

# Gazette

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868 February 26th, 2004 - 136:21

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I think Michael Moore is a fat asshole.

There, I said it. And I don't regret it. Is it just me, or does it seem like the Left is getting increasingly intellectually lazy and almost fascist with each passing moment. I am a left-winger being made to feel right wing because I think that the Left is becoming too right wing. Are you still with me?

I was always under the impression that university was a place where we could debate issues in a calm and rational manner, bringing our own views to the table. Yet during my stay at Dalhousie, I sometimes feel like some kind of right-wing Nazi for not being blindly sympathetic to the plight of whatever group the social activist elite has deemed worthy.

Racial profiling, abortion, poverty, the racist slant on standardized testing, sensitivity training, homosexuality, drug addiction and morbid obesity—all topics that seem to have set answers for prompted questions in Dalhousie classrooms. Discussions become group back patting sessions where students vie to voice the politically correct answer and agree with one another. Stray too far from the accepted standard of opinion, or identify a loose thread in their cloak of Liberalism, and the room will come crashing down upon your desk. There are simply things you cannot say, and things you cannot question, without having the class turn on you like a pack of wolves and the professor dismiss your comments with a confused look and a patronizing comment, only to move on to the next eager clone. Verbal

bullying and peer pressure for the greater good? Sounds a bit fascist to me, and it only encourages the "silent majority" to stay silent. I am a moderately left wing individual, but I also try to look at this crazy thing we call "the truth" once in a while.

Last week's Spring Garden protest over Gatsby's co-owner Tony Joseph's comments regarding the use of a Salvation Army mobile soup kitchen in front of his store pushed me over the edge. Every Lefty and his mother jumped on the pile-up to squash the evil Joseph and his "classist" comments about "Maniac Square." News flash #1: He pays his taxes and he is trying to

earn a living by operating a business. News flash #2: The van completely blocks his shop from pedestrians' view and attracts panhandlers to his storefront.

Imagine if someone pulled up outside your house with a big white van and a dozen or so homeless people gathered on your front lawn. They stared into your windows, strolled in to ask if they could use your washroom, rummaged through your trash and harassed your family and friends for cigarettes and spare change. Now imagine that people get really pissed when you complain about it.

As for his suggestion that they should move it to the North End...is there not a lot of poverty and needy families in the North End? And what about his "Maniac Square" comment? I know I had pepper spray jammed in my face in broad daylight near the square in 1996. Cab drivers won't even go there at night, and the majority of people around town call it "Maniac Square" because of its reputation. That doesn't justify Joseph's comments, but it does show that his worst crime may just be insensitivity.

Why not move the van 100 feet up the street to the spacious entryway of the now-closed Public Gardens? It's called compromise...but compromise doesn't get the growing problem of homelessness splashed across the front page and featured on the five o'clock news.

[Editor's Note: this started as a rant about Michael Moore, but I can't do better than this one: [www.viceland.com/issues/v10n10/htdocs/american.php](http://www.viceland.com/issues/v10n10/htdocs/american.php)]



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PRESENT...

## Irshad Manji: Israel, Islam and Diversity

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Once of "100 Canadians to Watch" – Macleans Magazine

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## News Comment

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

Our sage news editor offered a succinct analysis of the recent blizzard: "Hey, at least we don't have earthquakes." Dear Chris, I hate to burst your bubble, but up until six months ago, we did not have hurricanes that shut down the city, and up until a week ago, we did not have blizzards that did likewise. Earthquakes cannot be ruled out.

While we were holed up in our bunker-like houses and apartments—which reminds me, our own nuclear fall-out shelter, the LSC, would have been a great place to weather the storm—we Haligonians (and transplanted and storm-stuck Torontonians) had a field day coming up with creative names for the calamity. Yet aside from "Blizzard '04," every moniker derived from Hurricane '03. *The Herald* has officially dubbed the tempest "White Juan," while a young girl called the C100 radio station to suggest christening it "Juanita." But that would imply that the blizzard was a smaller version of Juan, and our 100 plus centimeters of snow quickly falsify such a claim. I much preferred my friend Nicole's analysis: she looked out the window and said, "It's a winter Juan-derland out there!" Nothing like a plethora of puns to alleviate the strains of shoveling.

