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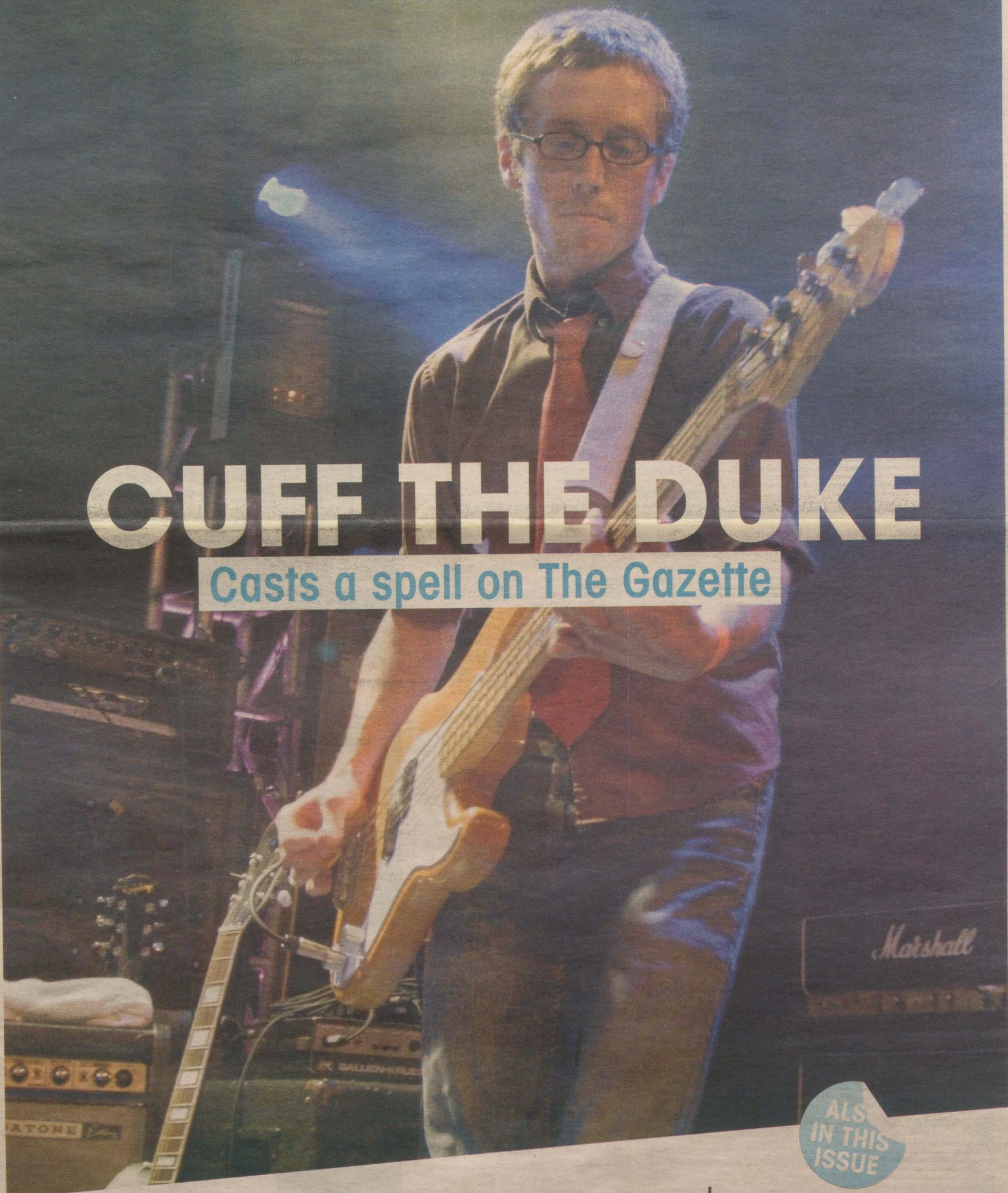
139-13 / November 30 - December 7

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

CUFF THE DUKE

Casts a spell on The Gazette



ALS
IN THIS
ISSUE

New bill threatens
universities
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past competition
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Canadian troops
dig in
page 7



WEEKLY DISPATCH

ANSSA Lobby Day

On Thursday, November 16 our provincial lobby group the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations held a lobby day in Halifax. We met with a dozens MLA's including the Premier, the Minister of Education, and the Liberal and NDP Caucus. Typically, we only get two meetings a year with the Minister of Education, so our meeting on the 16th was quite significant. The Lobby day also garnered a fair amount of press, with articles in the Herald and the Daily News. For the day we focused on three of ANSSA's Policies which where the creation of a provincial, needs-based bursary program, a comprehensive review of the PSE system in Nova Scotia, and the implementation of a Nova Scotia access guarantee that would ensure that no qualified Nova Scotian would not be able to attend an NS University or College because of financial circumstances.

Join the Dalhousie Women's Centre Advisory Board

The DWC is seeking 10 dynamic women from broad cultural and socioeconomic spectrums to become part of its Advisory Board. Using a feminist framework, this Board, consisting of students and community members, will work to support the DWC in maintaining a women-positive environment dedicated to developing equality for all women. The approximate time commitment for Board members is 4hrs/month.

Applicants are invited to send resumes outlining their relevant education and experience along with a one page cover letter listing qualities and resources they would bring to the Board. Applications can be emailed to dwc@dal.ca. The deadline for submission is Dec 8th, 2006.

Federal Consultation on "Advantage Canada"

Last Thursday, the federal Finance Minister, Jim Flaherty gave his first economic update. This was the first public announcement that the Conservatives have made which made any reference of post secondary education. Minister Flaherty introduced "Advantage Canada" which among other things commits to creating "the "the best-educated, most-skilled and most flexible workforce in the world." While acknowledging that education is a provincial jurisdiction, the Conservatives have committed to providing stable and predictable funding to the provinces, working with the provinces to develop shared objectives and targets, and modernizing Canada's student financial aid system. If these changes are acted on it would significantly improve the current state of post secondary education in Canada.

Following this announcement the Government is seeking feedback on "Advantage Canada". This consultation is open to the general public. The deadline for submissions is December 18th and more details are available at <http://www.fin.gc.ca/news06/06-071e.html>.

See you around campus. Stop by, or call anytime,
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DSU President
Room 222 SUB
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Check out our blog at
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A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

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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.

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Top 10 listing, and opinions section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to Joey Ryba in the Streeter feature of this paper are written, in good humour, by staff, and do not necessarily represent the views of Joey Ryba. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

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 academic year. We need writers, photographers, illustrators, readers and ideas. If you can contribute any of these, please drop us a line or come by the office.



'Tis that season...

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

December is upon us. The last papers of the term are due, exams are rapidly approaching and it's time to fill out those annoying class evaluation forms.

But alongside the headache of papers and exams another year-end event looms large - Christmas.

'Tis the season to be bombarded with reminders that what makes people happy are gifts - preferably expensive ones - and lots of them. In North America, a significant percentage of any given store's yearly sales are made during Christmas. The numbers vary according to which study you read, but the message is clear - this is when most people spend the largest amount of money, both on themselves and on others.

And why not?

Christmas is not only the busiest shopping season but also the best one to buy what you've wanted all year, and at a good price to boot. Retailers compete for our hard-earned cash with generous discounts and numerous sales.

And aside from final clearances

and going-out-of-business sales, there is only one better time to shop than before Christmas - after Christmas - although by then the best deals are long gone and the selection is sparse.

If you're anything like me, you're itching for school and work to be over and done with, at least for a short little while, so you can go out and take advantage of this great shopping season.

But organizations such as Buy Nothing Christmas advocate the de-commercialization and redesign of Christmas. They aim to bring more meaning to time spent with friends and family.

They argue that the current over-consumption of Americans (and Canadians!) takes away from the social and familial elements of the Christmas season.

I agree. Sort of.

Yes, the holiday seasons brings with it a ridiculous amount of over-consumption. It seems that quite often many people buy things they don't need or want, even. And the number of hours spent by North Americans in malls and other shopping outlets is probably quite ridic-

ulous, too.

But at the same time, shopping is rarely a solitary act. Just like going to a movie or to see a concert or any number of things, shopping is better experienced with friends and family. And that's pretty social.

In an effort to redesign Christmas, perhaps we should not look at the amount of money we spend or goods we consume, but instead address our reasons for doing so.

Gift-giving has become such an ingrained part of the Christmas experience that many people feel obligated to hand out presents, regardless of any thought they put into the actual gift. Giving expensive gifts has practically become a symbol for love and caring; the more extravagant the gift, the more dotting and attention is perceived.

Often, though, the best gifts are the simple handmade arts and crafts that cost a lot of thought and time but next to no money. As the saying goes, "It's the thought that counts."

So perhaps instead of a Buy Nothing Christmas, we should advocate a "Buy Nothing Thoughtless Christmas."

Think about it.

Gazette

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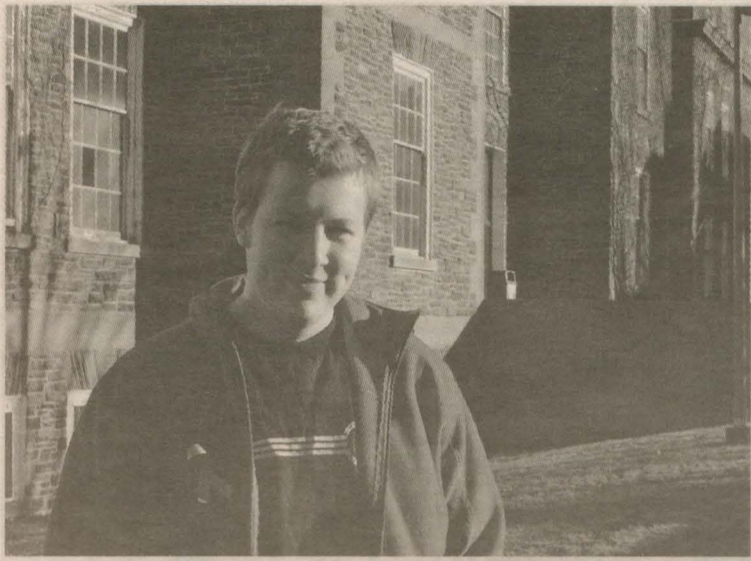
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Mike Tipping, DSU vice-president (Education), says bringing more universities to NS could harm the education system. / Photo: John Packman

New bill to 'drain public resources' — MLA

KATIE MAY
Associate News Editor

Changes to a provincial bill that sets new standards for private universities opening in Nova Scotia could undermine public education in the province, critics say.

