personas in traditional graffiti style. Framed photographs boasted spray-painted freight trains from across the globe. The variety of interpretations and artistic styles filled the rooms

with vivid mosaics.

One artist's work, knowone, dominated a corner with pieces ranging from sketches to radiant oil paintings. His depictions of people were true to life — so much that spectators recognized acquaintances in the portraits — and his portrayal of women was honest and empowering.

Jabba Tha Cutt and Count Sockula held down the decks on the second floor. Old school melodies, break beats and classic hip-hop tracks set the stage and kept hips swaying and heads nodding in appreciation.

A circle formed and breakdancers from opposing crews united, leaving labels behind. B-boys B-Little and Igrok engaged the crowd that quickly developed, encouraging witnesses to react with clapping and cheering.

Duplex .02's second floor embodied numerous aspects of positive hip-hop culture, which the atmosphere reflected.

Thanks must be extended to Droppin' Science Productions and Lounge37.com for organizing such a successful event. Many who attended are already for next year.

Art displayed at Duplex .02 can be purchased on www.lounge37.com.

ROSEMARY GILL AWARD

In June of 1995 the President approved the establishment of the Rosemary Gill Award in memory of Dr. Rosemary Gill, Director of University Health Services, who exemplified a high level of commitment of service to students, both in terms of her responsibilities as a physician on campus and as a member of the larger University community.

Awards are presented annually to a member or members of faculty or staff of the University who have provided outstanding service, other than teaching, to students. Up to four awards can be made each year. The selection of recipients is made by a committee consisting of the President, the Vice-President - Student Services, the Chair of the Student Relations and Residence Committee of the Board of Governors, and a student appointed by the Student Union.

The first Rosemary Gill Awards were presented in February, 1996, and nominations are now being sought for awards to be presented in 2006. Nominations should be made in writing and include the rationale for the nomination and up to three letters of support, preferably including at least one from a student or students.

The Rosemary Gill Award is a plaque presented to the recipient at a reception hosted by the President. In addition, a permanent plaque bearing the names of annual recipients is displayed in the Henry Hicks Academic Administration Building.

Nominations should be submitted to:

The Office of the Vice-President
Student Services
Room G28, Main Level
Killam Memorial Library
Dalhousie University
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 4H8



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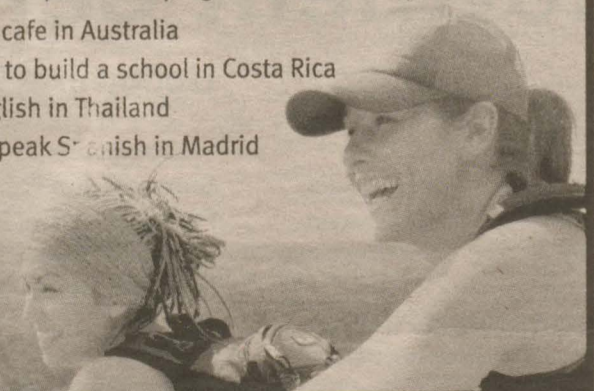
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Wanderlust

New Year's Eve under Taipei 101: a strategic guide

BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN
Assistant Arts Editor

The mission: to get as close as possible to Taipei 101 by midnight tonight, Dec. 31, 2005.

The goal: to bask in holiday delight beneath the towering structure as we ring in the New Year. There will be fireworks. Fireworks!

Background: Taipei 101 is a 508-metre skyscraper, making it the tallest building in the world. Its construction was completed in July 2004 and has since assumed a Mordor-like presence on overcast days.

Haunting the Taiwanese capital's skyline, Taipei 101 may not seem like a place you want to go. But within the structure lies a delightful array of shops and restaurants. It's important to not be distracted by these brightly lit sites of consumer pleasure. We must complete "the mission."

Geography: Oriented at 23 30 N, 121 00 E it will be a crisp and cool night — the temperature hovering at around 15 degrees C, I suspect. Bring a sweater. It may rain, too. You will have to navigate the city's Mass Rapid Transit light rail system. Bring your "Easy Card", the Canadian equivalent of a bus pass you deposit money on, and then swipe at a turnstile as payment. It's going to be busy, so have your card ready for the quickest swipe possible.

When we board the train it will be crowded. The meagre supply of seats will have already been taken, so keep your eyes peeled for any free ones that come up as we make our way toward Taipei Main Station. Your legs need to be rested and powerful for quick manoeuvres through crowds and climbing obstacles.

There are seats reserved for the elderly, disabled and pregnant women, but pay this no mind. This is New Year's. Take no prisoners.

At Taipei Main Station we will have to change subway lines. You'll be caught in an underground station and there will be thousands of people there, all heading in the exact same direction — all trying to get on the same train.