I suppose we should be morbidly grateful that when the government declares a "State of Emergency," and when

downtown is deemed off-limits, that it is not because of a terrorist attack, a bomb or anthrax (insert knock-on-wood here). Yet it is a cold and bitter pill for modern-day control freaks to swallow when Mother Nature (that bitch!) offers up the unsettling events that disrupt our lives. For several days, we were left powerless to do anything but wallow in claustrophobia and start to "dig out," which I nominate as the worst blizzard-derived phrase. I cannot even count on both hands and feet how many times I heard "Halifax digs out" between Wednesday and Sunday.

My aunt, who has lived in Halifax for all of her 80 years, has never seen this much snow. The experts say we have to get used to extreme weather, as super-sized hurricanes and blizzards become facts of city life. And oddly enough, there was something strangely comforting and familiar about the blizzard. It was a repeat of my hurricane routine: I was still home from school, glued to the radio and dependent on a machine/equipment operator to save me, only this time it was plow drivers, and not Nova Scotia Power. But extreme weather is not something I want to get used to—unless it means tropical 30 degree days in the middle of winter. Maybe that will happen, Juan-ce upon a time.

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# TAs Mobilize for Strike

LINDSEY HEPBURN Staff Contributor

Some pre-blizzard action took place outside the SUB on February 17, as Dalhousie teaching assistants gathered with CUPE union flags to promote the strike vote. The blizzard only temporarily interrupted the TA strike vote, which will recommence on the Monday and Tuesday after Reading Week.

The TAs have been negotiating with Dalhousie administration since November over many issues, the most important being an increase in salary. Dalhousie TAs are the lowest paid in Canada—they make \$15.27 per hour, compared to a national average of \$24.42 per hour. Many TAs feel their salaries are insufficient to pay for the high tuition of Dalhousie's graduate programs, so they are compelled to take on additional jobs to pay their way. Such is the case for one TA, who did not wish to be named, because Dal administration bans TAs from having a full time job aside from assistant teaching: "I want to strike. I would be paid \$200 a week on strike [by the CUPE union]—double what I make as a TA."

A strike has serious implications for undergraduate students. According to the federal labour code, it is illegal to make students cross a picket line, which means they may not have to attend classes. If the strike happens and continues into April, it could potentially affect the outcome of winter term and graduation. John Hassell, a master's student in IDS who manned a voting desk last week, said, "it all comes down to the same battle people have been fighting in other ways: Dal has one of the highest tuition fees in the country, the lowest level of grants and a lot of part-time staff. It is important not to point fingers at the TAs if a strike takes place. This strike would be helping everyone in the long run, future grad students and future undergrad students."

It is no coincidence that the TAs picked this tense time of year to raise the issue of a strike, and they hope that Dalhousie administration will feel the pressure of a nervous student body and proceed swiftly with negotiations.