The Tories passed an amendment to the Degree-Granting Act on Nov. 23 to close a loophole that would have allowed any for-profit university approved in another province to open in Nova Scotia. Since the province had no regulation laws of its own for private universities, it couldn't measure the quality of the institutions that apply to open here.

But the move has come under fire for potentially giving the government too much power to open the flood gates for private universities to enter the province. Under the new law, the minister of education has the final authority to both select the schools that can set up in the province and continuously review their financial, faculty and administrative records.

"Once the private universities establish themselves, there'll be competition and a drain on public resources. They'll just drive up the cost of education here and create a scarcity of faculty and staff," says Leonard Preyra, post-secondary education critic and MLA for Halifax Citadel. "Often when ministers make decisions, they're based on partisan concerns and not the merits of the situation."

Mike Tipping, vice-president (education) of the Dalhousie Student Union, says universities are already facing financial difficulties that could be exacerbated if private schools were introduced in the

province.

"We're already looking at changing demographics, declining enrolments, and what it can mean for the future of our universities," he says. "And certainly, creating new ones is not something we need to be looking at right now."

But Department of Education spokesperson Kevin Finch says the bill is designed to protect students by introducing legal standards for private institutions, and it likely won't affect the province's existing universities.

"We had a situation where the door was wide open and we were trying to close it. I don't see any disadvantages at this stage," he says.

Finch says private universities would likely offer specialized applied arts and technology courses that wouldn't interfere with programs at other schools.

"We see the private universities as filling a niche market," he says. "I think it would be hard for private universities to offer a program that is already offered by public universities. There shouldn't be competition on that level."

There aren't any private universities in Nova Scotia now, and Tipping says he wants to keep it that way.

Nova Scotia already has 11 degree-granting institutions, 13 community colleges, 42 private career colleges and more universities per capita than anywhere else in Canada. He says there's no need for more schools to open up and take away from public resources.

"There aren't academic university areas that aren't being covered right now or couldn't be covered by universities that already exist in Nova Scotia. So bringing in outside ones, it's not helping," says Tipping.

From The Gazette archives

10 YEARS AGO

Maclean's ranking meaningless

Dalhousie's three space drop in Maclean's annual university rankings was met with indifference by students and administration.

"One would always like to go up in the ratings instead of down," said Dalhousie president Tom Traves. "But I don't think it [the ranking] is very meaningful."

In the medical/doctoral category, Dalhousie dropped to ninth of 13 schools, down from six in the previous year. The top three universities were the University of Toronto, McGill University and the University of British Columbia.

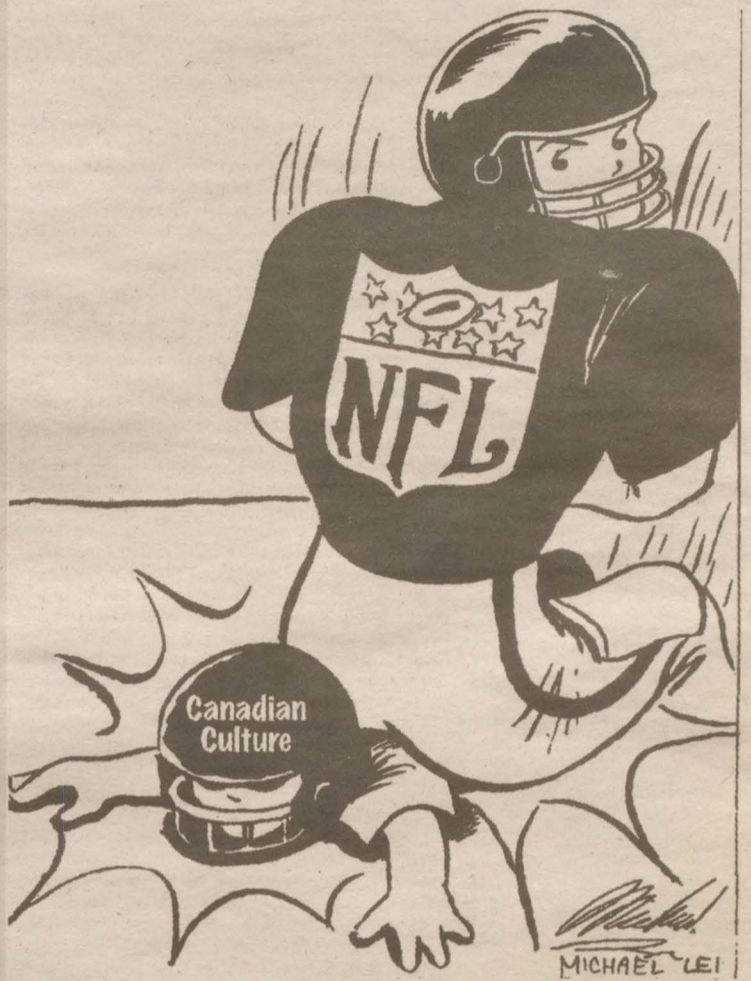
Dalhousie Student Union president Brad MacKay said the way the schools are categorized is problematic. He said comparing a school like Dalhousie, with around 10,000 students, to schools such as UofT with 50,000 students is problematic.

"The problem is our total resources are a lot smaller," said Traves.

"In comparison to last year's survey," said MacKay, "in the majority of areas we improved, so paradoxically we improved, but we still dropped three spaces."

Traves also noted Dalhousie's improved or continued performance in 16 of 19 categories.

"I don't really care where we fare from one day to the next in the hit parade," said Traves. "I say we must move forward, not backward, upward, not forward, and always twirling, twirling, twirling towards freedom!"



frustrating for the users...and it certainly eats away at the fabric of the quality of education."

Student union treasurer Sean Casey said events such as live jazz in the Grawood and other regular events in the first term would have to be stopped in the second term due to lack of funds.

"We're in a rebuilding process but we're just getting the lumps now," Casey said.

30 YEARS AGO

University closes two branches of the bookstore

Stationary Store and The College Shop, two branches of the university bookstore, were reported to close on December 31, 1976.

The reason for closure is that over the previous several years, the two outlets ran deficits of \$80,000 to \$150,000 per year, said Louis Vagianos, vice-president of university services.

The College Shop had been in

operation for five years and was located in the basement of the Student Union Building. Stationery Store, located in the Life Sciences Building, had only been open for the past year and a half.

With the closure of these two outlets, students were left with the Main Bookstore, located in the Chemistry Building. The main priorities were going to be textbooks and laboratory supplies, as stationery materials were available cheaper at a nearby drugstore.

Empty space left behind by the closure in the SUB was being considered for expansion of the Bank of Montreal location. The space in the LSC was being evaluated as either storage departmental supplies or use as a cafeteria. "We do need additional food services," said Vagianos.

Although the closures will result in a reduction of bookstore staff, Vagianos said "An effort is being made to find employment for those people involved. No one will be fired or laid off."



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CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Carleton chief resigns

Just 15 months into a six-year contract, the president of Carleton University resigned on Nov. 20, citing differences of opinion between himself and the university's board of governors as his reason for leaving.

"[Students] are concerned about the future, but universities are larger than any one person," David Atkinson told *The Charlatan*, Carleton's student newspaper. "I am just a historical footnote to the university."

Neither Atkinson nor the board indicated the exact problems that made the president leave his \$300,000 a year job, but media reports suggested that the prospect of a faculty strike and Atkinson's public opposition to the Maclean's university rankings contributed to what has been called a forced resignation.

Atkinson's critics have called his reactions to negative media reports, such as an *Ottawa Citizen* headline that referred to Carleton as "Last Chance U," as "over the top." In a mass e-mail to the university community, Atkinson encouraged people to write letters to the paper expressing concerns.

An expert in university governance said the controversy around Atkinson's departure could negatively affect the university's ability to attract top students and private funding.

"A university's ability to raise money is partly due to its image," Fred Wilson, professor emeritus at Toronto's University College, told the *Ottawa Citizen*. "Poor image leads to weaker fundraising capacity."

Samy Mahmoud, former acting provost and vice-president (academic), has been named Carleton's interim president and vice chancellor. The university is conducting a nation-wide search for a permanent replacement, which could take six months to a year.

UofA rethinks washrooms

Students and professors at the University of Alberta are campaigning for gender-neutral washrooms to be introduced on campus to provide transgender or gender-ambiguous people with a safe place to go to the bathroom.

Graduate student Laura Crawford told *The Gauntlet* that the washrooms would serve as practical alternatives to the traditional division between male and female facilities. She said they would also help cut down on violence at the university.

"Washrooms are fraught places in terms of sexual assault," she said. "If a transgender man is somehow found out not to be quite our idea of a man, he faces getting beat up or worse," said Crawford.

Some gender-neutral wash-

rooms already exist at both McGill and Simon Fraser universities.

University administration wouldn't comment on the idea until the plans move beyond the preliminary stages.

Student sexually assaulted at York

A York University student said that she was sexually assaulted in an alleyway near campus on Nov. 18.

The student said a man approached her from behind, put a gun to her head and took her in between two houses where he assaulted her.

"All I can say to that is that this is the most serious incident we've had and we've treated it with the utmost seriousness," York spokesperson Richard Fisher told *The Excalibur*, York's student newspaper. He said the university has increased van and foot escorts around campus.

Toronto police issued a public safety alert for the university and surrounding area. The York Federation of Students held a public forum on Nov. 27 to discuss strategies to improve campus security and safety.

UofW kills beavers

More than 100 students and faculty members at the University of Waterloo held a rally last week to protest the university's decision to hire trappers to kill four beavers on the campus.

University officials said they were concerned the beavers would knock trees down into student paths and cause injury.

The Nov. 22 rally was dubbed "We are the beaver: A memorial for our four beaver friends killed on campus." The rally was organized by the environmental studies faculty, which also posted information about the killings.

Students tied ribbons to a campus bridge in memory of the beavers. Protesters were upset the university took action against the beavers without consulting them first.

Licensed trappers killed the beavers using conibear traps. They set the traps underwater, allowing the beavers to swim through a strong box that collapses, usually breaking the beavers' spines.

McGill joins CFS

The Students Society of McGill University (SSMU) voted to take out a prospective membership with the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS).

"We're going to go into this organization to evaluate it," SSMU Vice President External Max Silverman told *The McGill Tribune*.

The union said the primary reason it joined the country's largest student lobby group was to gain national representation and prominence in the student movement.

SSMU councillors and execu-

tives are currently evaluating concerns about the CFS, including cost of membership and overall effectiveness.

A contract between SSMU and the CFS states McGill must hold a referendum within a year of becoming prospective members. Students will then vote to make a decision on becoming full members. Full CFS membership would cost roughly \$12 per student each year.