It will become hot and the air will grow moist and thick as the beast of a crowd comes to a standstill. Be strong. Don't tie your shoelaces.

Keep your "Easy Card" ready to swipe and once you've made it to the platform, don't look back. When the first train rolls into the station, the hoard will surge. It will take aggressive precision to get on board. The train will move slower than usual,



Today's lesson: Taipei 101

weighed down by the hundreds of people riding toward destiny. You will get anxious and may snap at your comrades.

Now here is some top-secret information. The poorly informed will try and make it straight to the Taipei City Hall stop, which is closest to the record-breaking skyscraper. Novices! Get off one stop before everyone else, at Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall. You will be further away from the celebration site, but you will be able to move with speed through the empty station, gaining time on those bogged down at Taipei City Hall.

When you emerge into the crisp night air, immediately head east. If you have lost your compass in a scrap with an old woman for a seat on the train, just follow the crowds. Everyone will move towards the tower like pilgrims intoxicated by the glow of its lights; some may actually be intoxicated.

You will soon find Taipei 101 in sight. Find a building to lean against or a park bench to stand on, and enjoy the show. It will commence at 00:00 hours.

Good luck and God speed.

SuperSex in the SuperCity

The swing of things

DAVE WENTWORTH
Sexpert

On December 21, 2005 the Supreme Court of Canada released a 7-2 decision approving sex clubs on the grounds that sexual activity held within these establishments is consensual and with legal participants. This decision set a national standard that meant sex clubs patrons are no longer engaging in activities considered to be criminal.

Swinging has long occurred in Canadian relationships. The Internet has provided fertile opportunities for couples to find other couples interested in partner swapping, group sex of all varieties, and orgies.

So, just how common are swingers clubs in the city? In a CBC interview after the Supreme Court ruling, one swing club owner in Dartmouth purported to have 3,000 members from Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island.

Although clubs boast large memberships, and lots of domestic swapping happens each day over the Internet, it can be difficult to eventually gain entry into the lifestyle. Underground sex parties are, well, underground and with that there is a lot of discreetness. On top of that, clubs and couples who are savvy at playing the field know to be judicious and selective when looking for one or more play partners.

Every swinger club is unique in its own way. The frequency of where a group meets and the location can



Swingers parties and mate-swapping clubs are more common than you may think.

vary. The venue can be anything from a residential home to a commercial club.

Often, most parties have strict rules. One common protocol is that, upon arrival, participants are to undress or change into a sexual outfit such as a leather corset. Either way, there are normally varying themes in each room, primarily revolving around sex and flirting. Lighting and music are used to set the mood, and a non-sex safe room with snacks and drinks gives participants a place to slow down, take it easy and enjoy the evening.

The culture of swinging also has other strict and binding rules that are designed with everybody's best interests in mind.

No cell phones, cameras or recording devices are allowed, and most parties forbid drugs and alcohol. Some parties are bi-friendly whereas others may be strictly cou-

ples pairing off with other couples.

When you find a swinging club you will be able to ask specific questions and I would maximize this opportunity. This will help to alleviate nervousness on your first swinging escape; however, you will probably still feel some degree of awkwardness once the time for the party draws near.

A common misconception is that swinger's parties are exclusively for couples. That may not be the case.

It can be worthwhile looking into clubs that allow for guests to bring a friend who may only be a casual lover, or some organizers will coordinate and match-make single guys and single ladies. Again, a lot comes down to the specific established house rules.

There are so many sexual interests out there and swinging is only one aspect. Regardless of what takes your fancy, have a very safe and playful 2006!

SPIN SPIN SUGAR

LINDSAY DOBBIN / Arts Editor



Matt and Chris Time
Family, Families
Independent

Under the "sounds like" section of Matt and Chris Time's myspace page (www.myspace.com/mattandchristime), it reads: "Imagine if (for some reason) Matthew Higgins and Christopher Durning got together and started playing acoustic based pop music."

In other words, one would have to spend time with these two Saint John, N.B., lads to gather an idea of

what their music sounds like. Or one could just listen to *Family, Families*. But since this is a music review, the reviewer should be giving you, the reader, an idea of what the music sounds like and whether it's good or not. So, on with that.

After years and years of reviewing records in her sleep, this reviewer has been able to construct a handy checklist that can be used to evaluate all lo-fi country pop records. Fortunately, Matt and Chris Time pass all criteria with flying colours!

1. Thought-out production and arrangements: Very good. But there is still a strong feeling of spontaneity to the record.

2. Quirky instrument choices: Awesome! The song "Montreal" features a cookie tin for percussion.

3. The songs blend into one another through the use of audio skits and short musical stints: This is perhaps one of the best elements of *Family, Families*. Very creative passages.

