

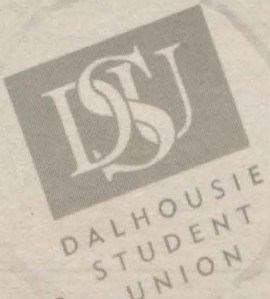
FREE

139-20 / February 8th - February 21st, 2007

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

Gazette

The Sex Issue



WEEKLY DISPATCH

DalOUT Upcoming Events

DalOUT, Dalhousie's LGBTQ Society, provides gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, transsexual, two-spirited, queer individuals, and the people who support them with education, advocacy and support. Events include group discussions, lectures, socials, dance lessons, film screenings and fundraisers. Meetings are generally held every Thursday evening and provide a safe space for discussion. DalOUT's resource library includes an extensive collection of books, and volunteers offer peer counseling. DalOUT is not just for members of Dalhousie's LGBTQ student community. Everyone, regardless of age, sexual orientation or gender identity, who is interested in LGBTQ issues and likes to meet new people is encouraged to attend DalOUT events. Here's a look at some of DalOUT's upcoming events:

Feb. 14: Pink Triangle Day is a celebration of the positive steps made by the LGBTQ community and raises awareness of issues that remain. Show your support by wearing an article of pink clothing and a pink triangle (DalOUT will be distributing these in the days leading up). Gather in the SUB lobby at 11:30am to raise awareness of the LGBTQ community at Dalhousie.

Feb. 15, 7:00 (SUB 302): 2007 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of Spanish gay poet Luis Cernuda's masterful cycle of homoerotic love lyrics "Poems for a Body" ["Poemas para un cuerpo"]. In celebration of Cernuda's achievements, selections from "Poems for a Body" will be read, in the original Spanish by David Iza, and in a recently-completed new English version by the translator, John Barnstead of Dalhousie's Russian Studies Department. Refreshments provided.

For more information on DalOUT, visit <http://societies.dsu.ca/dalout>, e-mail dalout@dal.ca, or stop by the office (SUB 321). Remember everyone is welcome!

SAFC Scholarships

The Student Accessibility Fund Committee (SAFC) is proud to allocate two \$1000 bursaries each year, open to all Dalhousie students with disabilities. The SAFC recognizes that there are additional financial burdens associated with having a disability and these scholarships will help students defray these costs. All students are encouraged to apply, regardless of whether or not they have a student loan, or receive outside funding. For more information on SADC or to download the scholarship application go to www.dsu.ca. All questions can be forwarded to the SAFC Commissioner, Meagan at m.hasek-watt@dal.ca. Application Deadline: February 12th, 2007.

Student Housing Cooperative:

Students of the Halifax community are leading an initiative to establish co-operative housing for students, by students in HRM. On February 15 from 7-9pm in Room 307 of the Dalhousie Student Union Building, we will be hosting an event for the public discussing the benefits of co-operative business in a local context, housing co-operatives, and our initiative. There are lots of opportunities to get involved from Accounting to Architecture and many places in between. This event is made possible by the Nova Scotia Public Interest Research Group (NSPIRG) and the Dalhousie Student Union. For more info contact Rachel at coop@nspirg.org.



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Sex facts

Lovemaking reduces the chance of suffering dermatitis, skin rashes and blemishes, as sweat cleanses pores.	The earliest illustration of a man using a condom, painted on a wall in France, dates back 12,000 to 15,000 years.
Sexually active bodies give off more chemicals called pheromones, which attract the opposite sex. So... sex more sex.	Freud argued that neither opposite or same-sex sexuality was the norm. Rather, he said "bisexuality" was the normal human condition, which was thwarted by society. A 1901 medical dictionary lists heterosexuality as "perverted" different-sex attraction. By 1950, homosexuality was deemed a psychiatric disorder.
Sex is 10 times more effective than Valium as a tranquilizer.	
Ithyphallophobia: the fear of seeing, thinking about or having an erect penis.	

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THE FINE PRINT

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.

The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the *Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society*.

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, The Word at Dal, 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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All contributions in this issue of *The Gazette* were made by the staff listed above and the following contributors: Valerie De Grandis, Catherine Holloway, Hugh Wallace, Andrew Bernardo, Sarah Phillips, Bridgette Sullivan, Anna Fong, Aniket Hooda, Brendan Osburg, Jonathan Frank, Jack Carr, Magen Powell, Brittany Curran, Cameron MacLean and Karyn Haag.

The next contributor meeting will take place February 5th at 5:30 p.m. in Room 312 of the Dalhousie SUB. 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.

CORRECTIONS

• In Issue 139-19, *The Gazette* regrettably failed to report that Dalhousie has made a commitment to increase its facilities renewal fund by \$1 million every year for the next several years. Its current commitment is \$8 million.

Occasionally special?

RAFAL ANDRONOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

In 1382 Geoffrey Chaucer, the English poet, recorded the first association between romantic love and St. Valentine's Day in his poem *Parlement of Foules*:

"For this was on seynt Volantynys day / When euery bryd comyth there to chese / his make."

What is believed to be the first valentine was created and sent in 1415. Charles, Duke of Orleans, who at the time was imprisoned in the Tower of London, wrote it for his wife, or lover, as records are uncertain.

By the 16th century, written valentines were commonplace, although they were hand-made by the giver. Mass manufacturing of valentines, decorated with Cupids and hearts, did not appear until the end of the 18th century.

Love messages became associated with St. Valentine in 496 when Pope Gelasius I declared Feb. 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

Previously, the day had been called *Luprecalia*, an ancient Roman celebration honoring the goddess Juno Februata, goddess of "feverish" love. The festival involved the drawing of love notes or "billets" to partner men and women for feasting and sexual diversion.

Obviously, the Catholic church frowned upon this practice and, in an effort to thwart such festivities, declared an official St. Valentine's Day dedicated to rituals of romance.

Exactly which Saint Valentine the pope meant to honor remains a mystery. At the time of his declaration, the pope had three Saints to choose from and the only common factor among all three is that, amazingly, they are said to have been martyred on Feb. 14.

Regardless of which Saint was honoured, or if it was all three, St. Valentine's Day remains the day of romantic love when lovers exchange cards and gifts. The nature of the gifts and the method by which they are delivered have changed over time with advances in technology and services, such as postal mail, but the message has stayed largely the same.

But in the last two centuries or so, drastic changes have taken place. In the 19th century, the advent of manufacturing brought about a decline of the handmade card. And more effective and cheaper postal services

replaced personal deliveries.

In the United States, during the second half of the 20th century, the exchange of cards was extended to include all types of gifts. This period also marked a shift toward men giving the gift, rather than a fair exchange between both sexes.

The gifts now typically involve roses and chocolates. More recently, manufacturers and their representative advertising agencies are pushing ever more extravagant gifts — witness the endless ads for jewelry, perfumes and countless other 'make her feel special' presents.

The Greeting Card Association (GCA) in the United States estimates that this year alone, Americans will buy 190 million Valentine's Day cards. The total revenue of gifts, cards and other presents bought in the 2007 season is estimated to be almost \$17 billion, according to the National Retail Federation.

Valentine's Day cards account for about 25 per cent of the total sales of seasonal cards, second only to Christmas which controls 60 per cent of the market, according to GCA figures. Seasonal card sales account for about half of the seven billion cards sold annually, totaling over \$7.5 billion in retail sales.

Astonishingly, women who buy 80 per cent of these cards. This means that the several billion dollars in sales associated with Valentine's Day come from elsewhere.

Cue the advertising. Add the chaos of choosing the perfect gift, finding the ideal restaurant for a romantic dinner for two and all those other mindless tasks required to create the so-called "perfect evening." In all that activity, I think something is lost.

That "make her feel special" part.

(Since we're on the topic, we might as well drop the 'her' and make it an 'us'.)

Making the people in your life feel special should not require a random day marked as a holiday in the calendar. There shouldn't be a set date when everyone is expected to do this and that. There shouldn't be an expectation to dote on this one day.

Just knowing these people is reason enough to make them feel special. And you don't need anyone's blessing to do that.

"Don't ever save anything for a special occasion. Being alive is the special occasion." — Unknown

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I see porn as something that is sexually suggestive. It's not just an artistic shot of someone who happens to be nude," says Christine.

In front of the flash

Weighing in on nude art

HUGH WALLACE
Star Sex Issue Contributor

Posing nude is part of many art forms, from life drawing and sculpture to photography. The artistic potential of the human body has been exploited for quite some time.

This week I had the pleasure of talking to someone with firsthand experience in nude modelling for artistic purposes. Christine, a student here at Dalhousie, told me nude photography a hobby for her and that it's sort of the same as painting a portrait.

Many people throughout history (especially those at the Vatican) were very concerned with showing the flesh. Works of art, painting or sculpture that depicted the nude form were destroyed or lost, including the Vatican's entire collection of Greek statues.

So I asked Christine what she thought about the idea that her art could be misconstrued as pornography. "I see porn as something that is sexually suggestive," she says. "It's not just an artistic shot of someone who happens to be nude."

I couldn't agree more. But it is difficult to draw any lines between art and pornography, especially when the art contains nude images. "I guess the two really blend together," Christine says. It's true. Look at

artistic soft porn like Zalman King's Red Shoe Diaries. It's so artistic that it's practically a soap opera. The plot is extensive and well-created and there is actually dialogue.

Pornography, on the other hand, often takes place in ridiculous settings and focuses on genitalia interaction. The focus of nude photography, "is lines and shadows, especially concentrating on the tone of the body," says Christine. "You can even focus on the lines your body makes in the water - these are called water nudes."

Don't get me wrong, porn has a place in the world. To me, however, it is not a form of art. It is totally sex-centric and is only really concerned with fucking and sucking.

You can tell the difference between porn and nude art based on the facial expression, says Christine. "Usually porn models will put looks of desire on their faces, and in nude photography, the face is often calm and expressionless," she says.

Of course this isn't always the case. If you think of the famous sculpture, The Rape of the Sabine Woman, her face is neither calm nor expressionless. It is fearful. Yet this sculpture is still considered art.

So it isn't always appropriate to distinguish the two by facial expression. What about clothes? I often ask myself, "Does pornography really re-

quire nudity?" And the answer is no. "Think of Victoria Secret catalogues, Maxim and other men's magazines," says Christine. The photos in those magazines may not be of naked women exposing their vulvas, but they certainly aren't artistic. They are designed to excite and entice the men who read those magazines. Unlike nude photography, things can be pornographic even when a model is wearing clothing.

So why do we take artistic nude photos? "Well, for me, it is just a hobby," says Christine. "But it is also to help people realize that it is OK to be nude."

Nude is natural, after all. We call our naked body our birthday suit because we were born into this world nude. It is unfortunate that society and magazine culture has made some of us so self-conscious of our bodies that nudity in an artistic and natural sense has started to be seen as pornographic or disgusting.

I think we should all start to be more comfortable with our bodies. Here is an assignment for all of you: grab a camera, learn how to use the timer and take your own nude artistic photos. Better yet, grab a lover or a friend and do the same.

Maybe you'll find something liberating or exciting inside the lens. If not, just chalk up another experience under the column marked Life.

Raunch culture rising

'Feminist porn' website or art?

SARAH PHILLIPS
Staff Contributor

I shotmyself.com is not what you think.

Well, if you think that it's a website that posts pictures of naked women taken by the naked women, then it is what you think. If not, what did you think it was? Sicko.

A free showing of the website provides tourists with over 90 sample photos and videos. The images range from the absurd — one woman pours milk over her naked torso while she strains to hold the camera and execute a shot of herself at the same time — to impressive displays of near-professional photographic ability — another photo of a woman's tender spot plays with the delicacies of coloured lighting.

The website refers to these women as "artists" and their collections of photos as "portfolios."

It has already been proven through countless avenues that the female body is beautiful, but on that basis alone, can we judge any aesthetic presentation of the form as art?

The website claims it gets more visitors than the Guggenheim and has more original portraits than the Louvre. But ishotmyself.com is not the first website to invite amateur submissions of nude imagery; it is just the first to do so in an artistic context with a minimum standard of technical quality.

This is not, however, just a site in which to hash out the redundant debate between art and pornography. It also facilitates the never-ending dispute about feminism and sex.

ishotmyself.com is about women taking control of their sexuality. Traditional pornographic pictures and videos present unattainable women with unattainable bodies reaching unattainable orgasms. These images are usually marketed at, and purchased by, men.

There are ventures to create pornography for women, but most of these productions have been semi-successful at best, and complete failures compared to the success of the male marketed stuff.

Family Safe Media reports that the \$12-billion annual revenues of the porn industry in the U.S. are larger than those of the NFL, NBA and Major League Baseball combined. Worldwide porn sales are reported to be \$57 billion.

This website's photo galleries feature fat women, skinny women, hairy women, waxed and shaved women — real women. And of course, the second part of its sex-positive argument is that these same women are in creative control.

"The beauty of this site is that we have the opportunity to interpret and create what we feel like creat-

ing," writes one woman on ishotmyself.com's online forum.

In an industry that gets rich on the exploitation of the female body, ishotmyself.com allows women to shift this exploitation into what the site has coined "self-ploitation."

"That is not to say we don't exhibit porn — on the contrary, some of our contributors see this as a medium for sexual self-expression, and they go to great lengths to shock us with their imagery, which is frequently explicitly pornographic — but it is done on their terms, and it is for this that some have foisted upon us the label of 'feminist porn.' And we don't mind that. [The site] is run almost entirely by women, after all."

But by positioning its galleries as feminist porn, ishotmyself.com engages in the seemingly never-ending debate about the connections between sex and feminism.

In her book, Female Chauvinist Pigs: Women and the Rise of Raunch Culture, Levy questions the connections between exploitation and empowerment in the post-feminist world.

"If Male Chauvinist Pigs were men who regarded women as pieces of meat, we would out-do them and be Female Chauvinist Pigs: women who make sex objects of other women and of ourselves."

Levy argues that where many women see Brazilian bikini waxes, trips to the strip clubs and Playboy as choices that females have earned the right to make, she sees, "a tawdry, tarty, cartoonlike version of female sexuality [that] has become so ubiquitous, it no longer seems particular."

Just like ishotmyself.com, Levy is talking about a form of "self-ploitation," but unlike the website, she doesn't see it as an expression of sexual empowerment, but rather self-directed exploitation.

"Raunchy" and "liberated" are not synonyms," writes Levy. "It is worth asking ourselves if this bawdy world of boobs and gams we have resurrected reflects how far we've come, or how far we have left to go."

Whether it's art or porn, empowerment or exhibitionism, these dichotomies are subjected to public debate in new ways because of the interactive medium of the Internet.

"When we first put [the site] up on the web in 2003," it says on ishotmyself.com's About Us page, "Our credo alluded to the cultural epidemic of micro celebrity, made possible for the first time in world history by the Internet. We created [the site] as a venue for ordinary people to unleash their inner exhibitionist to a worldwide audience."

"Is [the website] porn or art? Is it crude? That depends on what you do with it. Is it culturally valuable? That's not for us to decide."

Sex facts

A survey of sex shop owners showed cherry was the most popular flavour of edible underwear. Chocolate was least popular.



Daily chain: group oral sex.

In old Aztec culture, avocados were believed to be so sexually powerful that virgins were kept out of contact with them.

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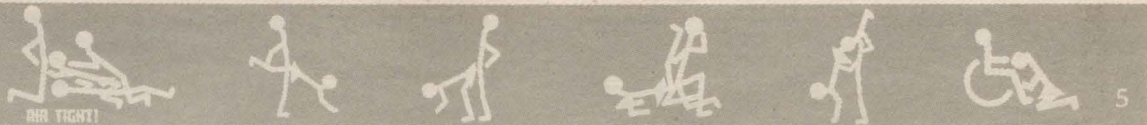
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Sex with Hugh Just another hole

A feminine perspective on backdoor lovin'

HUGH WALLACE
Star Sex Issue Contributor

A lot of sexual activities at one time or another were seen as dirty, even illegal. Anal sex is one such sexual activity that is still illegal in some parts of the world and yet carries with it varying ideals. For some people, it is the only way to achieve a heterosexual substitute for "intercourse." The funny thing is, as one of my friends put it, it's just another hole.

I'm sure a lot of heterosexual females out there who have been in a solid relationship have, at one time or another, been propositioned by their significant other to engage in anal sex.

I had the chance to speak with two women in the Killam a short while ago about their thoughts on anal sex. I asked these two ladies why it is guys are so fascinated with that other hole. One of them said, "Guys want to do it because they think it's something cool, like, hey, a new hole to stick my dick in."

On the other hand, all three of us agreed it was something you should do with your partner only when you trust them and feel comfortable around them.

So why don't we talk about anal sex more often? "It is sort of the only x-rated thing left in a regular sexual vocabulary," the woman offered. "A woman's anus is usually pretty much untouched."

The three of us couldn't understand why anal sex was still pretty much the most taboo subject of them all.