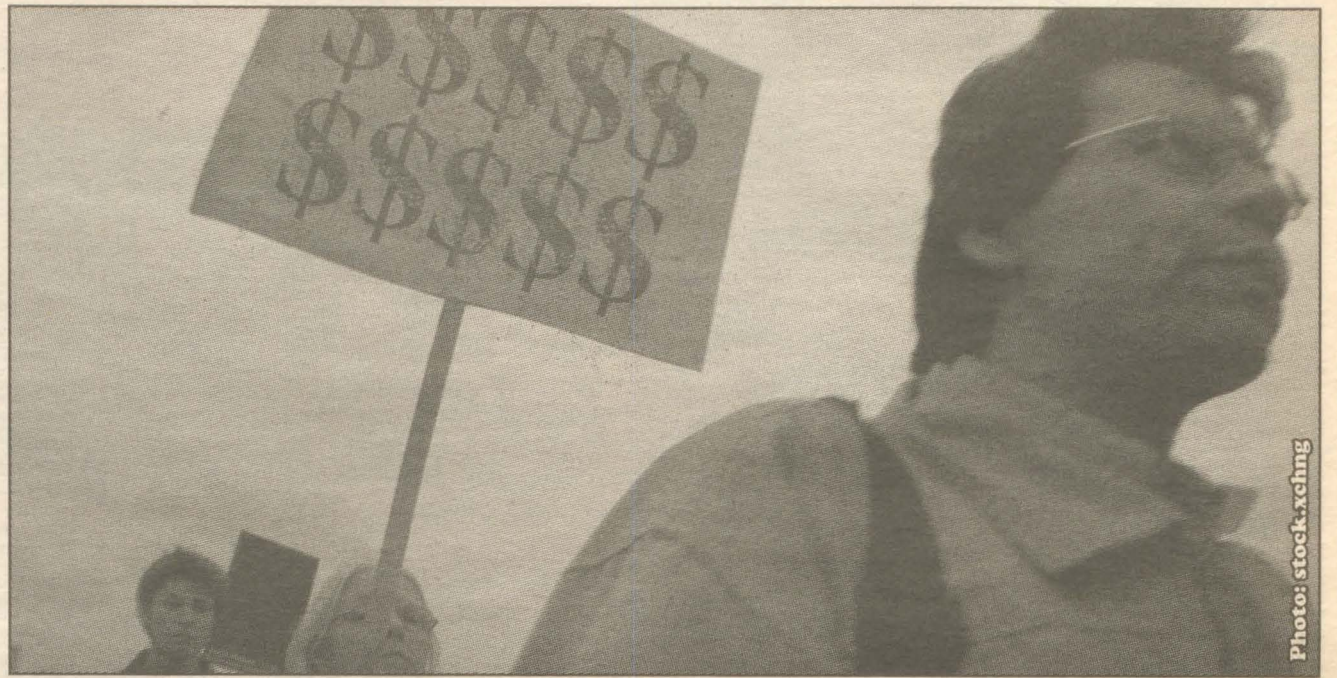


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If a majority of TAs vote "yes" in the strike vote, a strike would still not be inevitable. Instead, such an outcome would mean that the majority of TAs would support a strike, if one was to occur. Additionally, a "yes" strike vote would mean that CUPE would enter a round of collective bargaining with Dal administration. Allen Hill, a TA and Ph.D. math student, said, "I hope it doesn't have to come to a strike, that the Dal administration realizes the amount of support for a pay increase is significant and agrees to renegotiate."

The crowd that gathered outside the SUB may have been small, but the demonstrators hoped that their message came across loud and clear. Speakers included Barb Moore, president of CUPE 3912, the local representing Dalhousie and other Maritime university TAs facing the same issues of high tuition and low wages, including those at Mount

St. Vincent and St. Mary's; Seth Kain, who discussed the realities of being a TA at Dalhousie and Howard Epstein, a part-time member of the Dalhousie Law School faculty and a NDP MLA, who spoke about the importance of unions and how their actions cross class barriers.

Bernard Firanski, who is spearheading the TA efforts at Dal, looks to his past experiences at York University for inspiration and guidance. In 2001, York TAs succeeded in their negotiations with university administration, and got everything they demanded. Their protests were militant and well-attended, which last week's demonstration was not. However, the progress of the ongoing negotiations is sure to be something to keep an eye on as Dal TAs mobilize for more aggressive action.

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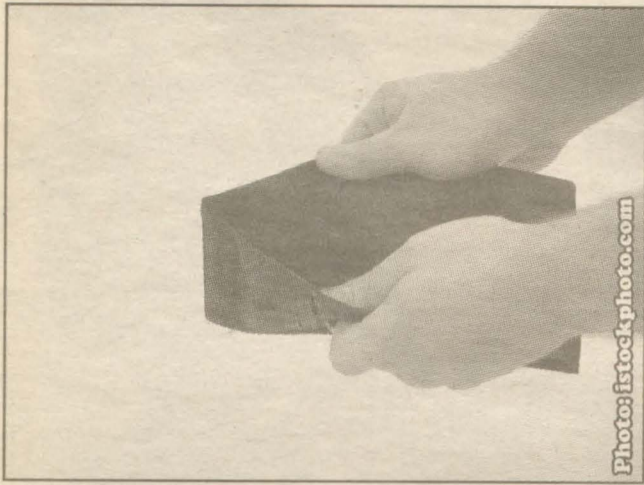
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RESIDENCE AVAILABLE



# The Bankruptcy File

ALISON MINARD News Contributor



Students who are bankrupt may not be out in the cold if a current Charter challenge mounted by the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) succeeds. Michael Conlon, director of research at the CFS, recently gave a talk at Dalhousie on the Bankruptcy File, a Charter challenge that his organization is spearheading. The talk was organized by David Wallbridge, a member of the Social Activist Law Students Association (SALSA), in order to raise awareness within the student body.