4. Harmony that would make money: It's all there!

5. Strong references to the places found within their hometown: Yup!

6. A sense of community: Produced by Adam Mowery of Port City Allstars fame and featuring Saint John pop-stars Clinton Charlton and Jud Crandall, *Family, Families* — like its name suggests — a group effort grounded in Higgins' and Durning's quirky tunes.

Cut this out and paste it on your fridge!

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Report Card

GILBERT SWITZER / Stage 9 / Jan. 7, 2006



Reporter: Bridgette Sullivan
Photographer: Bridgette Sullivan
Stage Presence: A
Audience Reaction: A+
Sound: B-
Get-It-On-Ability: A+

Very late into the night, Uber D kicked off Gilbert Switzer's set by asking the audience three questions: "Why did Jesus have long hair?" "Why did Jesus have a beard?" And finally, the bearded and long-haired Uber D asked, "Should I cut my hair?"

The performance can roughly be divided into three stages: Uber D fully clothed, Uber D shirtless, and Uber D wearing only underpants.

The arrival of each new stage required the lead singer to leap fear-

lessly into the crowd — a plucky group who enthusiastically gobbled up every moment of Switzer's performance.

Poison I and Ash F, who each took turns on guitar and drums, were certainly not outdone by the glint of Uber D's bare nipples in the stage lighting. At points, one wondered whether it was an alcohol-induced haze that made Poison I's right hand on guitar look like a blur. It was, in fact, the ferocity of her playing and

that of Ash F, which gave this performance serious music credibility.

Although it was difficult to hear exactly what Uber D was singing about for most of the show, any audience member familiar with the wild punk-rock band knew that it probably involved Uber D's fear of being impregnated by Rubben Studdard or other confessions of that variety.

A wise New Year's resolution for the courageous: never miss another Gilbert Switzer show again.

Looking for exposurizer: arts@dalgazette.ca

GAMERS AWARE

DANA MASSEY / Staff Contributor

Originals dominate top games of 2005

For years, video game stores had been stocked with sequels, spin-offs, and expansion packs and licensed content. In 2005, the pendulum began to swing the other way, as many of the top games were original properties. Here is a look at some of the year's best PC games and biggest surprises.

With the release of *Indigo Prophecies*, the long-abandoned adventure genre was reborn. This PC/console title used reflex-driven gameplay, a strong emphasis on a Hollywood-calibre story and superb voice acting to shock everyone. Before this game, gamers were more likely to be forced to play adventure games in school than actually buy one. *Indigo Prophecies* changed that.

Some thought that, with *Half Life 2* and *Doom 3* hitting shelves, 2004 would be the year of the shooter.

It turns out an original property — and two sequels — trumped them both. In 2005, *EE.A.R.* blended horror and first-person shooter gameplay into one of the year's best games. Two war sequels, *Call of Duty 2* and *Battlefield 2*, also hit the ground running. Despite all the hype given to 2004, 2005 was the better year for shooter fans.

One of the few sequels to really make a mark this year was *Civilization IV*. *Civilization* is one of the most popular game franchises of all time, and this latest instalment didn't let the gaming industry down. *IV* stayed true to the strategy/empire-building roots and added enough new features and graphics to make the game interesting to those who had played its predecessors. It also made one of the franchise's weak points its strength with fabulous multi-player support.

More on the negative side,

the successful massively multi-player online role-playing game (MMORPG) *Star Wars Galaxies* hit a landmine when parent company LucasArts launched the *Star Wars Galaxies Starter Kit*. MMORPGs are persistent online worlds in which players pay to build characters over the course of years. Co-developers LucasArts and Sony Online Entertainment decided earlier this year that, despite moderate success, *Galaxies* simply did not deliver an authentic *Star Wars* experience.

So they changed it from a complex character-driven game to a fast-paced arcade game.

Fan response was not positive.

The Movies, a movie-mogul tycoon game; *Guild Wars*, a free to play online RPG; and *City of Villains*, an evil addition to the super-hero online RPG *City of Heroes*, were the other major highlights of 2005 for the PC.

This Week's Picks

An Entertainment Pick by Kate English

People Watching

I often joke that I don't like people; I just like to watch.

One of the best places to people watch on campus is the Killam library. The atrium is particularly delightful, not only because of its pleasant atmosphere and dripping ceiling, but because of the high amounts of traffic. Hundreds and hundreds of Dalhousians pass through each day — each one uniquely entertaining.

It seems to be a safe way to get lost in the crowd.