Nfld. prof's family demands answers

Family members of a dead political science professor have filed an access to information request with Memorial University in Newfoundland.

The family members said they want to see the full report on events surrounding Professor Deepa Khosla's Nov. 21, 2005, death.

The university launched an independent investigation following allegations that a male student harassed Khosla before she died of an aneurysm. When the report was made public, most of the information pertaining to Khosla and the student was blacked out.

"It has been extremely difficult to read the report. Entire paragraphs have been blacked out where Deepa was concerned," Khosla's sister told *The Muse*, Memorial's student newspaper.

The university has 30 days to respond to the access to information request.

ACROSS THE POND

Lab rats hooked on cocaine

Animal rights groups are outraged after scientists at Cambridge University supplied lab rats with large amounts of cocaine for drug addiction research.

"Overwhelming evidence shows that most animal experiments... certainly don't help in unlocking the causes and cures of a uniquely human phenomenon like drug abuse," reads a public statement issued by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

During the experiment, the rats could self-administer up to 30 doses of cocaine in three-hour sessions over a period of several days. The researchers then fed the rats two experimental drugs that were designed to stop the addiction by blocking a gene that stimulates cravings.

The researchers defended their experiment by saying they had to use rats because it's impossible to do these kinds of tests on humans.

Sources: *The Muse*, *Memorial University*, *The McGill Tribune*, *McGill University*, *Imprint*, *University of Waterloo*, *Excalibur*, *York University*, *The Gauntlet*, *University of Calgary*, *The Charlatan*, *Carleton University*, *The Varsity*, *Cambridge University*, *Ottawa Citizen*

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Music, like many things, is guided mostly by peer pressure.

Music: in the ear of the listener?

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
Staff Contributor

Music is our life. At least it is for many of us. We listen to it, download it, share it, make it, spend ridiculous amounts of time and money buying tickets to hear it, critique it endlessly and memorize it. It's rare that anyone admits to hating every type of music they've ever heard.

We know the physics of music: it's only sound waves, changes in the pressure of air, varying only in amplitude, frequency and distortion. We also know, however, that sound waves alone can't make a hit song.

Humans aren't the first species to create something like music. Humpback whales sing songs that seem to have structure and rhythm. Scientists believe birds and other animals produce musical sounds out of the desire to imitate each other, an essential skill to developing language.

Music could be the precursor to language, a way of expressing emotions that is universally understood but becomes clumsy as it is made more complex. Or perhaps our audiophilia exists because music is a social function.

A study published in *Science* magazine suggests that the strongest indicator of whether or not someone will like a song isn't the talent or experience of the performers or personal taste, but rather the

consensus of that person's peers.

For the study, more than 14,000 participants used a website to rate songs from 48 relatively unknown bands. In the first experiment, participants were told to rate songs without any background information on the tracks, while on the second experiment, participants could see how many times a song had been downloaded before rating the song. Songs that had been downloaded a lot got a higher rating in the second test, suggesting that music, like many things, is guided mostly by peer pressure.

On the other hand, it could be that in the experiment the selection of songs was too broad to warrant careful listening; instead of selecting a random sample of the 48 songs, participants chose the song they wanted to listen to based on how popular it was. Access to the Internet and television means we have a constant stream of things we can listen to. But we end up listening to what has been hyped and advertised, leading to the rise of such wonderful acts as Ashlee Simpson and G-Unit.

Perhaps I shouldn't be so critical of musical taste. If beauty is in the eye of the beholder, then shouldn't good music be in the ears of the listener? Don't be content to listen to something because it's hyped or because you think it will make you cooler. Listen to what you like, and maybe the music industry will be better for it.

Investing in health

Health research in Canada deserves immediate attention

RONALD WORTON
Special to The Gazette

Canada's prominence in health-care is embodied in the excellence of its health research.

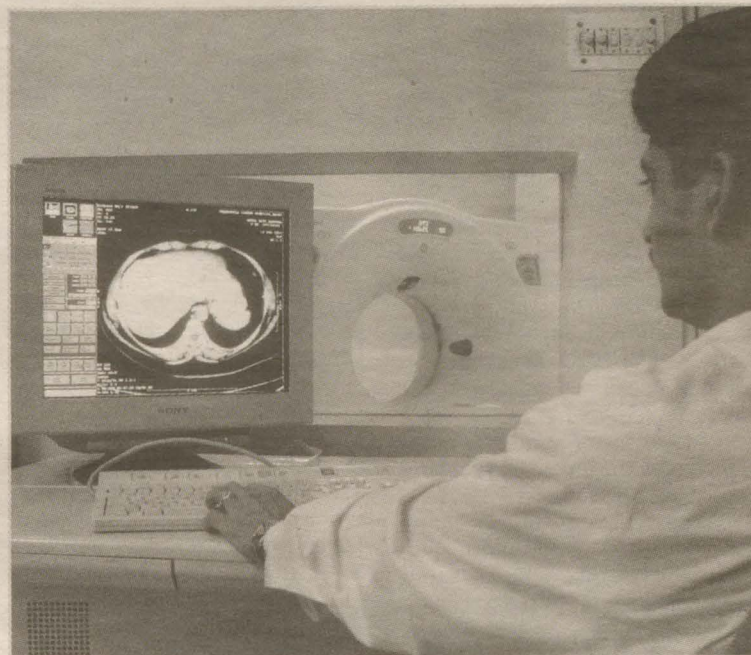
For over a century Canadian research has had a global impact, from the development of pabulum to the discovery of insulin; and from the creation of the pacemaker to the first use of heparin to prevent clotting after surgery. Even stem cells were discovered in Canada, and some of the best stem cell research in the world is being done in this country.

Research Canada: An Alliance for Health Discovery recently released the results of a national public opinion survey on health research in Canada. The *Canada Speaks 2006* survey demonstrates that Canadians place a high value on health research; 91 per cent of Canadians want the government to invest more money in health research — an overwhelming mandate for any government.

Despite the profound importance of health research, less than one cent of every health dollar spent in Canada is invested on it. When told this, 85 per cent of the survey's respondents said the amount was not enough. And the majority of Canadians said they were willing to pay out of their own pockets to fund new health research projects.

Canadians want Canada to be a global leader in health research and see a strong federal role in supporting that research. Ninety-one per cent of Canadians surveyed wanted the federal government to invest more in basic science related to health, even if it brings them no immediate benefits. Canadians also recognized the important role industry plays in health research — 83 per cent of those surveyed said the federal government should have tax policies and regulations in place that encourage private industries to conduct more health research.

Research saves money for the Canadian health care system. One example can be found at the Ottawa Hospital, where an emergency physician questioned why every person who limped into emergency with a swollen ankle was sent for an x-ray.



91 per cent of Canadians want the government to invest more money in health research — an overwhelming mandate for any government.

He developed a set of clinical tests to determine if an ankle really needed an x-ray. The "Ottawa Ankle Rules" are internationally known and posted on the walls of emergency rooms in 39 languages around the world. Following this rule, and others dealing with CT scans for head trauma and x-rays for back injury, can eliminate 50 per cent of these procedures and free up millions of health care dollars.

Canadians also believe in the value of health research because of its importance to the economy — 80 per cent of respondents in the survey said so. Health research generates high quality, value-added employment opportunities both directly and through the creation of spin-off companies.

Health research in Canada is gaining strength. The federal government's investments over the last six or seven years are paying off, but a key issue for Canada at the moment is that the system is out of balance. Investments made in infrastructure and people has brought Canada to a new level in health research capacity, but the funding available to support research operations through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is far smaller.

Only 20 to 25 per cent of research proposals submitted to CIHR receive funding, even though nearly twice

as many are rated excellent or outstanding by a rigorous peer review. Because of this, much of Canada's scientific talent pool is wasted; if the situation isn't resolved quickly, many of Canada's top scientists may simply leave the country.

The new federal government in Ottawa understands this scenario, and it has launched a science and technology review. In a recent speech at the Canadian Diabetes Association annual meeting, Health Minister Tony Clement said the government invests in health research "because we understand the relationship between health research and health care delivery, between health research and prevention, between health research and treatment."

Research Canada hopes these words are reflected in the outcome of the review, and that increased investments in the CIHR bring the health research enterprise back into balance.

Dr. Ronald Worton is the chair of Research Canada: An Alliance for Health Discovery. He is also CEO and scientific director of the Ottawa Health Research Institute, an affiliated institute of the University of Ottawa and the research arm of the Ottawa Hospital.

Letters@dalgazette.ca

Unmasking silliness

Re: "Abortion: unmasking choice" (*Gazette*, 139-12)

To my ears, pro-life arguments for the person-status of a fetus always come across as incoherent and unacceptable. This halfway point between blastocyst and baby is no more a person than an acorn is an oak tree. Abortion is painful enough. Let's lay off with the injudicious guilt trip already.

Thomas Howells

The other side of abortion

Re: "Abortion: unmasking choice" (*Gazette*, 139-12)

Dear Josip,

Do you have the anatomy to carry a child, bear that child and decide if an abortion is the best course of action for both the mother and child? If you are a man, you do not have these capabilities and therefore cannot understand the dilemma pregnancy puts a woman in.

In your article, you suggest abor-

tion is a scientific issue.

But it is really an ethical and, to some extent, a human rights issue, which means the use of words such as "non-persons" and "personhood" must be invoked in this debate because there is a clear legal connotation.

Your comparisons of abortion to the treatment of slaves or Jews in Nazi Germany do not correlate.

The policies of slavery and the Holocaust are racist and completely egregious. Abortion concerns a question of whether the woman can commit to the future child and give it the happy, healthy life that all children deserve, or not.

Abortion is a matter of health and welfare. If a woman cannot provide and is not prepared to be a mother, it is best not to have the child.

Increasingly, this issue is commented upon by those in the population who do not have to experience abortion and are not in the majority of the world's population, and therefore should not be dictat-

ing to women what women should or should not do.

Whether or not I choose to have an abortion is inconsequential. Whether or not I have the right to have an abortion is essential.

Sincerely,
Victoria Jones

Best Gazette ever

My hat is off to you all. I have been on campus since 1986, first as a student and now as staff. I have read a lot of *The Gazette* in my time. This term, I have been consistently impressed with the choice of articles, the calibre of discussion and the eye-catching layout. I am thoroughly enjoying the rag these days. It is obvious that you all enjoy it. Keep it up!

Cheers,
Shawna Burgess
Alumni Relations,
Dalhousie University



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Canadian troops belong in Afghanistan

BRENDAN OSBERG
Staff Contributor

I got a bit of a surprise a few weeks ago when I went to the Remembrance Day ceremony at the Grand Parade, but it was a welcome surprise. While I was there, I saw only solemn respect for the brave men and women who have died in this country's previous conflicts, and hope for the safety and well-being of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan.