We brainstormed. One idea included a sort of utilitarian perspective about anal sex — how people say, "that is not what that is for." In a sexual sense, that is ridiculous. My rebuttal: a mouth isn't necessarily for a penis but someone has definitely done it.

Another factor urging women away from anal sex, according to my two compatriots, are the health and safety issues associated, such as the



Most sexual activities carry a certain number of health risks and safety issues.

transmission of HIV/AIDS and anal injury.

While this is true, most sexual activities carry a certain number of health risks and safety issues.

And anal sex is something that women should do only with men that they trust. It isn't a one night stand activity — "Hey, let's go back to my place so you can plough me... FROM THE BACK!!!" Yeah, not too likely.

So I asked these two lovely ladies how the topic of anal sex even comes up in conversation. They each had a different perspective. The first said anal sex is something that you talk about with a long-time, committed partner. And she said, for the most part guys don't bring it up with words so much as with actions.

The other perspective is similar. It was more structured around "the longer the relationship, the fewer the ideas" notion and she said anal sex was merely one of those "let's spice it up" creative endeavours. Once again, she said the act was initiated without words, leaving her feeling totally surprised and caught off guard.

So for you guys out there who want to engage in anal sex, have some tact. Bring it up a couple times before you randomly try to jump on the woman. Human beings, female or male, like time to make decisions about things that are intimate or personal, such as anal sex.

It is cool to have anal sex. Use a thicker condom to reduce breakage — trust me, you'll both still feel it. Always use lots of lubricant — water-based, of course — and start off gently. If someone isn't used to having something put there, they aren't going to want it rammed right in. Take it slowly, like the first time you tried to ride a bike.

You don't have to share what you've done with your friends, but you have to share what you'd like to do with your partner. Communication is key, and anal sex can be very intimate.

If your relationship is ready and you're both willing, go ahead, play in the mud. And pardon the pun.

E-mail your sex questions or comments to sex@dalgazette.ca

Divorcing Valentine's Day

Indie record label woos local artists at Khyber

BRIDGETTE SULLIVAN
Staff Contributor

Valentine's Day brings many images to mind. Divorce, we can hopefully all agree, is ordinarily not one of them.

Divorce Records, however, is preparing a Valentine's Day occasion that will be far from the average revelry.

Bands from the independent, Halifax-based record label will perform a series of collaborative performances with local artists at the Khyber Club on Feb. 14.

Organizer Stacey Ho says she's excited to work with Divorce Records, an open and free-form representative of the region's art scene and an essential source for punk, indie rock and noise music from the area.

Ho, a local artist, and Tobias America, from abrasive post-punk group Be Bad, developed the idea for a visual and oratory betrothal.

"Since the end of the summer we've been talking about doing a collaborative performance," says Ho. "I guess we figured that if we were going to do it, then we should get a whole bunch of people involved."

While America roused interest amongst fellow Divorce bands, Ho sought out artists from the Halifax community who would be interested in teaming up with the Divorce musicians.

"I'm glad [America] pulled the label into the event," says Chik White, who runs Divorce Records. "[The label] has always focused on bringing different factions in the music community together... An event like this is an extension of this idea [of] a wide variety of artists working with a wide variety of bands."

Ho and America assembled a showcase of fiercely creative music and art displayed against a set that's equally original.

Kicking off the night's performances, bent-folk project Husband and Knife will perform with Eleanor King, an accomplished artist, member of the Just Barelys and instructor at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design University.

Harsh-noise power electronics mastermind Torso is paired with

NSCADU student Adam O'Reilly. A fan of O'Reilly's projects for several years, Ho is excited to experience the final product of this collaboration. "I think what Adam has planned is going to be a surprise for a lot of people," she says.

Ho is working on a collaborative project herself: a partial spoken word sound loop, which will be mashed with the music of Be Bad. The band is well-practiced after touring the United States this past summer and are set to release a second split seventh on California based DNT Records this spring.

Halifax journalist Stephen Cooke of The Chronicle Herald is teamed with art-damaged punk band Attack Mode for the event. According to Ho, the entertainment writer has been working on an installation with drummer Christian Simmons.

Indie rock act Dog Day, recently signed to European label Tomlab Records, is working with Skut, a mysterious art group closely linked to the band. The collaboration will result in a film that has long been in the works.

"Dog Day are kind of a love band," says Ho of the quartet that is composed of two couples. "It's like a constant double date."

A limited-run split cassette from Dog Day and Husband and Knife will also be released that night. More than half the copies have already been purchased online.

DJ Ion will spin vinyl throughout the evening and extend the party well after the collaborative performances finish.

The showcase, sponsored by Strange Adventures, CKDU-FM and the Khyber, was largely inspired by the unity Ho found amongst local artists upon arriving in Halifax to attend NSCADU.

"One of the things that really excited me when I first moved to Halifax was the tightness of the local culture," she says. "I really like it when different threads of the community start coming together."

The performance starts at 9 p.m. at the Khyber Club, 1588 Barrington St. on Feb. 14. Admission is \$5 at the door and is on a first come first, first serve basis.

Valentine's Day, Schmalentine's Day

Give some lovin' to your friends

HUGH WALLACE
Star sex issue contributor

On Feb. 14, some of us might be saying to ourselves: "I'm single, I have no one to dote over on this day of love." Well, maybe not exactly that, but something along those lines.

Valentine's Day, how ever it started, whether it was a Hallmark holiday or some ancient Christian tradition, is about love. We all have someone in our lives who we love and cherish. Whether it's our mothers, fathers, siblings or friends, there is someone for everyone. My outlook on this day is to forget about the treats and the cards, and direct your attention to sharing the love inside you with many people.

For the past four years, my roommate and I have celebrated Valentine's Day. She has a boyfriend and I usually don't, but we still spend the day together. Sometimes it's as simple as a nice bottle of wine. Sometimes we share a bed and watch a sappy romance. Never once have either of us been upset that it is

Valentine's Day.

I hear of people calling Valentine's Day "Singles Awareness Day" and it makes me laugh. But I know a lot of single people find themselves feeling empty, lonely and otherwise upset. Why this day?

Maybe it's because visions of life with someone play endlessly through single minds, but I doubt it. It probably has a lot to do with socialization and how media and peer groups influence our understanding of the day.

In North America, we often think of this holiday as a lovers-only day. But many other cultures celebrate Valentine's Day differently. In Finland, the day roughly translates into "Friends Day." This is the spirit of the day I would like to impart to others.

We should love and remember our friends everyday, but for those of you who find Valentine's Day an especially hard time, why not try remembering and caring for your friends? After all, our friends are the ones who truly understand us and are there for us when no one else, even lovers, wants to be.

I suggest we all stop celebrating

this silly holiday and start showing our love to everyone. Leave the flowers at home, or, if you buy them, buy a dozen and pass them out to the first 12 people you see. Buy some chocolates and share them with a friend in class, or two friends. Buy your roommates a little chocolate heart to show them you care.

If you're not a big fan of consumerism, make your friends or relatives a card. Knit them something for the cold weather. Make a special dinner for your roommates. Donate some money to your favourite charity. Even \$5 counts.

The new and improved Valentine's Day — let's call it Schmalentine's Day — should be about showing appreciation for those around you. Start appreciating the people we sometimes take for granted — our friends. Share this new, improved revelation with as many people as you can. Start to make everyone feel welcome on this day that we all love. After all, that is what it is all about — love.

E-mail your sex questions or comments to sex@dalgazette.ca



The Gazette's sex questionnaire

Our contributors reveal shocking, sexy secrets

After locking the weekly contributors in the Gazette office all week and subjecting them to various forms of torture, the Gazette staff managed to extract all the gritty details about their sex lives.

What was the most lewd sexual request anyone has ever asked you to perform?

To stick it in their ear and it was a big ear too. — Nick Khattar

This one time, someone asked me if we could leave the lights on. Can you imagine that, leave the lights on! — Christopher Rauscher

What was the most lewd sexual request anyone has ever asked to perform on you?

I've had one horrible experience with a fart fetishist. I complied, but basically I couldn't breathe in for a half hour. — Kate Patterson

My girlfriend of five years asked if she could smear me with her feces. It was a rough patch in our relationship, so I agreed. I found out later that it was just chocolate pudding, but the relationship never recovered. — Anonymous

What lewd sexual request have

you propositioned others with?

Over the last year, I've wanted to pee on my girlfriend. I don't actually want to pee on her — I want to prove I can. The problem with this fantasy is that my body won't allow me to purposefully pee in my bed. I've asked my girlfriend to put her face between me and the toilet, but she says if I'm not man enough to wet the bed then I'm not man enough to get what I want. — Jack Carr

Now if I printed that in The Gazette, I'd be getting all sorts of phone calls. I just don't have the time, or really the stamina, for that. — Jen Bond

What pick-up line, if any, would you most like to hear?

Hey baby, want to go grab a donair? — Hilary Beaumont

I'm looking for a long term relationship. — Anonymous

How would you most like to spend your Valentine's Day (and please explain your response)?

A. in hot coitus with your significant other

continued on page 6...



...continued from page 5

B. eating a better than average meal with your significant other

C. bitching about people who have significant others

C, because cute couples are annoying. - Anonymous

C, because Valentine's Day should be for singles. That's why Cupid comes along with his arrows and makes you fall in love. Do we want to put him out of work? - Hilary Beaumont

A, because I don't know what coitus means, I hope it's a new position involving a trampoline. - Nick Khattar

A bit of B followed by a bit of A. - Anonymous

Do you take any eccentric pleasure items to bed with you and your partner?

The television remote. - Jack Carr

I love chocolate pudding in bed. - Anonymous

What's the worst place you've ever picked someone up in?

It was about three in the morning and I was pouring out of the Dome after innumerable drinks and started walking back home. I was going by this big dumpster and there was a person in there, and I picked them up. Man, that was the worst, they were totally covered in garbage. I felt so badly for them. I hope they made it home safely that night. - Christopher Rauscher

What's the most regretted place you've ever had sex in?

A dumpster. Well, we weren't in the dumpster, on top of it. - Nick Khattar

On a trampoline. You'd think it would be fun and bouncy and all, but really you just roll into the middle and it's awkward. - Jen Bond

The butt. - Anonymous

What was your best/worst Valentine's Day?

The best was in elementary school when the prettiest girl in the class got all pouty because none of the boys sent her a carnation. - Hilary Beaumont

The worst was when I found out my boyfriend was cheating on me with one of my friends. We met up the next week to talk about everything and that happened to be on Valentine's Day. How romantic. - Anonymous

What's your favourite nickname for a sex position?

Ken and Barbie: Neither partner bends their legs or arms during sex. It's awesome. - Anonymous

Tilt-a-Whirl: This one involves a balcony. - Anonymous

Sex facts

A man's beard grows the fastest when he is anticipating sex.

Men ejaculate roughly 18 quarts of semen in a lifetime.

Biochemically, sex is the same as eating a lot of chocolate.

Humans and dolphins are the only species that have sex for pleasure.

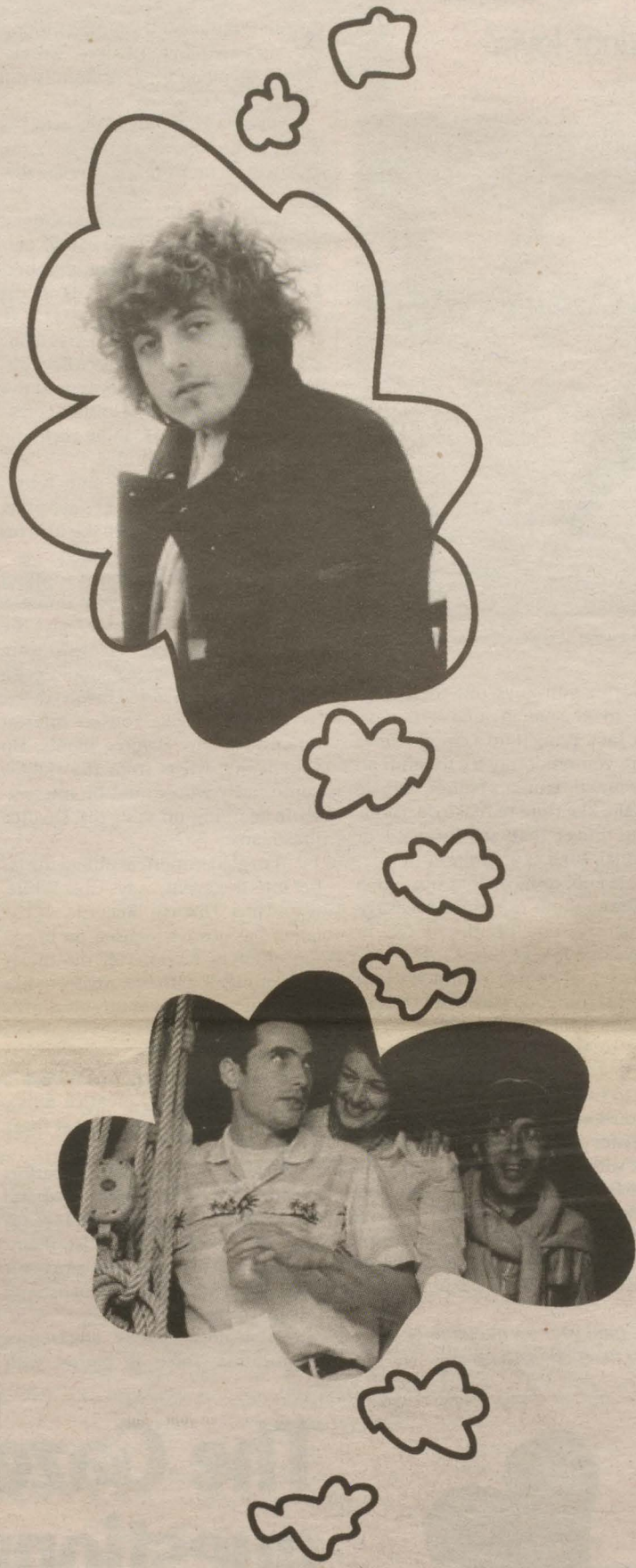
For every 'normal' webpage, there are five porn pages.

A pig's orgasm lasts for 30 minutes.

Sex is a natural antihistamine, and can help combat hayfever and allergies.

Band love

Local musicians exchange their deepest, most heartfelt feelings



The Ghost Bees (bottom) love the Just Barelys (middle) love Brent Randall and his Pinecones (top) love the Stance.... / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

The Halifax music community seems to be bubbling over with the nectar of Valentine's lust. The Gazette, perhaps foolishly, agreed to provide a forum for some of the many types of love.

Chains of Love...

Dearest Just Barelys,

We want to be just barely a breath away from wherever you are. Kindly afford us some Band-Aids, for we have scraped our knees falling for you. It is a pain I'm sure you can sympathize with (seeing as you have fallen from heaven).

You have shoop shooped straight to our hearts.

Be Ours, Ghost Bees (please kill dear Andy)

Brent Randall and his Pinecones, you kids are alright.

Brent: your voice sounds like caramel butter chocolate and your songs stay with us for days and days.

Jess Lewis: you pluck so nice with perfect pitch and sport such pretty peace earrings.

David Ewenson: you are like a rock: a smooth, steady, candy rock. Please hold us with your drummer arms.

Joel Goguen: lay us down the way you lay down those bearded bass beats with skill and restraint.

Oh Brian O'Reilly... so young, so cute and unspoiled, such tasty guitar licks...

Laura Peek! Don't stop the glock! You've got the stars and the moon in your eyes!

Don't be lazy, Oh Pinecones, Be mine!

Love,, The Just Barelys

Dear the Stance, Being it Valentine's Day, well, we thought we might dare

To tell you a secret; somethin' we've wanted to share.

It's been runnin' around in our heads for so long;

Ever since we first heard that "I Need A Reason" song.

There's somethin' so special about you, the Stance,

Four rascally ragamuffins in fancy tight pants,

We'll steal a listen, whenever granted the chance,

And we'll sing, and we'll shout, and we'll swoon, and we'll dance!

A lil' 60's garage, pop, motown and always soulful -

Our little secret is we want the Stance by the bowl-full.

You write nothin' but hits and you never bore us;

You always have a rowwing sing-along chorus.

Poundin' drums, drivin' bass, mind blowin' guitar parts

A frontman with class and 'tude, you're topping our charts.

We've only begun, you know this is only a start,

Be our Valentine, the Stance, and you "Shall Inherit Our Heart."

Your Admirers, Brent Randall and his Pinecones

Dearest Stolen Minks,

Sorry about that thing at the party with the Stance. I was totally drunk, but I REALLY think you're cute. Do you want to come over to my house and watch movies? We can totally steal my dad's whiskey and MAKE OUT!!! Meet me behind the gym at 3:30!

You rock my world!!!

Love the Maynards

T.M. + T.S. = T.L.F

XOXOXO

PS. Do you know Windom Earle's number? Dearest Die Brucke,

What can we say that hasn't al-

ready been said with our hearts?