On a bright sunny day, sitting in the atrium, I pretend to read my copy of *The Gazette* whilst secretly watching and hypothesizing about the couple at the next table. My mind drifts and I start to wonder what that girl is reading, or how long it took to tease her hair into that I-just-fell-out-of-bed-tousled-pony-tail look. I wonder what that guy over there is thinking about — something deep and philosophical perhaps? Or maybe that he needs to replace his can of Axe body spray.

People watching can be so entertaining. The possibilities are as endless as your imagination. We all do it.

Local Crop by Moira Brandy



The Grass Mulgrave

Listening to The Grass for the first time made me realize that having my teeth pulled might be an enjoyable experience if my dentist had the right music playing over the intercom.

ing over the intercom.

The band members' soulful and gritty voices cut right through their music to the listener — perhaps because they are a little off-key once and awhile. But they still have an affable edge to their music, which gets toes tapping and is easy to sing along to, especially to the stand-out track, "Bright Bright Candle Light."

Everyone should look forward to seeing The Grass play live. I already have what a show would be like planned out in my head — there will be sweat, there will be drunkenness, and everyone will be wearing boots.

But before you go see The Grass, memorize *Mulgrave* so you can sing along.



The

SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Upcoming events on Sexton Campus

In trying to decrease apathy at Dalhousie, upcoming events will be posted — as soon as they're known — in The Sextant. If you have an event you would like advertised please contact sextant@dal.ca a week in advance. Currently the standard events taking place every week are Trivia on Fridays and Live music on Thursdays.

Please allow me to speak of this trivia for a moment. It is not hard engineering trivia. (That would be like class. Who wants to go to class on a Friday night? No one. Well no one who might come to the T-room. So the trivia is light, silly and fun). The goal of trivia is to get you to remember your childhood. Remember Dr. Mario, The Snorks, or what happened to Shredder's face? Well then you would be a natural at trivia. If you don't know about these things, that's OK too — you can still guess "a chocolate bar," right? If you can guess a chocolate bar, you win a chocolate bar, and a beer. The staff always appreciates tips in the form of chocolate.

Every Thursday night the T-room features live bands, and I've heard some pretty good tunes in there. More importantly (to me anyway), I've met some amazing people there because bands tend to bring out non-engineers. This is extremely important to our campus; these are people from upper campus, from the local area and other schools. Why is their attendance important? I can meet people at school during the day. I don't often get the chance to meet people from off campus except at functions like this. So come on out. It's a good time.

Specific to this week at the T-room, we have a Texas hold 'em Tourney taking place Thursday at 5:30, with Rebecca Higgs playing that night.

Friday afternoon will feature a horror movie, with free popcorn. The film has yet to be decided, mostly be-

cause it's scarier that way.

Tech Ball!!!! This will be happening on Thursday February 2nd. The T-Room will be closed that day. This is the day before Munroe Day so it should be a big hit. Tickets should be on sale this Friday. Please help spread the word about this event so that it can be a huge success. Also, if you want to help out I'm sure organizer Kris would be very appreciative (also also, if you would really like to help out, agree to go to Tech Ball with an engineer. We all know engineers could use a date once in a while. They clean up nice, are usually soft spoken, and plan on being pretty rich in a few short years. Isn't there worse ways to spend a Thursday?).

Superbowl!!!! The annual T-Room Superbowl party may last all day. Details are still coming down the pipeline for this one. If you're interested in helping out, please contact troom@dal.ca for more information.

Dalhousie University will host the 2006 **Canadian Society of Industrial Engineers Conference (CSIE)** at the Casino Hotel this Thursday to Saturday. Over 320 students and professionals from across the country will attend the three-day conference. Opening ceremonies are to take place on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the Casino's main ballroom. Guest speakers, plant tours and industry information sessions will take place Friday and Saturday. Senior design competition and technical paper competitions commence on Saturday. Registration for this event is now closed, but if you are interested in meeting national engineering students, you may be able to find them at the following locations:

Thursday: The Alehouse, The Palace
Friday: Pogue Fado, The Dome
Saturday: Rain

New Year, New Guy...

G'day everyone, I'm Brennan McVeigh, and I'm the person they found to be Sextant editor for this lovely publication. Allow me introduce myself; I'm a fourth year mech. eng. student. I come from the lovely isle of Cape Breton, and I completed my first two years of engineering at the former UCCB, for which I am eternally grateful. That's the basic background. You may have seen me at the T-room — I have a tendency to spend a lot of time there. I work there, I host trivia, and I hang out there. So you may have seen me. If you haven't I encourage you to come out and participate.

To begin I'm going to speak about an opinion of mine. It's about alcohol. You may be familiar with the substance. If not, alcohol is defined as any beverage containing more than half of one per cent alcohol by volume.

This substance can cause a per-

son to become intoxicated.