There were no protest signs or subtle implications of either support for or opposition to Canada's current role in foreign conflicts. There was just a quiet observance of the soldiers who have sacrificed life and limb in previous wars, as well as the current one. It was a welcome reprieve from the fractious rhetoric that has surrounded this subject in recent months.

That rhetoric goes both ways. On one hand, it seems that anyone who questions the logic of our troops in Afghanistan is labelled a defeatist — or as ol' Dubya puts it, in his impeccable grammar, a "cut-and-runner" — and is accused of not "supporting our troops."

On the other hand, it seems like anyone who believes our soldiers have an important job to do and who supports the war is labelled an imperialist by sanctimonious peacenicks.

I'm not going to stoop to that. It's simply unfair and divisive to accuse someone of not "supporting our troops" in Afghanistan just because they disagree with the decisions of the people who sent them there. But I do support Canada's military involvement in Afghanistan and I have to raise some questions about the reasons some people have for opposing it.

There are some good reasons to oppose the war in Afghanistan, but I doubt some of the people who oppose the war have ever thought about them. More and more, I'm convinced that a lot of the opposition to the war comes down to one asinine line of thought. I'll see if I can retrace that logic — it goes something like this:

A. Invading and occupying Afghanistan is part of the broader global military initiative started by the U.S. in the wake of Sept. 11.

B. The U.S. is a large, influential superpower in the world.

C. Anything big and powerful is evil and imperialistic.

D. Therefore, we must fight the power, man! We must rise up and undermine the imperialist establishment, and so forth.

There's no denying premises A and B, but I find current left-wing politicians all too often get associated with the kind of childish, recalcitrant drivel shown in C. It's the same type of attitude you see when Jack Layton vehemently opposes the possibility of "cooperating with the likes of George Bush" on issues such as missile defence. Opposing missile defence is one thing, but to phrase



It's simply unfair and divisive to accuse someone of not "supporting our troops" in Afghanistan just because they disagree with the decisions of the people who sent them there.

it in a way that rejects the notion of even working cooperatively with the American president is just sanctimonious posturing and it makes all liberal progressives look like idiots.

Maybe that's why it bothers me so much. I consider myself very left-wing.

I voted NDP in the last election. I think the environment should be a high priority. I was appalled by the brutality of the Israeli military in Lebanon last summer. I'm pro-choice, pro-gay marriage, all that stuff. But when I hear people making this kind of polemic, anti-establishment diatribe, I feel a twinge of embarrassment at being associated with a political movement that embraces such dysfunctional bickering.

There are genuinely good reasons to be opposed to the mission in Afghanistan. For example, if you think that having western forces in Afghanistan adds fire to extremists' recruitment efforts and that having our troops there is provoking an escalation in hostility, then that's a good reason.

If you think Afghanistan is benefiting from our presence but our national interests aren't at stake

here and we should pull out because the whole thing just isn't our problem, then fair enough. That's at least a rational reason.

But what I can't stand is senseless anti-Americanism and dogmatic opposition to war under any circumstances. War between nations is, in microcosm, like violence between individuals — a horrible thing that is sometimes necessary. Police wouldn't carry guns if that wasn't the case.

After helping overthrow the Taliban, our government has an obligation to create a certain amount of peace and stability in the region before it picks up and leaves. If our military wasn't helping to achieve that, it's unlikely that Hamid Karzai, the Afghan president, would have come to Canada to praise our assistance.

If we are assisting, we ought to stay as long as necessary to provide whatever help we can. The brave men and women who will lose their lives between now and then knew the risks they were taking when they signed up for the job. We should honour their sacrifice, but not prevent them from doing their job by withdrawing from Afghanistan because of fear.

your Mind,
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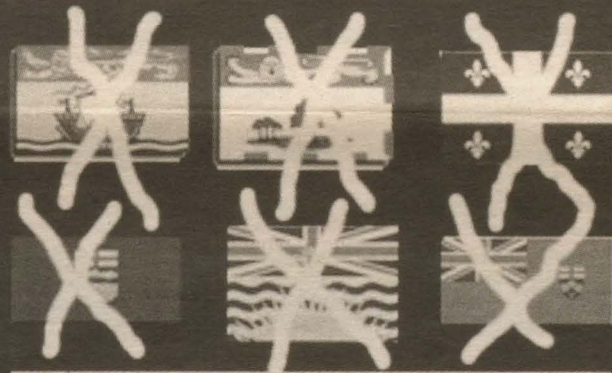
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TOP 10

- 1 **GETTING YOUR ASS HANDED TO YOU AT THE BOX OFFICE BY A DIGITAL DANCING PENGUIN** Humbling.
- 2 **MICHAEL RICHARDS, WHAT IS UP WITH YOU?** You need a stern visit from the ghost of Festivus past.
- 3 **OUR PRIME MINISTER SAYS QUEBEC IS A "NATION" WITHIN "CANADA"** He went on to declare Pizza Corner, the Niagara Falls and the dancing Palace guy as also being "nations" within "Canada."
- 4 **VANCOUVER RESIDENTS STILL BOILING WATER** Too bad you can't drink your own inflated sense of superiority, eh guys?
- 5 **WHALES FOUND TO HAVE DEVELOPED HUMAN BRAIN CELLS** But enough about your mother. (Snap!)
- 6 **BRITISH HISTORIAN REVEALS TURKEY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THANKSGIVING** What's next?! Learning that over-hyped gaming consoles have nothing to do with Christmas?
- 7 **DELETING MSN** Yeah, I said it.
- 8 **NELLY FURTADO REFUSES TO POSE IN PLAYBOY** Promiscuous girl... you're teasing me.
- 9 **CASE OF HALIFAX MAN WHO KEPT MOTHER IN FRIDGE IS DISCHARGED** No word yet on whether the Crown wants to prosecute any leftover offences.
- 10 **A MURDER OF 25,000 CROWS INVADERS THE ISLAND OF P.E.I.** But cooler still, a pack of crows is called a "murder!" Who knew!

HOT / NOT

HOT: Lonelygirl15 / **NOT:** Tatu

HOT: Emilio Estevez / **NOT:** The Anaheim Mighty Ducks

HOT: LDS (Lock-down studying) / **NOT:** LSD

HOT: House / **NOT:** Home Improvement

HOT: Akon / **NOT:** AFI

HOT: Hickies / **NOT:** Back injuries

HOT: A "murder" of crows / **NOT:** An "unkindness" of ravens

HOT: Rain in Halifax / **NOT:** Snow in Vancouver

HOT: Studying at Killam-an-jaro / **NOT:** Magic Mountain (in winter)

HOT: Those boots, now / **NOT:** Those boots, 10 years from now

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

DISCLAIMER

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STREETER

HOW DID YOU DISCOVER THERE WAS NO SANTA CLAUS?



"I found the presents in the basement. Then I found the same presents in my stocking."

Devon Perlmutter, second-year arts



"I stayed up all night, heard my parents downstairs, and then questioned them on it the next morning. They then conceded that there was no Santa."

Greg Britten, first-year arts



"Those damn older kids with their Nintendos and their rat tails told me."

Mike Tipping, Dalhousie Student Union VP (education)



"I found the presents 'from Santa' in the basement wrapped before Christmas."

Alison Stoody, third-year English



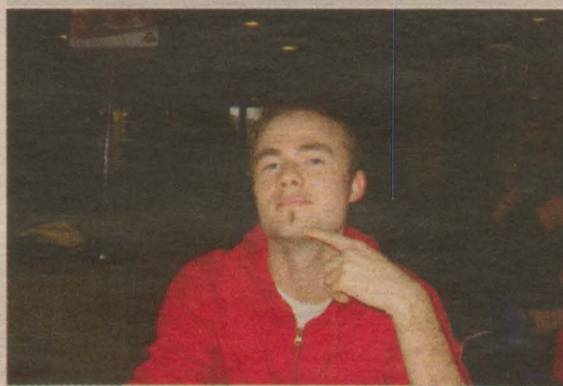
"When I was three, I didn't get the Weenie Whistle that I asked for Christmas."

Lisa Cameron, fourth-year biology



"I saw my parents wrapping the presents for my little sister, and they were marked 'from Santa.'"

Laurie Girdwood, second-year management



"Some kid told me in Grade 3 and then my mom said something to reconfirm it."

Rob Craig, second-year recreation management



"I set my alarm one Xmas so I could watch *Blue Nuit* and found my parents in the living room putting out the presents. I was devastated."

Joey Ryba, third-year chimney inspector

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Fourth time a charm cuffing the Duke

NICK KHATTAR
Arts Contributor

In the past year, I have tried three times to see Cuff the Duke. Two of those attempts ended with me in the drunk tank.

But on Nov. 15, I was once again on my way to see my favourite band. And it was the night.

I arrived at the Grawood by 9 p.m. and started shooting pool with Their Majesties, one of the opening acts. I asked the band about silly stuff, such as preferred guitar pick and string brands, and discussed pool etiquette with the lead singer. We agreed that biting the lower lip, coupled with a concerned stare made a missed shot look better.

The pool game ended and I started to absorb the music. The Superfantastics opened, playing sweet, unrefined and jagged, yet soothing, melodies. I went to the table where I had left my jacket and bag only to find that two ladies had decided to steal my spot. I was too burnt out to demand that they allow me join them, so I conceded my seat.

I wandered aimlessly around the dark bar, but there was no seat to be found.

I decided to fetch the remainder of my booze from my coat, but I couldn't find it. Had I dropped it? Then it dawned on me. I had been robbed. Those she-pirates who commandeered my seat had looted my treasures. So I went to my friend's place across the street for a leisurely sojourn.

Luckily, my friend was stocked with plenty of party favours. We got caught up in a new online game and it wasn't until 11 p.m. that I came out of the trance. I had completely forgotten about Cuff the Duke and had to run back to the Grawood.

As I got close I heard a familiar sound, the resonating harmonica from the Cuff the Duke song, "The Future Hangs." I got goose bumps. Cuff the Duke was playing.

I got in and saw that the Grawood had changed. The area in front of the stage was full of lively fans. I found my way into the crowd to join the guys and dolls who were dancing



Finally getting to a Cuff the Duke show: priceless. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

hand-in-hand. I had showed up just in time to hear my favourite song from the new album.

I can't quite find the words to describe how I felt. I jived, swayed and knee slapping-boogied. Cuff the Duke doesn't mess around.

Lead singer Wayne Petti led the crowd with the neck of his guitar and the crowd moved and sang at his signal.