Conlon discussed a little-publicized amendment to the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Act (BIA) in 1998. This change in legislation prevents students with loans from declaring bankruptcy for a period of 10 years. In response to the BIA amendment, the CFS has mounted a case against the federal government in order to prove that this prohibition of bankruptcy for those with student loans goes against the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

More specifically, Conlon and his colleagues believe that the new legislation violates the Charter because it is discriminatory. They argue that it discriminates against all students with government loans, and in particular those who receive low wages or are unemployed for reasons beyond their control.

David Wallbridge supports the position of the CFS. "It comes down to a basic level of human dignity. We should be treated the same as all other Canadians. If someone with a student loan finds himself in some sort of terrible financial state that he can't get himself out of, he should be able to obtain bankruptcy protection from his creditors," he said in an interview.

If student loans are deemed too risky without a bankruptcy

prohibition, opponents of the legislation fear that the student loans program will become more about financial gain than social aid.

The CFS also believes that the federal government did not provide enough data to support the change in policy. Furthermore, Conlon said that the request by the Senate Committee on Banking, Trade, and Commerce to decrease the period of prohibition from 10 years to five years suggests that the current legislation is more severe than it needs to be.

In order to challenge the legislation, the CFS has selected an individual to serve as a "test case." The person selected is female and is currently employed. The CFS hopes to demonstrate that she is unable to make loan payments because her salary is insufficient. Conlon and his colleagues believe that the case could be considered particularly discriminatory toward women, because it is widely acknowledged that there is a discrepancy between the salaries of men and women.

The CFS has submitted a written argument to the Ontario Superior Court of Justice and is currently awaiting a hearing.

# Acadia Faculty Strike

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

Professors at Acadia walked off the job on Monday, following in the footsteps of their Dalhousie counterparts, who went on strike near the end of the 2002 winter term.

The first day of the strike was met with a student rally. "The Student Union renewed their commitment yesterday to a 'Pro-Student Position' [and] the rally...was not to support or oppose either side, but for students to express our displeasure at the state of negotiations," ASU President Dan O'Rourke said in a news release. The ASU news release also stated that students, like those at Dalhousie were two years ago, are worried about "tuition increases, lost class time, and even the dire possibility of an abandoned semester."

"We don't know at this point [about the outcome of the term]. This is day two and so we'll see how long it lasts," said Scott Roberts, Acadia's Senior Director of Communications and Public Affairs, in a phone interview. "We have no talks scheduled, and before the strike can come to an end we're going to have to sit down with one another," he added.

A February 21 e-mail from Mr. Roberts, the Senior Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Acadia, informed students that negotiations for a new collective agreement between the Acadia University Faculty Association and the Acadia Board of Governors failed on February 20. Unresolved issues included workload reduction; salary increases; intellectual property rights; maternity/parental/adoption leave; part-time and full-time integration; sick leave; working conditions; and sabbaticals. However, according to the AUFA's website, this e-mail was "in clear and direct violation of the agreement by the two negotiating teams that 'all matters internal to the negotiation process, from this point on, and until the earlier of a strike by AUFA or a complete tentative agreement has been reached, are to remain in camera'...This e-mail was also in violation of the Trade Union Act, which prohibits direction negotiations with the membership."

The President of Acadia University, Dr. Gail Gottlieb, posted a message on the university's website that stated the Board does not want to raise salaries substantially because it would then have to increase tuition. She did point out that "AUFA has repeatedly said this issue is about more than money," and

that the Board offered to meet several of the faculty's demands. However, these offers were not enough to keep professors at the bargaining table.

For now, students are advised to be prepared to head back to class at any time, but as their professors are prohibited from using their e-mail, many are unsure of what exactly they should be doing. "We're staying in touch daily and often, several times a day, with students, about on-campus programs during the strike. We're encouraging students to make up lost time, or reading, or any work that they know that they had assigned before the break," Mr. Roberts said.

"Unfortunately, there is no easy way to solve this disagreement. Until it is solved, students and other Acadia stakeholders will have to be patient," concluded the President's message.