Now for those of you who know me, you should know I don't drink.

WAIT!

Before you start to judge me for not drinking please hear me out. A lot of my friends love to drink. I spend a lot of time with them. My point is you don't need to drink to hang out with drunk or drinking people.

For those of you wondering, I have no reason to not drink. None at all. I never have. I've never had a drink.

And I don't plan on it any time soon.

I just don't see the point.

I don't look down upon those that do — in fact, I tend to encourage other to drink. That's if I know they enjoy it.

I work in a bar. I go out to bars a lot, too much probably.

But I don't drink. It's my choice; I have no reason not to drink.

Most people who read this have never done crack. Why haven't you

done crack? Not appealing to you? Me neither. Same with booze. But that's just me.

You don't believe me. I hear people all the time saying that hate spending time with those who are inebriated. "They're so annoying," "I don't like to be around them," "I need to be drunk to put up with them," etc.

Well, I'm here to defend those people. They're my friends, and the thing most people don't know is when people are intoxicated, they are almost totally honest with you.

(Yes, some people are annoying, but they're annoying sober, too).

Next time someone asks you to go out, give it a hook. Try not drinking. It's not that hard. It's not being drunk that makes you have a good time — it's the people you're with that dictate how much fun you have. So if you're with good people you'll have a good time. The bar or alcohol doesn't matter, just your friends.

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY GOVERNORS' AWARDS

In 1992, to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Dalhousie Student Union, and to recognize students' contribution to the quality and vitality of the University, the Board of Governors established a set of awards to be known as Governors' Awards.

Up to four awards can be made each year, for exceptional contributions or leadership in the extracurricular realm in such areas as university governance, development of a sense of community on campus, community service, internationalizing the campus, visual or performing arts, minority access or athletics. To be eligible, students must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or equivalent. Otherwise, all students - undergraduate, graduate or professional faculty student, full or part-time, at any stage in their academic career - may be considered for an award.

Recipients are chosen by a committee consisting of the President, three members of the Board of Governors and the Vice-President, Student Services. Nominations are invited, but the committee may consider other persons as well. Awards, in the form of a plaque, are presented annually in the spring by the Chair of the Board or designate.

Nominations should include a written description of the student nominee's contribution to the University and up to three letters of support. **Nominations should be forwarded on or before Friday, February 10, 2006, to:**

The Office of the Vice-President
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Dal vs UPEI
Saturday, Jan. 14 @ 7 p.m. Dal Arena
Dal vs UNB

Women's hockey

Saturday, Jan. 14 @ 3 p.m. Dal Arena
Dal vs UNB

Women's basketball

Saturday, Jan. 14 @ 1 p.m. Dalplex
Dal vs MUN
Sunday, Jan. 15 @ 1 p.m. Dalplex
Dal vs St. EX.

Men's basketball

Saturday, Jan. 14 @ 3 p.m. Dalplex
Dal vs MUN
Sunday, Jan. 15 @ 3 p.m. Dalplex
Dal vs St. EX.

Women's volleyball

Friday, Jan. 13 @ 6 p.m. Dalplex Dal vs SMU

Men's hockey

Dal 3 UPEI 5
Dal 6 UNB 5

Women's basketball

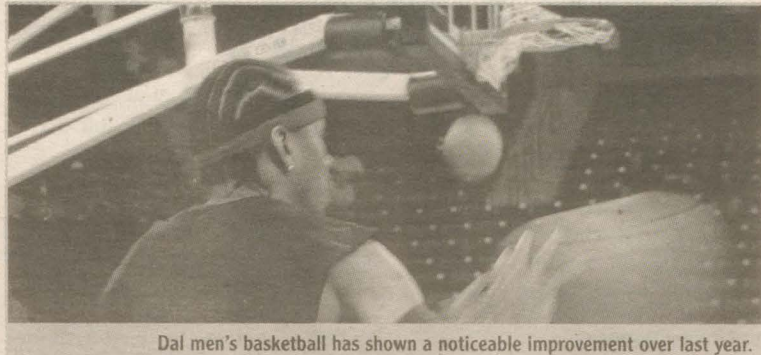
Dal 72 UNB 70
Dal 63 Acadia 52

Men's basketball

Dal 45 UNB 59
Dal 84 Acadia 86

VARSITY SCHEDULE

VARSITY RESULTS



Dal men's basketball has shown a noticeable improvement over last year.

Tigers out-gunned by Varsity Reds and kick off New Year with loss at home

DANIEL REED
Sports Contributor

The return to home-court to kick-off the second-half of the season didn't provide any help for the Tigers.