The performance warranted an encore and the Duke didn't disappoint. "Ballad of the Lonely Con-

struction Worker" satisfied an unruly couple who had been screaming and slurring their request all through the show.

Unfortunately, the end of the show broke the spell that Cuff the Duke had cast over the crowd. I stumbled to my senses and shook the smoke out of my head. I had finally satisfied my need to see this ridiculously talented band. The night had its setbacks, but at least I wasn't in jail. I consider myself ahead of the game.



Never had I ever... Done a detox

CHRIS RAUSCHER
Staff Contributor

"9:30 a.m. Crap, I can't get up yet, it's too early. I'll just lay here for another couple of minutes..."

"Maybe I should get up. I can hear the Coburg Coffee House calling my name."

Many a morning my internal monologue goes like this. Add a night of hard drinking and it becomes a Herculean struggle to get my well-intentioned-the-night-before carcass out of bed.

This time of year, I thrive on legal drugs: caffeine, nicotine and alcohol. Nothing keeps me feeling like a champ more than having my head swimming all the time.

After realizing my drug dependent condition, I decided to embark on a detox, basically avoiding wheat, dairy, sugar, caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, preservatives, additives and all processed food for approximately 15 days. Anyone can buy a little detox kit at a granola store.

But I'd never done one before and was afraid that I'd instantly sprout dreadlocks, start riding my bike everywhere or don more than one scarf at a time, not to mention that I might odiously violate Dalhousie's no scent policy — BO is a scent too.

After the initial hangover phase, during which my body purged many chemicals, I felt fit and ready to go as soon as I woke up. Every morning, however, I had a serious bout of extreme melancholy that I liked to call caffeine separation anxiety.

During the detox, the coffee was out of my system, so I wasn't physically dependent on it, but I missed it. What was the point of getting out of bed if I couldn't immediately have my caffeine high?

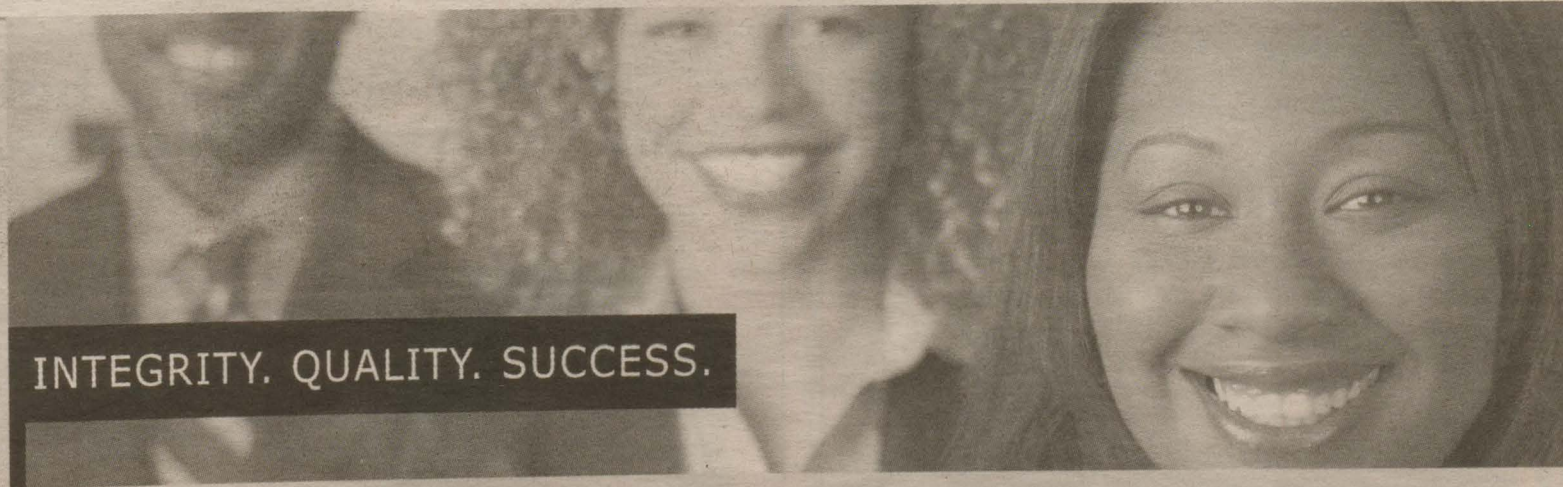
Going 15 days without consuming anything "fun" was difficult, but not that difficult. The worst part was that I felt more in touch with my body than ever before. That doesn't sound like a bad thing, but life is rough when there are no chemicals to focus the mind from ranging freely.

I began to realize that the body and mind are, indeed, attached. Maybe humans weren't meant to be this in tune. A strong awareness of one's physicality and mortality really isn't that fun.

Instead, I endorse getting drunk and eating a shining star of morning goodness, such as the Tim Hortons breakfast sandwich.

I would, however, recommend at least a bi-annual detox for university students. It's like taming your cuticles. You'll never fully prevent a hangnail, but you can delay one.

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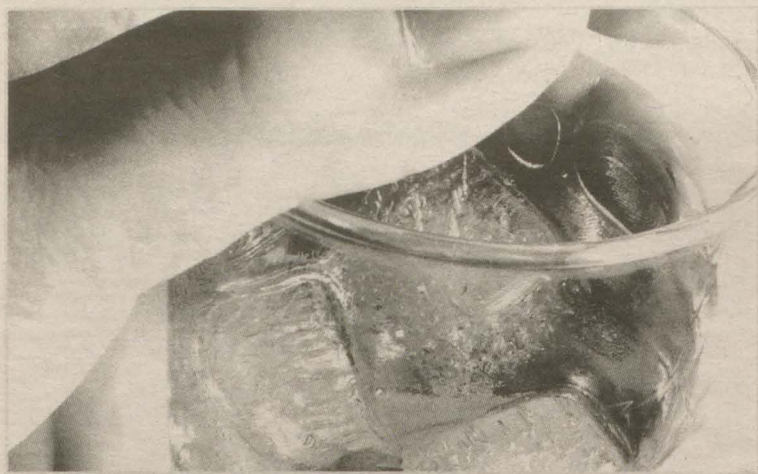
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Rum has been friendly to Nova Scotians for centuries; the feeling is mutual.

Rum in Nova Scotia

The Epicurious Student chooses the tastier and cheaper rums at the NSLC.

ANDREW BERNARDO
Culinary Connoisseur

Have you ever wondered why rum is such a big deal in Nova Scotia? Maybe not if you're indigent to the province. But if you're from elsewhere, you've no doubt noticed the wooden "Port of Rum" display in every NSLC.

As a native of Ontario, a primarily rye and vodka-drinking province, I was intrigued by Nova Scotia's insatiable thirst for the sugarcane-based liquor. My interest carried me into some intense research on the subject that I could sum up in a few short sentences.

Rum and Nova Scotia have been friends for hundreds of years. In the late 1600's when the Maritime salt-fish industry thrived, English, Dutch and French merchants from the Caribbean exchanged their "elixir of life," rum, for salt cod and various other fish. While Ontario's tastes centred on the grain-based spirits distilled by locals, Nova Scotians continued to satisfy their taste for liquor through trade. To this day, Nova Scotia leads the way in Canada for the importation of rum from around the world.

On any given day, at any given store, you can find rum from classic producing nations such as the Dominican Republic, Jamaica or Barbados, and from unlikely countries such as Nepal and Australia.

On Nov. 17, I went to the NSLC-sponsored Ceilidh Festival in Halifax. While the primary products

served at the massive tasting were scotch, rye and bourbon, there were a variety of rums available as well.

Since scotch doesn't fit most student budgets, I tried to find the best rum in terms of bang for your buck. Hoist an ounce of rum and toast its unique heritage to Nova Scotia.

Pampero Ron Anejo Especial Origin: Venezuela (\$27.25) — A full-flavoured rum with intense molasses and caramel tastes.

Flor de Cana Grand Reserve 7-year-old Origin: Nicaragua (\$27.59) — In addition to molasses and caramel notes, the Grand Reserve features wonderful cinnamon and allspice notes with a hint of citrus. Great as a holiday sipper.

Havana Club 7-year-old Origin: Cuba (\$28.22) — A classic amber rum with a hint of vanilla from the wood it's aged in. Great in a cocktail or on its own.

Appleton V/X Origin: Jamaica (\$23.99) — An explosion of flavours highlights this rum, with molasses, citrus, toasted oak, vanilla and allspice.

Appleton Reserve Origin: Jamaica (\$26.99) — Honey, brown sugar and warm winter spices with a soft, silky finish.

Appleton Extra 12-year-old Origin: Jamaica (\$33.75) — Dried fruit aromas leading to apricots, vanilla and a plethora of inviting spices.

El Dorado 12-year-old Origin: Guyana (\$33.64) — An intense noseful of tropical fruit and spice. Fruit, tobacco, leather and orange peel lead to a smooth oaky finish.

Wanderlust

The Slum Coyote in Peru

RAYMOND LEONARD
Arts Contributor

In Lima, Peru, dogs rule the streets. Each small group controls its own dirt stretch and roams up and down its short length like kings. The largest dog will often sit in the shade, its red rheumy eyes appearing like foreboding beacons and its teeth bared to anyone who dares challenge its dominance.

Outside of the daycare where I worked, in one of Lima's numerous slums, I watched a couple of scruffy toddlers chase after a small ball. An old veteran mutt sat near the entrance and kept an eye on the kids with me. I got the impression he wasn't very fond of me — if I got too close he would jump up, growl and fold his ears back.

I didn't blame the animal — he didn't know me. The kids, however, were familiar with this mutt. They would run up to him and rub his head while he feigned nonchalance and shot bad looks in my direction. The young ones called him *perro*, which I later learned meant dog.

Perro was a loner, with a missing upper lip and eye, who relied on the scraps from the school. His kingdom was a sparse one, spanning only across the dirt sidewalk in front of



The canines rule the street in Lima's slums.

the crumbling shack where the kids spent the first half of each day.

In an attempt to make a peace offering, I tossed a chunk of chocolate bar to Perro one day. All I got in return was a cold stare.

I really pitied the poor guy: his growl was like the wheeze of an old man's cough; he had an immobilizing limp; and his fur was patched with scars and lice, at which he would only halfheartedly nip. But he prowled the door of the daycare every day like the watchman of a lost cause.

After the kids left one day, I sat down and had a cigarette with Perro. He started to feel a bit more comfortable around me. I stomped on

my cigarette as I scanned the long hazy road for the van that was supposed to pick me up.