Our bashful glances from betwixt our sweat-ridden locks as we thrash in time to your enchanting songs hath no doubt betrayed our feelings.

You are fearless: your drummer plays forcefully despite having a large poisonous snake wrapped about his arm at all times. You are mighty: figuratively, your herculean bass player lovingly hoists us high into the air using the sheer, unadulterated power of rock.

You use pickslides judiciously and creatively: your guitar player has as many piercings as he has inscrutable morals; his dreadlocks have ensnared our hearts in their knotted, yet tender, grasp. You funnel your wondrous freelance creative genius into moving lyrics: your lead singer elevates the humble human voice to such dizzying pinnacles as one hath never imagined.

Take pity on a poor souls such as we - for our needs, our wants... are crushing us.

Yours ever, The Stolen Minks

Minks,

We can relate. My mom once made my family boycott McDonalds for a summer. It wasn't due to globalization concerns, they fucked up an order and the manager barely apologized. Minks, we can emulate. You have a song about Charles Bronson, we have a song about William Holden. Who's tougher Holden in Stalag 17 or Bronson in Dirty Dozen? Let's not argue; you have the better song.

Minks, we can adore. We like our artwork, it has skulls, goats and other shit, but who are we fooling? You have not one, but two, albums with super artwork. We can't keep up.

Happy Valentine's Day! We love you.

Thanks, Mark - Die Brucke

...Rivalries of Love...

Dear Down With the Butterfly, You are my friends and family, My heart shaped tissue paper, My ming mings and more.

I would drive with you with the door hanging off

And say lets drive some more.

I would sing your songs and write a dreamer tune

Outside of a tent

and say it's for you.

I wish we all had canoes

and we could tie them together under an orange moon

because I swear I love you.

Please do not stray too far.

My heart strings are tied to the maroon-coloured van-sicle

And wherever you are,

driving,

I wish it is to the northern lights so we can play and dance until dawn strikes

and the howlings of friends will carry us through.

Love,

Jenn Grant

Dearest Down With The Butterfly, As of late, the imminence of your warming spring glow has traversed sweetly and gently through the giant prisms of our hibernating hearts.

It's been such a long and bitter winter without you here to dance with us, sing for us, and flutter your soft and delicate wings over the bridges of our snouts. O, how the longing grows within a bear, for the simple touch of your gracefulness and purely sensual embrace.

Take our paws in your electric clutch, and thrust our restless spirits into the skies above.

With overwhelming lust, The Bears



Where Down with the Butterfly is concerned, three bands are a crowd./ Photo : Rafal Andronowski

...And Gunt-Love.

Dear Gunt,

I have been perplexed by the obscurity of your band ever since my first Gunt experience at Reflections. You are more punk than any other punk band, not only in your music but in your life choices, whether it be your mohawks, your studded leather jackets, or the blood splattered on bathroom wall.

No other band has been barred from as many venues, nor could they ever aspire to be as reckless and outright disrespectful to authority. You epitomize manliness, you yell, you fight and you don't take no shit from nobody.

Nobody better fuck with you, because I have your back, for better or for worse.

XOXOXO

Rebekah Higgs

...Required Love...

Dear HOTSHOTROBOT,

Your music activates my pleasure module. Let's get drunk and try to make a baby.

Love,
A/V

Cher A/V,

The warmth of my homemade sweater cannot compare to the tingly HOT feelings of your throbbing new wave beats. I want them fast and hard. And I want them now. As I sit here sipping my organic beverage I can't help but crave the processed sound of your synthetic beats - SO WILD! SO UNTAMED!

They sound, pulsing: Bang Bang!

But they cry out: We want to bang! On stage!

A/V, let us break it down: A is for your ample beats. V is for your vascular treats.

Let us intertwine our patch chords until our mutual sounds of new wave meet, mix and mingle into a tasty morsel of electro heaven. Let's do the mix down, baby, let's do the remix...

No more love!
Have sex with us.
HOTSHOTROBOT

...Unrequited Love...

Dear B.A. Johnston;
I think you're great.

I especially love the song about the girl who likes that guy but he's into skateboarding and she thinks she's too good for him so she doesn't



Rebekah Higgs loves Gunt. Who doesn't love Gunt?/ Photo: Rafal Andronowski

go out with him and then years later she's all like pregnant and she sees him on TV and he's famous, so she goes to the show and watches him, wishing that she'd gone out with him in high school, since it would probably have given her a certain degree of financial stability.

Wait, I think that was someone else.

Never mind.
Their Majesties

Dear Old Man Luedecke,
I really love a lotta crap about you, man.

You drive a cool old bus, you have a wife and even though you are called Old Man, Luedecke, you are younger than me, which is a turn on. Plus, you have way less gear to carry, which, while it probably doesn't build muscles, it seems like a better way to go.

And, you can entertain with like no gimmicks at all, which is pretty rad. I'd like to be able to do that. Plus, when you like something you only raise your thumb half way up instead of all the way up, which is

charming and I stole that bit and pawned it off as my own, which always gets laughs.

So, yeah. Be, like, my Valentine you banjo playing bastard who leads the life I wish I could.

B.A.

Dear Shotgun and Jaybird,
I like you.

I know you're all the way over in Sackville, New Brunswick, but I'm wondering if some night maybe we could meet over the phone or in a chat room for a long distance date?

I think you're swell and I think about Dick Morello's action slacks every night before I go to sleep and it soothes me.

If I am one then I hope you are the other one, but we are two and two is four.

I know this may seem a bit sappy, but I'm a sucker for writing like-letters to those I like, and I like you a lot.

This lover is always on time for you.

The Superfantastics Xoxoxo

SEX STREETER

IF THE HUMAN BODY WAS A MAP OF THE WORLD, WHERE WOULD YOU GO AND WHY?



"Brazil, because they have exotic bananas and they make me go wild."

Natalie Norman, third-year political science



"I would go anywhere down south because I'm a generous guy. That's how I roll."

Neil Zwicker, third-year sociology



"Can I see your map?"

Kris Osmond, third-year psychology



"The Alps: they have good definition."

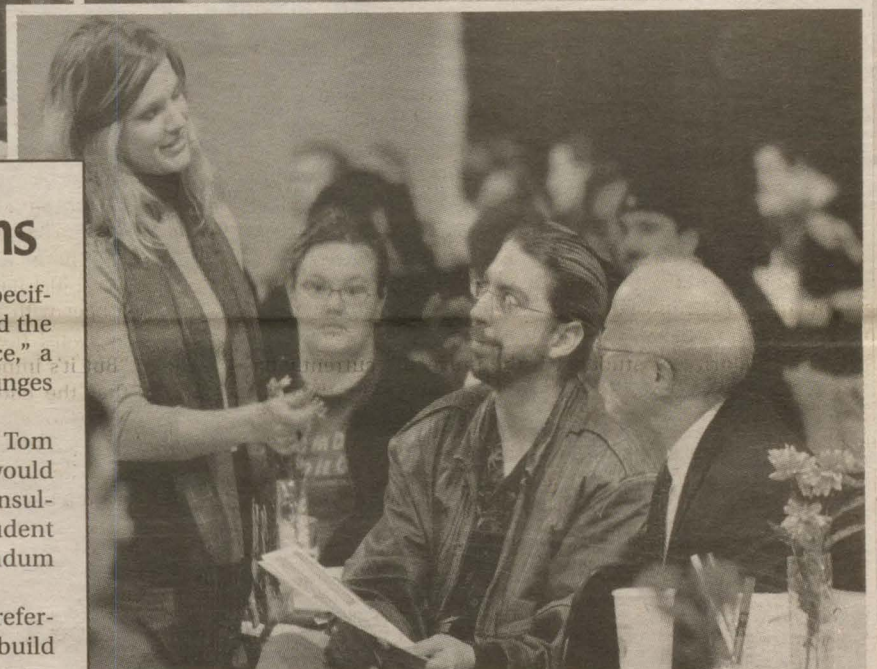
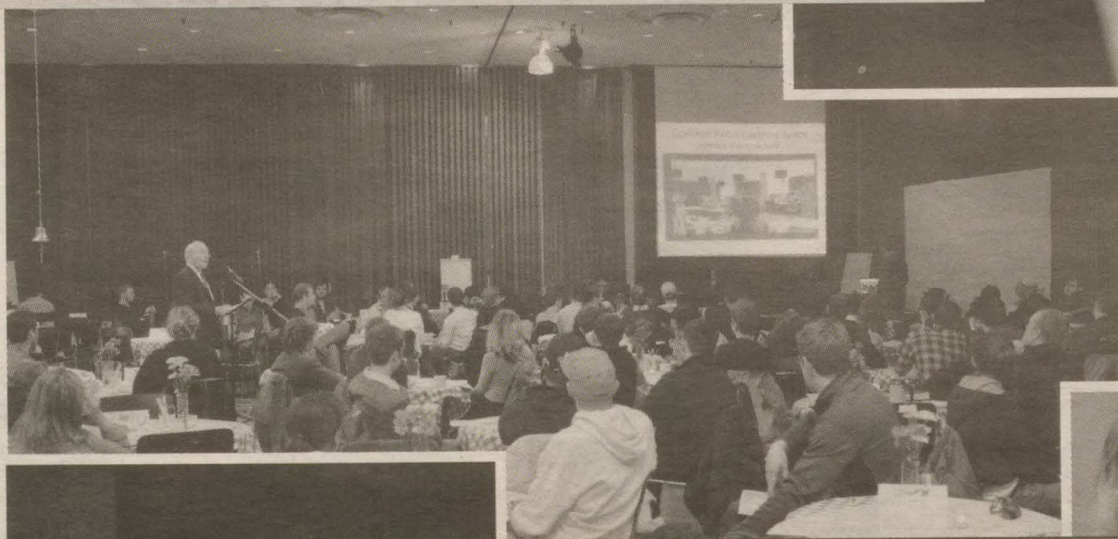
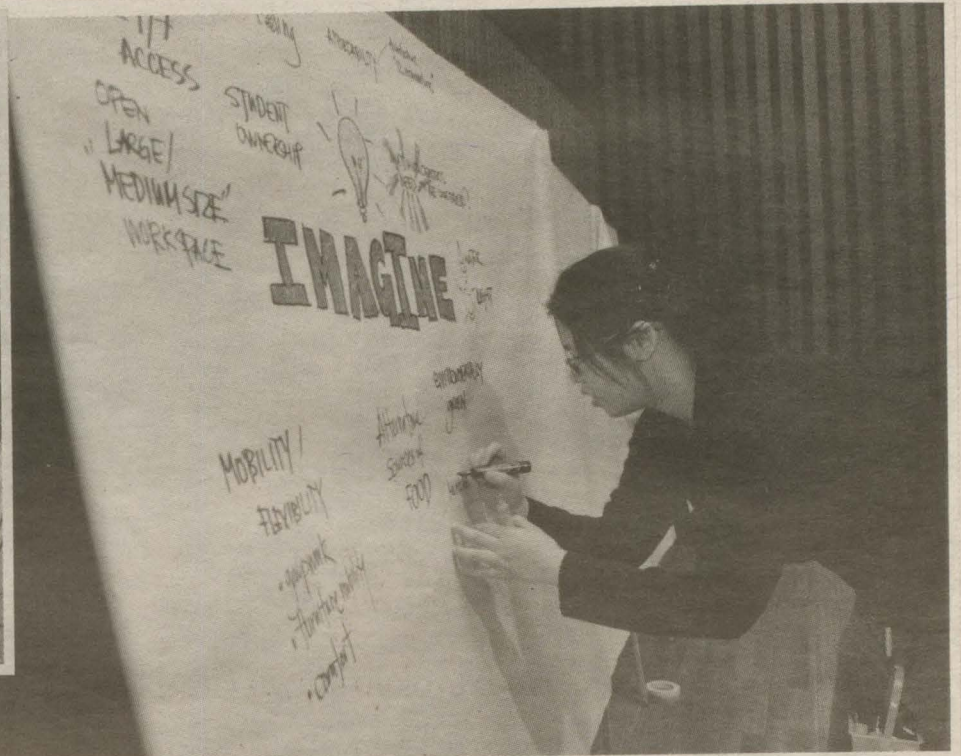
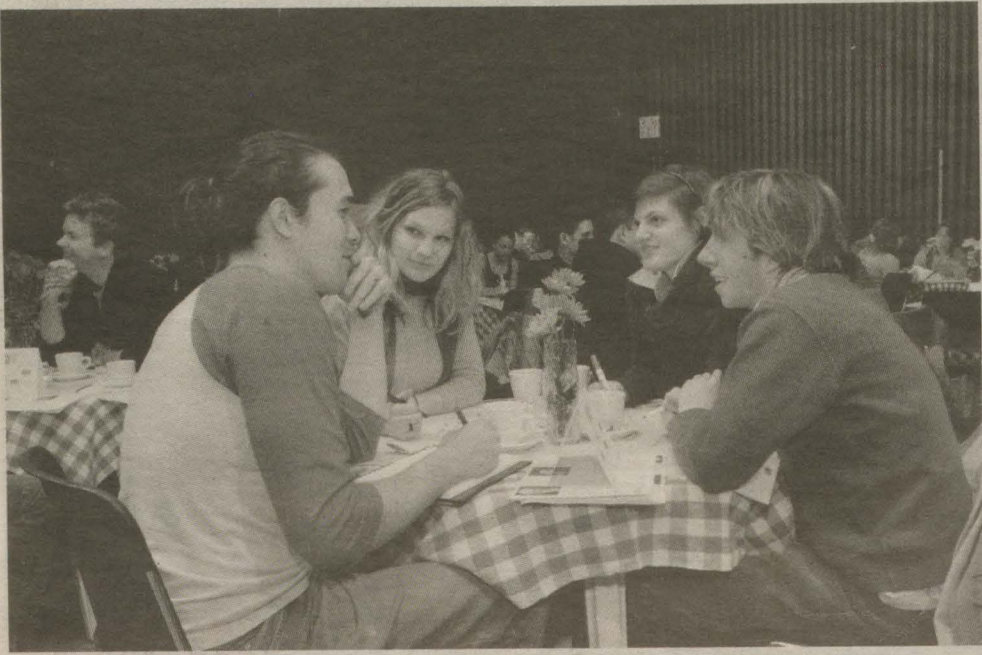
Allison Hutchings, fifth-year honours biology

SEX? YES PLEASE!

News Editor: Reid Southwick

Assistant Editor: Katie May

Contact: news@dalgazette.ca



Students discuss project designs

REID SOUTHWICK
News Editor

More than 200 students gathered in the McInnis Room of the Student Union Building Jan. 31 to provide the university with their input on 11 proposed campus makeover projects.

A four-storey 5,580 square metre building that would stretch from the Student Union Building to LeMarchant Street is the largest project included in the proposal.

Many students called for the construction of multi-purpose spaces in that building in which people with varying interests


could study and socialize. Specific design proposals included the construction of "green space," a dance studio, student lounges and more society spaces.

Dalhousie President Tom Traves said the university would begin a more robust consultation process with student groups if a March referendum on the proposal passes.

"If you vote 'yes' in the referendum, we will eventually build those spaces to fulfill your social and academic needs," said Traves. "The actual designs, whether they be theatre or music space, a bar or whatever, are all open to discussion."



Photos: Rafal Andronowski

DAL TIGERS 

WEEKEND ACTION!


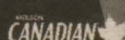
FEBRUARY 9-11
AUS Swimming Championships at Dalplex (heats at 10am and finals at 5pm daily)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9
Men's Hockey vs UdeM, 7:00pm

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10
Basketball vs MUN, 1:00pm (w) & 3:00pm (m)
Men's Hockey vs UNB, 7:00pm
Women's Volleyball vs UPEI, 7:00pm

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Roughly 35 students gathered near a corner of the McInnes Room on Jan. 31 to discuss features of the Grad House they'd like to preserve. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

'Honeymoon is over'

Dal debates destroying beloved, broken-down Grad House

REID SOUTHWICK
News Editor

Dalhousie students who oppose plans to replace the Grad House with a much larger building must consider the long-term benefits of an expanded campus, says a health promotions student.

"The honeymoon is over," Jason Pelley said Jan. 31 during a round-table discussion at Imagine '07, a public conference on Dal's proposed campus changes. "We have a whole world that we're competing against now, and a global decision like this on this scale will have a major impact on societal matters."

Roughly 35 students gathered near a corner of the McInnes Room to discuss features of the Grad House they'd like to preserve as part of a wider consultation that aimed to gather input on all 11 proposed campus projects.

While the majority of students involved in the Grad House discussion raised their hands when asked if they like the building "the way it is," several said they understood the building requires costly renovations.

"The place is either going to collapse or it's going to be torn down," said Pelley. "I love the place. I've been going there for years; I've drank more scotch there than I care to mention."

"But every building has its character, and its character comes from the people who go there."

Pelley said the intimate atmosphere the Grad House offers could be incorporated into the new building.

A PhD candidate, however, suggested the new building could be constructed around a newly renovated Grad House.