After the team finished runner-up to St. EX. in the Rod Shoveller Tournament that it hosted during the holidays, the Tigers were no match for the UNB Varsity Reds. The team was out-played by UNB, and lost 59-45 on a seemingly off-night.

The Tigers scored a lowly 45 points and only shot 29 percent from the field. The team rushed its offence and settled for low-percentage shots, and was out-hustled on both ends of the floor by a more determined UNB squad.

Tigers' coach John Campbell says that the lack of offence led to his team's downfall.

"Anytime in our conference when you score 45 points, you're not going to win," says Campbell.

The team's offensive woes weren't the only area of its game that let it down. Dal's lackluster defense was picked apart by UNB's strong presence in the paint. Varsity Red's centre Nathan Bokma had his way in the post and on the glass, where he easily grabbed six offensive rebounds (14 in total), and was left uncontested under the basket where he sunk seven of his 11 attempts from the field.

"Defensively, we really struggled on the glass," says Campbell. "We gave up a lot of second-chance opportunities. Their big guys had their way with ours, and that caused us a lot of problems."

While both teams had little motion in their respective offences and fired poor shots, it was Dal's inability to

move UNB's big men off the offensive glass, and limit their second-chance opportunities off missed shots, that added to the poor performance. As a team, the V-Red's grabbed a total of 50 boards (18 offensive), while the Tigers could only get their hands on 33 (nine offensive).

The crowd of about 200 fans in attendance witnessed a Dalhousie team that has fared well at home throughout the first-half of the season play away from its usual strengths of defensive intensity and tough work ethic.

Senior swingman Monte Francois quietly scored 16 points for the Tigers on seven of 12 shooting from the floor, but his solid numbers were eclipsed by his team's horrendous shooting percentages.

Matt Brooks, the second leading scorer on the season, couldn't penetrate UNB's defense late in the game when Dal was riding a Francois-sparked run.

Brooks managed to only sink three shots out of his 12 attempts, and was unable to work himself into a consistent shooting rhythm.

Captain Dan Bustillo was ineffective offensively, which resulted in a dismal 0-5 shooting performance.

A constant undertone of frustration seemed to eclipse the Tiger's game, and the team, as well as the crowd, cringed at many of the calls by the officials; however, no official could help the Tigers' shooting percentages and lack of defensive effort.

Dalhousie now stands at 3-4 for the regular season, and 10-9 including tournament play. Despite the rough loss, they have been experiencing a noticeable turnaround from last season.

OT win sets the tone for second-half of women's basketball season

MIKE TWEEDALE
Staff Contributor

The Dalhousie Tigers women's basketball team showed poise and determination Friday night at Dalplex in posting a 72-70-overtime victory over the UNB Varsity Reds. To force the game into overtime, the Tigers rallied late in the second-half to close a 10-point deficit in the game's final five minutes, and then outlasted the Varsity Reds 10-8 in the extra frame.

It was the Tigers' first league game since the holiday break, and the win boosted them into a tie with the Memorial Seahawks atop the AUS standings.

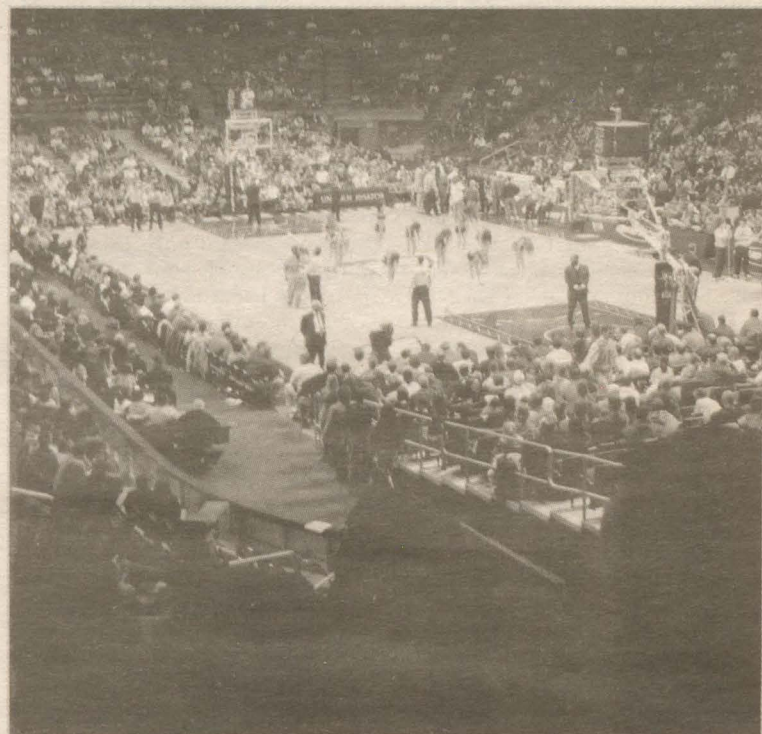
With a strong nucleus of returning players and the development of an outstanding group of rookies, the Tigers' coaching staff and players say they can improve upon their performance over the season's first-half, which the team went 3-3 in six league games.