He watched swirls of dust and sand dance over his small sidewalk, but he didn't notice the three dogs farther up the road until they were walking across his territory.

Perro jumped up and started a sputtering growl. The other dogs ignored him contemptuously. He managed a bark, but it sounded more like an anguished cry. The largest of the three responded by nipping him and the old beast jumped back. These three were kings, and Perro was just a coyote to them — nothing more than a child kicking a ball through dust and potholes.

Local Crop

Jen Bond / Staff Contributor



Scribbler Prussia

Scribbler's second album takes its listener on a schizophrenic tour that just, for lack of a better term, fits.

At first, *Prussia* seems a bit jar-

ring, transitioning from pop-punk to soundscapes or folksy melodies, with a dash of grunge added for good measure. Upon a second listen, however, the seemingly incongruous styles make sense as the tracks borrow elements from one another and spin a continuous melodic thread.

With its strong bass line, the track "Jellyfishes Ghost" slides effortlessly into the following song, "Crosscarmellose," becoming a background sample. The resulting combination makes me want to lie on the floor and stare into the abyss, *Requiem for a Dream* style (but without the heroin).

"Larry" leads off the second half of the album by catapulting back a decade and across a continent, borrowing from the tried-and-true gritty stylings of Seattle-based grunge. This homage is then followed up by more soundscape tracks — take "Follicle" and "Abscond North," for example — that have decided inclinations towards the folk music genre.

Scribbler takes some risks with their sound on *Prussia*. In the end, the album is an enjoyable listening experience, although its reliance on well-known genres may be a little too safe. And it leaves one wondering: on Scribbler's next manic meander, could there be more?

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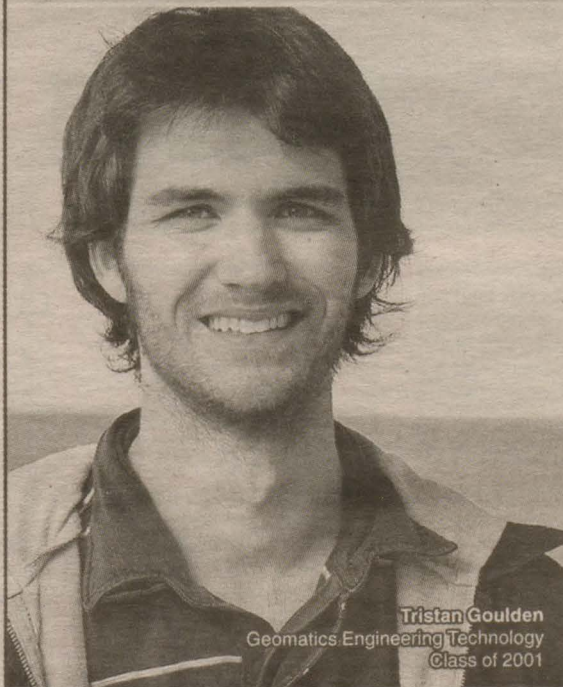
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Tristan's work has taken him to the Mediterranean, Texas, and Georgia. He currently works at the NSCC's Applied Geomatics Research Group.

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Gazette

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Meeting Roberta Bondar

Er, I should have gotten my chest autographed

KATE ROBERTSON
Staff Contributor

When the arts editors of this student publication asked if I would be interested in attending a Roberta Bondar book signing at Frog Hollow Books — during the busiest time of the school year — I made only one demand.

Please could I have a copy of her latest book? Must I attend without getting a book signed?

Unfortunately, the editors are stingy, greedy and ill-tempered. They refused my request.

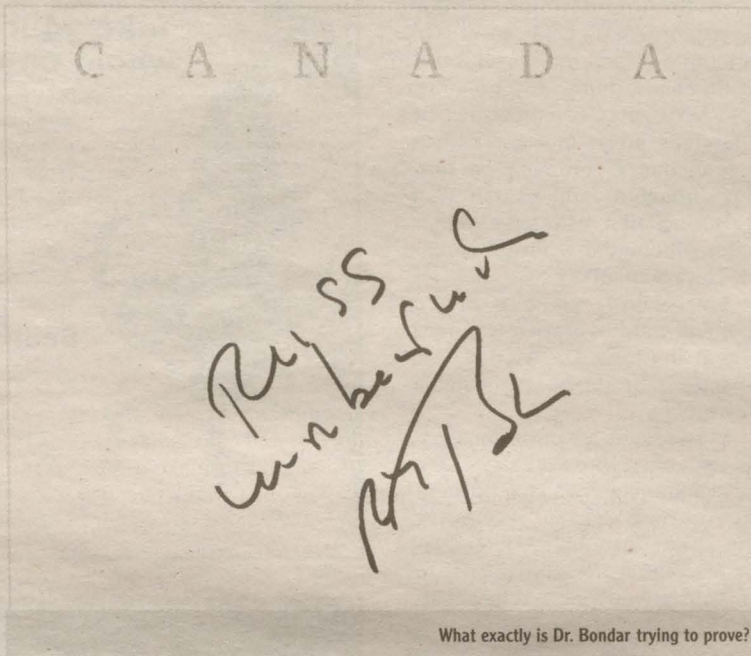
Bondar is a neurologist/biologist/astronaut-turned photographer/motivational speaker/author who was in town promoting her latest book, *The Arid Edge of Earth*. She's been to space, so I was going to take this lady seriously.

I checked used bookstores to find something affordable to bring and finally settled on an older book by Bondar called *Canada - Landscape of Dreams*, thinking I could give it to my dad for Christmas. He isn't exactly into astronomy, but who wouldn't be excited to get a signed copy of a book with photos of Canadian landscapes and commentary by famous Canadians like Vicki Gabereau and Silken Laumann?

After all, this was the first woman in space. What else was I going to do, get my chest signed? Bondar paved the way for aspiring woman scientists. This was no Pamela Anderson book signing.

Actually, she wasn't the first woman in space. I discovered this at the book signing, where I arrived sweating nervously.

"So, you were the first woman in space, eh?" I said, wiping the sweat



What exactly is Dr. Bondar trying to prove?

from my upper lip as she scratched my dad's name into the book.

"Actually, I was the first Canadian woman in space," Bondar replied, smiling understandingly. Later, feeling betrayed, I found out that Valentina Vladimirovna Tereshkova from Russia was the first woman in space in 1963. Bondar was there in 1992.

Oh.

You know, you think you know someone and you think they're going to blow your mind, but really, Bondar was much smaller in stature than I expected, and she made jokes. She wanted to chat — but I was uncomfortable after discovering she wasn't the super-serious lady-scientist I had anticipated.

She asked the usual questions about my degree and interests. I admitted that my name isn't actually

"Russ," and that the book was for my dad.

I left Frog Hollow Books disappointed.

I opened to the first page of my signed book. The signature and accompanying message were illegible.

It couldn't possibly say, "Russ, u r beutiful, R. Bondar."

Does it say, "Russ, ur unbreakable, R. Bondar"?

It might read, "Russ, u r beefy all, R. Bondar," but that doesn't make any sense. "All beefy" would make more sense. "Russ, you are all beefy, R. Bondar."

Regardless, Roberta Bondar isn't a serious person. At all. She played a joke on me. I should have gotten my damn chest signed after all — at least it would have made a great photo on MySpace.

Review

Oliver!



ANGELICA BLENICH
Staff Contributor

This year's holiday show at Neptune Theatre, *Oliver!*, was adapted from the Charles Dickens novel in 1960 and has been a success on stage and in the movies ever since.

The story tells the tale of a young orphan boy growing up in the grimy streets of London in the Victorian era. Dealing with themes such as poverty, crime and class structure, *Oliver!* sheds light on social issues that faced Londoners long ago.

The star of the show is Brandon Banks, the young fellow who plays Oliver Twist in his debut at Neptune Theatre. Banks not only delivers a heartwarming portrayal of Oliver, which makes one want to scoop him up and hug him, but also shines with obvious musical talent.

Reminiscent of a member of the Vienna boy's choir, Banks has a voice that is angelic and pure. He is strong throughout his solos, but maintains a perfect balance of vulnerability and softness. Ultimately, he portrays the quintessential orphan boy.

Another strong performance comes from the show's leading

lady, Julain Molnar, who plays Nancy. Molnar studied vocal music at Trinity College of Music in London, England, and it shows. She has an incredible vocal range and ability, holding her own in a predominantly male cast. Songs such as "As Long As He Needs Me" and "Oom-Pah-Pah" allow the audience to truly appreciate her musical talents.

Highlights of the show include fantastic musical numbers such as "Food Glorious Food," and my favourite, "Consider Yourself," which includes most of the cast.

The cast and crew also make wonderful use of the stage with a beautiful set design — Neptune is magically transformed into the streets of 19th-century London. Although limited in space, the cast members utilize what they have to its fullest potential, turning the stage into a veritable playground.

I realized before attending this family-friendly show on a Saturday afternoon that I would be subjected to a lot of kids. While my theory turned out to be true, those attending remained entertained and engrossed throughout the entire performance — a difficult feat for any actor to accomplish.

Oliver! runs until Jan. 7, 2007.

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Canada



Edward Burtynsky, Photographs

Reviewed by: Maegen Powell / Staff Contributor



Best known for his portrayal of industrial landscapes around the world, Edward Burtynsky creates art that destroys the border between nature and capitalism. In his show at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia (AGNS), the Toronto-based photographer uses a backdrop of beautiful landscapes and cliffs with a foreground of abandoned machinery, mutilated ships and vast oil fields.

The photographs send a message of a world in distress, especially the ones taken along Yangtze River, China, site of the world's largest construction project, the Three Gorges Dam. Burtynsky's photographs show neglected mine shafts and detonated debris among mountain range forests. The coloured headgear of the ant-size construction workers contrasts against grey machinery and green deciduous trees.

Californian oil fields are shown as infinite golden masses with disgusting black pumps usurping life. Cold Lake, Alta., is represented by a luscious green meadow with a large-diameter chrome pipe running through it. Halifax's train yard is also included, with large, yellow crates silhouetted against a cloudless Nova Scotian sky.

My favourite photo is of the door and window of what was once a home in China. The windows are broken and inside the house there's only rubble.

Burtynsky is a world-renowned photographer, with exhibits in such prestigious galleries as the Guggenheim in New York. He is an artist who creates incredible, contemplative pieces that are worth the trip to our conveniently located local gallery.

Photographs runs at the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia until Jan. 14, 2007.