"I can understand the foundation and other areas of the building are falling apart," said Patrick LaRoche, who is also a Grad House bartender. "But why can't we use what's there as a starting point for construction, instead of tearing it down?"

Dal President Tom Traves said the university currently has "no design" proposed for the Grad House.

"There is an expectation that the space can accommodate lots of students," said Traves. "The Grad House has all of the virtues you've

described tonight, except that it's pretty small and it accommodates a relatively small number of students in a campus that is there to serve thousands of students."

Traves said the design process will take student recommendations into account. The university will consult students through focus groups and other venues, and provide their input to architects, he said.

A building committee, which will have student representation, will vote on the proposed designs, said Traves.

Efforts to put the brakes on the university's plans to construct a new building on the Grad House site would be "selfish," a sociology and theatre student said.

"[The building] makes me feel like there's a place on campus where I can just hang out and eat or have a beer with a professor. I don't feel awkward there," said Cheryl Watts. "But it's important to keep in mind that the choices we're making are going to affect other generations of grad students."

"And we can't keep it the way we want it because that's selfish."



A prospective tuition cut hangs in the balance while the province prepares its budget in the coming months. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Dal prepares books for tuition cut

REID SOUTHWICK
News Editor

The provincial government plans to slash tuition fees for all full-time students beginning this fall.

The cut is part of the Progressive Conservatives' commitment to bring Nova Scotia fees in line with the national average by 2010. The Department of Education estimates the government will spend \$36 million each year, reducing fees by \$365 per year for all full-time students.

Department spokesperson Kevin Finch says the province may have to adjust its annual commitment, depending on the performance of the economy.

"The province realizes that we have high tuition levels that could be affecting our competitiveness," says Finch. "Our goal is to make post-secondary education more affordable for more students."

But the tuition reduction hinges on the survival of the minority government after the budget vote this spring. NDP and Liberal officials won't commit to supporting the PC budget until it's drafted.

Dalhousie has prepared its own preliminary budget, which was released Feb. 2, based on the uncertainty.

If opposition MLAs defeat the government, Dal plans to increase tuition by 3.9 per cent for undergraduate students and up to 9.9 per cent for students enrolled in professional programs. The plan also features an increase of 12.6 per cent for the international student differential fee.

If the provincial budget passes this spring, however, Dal officials will make adjustments to its books that feature the tuition cut.

Dal President Tom Traves says the university hasn't decreased tuition in the 12 years he's been at the university.

"It's an important development that the government appears to be committing itself to long-term support for higher education," says Traves. "This is a positive step."

Meanwhile, the prospective cut hangs in the balance while the province prepares its budget in the coming months.

The Grits hold the balance of

power in the legislature, with nine seats. Liberal MLA Diana Whalen says the party's support of the budget depends on the government's willingness to make good on its promises, including the tuition cut.

"It's really important that the government demonstrates in this budget that they are making some steps toward bringing tuition down to the national average," says Whalen.

Universities play a critical role in province's economy, she says. The government must guarantee that fees will become more competitive to maintain and increase enrolments, ensuring the schools remain sustainable, she says.

But Whalen cautions that MLAs have to consider many other spending priorities when deciding how to vote on the budget.

"Right now, our job in the opposition is to ensure the government honours commitments they have made and, at the end of the day, they produce a balanced budget."

The government may table the budget before Liberals choose a new leader at a convention scheduled for late April. Whalen won't comment on whether the party will be willing to force an election without an official chief at the helm.

"Our biggest concern is to see whether the budget is reasonable," says Whalen, who is a leadership contender. "We will balance the needs of Nova Scotians. We will do that regardless of the situation that we may find ourselves in."

Dal student Nicole Kinny says she hopes legislators won't "play politics" when they vote.

The second-year arts student works roughly 20 hours per week at the Halifax Shopping Centre in between classes. She has money saved to help pay for tuition, she says, but a boost from the government would help.

"There is a lot of stress involved with paying tuition and working and studying, so stress levels would be lower if tuition got cut," says Kinny.

"I hope [the government] won't so much play politics as they will consider the actual situation students are in right now. They were probably students before, so they should understand the extra pressure."

Architecture students ask to design proposed new buildings

University turns down idea

KATIE MAY
Assistant News Editor

Some architecture and planning students want to work with the university to draft designs for the proposed campus building projects.

"As far as the designs go, students have to be extremely involved. It just makes so much sense," said Jason Cohanim, a second-year student who is transferring to the planning program next year. "Why don't we look to our own architecture students?"

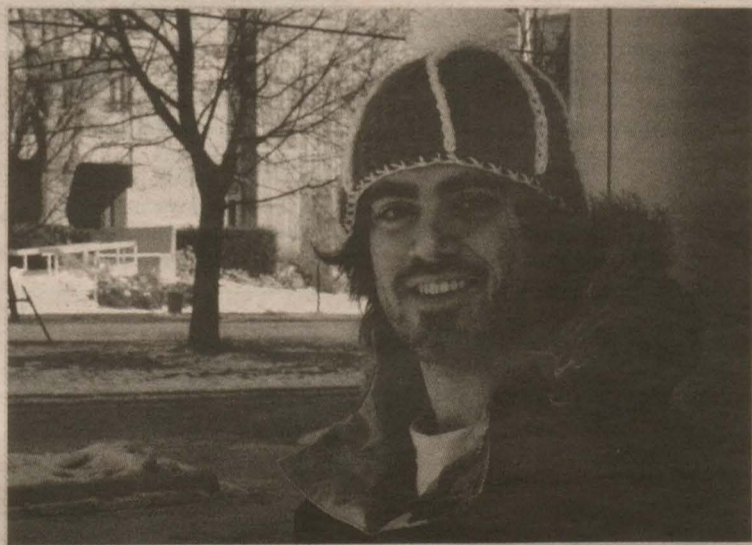
Cohanim suggested the idea Jan. 31 during a public consultation on the university's campus makeover proposal.

The proposal outlines 11 different projects, including the construction of three new buildings on Studley and Sexton campuses.

Cohanim said the university would help students develop their practical skills before starting their careers if it allowed them to get involved with the large-scale projects.

"I want to be in planning so I can use it in the future," he said. "It seems like that's the point. That's why I'm at school, so I can become involved, so I can get that drive to actually use my skills."

Cohanim said the new buildings should reflect the variety of interests of Dal students. He proposed that the university hold a competition to



Dal student Jason Cohanim proposes that the university hold a competition to encourage students to draft unique construction plans. / Photo: John Packman

encourage students to draft unique construction plans.

But Dal President Tom Traves said the university simply would ask architecture and design students for ideas about the interior of the buildings if the March referendum passes.

"They'll be consulted for the design process just like other students. If their input is more informed than others, then presumably, their ideas will be more relevant," he said. "We're not going to ask students to design buildings."

First-year architecture student Meagan Gauthier said it would be important for the school to consult architecture students about designs for the proposed engineering and architecture workshop on Morris Street.

"We live here, basically, so we know what would make our workspace more comfortable and more efficient," she said. "I think there would be a lot of interest to be involved."

— With files from Reid Southwick

Summer Camp Jobs in the U.S.A.

Lakeside Residential Girls Camp in Maine - Visas Arranged

Counselors: Combined childcare/teaching. Must be able to teach or lead one or more of the following activities: gymnastics, tennis, swim (WSI's), sail, canoe, water ski, arts (including stained glass, sewing, jewelry, wood, photo), dance, music, theatre, archery, wilderness trips, field sports, equestrian, climbing wall.

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City's plans for sewage waste possibly harmful

ANNA FONG
Staff Contributor

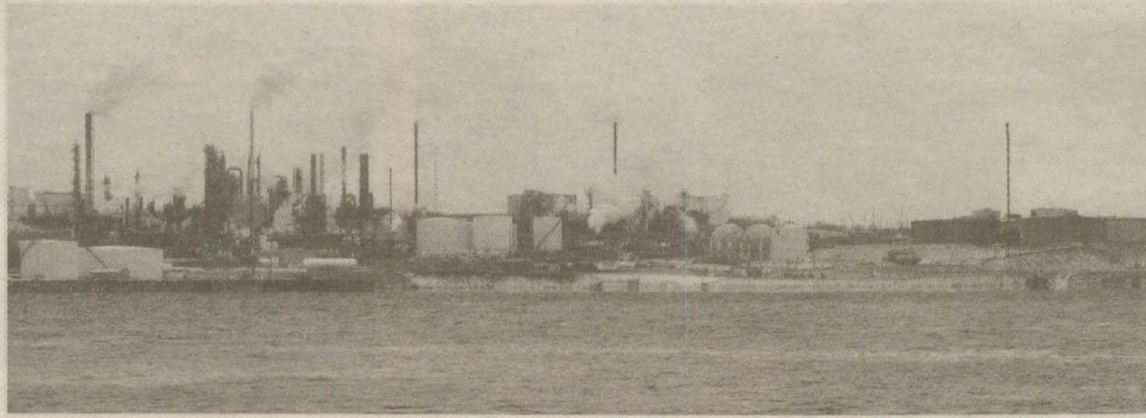
The city's plans to produce fertilizers using treated sewage sludge have raised concerns about harmful effects the material could have on the environment.

An environmental official of Halifax Regional Municipality says the city is set to produce a type of biosolid from sewage treated by the harbour solutions project that could be used for crop fertilization.

"Our intention is to reuse and recycle, rather than dispose of material with the potential for reuse," says Tony Blouin, manager of environmental performance (water).

Biosolids are cake-like patties formed when excess water is removed from sludge that remains after sewage water is treated. The patties are heated to high temperatures to kill harmful bacteria and reduce or eliminate potential pathogens. The product is then mixed with cement dust to prepare it for use in fertilizers.

City officials say they will perform continuous tests on both the treated sludge and water to ensure the levels of toxins and metals meet



City officials say they will perform continuous tests on treated sludge and water to ensure the levels of toxins and metals meet federal regulations. / Photo: John Packman

federal regulations.

But HRM residents could still be susceptible to other chemicals when the biosolids are put back into the environment as fertilizer, a Dalhousie resource and environmental studies professor says.

"We don't know what things will end up in the sludge and what will go back into the harbour after treatment," says Roy Cote. "Some places in North America and Europe have discovered drugs applied to humans

that are going right through their systems and into the sewer."

Current rules don't require testing on the levels of prescription drugs present in the treated sludge or water.

Blouin says prescription drugs likely end up in sewage wastes and the federal government will need to conduct research to identify levels that are acceptable.

The biosolids processing plant will be located near the airport, close to an existing biosolids lagoon when construc-

tion is complete this fall, says Blouin.

In 2003, a farmer from the Truro area wanted to apply biosolids on his fields. Neighbours complained of the smell and clouds of lime visible in the air during the treatment process. The province later revoked the approval for biosolids application and devised new guidelines.

Cote says if proper odour controls aren't maintained while the sludge is processed, nearby residents may complain.

Sexton project designed for use abroad

VALERIE DE GRANDIS
Staff Contributor

A team of Dalhousie engineering students has designed an irrigation pump for use in developing African nations.

Four members of the Dalhousie chapter of Engineers Without Borders, a non-profit organization geared toward promoting development through access to technology, built the pump.

"This project evoked another challenge quite unique to other projects," Rob Liston, a fourth-year mechanical engineering student, said during a presentation at Sexton campus on Jan. 31.

"Where most other projects are built from advanced materials and highly technical tools, our project had to consider the technology of the developing world and appropriately fit it to our design."

The project was a part of a fourth-year mechanical engineering course that focuses on a single design.

The teammates were charged with the task of designing and creating anything from a landmine detector to a wind turbine, but chose the pump out of a general interest in international development.

"The idea is to take a preliminary idea through the many design stages to the goal of a finished project," said team member Deepti Limaye.

Liston said his team developed the pump based on the expectation

that it will be used in developing countries. He said the team hopes the pump is an improvement on previous designs.

"We are trying to address some of the root failure mechanisms of the previous designs. Accomplishing that is wherein lies the challenge," said Liston.

The most common design in use today is the micro-irrigation pump created by Martin Fisher, a member of EWB and co-founder of KickStart.org.

KickStart is non-profit organization dedicated to helping people get out of poverty. Its strategy, based on entrepreneurialism, is to find local manufacturers for its designs and hire dealers from each region to sell and repair the pumps.

This strategy creates jobs and means easy access to repairs and new parts for farmers through the dealer.

But Liston said that pump is too expensive for poor farmers. He said his team's project, on the other hand, would keep costs low.

"Often a few farmers will purchase a pump together and share it because they cannot afford their own," he said.

Team members learned more than simply how to build an irrigation pump, said Liston.

"More importantly [it creates] a sense for what is involved when appropriately designing a project to be used in a developing country."

Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Carleton shuts down bake sale

Carleton University plans to prohibit campus bake sales if they don't meet health standards.

All food fundraisers at the university could soon be subject to health inspection, Carleton's assistant vice president (university services) told *The Charlatan* student newspaper.

Ed Kane said students may have to provide ingredient lists for baked goods, install hand-washing stations and acquire \$1-million liability insurance.

"We could be held liable if food is not served in a proper manner," said Kane.

Last week, the school shut down a sorority's annual bake sale fundraiser because it was unauthorized to sell food. Sorority President Sara Korajian told *The Charlatan* the new measures are too extreme.

"The school should try to make it a bigger point to reflect their policies," she said. "It was quite embarrassing actually that we were getting in trouble for a bake sale."

McGill battles tuition freeze

Students at McGill University are lobbying the Quebec government to maintain tuition freezes in the province.

They say they're concerned that lifting the freeze will result in tuition and ancillary fee increases.

The Student Society of McGill University (SSMU) is helping officials at the Canadian Federation of Students, a national student lobby group, organize a Day of Action on Feb. 7 to speak out against fee increases and student debt.

SSMU Vice President (External) Max Silverman told *The McGill Tribune* student newspaper the government must not ignore the problem of raising mandatory student fees in addition to tuition.

"There's no mechanism for controlling the fees and there's no means right now for students to complain to the government to say ancillary fees are too high," he said.

Students support smoke sales

University of Victoria students can still smoke freely after the university's student union voted against a campus-wide smoking ban.

Union board members also shot down a motion to prohibit cigarette sales in its student union building.

Cigarette sales on campus generate \$19,000 a year for the union. Some board members told *The Martlet* student newspaper they weren't prepared to lose that revenue.

The director of academics for the student union said buying and smoking cigarettes are legal activities that shouldn't be banned.

"We're providing a service to members of our society," said Jeremy David Peters.

In response to the decisions, the university set up a task force to identify areas on campus where students shouldn't be allowed to smoke.

Task force director Erin Sikora told *The Martlet* she supports the ban.

"Porn offends people and guns kill people so we don't sell them," she said. "Tobacco offends people and kills people."

Sources: *The Charlatan*, *The McGill Tribune* and *The Martlet*

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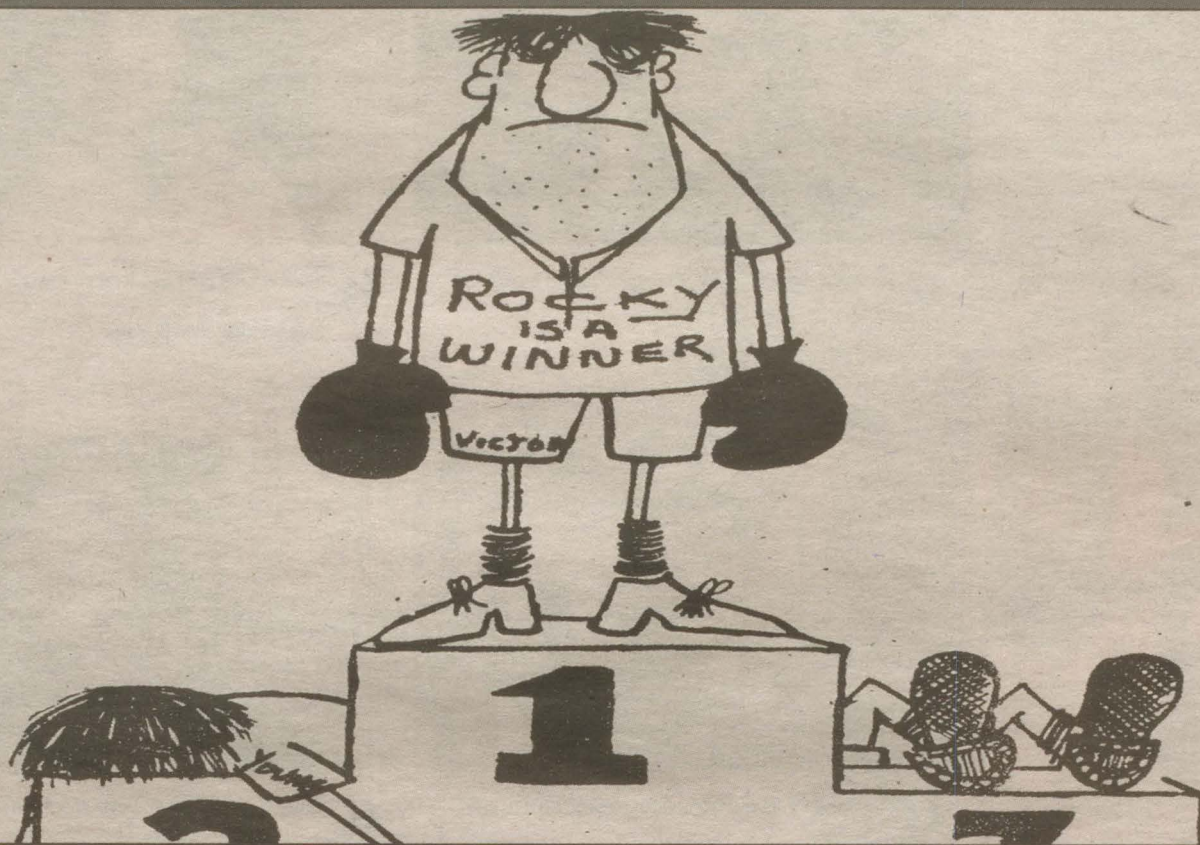
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From The Gazette archives



THIRTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Students in trouble for scavenger hunt

Dalhousie students were investigated for theft after a city-wide scavenger hunt, when students stole a city-owned transit bus, an ambulance and a front-end loader.