"We had expectations of winning all our games before Christmas," says head coach Dr. Carolyn Savoy. "We ended up winning three, and although the games were close, overall we were not pleased with our performance. We struggled getting the team chemistry together."

Savoy had her players return to campus for three days of practice, which led up to the St. Mary's University Invitational tournament played over the New Year's weekend. The Tigers beat CBU and Brock University before falling to UNB in the tournament final.

"Since they've come back, the chemistry is much better," says Savoy. "I think the players have internalized a lot of their goals and I believe now that they are in a better position performance-wise than they were before Christmas."

A group of experienced veterans that includes Ryan McKay, Leslie Duncan, Kate McNeil and Carolyn Peppin continue to provide team leadership. This experienced group credits a talented bunch of rookies for helping the team improve its overall play.



The women's basketball team wants to go undefeated in the rest of the season.

"We've got a few young kids and their improvement from September to November has been incredible," says fifth-year guard Carolyn Peppin. "They've made us much deeper. Laurie Girdwood, Tamara [Mijatovic] and Emma [Cooper] all provide a couple minutes off the bench, which is great because it gives our starters a rest."

Peppin says that Friday night's win was important for setting the tone for the second-half of the season.

"We want to send a message," Peppin says. "The playoffs are in PEI this year. The way it's looking right now, anyone could upset anyone, so it's up to us to get the points in these league games so that we go into the playoffs as one of the top two seeds."

Third-year guard Kelly Donald

says that the entire team knew how important it was to start the post-holiday break with a win.

"We were down 10 with five minutes left and it was definitely hard, but no one gave up," says Donald. "I looked in all our players eyes and I saw that we knew we're going to win."

Donald also praises her teammates for sticking with the training program.

"We now have the attitude to win most of our games to earn one of the top two seeds for the playoffs," she says.

Last year, the Tigers failed to earn a playoff-bye and were eliminated in the first round, so, this year, the team has its eyes set on earning a pass to the second round.

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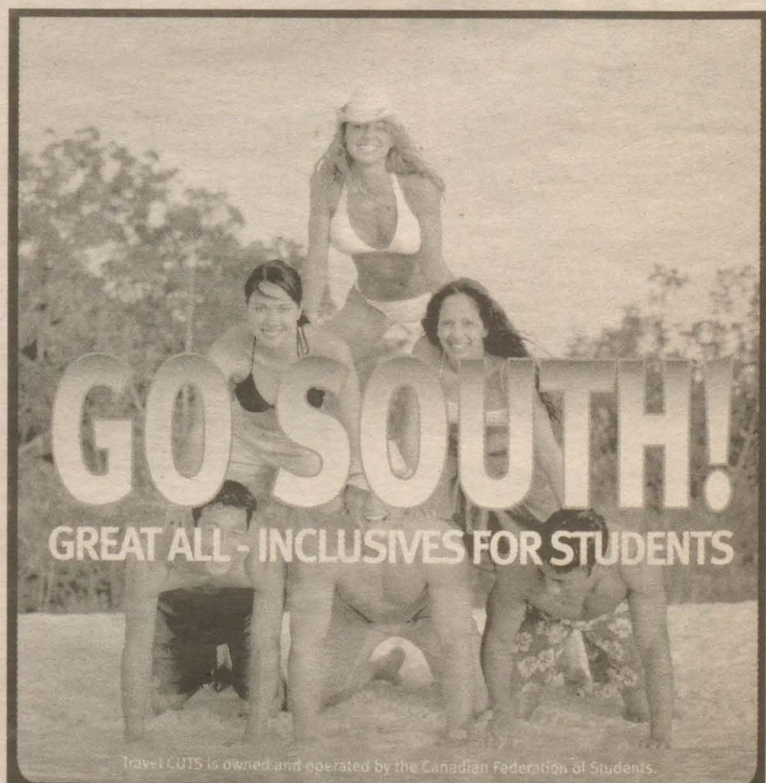
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I hate professional sports

Talk from the water cooler

MOIRA BRADY
Sports Contributor

I'm a sports fan enthusiast. Sport fan tradition and peoples' lifelong commitment to a game and a team has always intrigued me. Fanatics' favouritism is telling of their character and origin. For example, hockey is a Canadian national pastime and so outsiders identify the game with the country.