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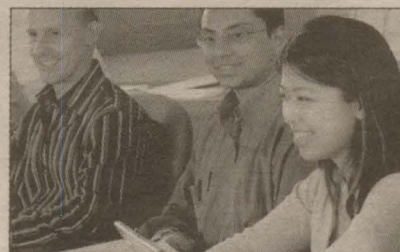
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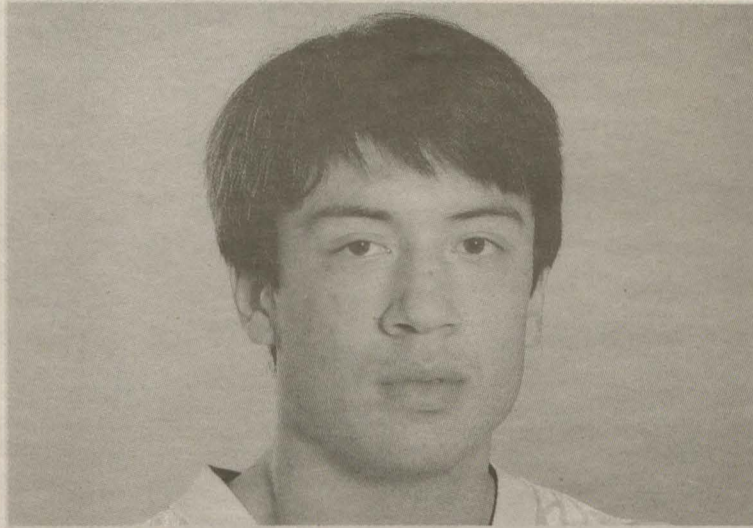
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Simon Farine has an amazing work ethic and pushes harder than anyone on the Tigers. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Former NCAA player has high hopes for Tigers

DEREK DAY
Sports Contributor

The future of the Dalhousie men's basketball program is in good hands with Simon Farine, the team's most accomplished 2006 recruit.

Farine, who plays point guard and shooting guard, was the MVP of the Nike All-Canada Camp in 2005. He was also selected as the *Toronto Sun* MVP for his play as a member of the Northern Red Knights, based in Toronto, that same year.

His successes on the court and in the classroom earned him a full scholarship to the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay, a Division One school in the National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA).

Early in his first season, Farine had moderate success against players in the United States' premier collegiate league. He averaged four points, three assists and two rebounds in 20 minutes on the floor.

That all changed when his coach asked him to switch positions.

"I had been playing point guard," says Farine. "But then they wanted me to switch to shooting guard. My playing time and numbers went way down."

Farine decided to leave after one year at Green Bay. While a lack of playing time and the different position were big factors, there were other reasons for his departure.

"I didn't like the city," says Farine, grimacing. "I never really got comfortable there and there was never anything to do."

After receiving numerous offers from schools across Canada, Farine chose to become a member of the Dal Tigers. In the end, it came down to which coach he felt most comfortable with.

"I really liked Coach [John] Campbell," says Farine. "And I really liked how the program was moving. I think the future is bright here at

Dal."

As a result of transfer rules between the NCAA and Canadian Interuniversity Sport, Farine isn't eligible to play for Dal this year. For now, his basketball skills, knowledge and athletic ability are only on display in practice.

"He's a great passer and shooter," says Campbell. "But his best qualities are his court vision. He makes the other players around him better."

Farine's presence isn't lost on his teammates either.

"He's a guy who has an amazing work ethic and probably pushes harder than anyone on our team," says first-year forward Sandy Veit.

"When he's running the point on your team, you know you're going to have a great practice," he says.

Farine, a commerce student, is already much happier at Dal than he was at Wisconsin-Green Bay.

"I like it here a lot," says Farine, smiling. "I really like the set-up of the campus."

The city of Halifax is also growing on him; "I like it, it's not too big, but at the same time, it's not a small town," he says.

Like his teammates, Farine practices five times a week, and does extra conditioning and strength drills on his own to stay in game shape. Still, Farine says nothing compares to real games — and watching his teammates compete is eating away at him.

"It's really hard to watch the games," says Farine. "I know I can help them, but right now, I can't."

Farine won't be able to officially don a Tigers jersey until the beginning of the 2007 season, but he says he is eager to begin his four-year basketball career at Dal.

"It will have been a long time since I played a meaningful game," says Farine. "I'll be like a dog let off his chain."

Dal swimmer goes the extra mile

SARAH BRIDGE
Staff Contributor

Unlike most guys at Dalhousie, Doug Young knows what it feels like to have smooth legs.

More importantly, he also knows what it feels like to win... often.

At the Atlantic University Sports (AUS) Shaved and Tapered Swim Meet, the Dal swimmer won the 50-m and 100-m freestyle events, as well as the 100-m and 200-m breaststroke.

The event was hosted by Dal on Nov. 18, where the Tigers competed against the UNB Varsity Reds.

Young showed his stripes once again on Nov. 25 at the Bell Canadian Grand Prix in Toronto, where he raced against swimmers from across the country. Despite the tough competition, Young managed to finish among the top third of the competitors for the breaststroke.

As one of Dal's top swimmers, the fourth-year sociology student has "had some big accomplishments," says Tigers coach David Fry.

On top of this year's achievements, Young competed in last year's nationals, where he was a finalist in the 200-m breaststroke — his specialty.

"Young is hard-working and extremely dedicated," says Fry. "He started off as a rookie of the year three years ago and has steadily improved since then. [Now] he's up there with the top swimmers in Canada."



"Doug Young is hard-working and extremely dedicated," says Coach David Fry. / Photo: Nick Pearce

Young's success comes from his love for the sport. He says it's the "competitive nature of swimming" that has kept him in the pool since age nine.

"It's not just racing against your competitors," says Young. "You race the clock [and] try to beat your own time."

His teammates also make him want to try harder.

"We are all pretty tight," says Young. "We motivate each other to take it to the next level."

With practices, meets, and eighteen weight-training hours per week, Young needs all the motivation he can get.

"Sometimes I have doubts about

[swimming], where I want to give it all up and have a real social life," he says. "My coaches help me through those times."

With the ultimate goal of competing in the 2008 Olympic trials in mind, Young's doubts are always short-lived. While most of his teammates take a break from swimming in the summertime, Young plans on keeping up his time in the pool. He'll also add running into the workout mix to "switch it up."

Fry agrees.

"For those really looking to achieve the national and international levels, they need to put in the extra time," says Fry.

"Young is going the extra mile."

Tigers end first half on a high note

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

Dalhousie men's volleyball team destroyed the competition at the Atlantic/Quebec interlock tournament, held Nov. 18 to 20 at UNB. The squad went 4-0 downing Laval, Sherbrooke, McGill and Montréal, and aim to carry this momentum into the second half.

"I'd like to think we brought the holiday spirit in pain form a month early to their faces, personal delivery," says fourth-year middle Jesse Mighton.

The Tigers are currently ranked third in Canada. Mighton says Dal wants to remain the top team in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) conference and to keep moving up the ladder in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) rankings.

"To win those four games was a step in the right direction," he says. "Not just to win them, but to pretty much beat down the teams, and maybe send a message to other teams who have been perusing the scoreboard that what was going on [at UNB] is something they should take note of."

The Tigers played four games in



Chris Dunlop and the Tigers can bang with the best ballers in the country. / Photo: Nick Pearce

three days, which was a test of the team's depth and endurance. Fourth-year setter Chris Dunlop says the spirit of the players was pretty high after winning the tournament.

"Everybody is really pleased with our results especially after the fourth game against Montreal," says Dunlop. "Everybody was really relieved that we came out of there with the four wins. We kind of did send a message that [the Quebec teams] don't have much hope against us — and they know that when they're playing us, they better expect an ass-kicking."

Dunlop says the Tigers' depth enabled the team to dominate at the UNB tournament.

"We brought a lot of players [to UNB]," says Dunlop. "A lot of people got to see the floor... all in all we tried to keep it to our routine, so that helped us keep focused."

The interlock wins were a total team effort, but Mighton and Dunlop say Tigers Nick Rademacher and Geoff Daniels came to the forefront for the team.

Rademacher, known to the Tigers as the "rad man," really stepped it up, says Mighton.

"He was fist striking the ball with such accuracy that they couldn't handle it," says Mighton. "It was crushing blows raining down on them at all times. When he's playing like that, and when he gets his shriek powers going, there's not much that can deter him from playing very well."

Daniels returned to the team in September after a yearlong sabbati-

cal. The fifth-year player, known as "Chewy," provides a lot of energy on the court, says Dunlop.

"He's coming in with a lot of experience, so he's really helping to provide a competitive atmosphere on the floor and back in practice," says Dunlop. "He's definitely contributing a lot."

The Tigers are finished play for 2006, but will take to the court in early January at the X-Calibre Tournament hosted by York University in Toronto. Dal will play some top-notch teams from York, Ryerson, the University of Manitoba and the University of Mexico City.

In February, the Tigers will host the AUS playoff tournament. The team will play two matches against UNB and Memorial each.

The winner of the tournament advances to the CIS championship at McMaster University in March.

The Tigers' season is geared toward winning a medal at the CIs. If the team loses its first match at nationals, it has no chance of getting to the medal podium.

But Mighton says Dal has the luxury of previous experience going to nationals. He says the Tigers can block out a lot of the things that inexperienced teams have to deal with — such as team nervousness, rowdy fans and tougher competition.

"We've played at nationals and what it all comes down to is playing and executing well," he says. "I think executing is something this team does incredibly well. I'd say we're not even considering a first-round loss at nationals at this point."

Athletes of the week

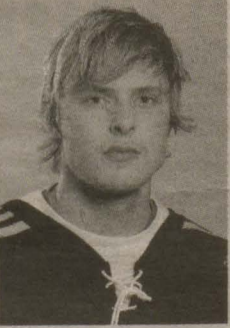
FEMALE ATHLETE



ALEX LEGGE
BASKETBALL

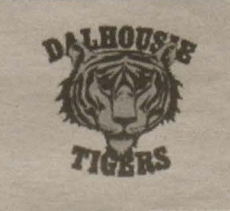
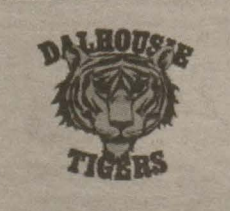
Alex Legge set the pace for the Tigers during a trip to St. F. X. and Cape Breton on Nov. 24 and 25, logging over 70 minutes on the court between the two games. The rookie guard completed six for 10 field goals and led the Tigers in defensive rebounds during the convincing 72-59 road win over the X-Women Friday night in Antigonish, N.S. Legge's efforts kept the Tigers close during Saturday's game, shooting eight for 11 from the floor, leading the Tigers in offensive rebounds, and averaging 100 per cent in both her three-point and free-throw attempts despite the 78-74 loss to the Capers. Legge is a first-year science student from Mahone Bay, N.S.