Students also caused \$2,000 in damages while trying to steal an ice machine from the Dal rink and robbed President Henry Hicks, of his master key. The scavenger hunt was part of Dal's winter carnival.

Paul Zed, Winter Carnival chairperson, said he hoped the police wouldn't press charges because of the prank.

"Publicity-wise, this event has

generated more enthusiasm around the university than we have seen in a long while," he said. "I hope there are no repercussions as the event was well-received."

TWENTY YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Students complain about residence management

Shirreff Hall residents filed a complaint against residence administration for poor management.

The Residence Council of Shirreff Hall told the Dalhousie Student Union the administration was not receptive to student concerns and that it handled problems inconsistently.

"Students are concerned about the

attitude of the administration towards students and about the future of the Residence Council," said Shirreff Hall Resident Sherry Golding.

In response to the complaint, the DSU said it would investigate the residence's administrative structure.

TEN YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Journalism students snub "bribe" for positive HST stories

Journalism students at the University of King's College refused to write stories for the government about Harmonized Sales Tax.

Students unanimously rejected an offer from the provincial Department of Finance to write positive stories

about HST for 25 cents a word.

Journalism student Joe Walsh called the offer a bribe.

"(The government) felt that too many negative stories were already in the press and wanted some balanced coverage," he said. "My concern is for any journalist. You should never work anywhere where there is an agenda set."

But a Department of Finance employee said the government did not intend to bribe the students.

"We gave specific instructions as to how the stories were to be written, but we were not looking for propaganda," said Bruce Cameron. "Quite frankly, I wouldn't have gone to the School of Journalism if that's what I wanted."

Uni-Briefs

ACROSS THE POND

Fascist website targets UK university

An alleged fascist website with ties to the British National Party (BNP) has targeted University of York graduates and staff.

The website, called Redwatch, is also associated with violent neo-Nazi groups. It included the names of a professor and former student union presidents on its list of alleged socialists, anti-fascists and peace campaigners.

A photo of politics professor Simon Barker at a campus anti-war demonstration was posted on Redwatch, but he told the *Nouse* student newspaper he wouldn't comment on the website.

"They tend to use fear and scare tactics to intimidate their opponents so I am loathe to give them more publicity by giving you a personal reaction to these photographs," he said.

Ben Drake, chair of the student group York Unite Against Fascism, told *Nouse* the government should take action to close the site.

"Sites like Redwatch simply exist to intimidate people," he said.

"They are a strong incitement to violence and they should be shut down as they clearly go beyond the boundaries of public order."

Oxford student union scraps contentious interview

The Oxford University Student Union cancelled a campus radio interview with the leader of the British National Party after two student presenters received death threats.

The two presenters, who *The Oxford Student* newspaper wouldn't name, were set to speak with Nick Griffin on Feb. 8 on Oxide Radio. They received numerous threats by e-mail and registered mail from angry protesters in response to their plans.

Student activists also warned they would storm the Oxide studio to protest the right-wing leader's appearance on the campus radio station.

Griffin has referred to the Holocaust as a "holohoax," pledged support for capital punishment and leads a political party that campaigns for "stemming and reversing the tide of non-white immigration" into Britain, according to a 2005 document.

The student presenters planned to host an interview with Griffin despite the threats.

But the university's student union forced the broadcaster to cancel the interview.

"We were deeply concerned to hear that Oxide had arranged to interview Griffin. OUSU has always had a no-platform policy for fascist groups like the BNP, meaning that we deny them all access to any public platform within our control," the union president, Alan Strickland, told *The Oxford Student*.

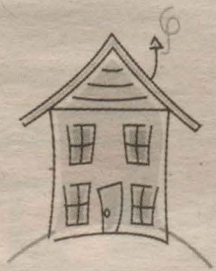
"There is no way we would let a fascist group use any of the student union's facilities or services to spread its message of division, offence and hate."

Sources: *Nouse* and *The Oxford Student*

CONTRIBUTE TO THE Gazette

Our next meeting will take place Feb. 12 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 Dal SUB

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Have you read
the sex issue yet?

THE WORD AT DAL

In a cafeteria line

Guy 1: Man, the guy who invented tomatoes must be fucking loaded. I mean, everyone gets them on sandwiches!

Guy 2: Dude, tomatoes weren't invented. They're grown.

At the Split Crow

Guy 1: I mean, think about it. Can you really afford *not* to buy a barbecue?

Guy 2: ...

In King's common room

Guy: Wanna trade bite for bite?

Girl: Sure! (Takes bite) Mmmm! Wow. What do you call this meat?

Guy: Um, salami?

Looking at nude photo

Guy 1: Is this a real naked body?

Guy 2: Yes.

Guy 1: Wow.

HOT / NOT

HOT: Gazette sex issue / **NOT:** Doctor's visit prompted by Gazette sex issue

HOT: Social interaction / **NOT:** Facebook

HOT: Friends crashing at your place / **NOT:** Three weeks later

HOT: Ryan Gosling / **NOT:** Breaker High

HOT: Munro day keggers / **NOT:** Productivity

HOT: K-Fed's super bowl commercial / **NOT:** Being K-Fed

HOT: Reading week / **NOT:** Actually reading

HOT: Valentine's day dates / **NOT:** Winding up at The Palace

HOT: Tara Reid's new public meltdown / **NOT:** Courtney Love's life

HOT: Student protests / **NOT:** Apathy

Suggestions? hotornot@dalgazette.ca

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, The Word at Dal, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. The quotes said by Joey Ryba in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and are do not necessarily represent views held by Joey Ryba himself, *The Gazette* and of its staff. The Word at Dal is taken from a Facebook group, with permission of the founder.

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STREETER

WHAT'S THE WORST THING SOMEONE EVER DID ON A DATE?



“She spent the entire time in the bathroom at a semi-formal.”

Rob McLean, second-year IDS



“He didn't tell me I had food on my face.”

Kathryn Hind, third-year arts



“She threw up on the table during a seafood dinner.”

Chad Southwell, first-year science



“I called a guy by my ex-boyfriend's name.”

Alice Sommerville, fourth-year psychology



“Making me watch Kill Bill: Vol. 2.”

Jane Dunnett, first-year social work



“I unknowingly told a girl that her dad's band sucks.”

John Choptiany, Masters of resource and environmental management



“At the movies, they laughed awkwardly loud, drawing too much attention to us.”

Fillian Reddy, first-year health promotion



“I brought a girl home but I just couldn't perform. I was DO* dysfunctional.”

Joey Ryba, thirteenth-year self-massage therapy

* Dutch oven (DO) farting in bed and pulling the covers over your partner's head.

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

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Fri. from 9:30pm - 1am HAWCO
Sat. from 3:30pm - 6:30pm HAWCO
Sat. from 9:30pm - 1am HAWCO
Sun. from 8pm - 12am HIGH TIDE
Mon. - Wed. 9pm - 12.30am LITTLE FISH

Opinions Editor: John Packman Contact: opinions@dalgazette.ca

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Letters

The Gazette reserves the right to edit all letters for length and clarity. This publication will only print submissions that its editorial board deems to be in good taste and void of libellous and/or defamatory material. If the editorial board determines that a letter violates this policy, The Gazette may invite the author to revise the submission.

Articles

Submissions to The Gazette's opinions section must be no longer than 650 words. Please submit a list of sources along with articles. This publication only prints submissions its editorial board deems to be void of libellous and/or defamatory material. Submissions are due at noon on the Saturday prior to publication.

Letters@dalgazette.ca

Look on the bright side

Does it get tiring being negative all the time?

Every time I pick up a Gazette, I get depressed, because I like Dalhousie for the most part. I like the faculties, I like the campus, I even like some of the buildings, which are falling apart, as are a lot of the buildings around this city, and they are considered landmarks.

There are tons of good things about Dalhousie that The Gazette seems to constantly overlook, perhaps because it's not "news." Just once I would like to pick up a Gazette and feel that it is trying to be a part of Dalhousie instead of trying to pick it apart.

Kaylon Fraser

Women need public support

The federal government has decided to close 12 Status of Women offices throughout Canada, including the Nova Scotia office. Status of Women is an organization that addresses issues such as poverty, domestic violence, access to justice, economic development and other important concerns.

Women's issues are everyone's issues. When mothers live in poverty, their children live in poverty. When mothers deal with violence, their children live with and fear violence. Women need government support to protect their children and themselves from these situations.

Single mothers and their children face especially great hardship. In order to create decent living conditions for their children and themselves, single mothers need to have access to higher education because it is a mandatory requirement for a secure job.

Public support is crucial because cuts to women's programs do not just hurt women. They hurt everyone.

There is a petition in circulation, asking the federal government to bring back the women's programs that have been cut. There will be a Valentine's card writing campaign launch on Feb. 14 at the YMCA on Gottingen Street starting at 10:30 a.m. and events for International Women's Day on March 8.

For more information, contact

Stephanie M. Hunter at hunter.group@ns.sympatico.ca, by phone at (902) 423-8025 or visit www.femjeep.ca. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Robab Haghpanh

Reality check

Though it's a regular sight around campus, a certain poster in the Marion McCain Arts and Social Sciences building caught my eye. Void of flashy font, intriguing pictures or a bright background, this poster gained my attention simply through its message.

It read: "Hosted by: FREE THE CHILDREN, in an effort to raise funds to build a school in Sierra Leone. \$15 ALL YOU CAN DRINK!!"

The first line, hosted by Free The Children, is what interested me. Free The Children is arguably one of the most influential Canadian non-governmental organizations in the world, based on the highest of ideals: compassion, universal human rights, equality and justice.

Does no one else see the discrepancy between the so-called "fundraiser" and the objectives and purposes of such an organization? The poster indicates a University of King's College chapter of Free The Children is organizing the event.

How can people be so ignorant of the realities those in developing countries face? I wonder if anyone hosting this night has been to Sierra Leone, Africa or even a developing country. I wonder how those receiving this donation would feel upon learning the \$15 was in exchange for a night of carousing and intoxication for students paying \$15,000 per year for a university education.

Who wouldn't pay \$15 for all you can drink? That's an entire night of potential drunkenness for less than \$20! I wonder if the hosts of this night are aware that the adult population of Sierra Leone has a 36 per cent literacy rate, which is ironic, I suppose. They'd miss out on a great deal for booze, since they can't read the signage.

It's time to stop inflating our North American egos by participating in these meaningless fundraisers. Instead of paying \$15 for alcohol, go see Blood Diamond at a movie theatre and get a taste of what life in Africa is really like.

And send your other \$8 directly to Free The Children.

Tara MacDougall

Another green look

(Re: "Not all that's green is good," Gazette 139-17)

As a staff contributor, Catherine Holloway's "opinion" should be based on more current factual investigation than her display of ignorance of the present organic movement. I also expect the editors to be gatekeepers. She seems to have based her level of knowledge on work done by Norman Borlaug more than 40 to 50 years ago.

Her assigned hero status to Borlaug appears misplaced as in her own words: "The pesticides and fertilizers required have contaminated almost every body of water in North America..." Indeed, the long-term result of the unsustainable post-war explosives-turned-fertilizers and pesticides has contributed to our current dilemma.

Since 1970, the landscape has changed dramatically with multinationals controlling an increasing percentage of our food supplies. Patented GM terminator seeds, Mad Cow disease and a plethora of junk foods are now the enemy. The rising cancer rate is, in part, directly related to diet.

I would encourage Holloway to investigate the organic food movement. Contact the Ecology Action Centre and Atlantic Canadian Organic Regional Network and speak with the vendors at the Halifax farmer's market to learn why they do what they do. She should also learn about Cuba's organic agricultural accomplishments and read Eliot Coleman.

She can learn that cover crop rotations remove weeds better than plowing. Organic farming is more labour-intensive but uses less land, less equipment and less fuel than conventional large-scale corporate farming and is a likely way to bring young farmers back to the land. Learn the three pillars of the organic movement: eat locally, eat seasonally and don't use pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilizers.

Arthur Kidston

'Make dreams come true'

Dal president weighs in on referendum

TOM TRAVES

President, Dalhousie University

"Dalhousie University had no... social life or college spirit back in the early [70s].... The only common room in which to read and talk was a dingy room in the basement of the building."

Sound familiar? So read a Halifax newspaper's report on life at Dal in the 70s — the 1870s! We're doing a lot better now, but could do more to enhance student life at Dal.

Change for a better tomorrow requires action today.

A positive result in the Improved Student Space referendum in March will ensure that no one ever writes such a comment about your generation.

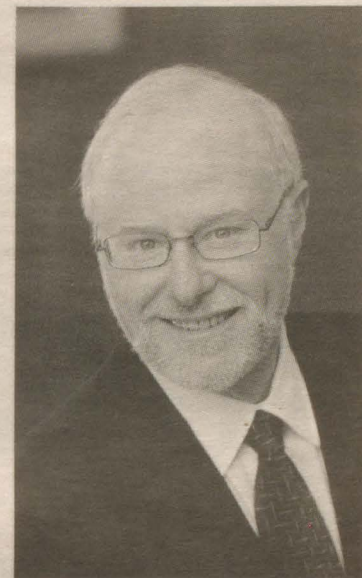
A great university experience requires the right physical environment for you to work and enjoy. Like all universities, Dal needs some major campus improvements. We are working on many plans to renovate classrooms, labs and core facilities using government, alumni and university funds.

In some of those cases, improvements may take years while we accumulate the funds required to pay for construction. To improve student study and social spaces now requires a different strategy so that we can take action immediately.

At an exhilarating event called Imagine Dalhousie, hosted by the Dalhousie Student Union last week, I heard students who care deeply about this place and are committed to its future talk passionately about what we need to make it better. The debate was lively, the ideas flowed.

I'm sure that discussion will continue up to the referendum. If the vote is "yes," the discussion will intensify, because then the real work begins in designing the right facilities for students on Sexton, Carleton and Studley campuses. This space is for students, so students will be directly involved in the design and architectural development of all pieces of the project through membership on building committees and consultation by our architects.

The 11 concepts put forward for your consideration are just that, concepts. We are committed to adding



improved work and social space for students and that's the question you must address in the referendum. We are not committed to any design.

At Imagine, students were concerned primarily with the form and function of the new space. The funding mechanism, which is in essence the referendum ballot question, seemed a secondary issue.

For the record, students would pay a \$10 per course levy, beginning in 2009 when all the new spaces should be completed and ready for use, to cover the cost of construction, estimated at \$25 million. The university will pay the ongoing maintenance costs, also estimated over time to be \$25 million.

Of equal importance, a yes vote will jump start the major fundraising campaign Dal is about to launch. We will be asking alumni and friends to contribute \$200 million dedicated to enhancing the student experience through more scholarships and bursaries, better student services and exciting new academic programs.

When prospective donors hear that students themselves voted to support Dal to this magnitude, those donors will be motivated to get on the bandwagon your yes vote got rolling.

Dal is, and has always been, about dreaming big dreams and having the courage to take action and make those dreams come true. Here's one more chance in that long and great tradition.

Student Employment Centre

Upcoming Information Sessions

Mosaic Sales

Feb 13, 4 - 5 pm

Student Union Building, Council Chambers

All disciplines interested in opportunities in sales

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Feb 15, 6 - 7:30 pm

Student Union Building, Room 303

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Don't wait until summer to get the best job

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10 am - 3 pm

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The Scientific Skeptic

Letting terrorists win

CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
Staff Contributor

During his 2007 State of the Union address, U.S. President George W. Bush said the word "terrorist" 22 times, according to The New York Times. "We know with certainty that the horrors of that September morning were just a glimpse of what the terrorists intend for us — unless we stop them," he said.