Sport fandom is a cultural phenomenon that can be seen in every part of the world, and there is such pride associated with it. I'm always impressed by the memorized details, the endless facts about each player and team, the acronyms associated with the value and skill of each player, and the secret lingo shared by those who truly know. I always wanted to decode that lingo, but I never made the effort to.

The fanaticism and cult-like ideology of the people who truly love sports are kind of beautiful things

— their loyalty gives me hope for humanity. The games they enjoy are a metaphor for mankind. The games themselves are another story entirely.

I am not a follower. I do not like sports. I'm not referring to Addie and Chuckie's little league game; I am talking about professional sports.

It sickens me to think that overt commercialism, violence and sex bombard millions of people upon entering a stadium, opening a magazine or turning on the tube. Pro sports are a representation of capitalism at its best, and I am unimpressed.

Sports are all about money, and people pay.

It's the smut I hate. It's the Dallas Cowboy's halftime boobie show, the 200 ads in Fenway Park and the \$7 hotdog at the concession stand. I hate the bloody video games, the lude touchdown dances, the astronomically huge sums of money paid to the players... I could go on and

on. Who is profiting from all this pornography? Some troll of a team owner? The public is too hypnotized to notice.

Pro sports are losing the integrity they once had. The players, the teams, all of it — and the people who love the games, don't seem to care, at least not enough. It's an argument reshaped, but it still doesn't piss me off any less.

I suggest you check out League of Fans at www.leagueoffans.org, a project that aims to increase awareness of the relationship between sports and our society, and focuses on, according to the site, "the cooperative capacities that make the sports community capable of helping, rather than dominating, our society and culture."

Don't let the fact that League of Fans is founded by Ralph Nader freak you out. It's informative and might inspire you to some sort of sports fan activism. You never know.

Goulet back for final year with volleyball Tigers

TERI LAKE
Sports Information

Jilliane Goulet, a two-time Atlantic University Sport (AUS) women's volleyball MVP, will rejoin the Dalhousie Tigers for the remainder of the varsity season.

Goulet graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Arts and bid the Tigers farewell for Ottawa, Ont. With one year of eligibility left, Goulet has decided to play out her final year with

aspirations at the national level for the upcoming summer and professional endeavours.

"We are glad to have her back," says Dalhousie's women's volleyball head coach Kirk Yanofsky. "She's an impact player and a quality athlete. She'll raise the bar for the rest of the team in training and with performance levels."

The long list of accomplishments Goulet has collected over her four years of Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) play consist of two stints

at the national level during summer play, which included representing Canada at the FISU world university games last summer in Turkey.

Goulet was an all-Canadian and an AUS all-star each of her four years, the 2002 and 2004 AUS MVP, the 2001 AUS rookie of the year and a two-time academic all-Canadian.

Goulet will be taking linguistics courses at Dalhousie as she works toward a career in audiology and speech pathology.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

FEMALE ATHLETE



RYAN MCKAY
BASKETBALL

Ryan McKay led the Tigers to two AUBC victories this past weekend as Dalhousie played at Dalplex on Friday and traveled to Wolfville, N.S., on Sunday. In Friday's game against the UNB Varsity Reds, McKay had a team-high 21 points and was three-for-three at the free throw line in the tight 72-70 overtime win. On Sunday, she scored a game-high 24 points in the 63-52 win over the Acadia Axewomen. McKay is a fourth-year kinesiology student from Fredericton, N.B.

MALE ATHLETE



NIKLAS RADEMACHER
VOLLEYBALL

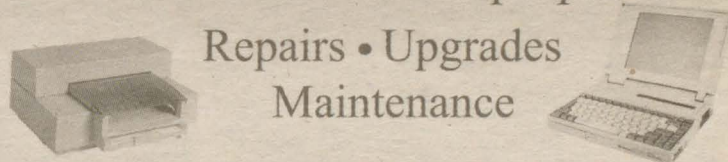
Rademacher led the Tigers to a bronze medal win at the Brian Mallard Invitational tournament at the University of Saskatchewan. On Monday, the Tigers lost 3-2 to Calgary to start round-robin play. The Tigers rebounded on Tuesday and beat NCAA Division 1 defending champions, Pepperdine, 3-2. Dal then lost 3-1 to host Saskatchewan later that day. In Wednesday's bronze medal game, the Tigers avenged their loss with a 3-1 victory over Calgary. Rademacher was named to the tournament all-star team. Rademacher is a second-year management student from Bocholt, Germany.

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Friday, Jan. 13: UPEI @ DAL, 7pm
Saturday, Jan. 14: UNB @ DAL, 7pm

WOMEN'S HOCKEY
Saturday, Jan. 14: UNB @ DAL, 3pm
Sunday, Jan. 15: UdeM @ DAL, 2pm

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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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