MALE ATHLETE



JORDAN MORRISON
HOCKEY

Jordan Morrison was the catalyst and driving force behind the Tigers' positive Nov. 24 and 25 results. The rookie forward posted one goal and one assist against the St. Mary's Huskies on Saturday, chipping in two more goals on Friday versus St. F. X. Morrison's leadership and ability on the ice kept the Tigers on the prowl during Saturday's 5-4 overtime loss to the Huskies, posting the Tigers' only goal in the shootout. Morrison is a first-year arts student from Uxbridge, Ont.





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JF NOWLAN

To begin the Holiday Cheer, *The Sextant* would like to share with the rest of Dal Campus the safe practice on how to install a Christmas tree according to the national code.



LUKE WILLIAMS

On December 2nd the smartest and the brightest of Dalhousie University Students will take part in an event to raise money for the Christmas Daddies Telethon. In the parking lot on the corner of Spring Garden and Queen Street Students will pull two cars for a combined total of 24 hours.

The Christmas Daddies Telethon is a volunteer effort by the staff of CTV. Since 1964, funds raised have

been putting smiles on the faces of less fortunate children at a special time of year. Christmas Daddies funds are distributed by The Salvation Army.

Do you like pancakes and don't want to make them yourself? YES. Then come down to the event anytime from 8am to 10am where you can get pancakes simply by donating what ever you have. Can't make it then? Donations can be dropped off at any time during the event from 7am to 7pm on December 2nd.

Fourteen dead, all women

JACQUELINE POUSSHAY

Shortly after 5PM on December 6, 1989, Marc Lépine entered the École Polytechnique in Montréal, Québec, enraged at "the feminists who have ruined [his] life". For 45 minutes, he rampaged the school, entering a classroom of mechanical engineering students, separating the women from the men, and finally shooting and killing the women, while screaming "I hate feminists". He also opened fire in the school's cafeteria, and ultimately committed suicide. In total, 14 women were killed, and 13 others were injured. The fatalities included 12 female engineering students, one female nursing student, and a female employee of Polytechnique. One of the dead, Sonia Pelletier, was to graduate the next day in mechanical engineering. She was awarded a degree posthumously. Another of the women, Barbara Klucznik, was a nursing

student. She was in the Polytechnique cafeteria, eating supper with her husband, as it was the best place to eat on campus.

The massacre shocked citizens all across Canada, and served as a major spur for the Canadian feminist movement and for action against violence against women.

The nation had never before seen such an act of gratuitous violence. The incident served as a wake-up call for women in professional positions and "non-traditional female roles", as well as women everywhere who live in fear of abuse and violence from their partners.

Now, December 6 is observed as a memorial day, and has been declared by Parliament as the "National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women". The purple ribbon is used as a symbol of remembrance of this terrible tragedy.

At Dalhousie University, the event

is remembered by the Dalhousie Sexton Engineering Undergraduate Society (DSEUS) and the Dalhousie Faculty of Engineering, with participation from the Dalhousie Women's Centre (DWC) and the Dalhousie School of Nursing. A memorial service will be held on December 6, 2006, at 5:30PM in the Alumni Lounge, located on Dalhousie's Sexton Campus.

Although this is a busy time of year, all students from all faculties are encouraged to attend. We must remember that the women at Polytechnique were exactly like us - in the middle of studying for exams, making plans to go home for the holidays, and celebrating with friends - when their freedom to do this was taken away from them.

As well, this year, the memorial will have a special importance, because of the recent school shooting at Dawson College in Montréal. By attending the memorial, a tribute to the women, we honour them, and send a message that violence towards woman and all humanity must be stopped.

What Grinds My Gears

Sley
Angry Contributor

Round two I guess. There are a lot of things in this vast world that I wish the world would unanimously discard, or properly fix. Here is hoping that a few of you will see this, and realize that you to want to free the world of items on my ever growing list.

1) The Dalhousie Gazette

Let me explain why. *The Sextant* is entitled to one page in every issue of *The Gazette*. This is our page to do with what we want. When *The Gazette* publishes ads in our space and cuts other articles of ours, I get pissed. Oh and don't think that we didn't notice you reducing the size of print to fit in other ads. Yeah, that made me angrier than the time that I lost half a toe in a cliff jumping accident. Point of irony here: *The Gazette* is publishing this. Why? Free speech.

[Editor's note: As per *The Gazette's* agreement with *The Sextant*, we reserve the right to place ads on any page within *The Gazette* as space deems necessary. *The Sextant's* page is not burdened with more ads than other pages in our publication. As per this agreement, we also reserve the right to edit any content *The Gazette* prints, including content that appears on *The Sextant* page, and withhold any content that arrives past deadline.]

2) Febreze Scent Stories

Wow, it has been a long day. All that I want to do is kick back, lounge on the couch, drink a beer... and play my favourite scent? I hope that someone got fired for this. Better yet, I hope that the inventors go subjected to their own stupidity by being placed in a room to experience the marvel they have created. Sometimes people do not understand there is a line where consumer whores will stop buying useless things (it was just crossed).

3) Poor bathroom design

I have a few things here, which apply more to guys. 1) Urinals which are too close. There is nothing more

awkward then holding yourself and a stranger being pressed up against you ever so gently. 2) Guys who don't follow the "no look line rule". In case you haven't noticed, washrooms always have a line of tiles. If there isn't one there you make it up, which you NEVER LOOK BELOW. You drop your keys; they are gone unless you can grab them without looking.

4) Improper use of the word seen

AHHHH! It is "I saw the ugly cat claw that guys face", not I seen. Let's perpetuate that Canadian stereotype a little bit more. Does all of eastern Canada want to sound dumber then the rest? Small things like this don't make you seem cool they make you seem white trash.

5) This little paperclip which keeps popping up as I write this article

No I am not writing a letter and no I don't want to learn how. Stop turning into the shape of one. I wish I could grab his tiny digital body and melt it down into a tiny coin. Put it into a vending machine and buy a bag of chips. Maybe then it will be more useful than at the moment.

Dalendar & Classifieds

dalendar@dalgazette.ca / classifieds@dalgazette.ca

Dalendar

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

Thursday, Nov. 30

Playing it Safe: Children's Health and the Environment Public Forum

7 p.m. @ Dal Law School, RM 104
A free public forum on the environmental links to children's health. Speaker Myriam Beaulne, Health Promotion Coordinator for the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment.
Free

Friday, Dec. 1

The Complete Works of Gilbert & Sullivan - Abridged

8 p.m. @ St. George's Round Church
We've woven many of your favorite tunes into The Complete Works of Gilbert & Sullivan - Abridged! And we've assembled an all-star cast to sing them. We've got comic characters, silly situations and improbably plot twists.
\$15 (adult) / \$10 (student/senior) / \$5 children

World AIDS Day

All day event

There will be an awareness table and bake sale set up in the Dal SUB from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. That evening there will be a fundraiser at Bubble's Mansion with Party for the Cause.
Fundraiser cost n/a

Playing it Safe: Service Provider Strategies to Reduce Environmental Risks to Child Health Workshop

8:30 a.m. @ Canadian Centre for Ethics in Public Affairs, 630 Francklyn St.
A one-day, interactive workshop on children's health and environment - Strategies for Action Workshop facilitator Myriam Beaulne, Health Promotion Coordinator for the Canadian Partnership for Children's Health and Environment.
\$60 registration fee

Katimavik / Sierra Club giveaway

11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the SUB
Free travel mugs with green tea!
Free!

Saturday, Dec. 2

Stop The Assaults On Gaza And End The Occupation Now, Rally and March

1 p.m. @ Victoria Park
Bring placards and noisemakers. Organized by the Palestine Solidarity Society and endorsed

by the Halifax Peace Coalition, NSPIRG, Canadian Arabs and Jews for Just Peace in the Middle East, Canadian Palestine Association, SCAW.
Free

Community Response to Israel's War of Aggression

7 p.m. @ Room 225 Sobey Building, SMU
Speakers include: Dr. Ismail Zayid, Isaac Saney and Judy Haiven.
Free

Sunday Dec. 3

Sunday Night Comedy Spectacular

8 p.m. @ Ginger's Tavern
Come and laugh. Only two shows left before Christmas.
\$4

Tuesday, Dec. 5

Chemistry Seminar

10 a.m. @ Chemistry Room 226
Professor Kathleen M. Gough from the University of Manitoba will be giving a seminar entitled, "Vibrational Spectroscopy: from Computer Modelling to Mouse Brains."
Free

Chemistry Seminar

1:30 p.m. @ Chemistry Room 226
Professor Paul H.M. Harrison from McMaster University will be giving a seminar entitled, "Adventures in Natural Products: Acetate and Malonate in Biosynthesis and Biomimetic Synthesis." If you would like to meet with Paul Harrison please contact Rob White at robert.white@dal.ca.
Free

Mobile

9 p.m. @ The Grawood
One of Canada's hottest bands, Mobile visit the Grawood to headline the DSU's final event of 2006! Tickets are on sale now at the SUB Info Desk.
\$10

Friday, Dec. 9

Christmas Show and Sale

10 a.m. @ Bedford United Church
The Bedford Basic Artists Society are holding their Christmas show and sale at The Bedford United Church on the Bedford Highway. All original works of art. Refreshments served.
Free

Classifieds

Send your classifieds to classifieds@dalgazette.ca

WANT TO BE A SINGING PIRATE?

The Gilbert and Sullivan Society of Nova Scotia is looking for performers for our spring production of The Pirates of Penzance. We are looking for a chorus of pirates, Keystone cops and flappers. We need principal roles in all vocal ranges.

Leave your name and number on the G&S message line - 429-1287 - and we'll get back to you about auditions on Dec 6th and 10th.

BARISTAS WANTED!

The Wired Monk Coffee Bistro is opening mid-November on the corner of Hollis and Morris and needs a brilliant line-up of new staff. P/T and F/T avail. Must love serving people and making great coffee and food.

Phone Lisa at 223-4565 to apply!

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Apply online at www.islandlake.com. Call 800-869-6083 between 9 and 5 eastern time on weekdays for more information. info@islandlake.com.

SUMMER CAMP JOBS IN THE US

CAMP TOWANDA, a coed residential summer camp in Pennsylvania has openings for counselors, coaches and instructors 6/16-8/11. Applicants 19+ earn excellent salary, room, board, travel allowance and J-1 visa reimbursement. Information meeting and interviews will be held on campus in late January. Visit www.camptowanda.com Staff Experience for application. Email staff@camptowanda.com or call 800-923-2267 for additional information.

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