The Boston Police Department's efforts to investigate suspected terrorism on Jan. 31 cost more than \$1 million after bomb squad officials closed roads to inspect devices that were placed in nine locations across the city and its suburbs. Similar devices were also placed in nine other cities.

The "bombs" turned out to be battery-powered LED signs that were part of a guerrilla-style marketing campaign for the movie Aqua Teen Hunger Force. The advertisements were light boards that portrayed one of the cartoon show's characters raising its middle finger.

The two artists responsible were arrested and could face up to five years in jail for creating what Boston police labelled a "hoax device."

This wasn't the only false terrorism scare to surface last month. Skyscrapers were evacuated and commuter trains were shut down in New York on Jan. 8 after a foul odour was feared to be part of a terrorist attack. Homeland security was brought in to confirm the smell was not linked to terrorism, though its source was never determined.

Even on Feb. 2, a bomb squad was called in to investigate an old-fashioned, half-filled medicine bottle on a sidewalk in Redding, Cali-

fornia.

Since August, all liquids and gels other than prescription medication and baby formula have been banned on airplanes unless they are in containers smaller than 50 millilitres and sealed in a plastic bag.

The fear is that someone will make a liquid explosive to blow up an airplane. But the original suspects in the trans-Atlantic aircraft plot didn't even come close to their intended goal.

A report compiled by The Register, a British technology magazine, debunked the liquid bomb theory.

First of all, the process to make the ingredients containing the right potency is extremely dangerous and could result in a destroyed laboratory if not handled by a professional with a lot of experience.

Next, to mix the ingredients on a plane while in flight, terrorists would have to keep the liquids cold, which would require an ice bucket and several suspicious trips to the washrooms.

Finally, the maximum feasible amount of damage created by the explosion would not be enough to take down the plane. At most, a few passengers surrounding the terrorist would be killed.

Any object, even our own hands, could be used as a weapon. The truth is we can't guarantee there will never be another terrorist attack. But we can be informed.

We are letting the terrorists win, but it's not because we're spending too little on homeland security, or because we are still allowing passengers on planes without handcuffs. It's because we allow irrational fears about everyday objects, like liquids and batteries, to control us.

Politics of saving lives

Western governments should act in Darfur

ANIKET HOODA
Opinions Contributor

Imagine 450,000 people died in Canada at the hands of a brutal government-backed militia. Imagine more than one million people displaced from their homes, frantically crossing the border to the United States.

Now imagine the immediate worldwide reaction, the outpouring of solidarity, political pressure, mobilization of troops and international aid. It would take an asteroid strike at the same time for such a situation in Canada to go unnoticed.

But not Darfur.

For the past three years, we have watched, read and heard about the malicious and violent attacks inflicted on the people of Darfur at the hands of the Sudanese government and the Janjaweed militia. That's about all we've done. And we did the same thing with Rwanda in 1994.

Why is there a disparity in action in foreign policy? How do governments identify groups of people that are worth saving?

There are numerous forces that govern humanitarian intervention. To put it bluntly, to the Western world, the people of Darfur are simply not worth saving. They are poor, black Muslims, many of whom have never seen a full loaf of bread.

Even if it were saved from violence today, the Darfur population would fall to malaria or AIDS tomorrow. A black Muslim population simply does not warrant the same amount of attention that a white population would. Racial bias has governed wars for millennia and it is no different in the case of Darfur.

Then, of course, there are interests. A nation may give billions of dollars in aid but very rarely will it involve itself in conflict unless regional interests are at stake.

Sudan is no Iraq. Although it does have an abundance of oil, the



The people of Darfur are poor, black Muslims, many of whom have never seen a full loaf of bread. / Stock Photo

similarity ends there. There are no regional interests surrounding Darfur — no Israel to protect and no Iran to keep under control.

If the U.S. wanted, it could topple the Sudanese government any day. Hypocrisy reached new heights when the U.S. declined to militarily intervene because such an action would "undermine the sovereignty of Sudan."

Then there is China. Roughly 60 per cent of oil produced in Sudan goes to China. Many Chinese state corporations drill for oil in the country. The drilling stations are protected by Sudanese soldiers armed with Chinese weapons — the same weapons the Darfur refugee finds himself looking down.

China initially blocked resolutions that called for international peacekeepers in Sudan because it wouldn't give the Sudanese government a chance to "cooperate." China abstained from voting on Resolution 1706, which calls for a UN force of up to 22,500 military personnel and police officers to support the ill-equipped and poorly trained African Union

force of 7,000 soldiers. That resolution was passed on Aug. 31, 2006. Refugees still spent New Year's in tents.

While it isn't a smart move to provoke China, Western governments can surely make a collective and cooperative effort to pressure the Chinese into influencing Sudan's policy in Darfur.

But all this requires a motive other than saving lives and since we will never get our hands on Chinese-controlled oil, what is the point in trying?

Governments around the world have reached a new level of moral bankruptcy in the utter disregard for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people. Or maybe it's human nature and our tendency to implement hindsight as an excuse for inaction — to promise a better future in return for forgiveness of neglect.

Another year will pass and hopefully by then that UN force will make it to Darfur. Even so, it is likely that any respite for the people for Darfur will come when they fight back themselves, like the Tutsis in Rwanda. Either way, it is already too little, too late for the estimated 450,000 dead.

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Stunting ethics

A debate on rights of disabled people

BRENDAN OSBURG
Staff Contributor

A nine-year-old girl in Seattle identified only as "Ashley" has been diagnosed with static encephalopathy, a condition that renders her unable to mentally evolve beyond the state of an infant. She is able to smile, giggle and startle, but is unable to roll over or sit up, and is totally dependent on her parents. Doctors say this will never change.

Her parents authorized surgery to remove her uterus and breast tissue and have given her large doses of hormones to halt her growth. As the family becomes older, the parents say it will become increasingly difficult to manage her condition.

Keeping her small will allow them to take her out with them more often, pick her up, hug her, play with her and move her more often to prevent her from developing bed-sores, a condition that, in time, could be life-threatening.

Despite these benefits, the procedure has generated considerable controversy.

Feminist groups and disability activists protested weeks ago in front of the American Medical Association headquarters in Chicago, demanding the association officially condemn Ashley's doctors for performing the procedures.

Disability activist Steven Drake characterized the procedure as an "openly egregious attacks on the bodily rights of people with disabilities." I disagree.

The arguments against the procedures are two-fold. The first is the slippery slope argument: one blogger who was a parent of a disabled child wrote: "I am truly just sick to my stomach to imagine that it's acceptable medical practice in any case to surgically stunt a child's growth.... Using their logic, why not just perform quadruple amputations? I mean, really, she's not going to use her arms and legs."

The author's attempt at hyperbole raises a real point. Suppose we knew for certain that Ashley would never know the difference between

having and not having legs, and that there were no risks associated with amputation.

Further suppose that making her a few pounds lighter to the park more often, where she could feel the sun and cool breeze, rather than wasting away indoors. Her elderly parents might also be able to pick her up and hold her in their arms years from now. Why not amputate?

Really. Why not?

Of course, the reality is that amputation carries far greater risks of infection and long-term health problems than any of the procedures Ashley has undergone. Furthermore, she, in her limited mental capacity, might be aware of her missing limbs.

There are lots of legitimate reasons why medical ethicists will never permit Ashley's treatment to extend to these "slippery slope" scenarios. But I imagine Drake's objections have nothing to do with Ashley's net happiness, and more to do with a vague indignity that has been inflicted on the disability community as a whole.

What this indignity is I don't know; and neither does Ashley. The gut reaction that people feel when they read about this case probably stems from a real protective instinct toward those who can't speak for themselves. I would normally applaud that, but there's something about Drake's comments that I find particularly offensive.

Ashley's parents bear an enormous burden. They are trying to make it easier to provide the comforts that she enjoys, and haven't compromised her life in any way that she'll notice.

The limited number of people that are able to care for her is as much a constraint on her well being as anything else, and this procedure will optimize the care she will receive from her family, given their limited resources.

Unfortunately, what brings Ashley happiness seems to have been lost beneath dialogue so broad and abstracted from her personal experiences as to have lost all relevance.

Are you ready to change?

Global warming demands environmental revolution

JONATHAN FRANK
Opinions Contributor

The debate on global warming being a human-made phenomenon is over: we are responsible. The debate must now shift to finding solutions to the problems we've created.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released an intensive study on climate change and human impact on Feb. 2. The report states we have caused irrevocable damage to the environment that will likely increase unless drastic changes occur. It's so bad that Halifax and other coastal cities will actually be threatened by rising ocean levels in the near future.

The report further reveals that "continued greenhouse gas emissions at or above current rates would cause further warming and induce many changes in the global climate system... that would very likely be larger than those observed during the 20th century."

To avert the collapse of human civilization, nothing short of an environmental revolution needs to occur. When compared to the rapid deterioration of our home, other issues such as ideological conflicts between nations and peoples are short-sighted and morally decadent.

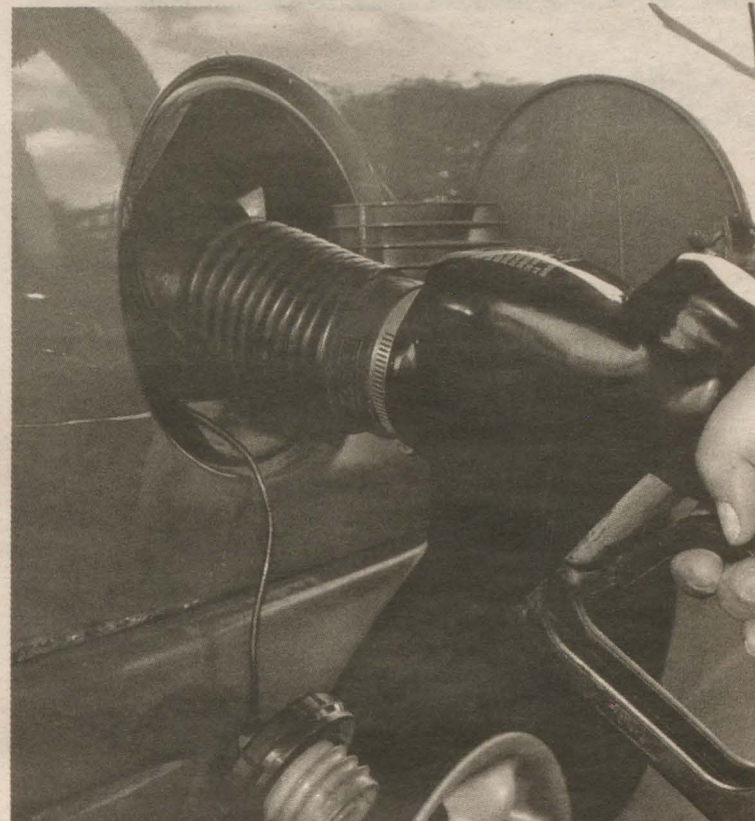
In 2007, however, we will witness widespread political changes, from new leadership in the UN and the EU, to elections in many countries, including France to Japan.

This means the environment will be in the spotlight of debates and government policy due to public pressure. The possibility for significant change is on the horizon as we begin building the foundation for an environmental revolution.

We must first eradicate scepticism and cynicism, which includes the popular 'it's someone else's problem' ideology. As citizens of the Western world, we need to drastically change our lifestyle. The planet cannot sustain our over-consumption and our wasteful way of life.

The benefits of an environmental revolution will be significant regardless of whether or not you believe global warming is a propagandistic exaggeration.

The burden of human environmental impact will increase in the future due to the growing economies



The planet cannot sustain our over-consumption and our wasteful way of life. / Stock Photo

of China, India and other developing nations. Citizens of these countries aspire to Western lifestyles. We must set an example by re-examining our core values and identifying those that can remain in an environmentally sustainable lifestyle.

Environmental awareness is an issue of public concern, media attention, political debates and lobbyist agendas that has grown rapidly. The subsequent push for change exhibits, to use the terminology of evolutionary biologist Jared Diamond, both a bottom-up and top-down approach.

The bottom-up approach begins with surprising simplicity. It ranges from recycling or choosing to drive fuel-efficient cars to getting involved in grass roots organizations that promote environmental awareness, such as Halifax's own Campus Green Guide and various non-governmental organizations like the World Wildlife Federation.

In our society this approach can be effective, despite the power of multinational corporations over governments. Consumers have the ability to put pressure on retailers,

which will in turn put pressure on industry standards. We must create a profitable market for environmentally friendly products.

The top-down approach begins with constructive government policy, but will likely have to come from UN sanctions beginning with a redrafted and strictly enforced version of the Kyoto Protocol, according to the climate change panel's recommendations.

These two approaches won't be successful on their own. An environmental revolution is needed to jumpstart change. The seeds of this revolution are being planted today and our generation will need to cultivate and harvest them.

Revolutions are not as rare or unrealistic as people may think, but it will take dedication and sacrifice. To quote a Chinese proverb: "If you want one year of prosperity, plant corn. If you want 10 years of prosperity, plant trees. If you want 100 years of prosperity, educate people."

For more information on climate change visit: www.environmental-revolution.org, www.worldchanging.org or www.campusgreenguide.ca.

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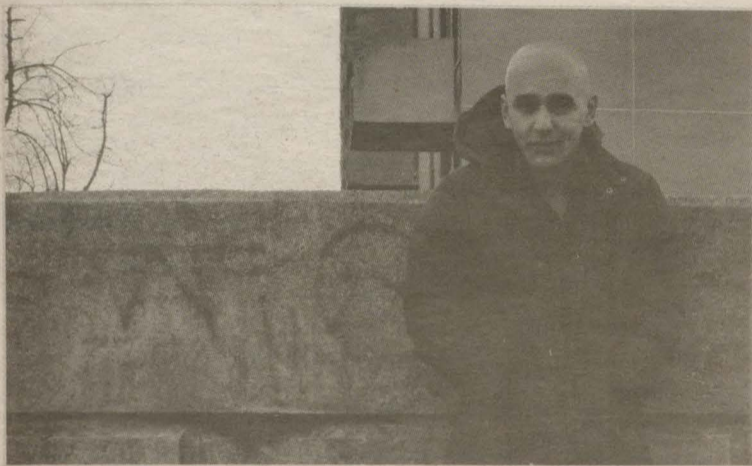
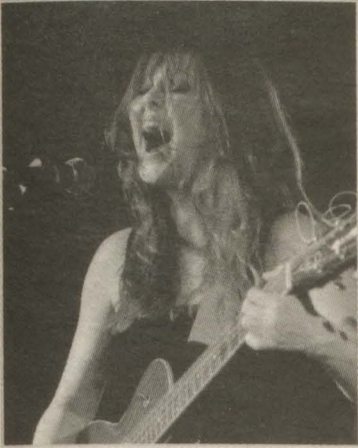
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This up and coming group is certainly not defunct. / Photo: Rafal Andronowski

Stealing the night

Review of Rich Aucoin's EP release party at St. Matthew's Cathedral

JACK CARR
Staff Contributor

Dr. Suess theme animation blasted on a projector above Rich Aucoin's frantic stage movements at St. Matthew's Cathedral on Feb. 3. He played his set alone — his backup band consisted only of his computer. Aucoin plays three or four instruments, although at times it felt like his performance could have benefited from a simpler presentation.

Aucoin played along to animation with a Dr. Seuss theme. His timing was perfect. As a Who played a drum or the Grinch appeared to dance in the background, I found myself wondering how much time Aucoin must have on his hands.

At times, the music and ani-

mation were so well-synchronized that it would seem as if these tracks could be placed almost seamlessly into a remix of the old classic.

The grand design of Aucoin's live show is perhaps only eclipsed by the ambition of his recorded material.

Personal Publication, Aucoin's debut EP, takes its theme from Dr. Seuss' *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Aucoin plays every instrument and sings every track. The result is an album reminiscent of a mash up between Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* and the *Wizard of Oz*.

The music flaunts its clear antecedents, Sufjan Stevens and the Flaming Lips. Though some songs seem unnaturally slow, Aucoin's performances have a solid groove. Each song fits and compliments the

sequence and context.

The album works best as a whole. Each song enhances the last. This flow makes the album charming, but it also represents the album's greatest flaw: it works too well together and individual songs are sometimes forgotten.

My enjoyment of the problems comes from an appreciation of the constricted boundaries Aucoin had to work within. Anyone could write 10 or 12 individual songs, but it takes a particularly hard worker to set those songs to someone else's images.

Aucoin has written an album that is worth the show. On top of that, it's an interesting experiment from an artist who is determined to be known and appreciated.

Local Produce:

Ruth Minnikin/ Folk Art

ASHLEIGH GAUL
Assistant Arts Editor

Every kindergarten class needs a tyrant.

A group of five-year-olds left to their own devices with instruments would sound a little like the first song on Folk Art. "Bad Dreams Part One" marches triumphantly in, piggy-backing on a rare appearance of the drums. At full volume, boings,

swizzles and flappers multiply as unruly instruments threaten to tear apart the track.

That's where Ruth Minnikin comes in.

While the better behaved clarinet and flute still soar twee-fully through the room, the swizzlers and bleeps have clearly been forced to sit on their hands for "Angel at the Dawn."

Gradually, through the next

three tracks, a few tentative scrapes at the washboard give way to banjos, until, finally, the drums and glockenspiel are allowed back into the mix.

Minnikin's control over her musical ensemble teeters on marmish at times, but she's chosen a difficult group and we've all seen what can happen when whimsy is left unchecked.

ECMA buzz

A profile of 2007's shows and nominated artists

The East Coast Music Awards bring many things to Halifax: big business, industry parties and plenty of schmoozing. Despite the glitz and glamour, the artists and bands who receive nominations or play at the shows are some of the most widely recognized and talented Maritime acts. *The Gazette* profiled some of the most noteworthy bands playing at the ECMA's.

Dr. dFunk

The notorious funk-rock-riot, Dr. dFunk, earned an ECMA nomination for Urban Single Track of the Year. In an interview with *The Gazette*, front man Kamran Abdi says he's incredibly flattered by the nomination. Bassist Charles Warren says he's been grinning "like a school-girl" since he learned of it.

The nominated track, "Running Hot" captures the heat of the dance floor, which Abdi likes to call a "dancing paradise."

Although Warren claims to have given up disco music, his bass fuels the track's heartbeat with hard, resonant chords. The result is a song that envelopes a listener in its pounding beat.

Prince, Jimi Hendrix, Guns N' Roses and David Bowie are just a few of the influences Dr. dFunk names. Abdi and Warren agree they want to manifest a dynamic sound by changing Dr. dFunk's sound from album to album.

A new album is already in the works and the group is planning an eastern Canada tour. This is a band with an exotic sound, and only time will tell what lies on the horizon for the charismatic quintet.

—Magen Powell

Carmen Townsend and the Shakey Deals

Carmen Townsend is Cape Breton's contribution to the Halifax rock scene: she is a wonderful mix of Janice Joplin fused with Stevie Nicks. Her powerful, voluptuous voice propels her band, the Shakey Deals, to newly refurbished retro rock heights.

The sexy seriousness of her belting voice is offset with a little girl happiness, similar to Feist. The band has yet to earn an ECMA nomination, but Townsend sets the momentum for the band's sonic rollercoast-

er, which will more than entertain the ECMA crowd.

Over the years, the band has shared stages with Matt Mays, Slowcoaster, Jimmy Swift, and Joel Plaskett.

—Magen Powell

Carmen Townsend and the Shakey Deals will play various shows at the ECMA's, including the ECMA Rock Showcase at the Marquee.

Jenn Grant

Jenn Grant is poised to release her first full length album in 2007. She is participating in the In the Dead of Winter Festival, an acoustic-based festival held annually in February. Grant will also perform at the ECMA's.

This Halifax-based singer/songwriter has been playing music since her early years. She's recorded with Ron Sexsmith, Jill Barber and Matt Mays and is the recent recipient of the Best Female Recording and Best New Artist at the 2006 Nova Scotia Music Awards.

—Karyn Haag

Jenn Grant will perform at the ECMA Rock Showcase at the Marquee.

Amelia Curran

Amelia Curran can't recall a time when she didn't play music. She is a Newfoundland native but currently resides in Halifax. Her songs reflect her eastern Canadian roots, with hints of classic Maritime ballads.

Curran considers herself hardened by her Newfoundland upbringing, which resonates in her powerful voice and lyrical conviction. She released her album *War Brides* in 2006 and is currently working to release a CD with the Mercy Band in the spring.

Curran is also contributing to the In the Dead of Winter Festival and participates in the ECMA's Songwriter Circle. She is nominated for two ECMA awards: Female Artist of the Year and Folk Recording of the Year.

—Karyn Haag

Amelia Curran will perform at the ECMA Roots Room Performance.

For more information on ECMA nominations and various show times, visit www.ecma.ca for more information.

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Eat your weight at the Heartwood Café's pay-by-weight buffet counter. / Photo John Packman

A conscious consumer's paradise

The Epicurious Student explores Heartwood Bakery

ANDREW BERNARDO
Culinary Connoisseur

Since 1995, Laura Bishop has baked organic breads and served vegetarian cuisine with natural, unprocessed ingredients.

The restaurant and bakery, owned by Bishop, produces bread, cookies, cakes and pizza crusts. Its sourdough bread is the best in Halifax, offering light bitterness that tastes best with butter or an earthy-flavoured cheese. The bakery also prepares a variety of egg- and dairy-

free desserts.

Heartwood has a "by weight" buffet where customers create a meal from the variety of hot and cold options and then weigh it at the counter.

All the buffet salads are prepared fresh daily. The marinated tofu and roasted squash salad and Greek salad are my favourites. Hot dishes vary from day to day.

When I made my last visit, the wild rice pilaf and moussaka were the most impressive items at the buffet. The homemade guacamole deserves

mention and, when it was piled on the sourdough bread, truly warmed the cockles of my culinary heart.

I topped off my meal with hazelnut torte that exploded with flavours both elegant and assertive.

The Heartwood Bakery and Café is an enjoyable eating experience that's socially conscious. The food is well-made, well-priced and the environment is friendly.

Heartwood Bakery and Café is located at 6250 Quinpool Rd. Visit www.heartwoodbakerycafe.ca for more information.

Young and old meet in Venus

Film review

BRITTANY CURRAN
Staff Contributor

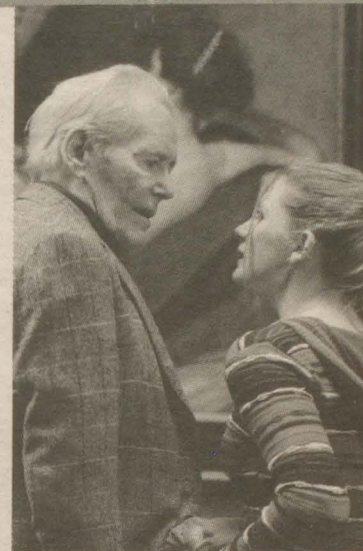
I was undoubtedly the youngest person in the theatre to watch *Venus*. But it didn't matter. Any generation can appreciate the unremitting exchange of wit and humour between best friends Maurice (Peter O'Toole) and Ian (Leslie Phillips).

The premise of the film is relationships — those of friendships, family and unexpected affection.

Newcomer Jodie Whittaker portrays Jessie, an aspiring model who moves to London and decides to live with her distant relative, Ian. Jessie and Ian are at odds with one another, but she finds refuge in Maurice's companionship and he finds equal solace in her presence.

Whittaker depicts a young woman who feels lost in her new life in London. Her reticence shows her deep insecurity and O'Toole's character does a wonderful job of bandaging her heart with his own vulnerability and personal need for love — so well that he earned an Oscar nomination for his role.

Cinematographically speaking, *Venus* was delightful. There is a dusty glow inside the café Maurice and Ian frequent. Maurice's face has a darker shadow, while Jessie's is lit more brightly, which shows the strong juxtaposition between young



and old characters.

The age gap between Maurice and Jessie is considerable: the former is in his mid 70s, while the latter is in her early 20s. At times their on-screen interactions are unsettling, but it ultimately comes across as earnest rather than perverse.

This film is not a love story or a tragedy, but rather, a little of both. While no necklaces were thrown into the ocean, Maurice and Jessie's loneliness is tragic and their love is rare.

Some connections are inexplicable. *Venus* illustrates this point.

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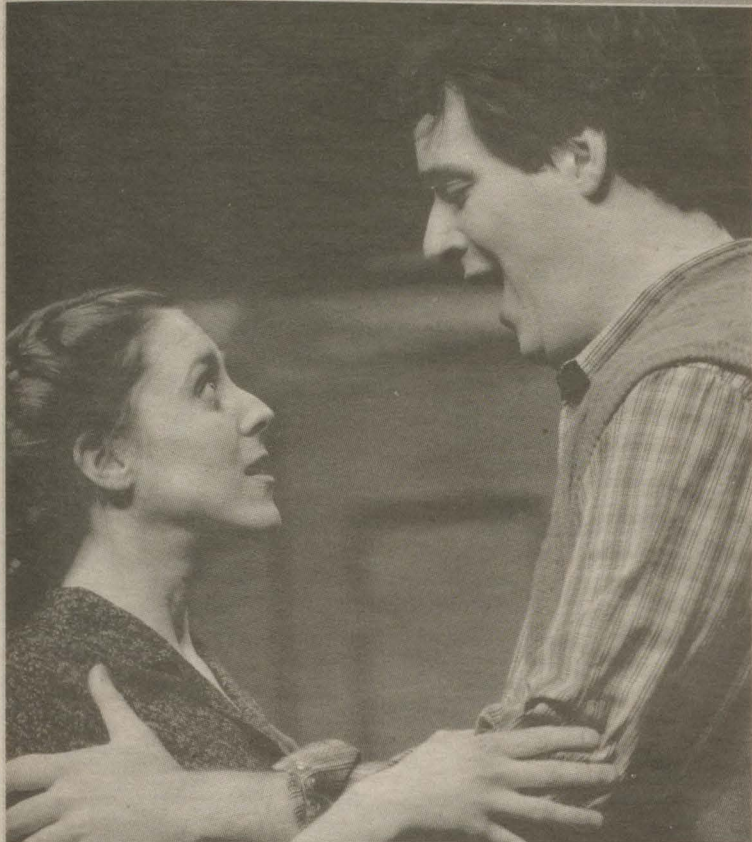
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Double Take

Gimmicks used in Three American Operas



The Dalhousie Music Department presented a triple bill of American opera from Feb. 1 to 4 in the James Dunn Theatre. While all three performances were nearly flawless, the Gazette reporters disagreed on what made the operas so good.

Gimmicks are arresting. Like Brian Wilson's theremin in "Good Vibrations," they startle their audience and direct it to a larger theme through an instant connection between form and content. Sure, the connection is contrived, but the contrivance is beautiful in its own right.

The Telephone

The Telephone is chock-full of gimmicks.

Lucy, the near-oblivious axis of a love triangle between her telephone and her lover, Ben, wears pink lipstick to match her pink inanimate lover. The coordination of these aesthetic details is superficially pleasing. When Lucy applies her lipstick before kissing her boyfriend, though, it becomes evident that the telephone comes between them, even when they are alone.

And there's more: the piano player's wistful arpeggios accompany Lucy's rotary-dial sweeps; Lucy's dress is a perfect '50s socialite lounge/mock prima donna gown; Ben sings an aria while lying, despondent, on the floor.

A Hand of Bridge

The contralto of A Hand of Bridge repeats the main line of her arietta, "I want to buy that hat of peacock feathers." Her dress pattern looks a bit like peacock feathers. The last baritone closes his solo on the word "trump" while laying down a trump.

The Old Maid and the Thief

A flickering stage light projects an amber fire onto a plastic log upstage. At the start of the opera, the contrived fireplace imparts a sense of stability and comfort to the living room of the old maid, Ms. Tart.

Later, when love has corrupted the same old maid, the lights dim and the fireplace morphs into a melodramatic backdrop for her plot to "raid a liquor store and kill."

At the show's curtain, the lights are finally extinguished and the fireplace alone casts a mock-tragic glow on a Ms. Tart, who has just fainted after discovering her diabolical plot has backfired.

A gimmick, by definition, is impressive. A pertinent gimmick, though, stands up to reflection. It

impresses while it illuminates; it is a work of art in its own right.

- Ashleigh Gaul

How crucial is "gimmickry" to the success of these operas' performance? Gimmicks, when considered in Ashleigh's terms, are aesthetic small potatoes. This is certainly the case in The Telephone.

The Telephone

Yes, Lucy's phone, and her total inability to not use it, frustrates Ben's proposal attempts. And yes, this frustration is the comic crux of the opera. But what matters in opera is the music, the libretto and the performance. The rest is pleasurable detail complementing the plot, music and performance. It would hardly matter if the phone was replaced by a pager.

The final scene where Ben — because Lucy won't stop yapping on the phone — has to leave her apartment and propose by payphone, is flawless. That their union is only made possible by the very instrument that separated them is a nicely conceived irony perfectly performed.

A Hand of Bridge

A Hand of Bridge proves the point by being nothing but "gimmick."

Two suburban couples play bridge. The contralto's unassuming lament for an out-of-reach "hat of peacock feathers" is an effective refrain, but that's it.

Surrounding dull stock characters who remain dull stock characters throughout, the card table, songs and game serve only to enhance their dullness. And, after one of the wretched husbands sings an out-of-nowhere paean to "a bed of 40 naked Arab boys," the comic promise is abruptly, inexplicably broken.

The Old Maid and the Thief

In The Old Maid and the Thief, a spinster and her maid shelter a hobo they think to be an escaped thief/rapist. They both fall for him, and resort to tithe-stealing and liquor theft. Alternately moving and ridiculous, the arias, as well as the ironic finale, prove Menotti's mastery of the operatic burlesque.

As for the gimmicks, they may be impressive, but they're about as illuminating as Rob Halford's motorcycle.

- Cameron MacLean



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A message from Nova Scotia Gaming Corporation



Stars on Wheels is an avenue for players with and without disabilities to experience an adaptive sport. / Photo: Nova Scotia Abilities Foundation

Wheelchair basketball kicks off at Dal

COLLEEN COSGROVE
Assistant Sports Editor

On Feb. 6, Halifax's Stars on Wheels wheelchair basketball team tipped off against the Dalhousie Tigers. The annual event runs in conjunction with the Nova Scotia Abilities Foundation (NSAF) to raise awareness and funding for adaptive sport in the Maritimes.

The NSAF was created in 2000 as an avenue to enable, enhance and realize the needs of people in adaptive sports. Stars on Wheels is a division of Take PART (Physically Accessible Recreation Today), yet another element of NSAF, which aims to increase awareness and accessibility for physically disabled youth to participate in a variety of sports and recreational games.

Anthony Purcell, events and program coordinator for NSAF, has worked with the foundation since June 2005. He says Stars on Wheels provides just a glimpse of the foundation's plans.

"Fundraising is a very competitive business," says Purcell. "There are many great causes out there and it is hard for people to support them all. This is why the abilities foundation thinks outside the box. You have to stand out, as well as offer a great cause."

Stars on Wheels is also an avenue for players with and without physical disabilities to experience an adaptive sport. The local team, known as the Halifax Heat, is not limited to those with physical disabilities — there's a roughly 50-50 split.

Krista Best, a Dal kinesiol-

ogy professor who lectures on wheelchair skills training, says the event is more about getting the word out than raising money.

"Of course raising money is the added bonus to all of these events," says Best. "But just getting people into the gym to see what adaptive sport is all about and the endless things [NSAF] has to offer is important to us."

The team travels throughout the Maritimes from September to March and has wielded great success and countless supporters along the way.

"Right now, New Brunswick has eight wheelchair basketball teams," says Best. "Nova Scotia only has the Heat so far, but our numbers are growing."

An obstacle the team and the NSAF face is accessibility to equipment and facilities, she says. A sports chair costs \$3,000 to \$4,000.

"Children and families with disabilities have a lot of added expenses," says Best. "And you can't have an everyday chair banging into the others on the court because if that chair breaks, that is their mobility gone."

NSAF tries to supply the necessary equipment for all adaptive sports and has developed relationships with schools and facilities around the Maritimes to ensure accessibility isn't an issue.

"We don't want money to be the reason kids aren't taking part in the sports," says Best. "We try to provide the adaptive sports equipment for the kids... so they come, and jump in a chair play around for an hour and then they go home."

Tigers unflapped by inconsistent play

Men's volleyballers plan to overcome, take AUS title

JOEY RYBA
Sports Editor

Dal's men's volleyball team is set to battle the University of New Brunswick in the best of three Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championship series starting Friday, Feb. 9 at Dalplex.

The Tigers are ranked fourth in Canada and had a strong first half of the season. The squad opened 2007 with tournaments at York University and Laval University and posted a 3-1 record at both venues.

But fifth-year libero Jeff Weiler says the Tigers played inconsistently in the second half. At York, the team played well in its first three matches, but put in a sub-par performance in the final match and lost.

"That was a really frustrating part of the beginning of January," says Weiler. "But it just shows that if you don't play well, the good teams are going to compete and beat you."

A similar turn of events unfolded at Laval. In the final, the Tigers played the host team in front of packed house of energetic fans. Weiler says Dal only played an average match.

"[The fans] gave [Laval] a lot of confidence after they took a set off of us that we should have won," says Weiler. "Their confidence got really, really high. We didn't execute and the next thing you know, the game was over."

With six players in their fourth or fifth year, the Tigers are a veteran team. Fourth-year outside J.F. Best says the team isn't panicking as a result of its inconsistent play.

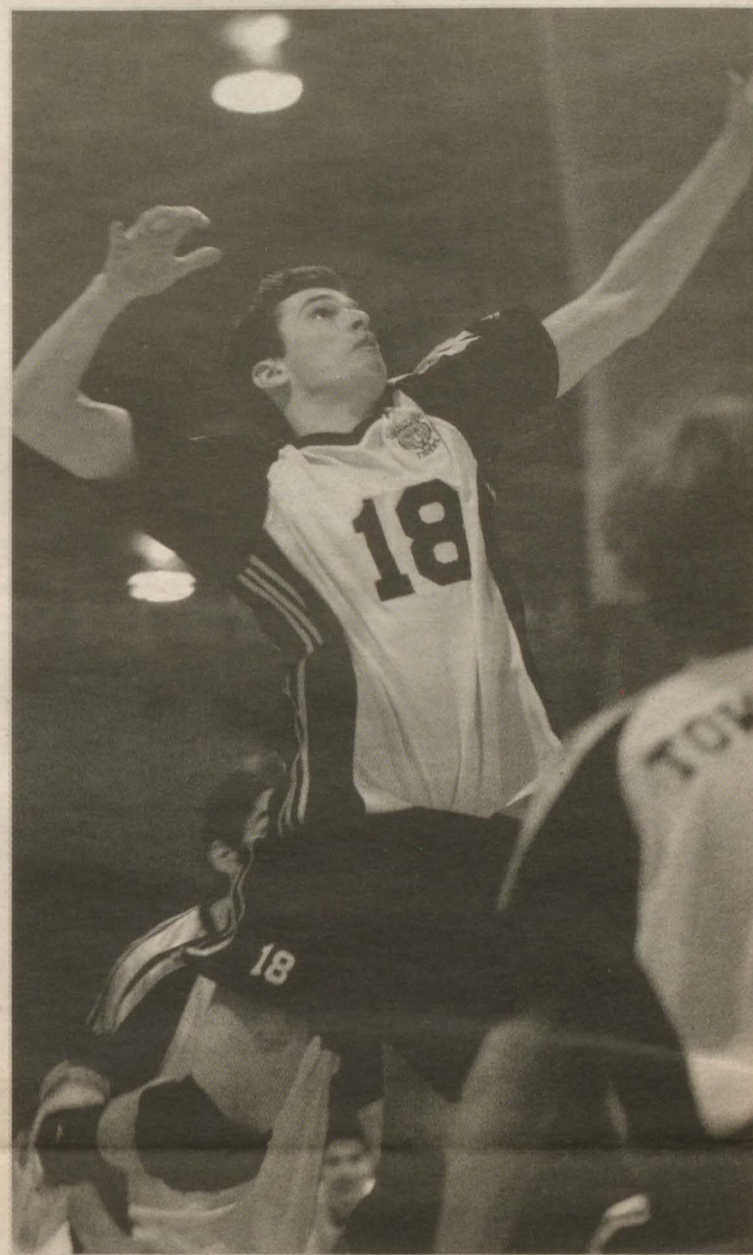
"The inconsistency happened when we had multiple games in a short period of time," says Best. "We know what we have to do... It's just a matter of pulling it together."

He says the learning curve is pretty much finished and it's a matter of executing plays to win. The guys are putting in the time and effort, and Best says he thinks they'll start peaking at the right time.

"We've learned as much as we can and our coaches have given us all this knowledge," says Best. "It's about performing on a consistent level and manufacturing points when we have to."

One of the team's strengths is its offence, says Weiler.

"Our offence is one that, if we're playing well, it's really unique compared to any team in the country,"



J.F. Best says the key to winning the AUs and medaling at the CIs is putting full matches together. / Photo: Nick Pearce

says Weiler. "It hasn't been as polished as our team would like to see it. It's one thing we need to get back on track."

The first match of the AUs is at Dal and the second is at UNB on Feb. 17. If necessary, the teams will play a third match on Feb. 19 at Dal.

Ultimately, the Tigers want to close out the series in two matches, which means finishing at UNB. Weiler says the UNB fans are very supportive of the home team and he expects a hostile atmosphere, but says the Tigers aren't intimidated.

"We've played in loud gyms before

and for a team that's played in front of so many people and at so many different venues, it's not a big deal," says Weiler. "It's fun to play in front of a lot of people whether they're cheering for you or against you."

With the AUs and potentially the CIs on the horizon, Best says the key to winning the AUs and medaling at the CIs is putting full matches together.

"The skill level is there," says Best. "It's just a matter of being in the right mind set. We've put in the work and the mental preparation, it's just a matter of bringing it on game day."

Gazette

Are you a writer? Photographer? Illustrator? A reader?
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Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE



CAROLINE MCINNES
TRACK AND FIELD

Caroline McInnes had a great weekend, competing in the Tigers meet held at Dalhousie on Feb. 3. The veteran finished second among university athletes competing in the 1000-metre event and earned a fourth place national ranking. McInnes ran the 1000-metre in a time of 2:55.90. McInnes is a second-year law student from Toronto, Ont.



MALE ATHLETE



UELI ALBERT
TRACK AND FIELD

Ueli Albert smashed the Dalhousie record in the 1000-metre, previously held by Tiger coach Dan Hennigar. Albert set the record with a time of 2:27.5. He is well in front of his competition in the CIS rankings at this point in the season. He is the 2006 CIS champion in this event. Albert is a second-year kinesiology student from Giswil, Switzerland.



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The

SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Bucket laundry and the treadle pump: appropriate technology equals?

I make a terrible liar. Plus, I respect you, the noble reader, and your dishonesty-detecting senses in all their multi-faceted glory. Therefore, I'm going to be truthful from the start: I'm no techie. I have little faith in technology, whether trivial or materially productive. I'm worried about our increasing technological dependency, afraid of our willingness to equate technology to progress even when ultimately destructive, and find myself in frequent panic about the spiritual affects of a lost link to the land. It is indeed a life dream of mine to be accused of being a Luddite and to feel like I deserve it. My biases are mine and I love them.

But I'm realistic enough to recognize the difference between trifling technology (your iPod) and lifesaving technology (water purification). Hopefully development workers, particularly engineers, can also be discerning enough to recognize the difference between conquering, alien, or destructive technology (large-scale dams or clear-cutters) and suitable, sustainable, personally helpful technology (potable water systems or a saw). This second group is what the varied folks who make up the international development scene call "appropriate technology" (AT).

Appropriate technology is a tag often tossed around, especially within an organization like Engineers Without Borders (EWB), whose specific focus is on discovering and

exploiting technology's capacity to create positive change.

Understanding what exactly makes a technology appropriate is tricky, but a brief test might go a little like this: Can it be made and maintained where it will be used? Can its users afford it? Does it create new problems which outweigh its benefits? Does it contribute to a community's sustainability? (For clarity, the AT answers would be yes, yes, no, and yes, and would be answered that way by users, not just designers.)

This may sound ridiculous – and I don't throw that word around like hayseed – but I'm going to illustrate using my favourite Canadian AT: plastic bucket laundry. It goes like this: just find an industrial plastic bucket with a sealable lid (ask any food-prep place), carve a hole in the lid the size and shape of a plunger handle, and put a (surprise!) plunger through that hole. Now all you have to do is partially fill the bucket with warm water (or let it warm up in the sun), add a little soap and your grimy clothing, snap the lid on and have a plunging party. Hooray! Clean clothes, no electricity, less water waste, and lean, delicious arms. Referring to the above: yes, yes, no, and yes!

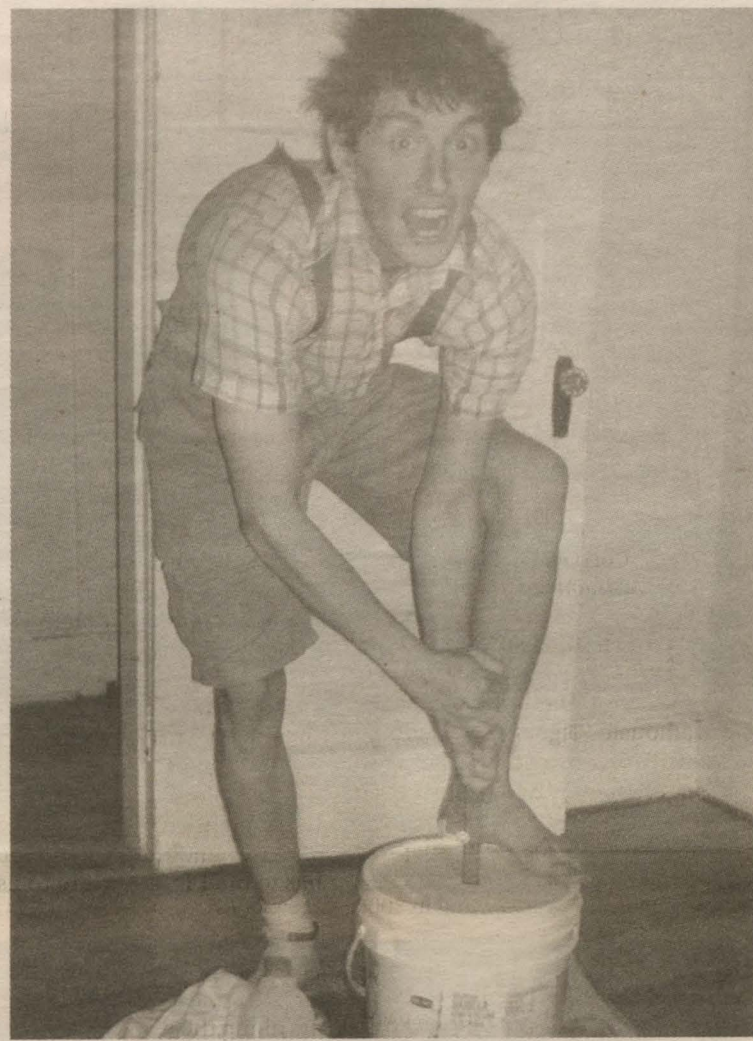
Without admitting bucket laundry to be inferior engineering, let's turn this AT vehicle around (all the best puns are ironic) and drive it recklessly into the difficult issue of water

access in water-scarce regions. It's in such areas, after all, where NGOs like EWB have found their niche. In addressing water access with AT, EWB is particularly fond of the treadle pump. Looking like a hose hooked up to a stairmaster, the treadle pump uses human leg power to pump 5-7 cubic metres of water per hour from wells or surface sources while mitigating the typically harsh physical strain of more traditional retrieval methods.

Invented in Bangladesh in the 1970s, the treadle pump has since been modified to be manufactured in small, manual metal shops and sold locally at acceptable rates. In this way, the treadle pump becomes a local income source while contributing to improved public health and irrigation. They don't claim to fix everything, but over a million treadle pumps are now in use, most in Africa and Asia.

While my initial reaction to the word "technology" is, ironically, to make a Cyril Sneer face, I know also that my dream life wouldn't be so idyllic without certain technologies. It's to making these technologies appropriate that we now must dedicate ourselves, because it's the adjective more than the noun which serves the needs of human development, wherever it occurs.

Adam Linnard is Editor-in-Chief for Engineers Without Borders.



Fast times at Dal Atlantic Engineering Competition 2007

KERRY DARK

I'm sure that some of you have been down to the first floor of the Mechanical building and seen a group of students working on what looks to be the coolest racecar you have ever seen in your life. That exactly what's going on! We are the Dalhousie Formula SAE (FSAE) Team - the newest club on the block. Right now, our team consists of about 15 students, and is always open to new members. FSAE is a collegiate design competition hosted by the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) in Michigan every May and in California every June. Each year, some 140 teams from across North America compete, and this year our team will be competing in Fontana at the California Speedway.

FSAE cars are small, open wheel, formula-one style racecars that are completely designed and fabricated by student teams. Many aspects of design are judged in this competition, such as cost, marketability, safety, and overall design. Of course, performance is also judged, and these cars are designed to be fast. Weighing in at as little as 400 lbs and using high performance sportbike engines, they can spank the pants

off of the most expensive sports cars out there. Check out www.youtube.com and search "FSAE BMW" to see it in action.

This competition is an excellent way for university students to gain real hands-on automotive design and fabrication experience, as well as leadership and organizational skills. In addition, FSAE promotes community involvement between universities, local businesses and industry, and the FSAE team members themselves.

Funding is an important part of any FSAE team. Not only are the cars themselves expensive, but traveling to the competition requires considerable funding. As such, the project depends heavily on sponsorships and donations.

To date, we have finalized our design for this year's car and are making headway with construction. We are looking forward to being busy this year making custom parts in the machine shop, welding, tuning our engine on the dyno, body fabrication, and last but not least, testing our car before we compete in June.

Check out our website at www.me.dal.ca/fsae. If any of this interests you, fire us an e-mail, and drop by our weekly meetings.

JF NOWLAN

The AEC (Atlantic Engineering Competition) was held Feb. 2 to 4 in Fredericton, N.B. The AEC is an excellent opportunity for young engineers to compete against others from the Atlantic provinces, with a chance to compete on a national scale at the CEC (Canadian Engineering Competition).

Five teams from Dalhousie engineering (both from Studley and Sexton) went to competition and competed in various challenges: junior design, senior design, innovative design and debate.

Thomas McNutt and Connor O'Shea attended the debate competition and won. They will be attending the CECs this year in Saskatoon, Sask. Debated topics had a wide variety of subjects, tackling ethical issues such as whether space travel should be privatized and socio-political topics such as whether science hinders or improves evolution.

The junior design challenge was to build a device that could strike a golf ball up a 60-degree incline to attain a height of 20 feet. The teams had two hours to build the device with a set list of materials.

Dal had two teams: Team No. 1 consisted of Mike Rideout, Sean Sobey, Paul Leger and Scott Kember, who made a device called "Tiger Wood." Team No. 2 consisted of Nick Allen, Eriel Sutow, Heather Arm-

strong and Peter Inglis, who were able to achieve the goal.

The senior design challenge was to build a "cart" that could transport a 500-mL bottle of water up a 1.5-metre incline. Dal's team of Gaston Viau, Billy Andrews, Andrey Kostylev and J.F. Nowlan gave a valiant effort but came up short – in fact, the cart didn't come off the starting line. But they were noted by peers and judges as having a very good presentation and were encouraged to return next year.

Innovative design is typically geared toward senior design projects. Dal's team of Tracy Burdock and Amanda Griffin presented their project on the cultivation and growth of a particular microorganism: jadomycin. The microorganism is believed to have cancer-fighting abilities and people attending the competition constantly said to them, "Oh so you're the girls curing cancer?"

This event was wonderfully run. Full credit goes to the University of New Brunswick's AEC organizing committee, who were excellent at fielding questions and ensured a great time was had by all.

Next year's AEC will be held at the Université de Moncton, where on top of the challenges previously mentioned, competitors can choose to enter consulting and communications as well.

Until next time, this is JF, signing off from the AEC 2007.

ATTENTION: SEXTON SOCIETIES

Need a way to effectively communicate to the rest of the student body here at Dalhousie? Look no further than the Sextant. We are looking to help societies raise their memberships, popularity and take advantage of some well deserved exposure.

All that is needed is an email sent to sextant@dal.ca with a description of your next event, and we'll do the rest.

Feel free to publicize, advertise or even make a desperate attempt for participation. There are some great societies out there – make yourself known!

If you have any questions or concerns, as always you are always welcome to our open meetings every Thursday at 8:00 in the T-Room or send us an email at sextant@dal.ca.

SEXTANT



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Friday, Feb 9

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February 12, 13 & 14

V-Day Dalhousie, a student society, will be presenting Eve Ensler's The Vagina Monologues

The show begins at 7pm and the doors open at 6:15. @ McInnes Room of the Dalhousie Student Union Building (6136 University Avenue).
Tickets to the show can be purchased at Venus Envy (1598 Barrington Street) and the Dalhousie Women's Centre (6286 South Street), ten dollars in advance and twelve at the door.

The stories told in The Vagina Monologues were taken from interviews done by Eve Ensler with over two hundred women of various ages,

classes and sexual identities from differing ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

The results are a humorous, inflaming, touching and revealing look into the lives of women all over the world.

V-Day Dalhousie, the society responsible for putting on this show, is part of a global movement and is an entirely non-profit organization that works to end violence of all kinds against women and girls.

While The Vagina Monologues is by far our largest event of the year it is by no means our only. Since September we have been working to educate both the Dalhousie and Halifax community through our lecture series,

The Vagina Dialogues, a panel on local issues of violence against women, fundraising events, empowerment sessions and wellness seminars.

At the end of the year every cent that we have raised through the show, community partnerships and other fundraisers will be going to Avalon

Sexual Assault Centre, Bryony House and Alice Housing as well as the V-Day global spotlight: Women in Conflict Zones.

We cordially invite you all to come out to the show and take part in our Vagina-Friendly Fair which will be taking place just before the show and will include local societies, groups and organizations that are progressive in nature and very vagina-friendly.

If you have any questions or want to contact V-Day directly please feel free to e-mail our Producer, Jean Steinberg, at vdaydalhousie@yahoo.ca or reply to me.

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