As Dal students know all too well, being patient during a strike is often easier said than done. Said Julie Detienne, a third-year recreation management student at Acadia, "We pay the highest tuition in Canada, and I think it's unfair that the professors aren't getting paid what they deserve. A week or two off of school to hang out with friends is fine, but if it goes any longer than that it may affect the students more than we are hoping. I hope negotiations get worked out soon."


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# Confessions of a Klutz

JENN MORRISON Assistant News Editor

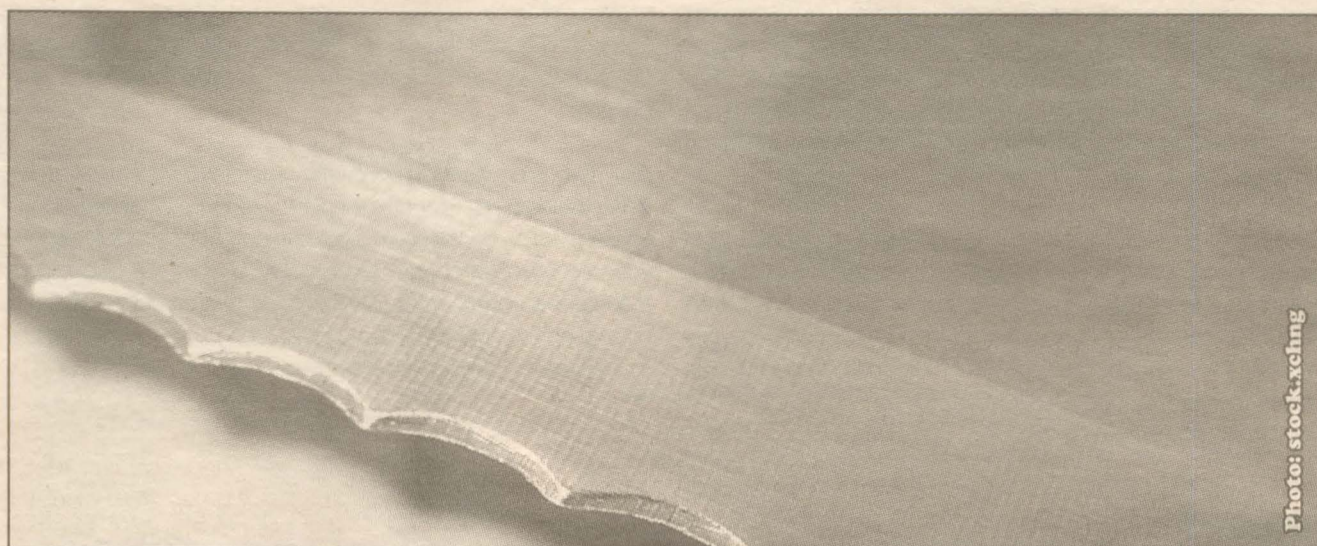


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I had an unfortunate knife-wielding incident on Valentine's Day (and no, it was nothing Lorena Bobbitt-esque). But because of my recent experience with that big, serrated knife, I am no longer in denial. My name is Jennifer, and I am a klutz. In fact, while writing this very article, I not only banged my knee into the desk, hard enough to bruise it, but I also took a break and got stuck in a bathroom stall.

It all began when I exited the womb. As a baby, I ate a beetle, shoved Rice Krispies up my nose and rolled myself down the wooden deck stairs in my walker. When I finally learned to walk on my own, it was more a curse than a blessing. My mother feared taking my bruised little self for check-ups, thinking Dr. Carter would report her to the police for battery. To this day, I find random bruises all over my body. Sometimes I know how they got there, like the spots on my hip bones from running into the island in my kitchen, the ones on my shoulders from walking into door frames and the ones on my shins from the open dishwasher door. But my hands? My chest? The inside of my forearms? I attract bruises (not to mention bumps and scrapes) like a full-body magnet.

My three years of high school were a constant battle. Every flight of stairs in the entire building seemed to call out to me, "we're ready and willing! We'll trip you! Come on, you know you want it!" Each descent was made with a white-knuckled iron grip on the railing. Graduation was another nightmare. I had endless dreams that I would trip while walking across the stage. Fortunately, I survived high school without breaking any bones.

According to someone who knows me very well, this is not surprising. "It's not like you fall down entire flights of stairs," he said. "You just can't walk more than 50 feet without stumbling over something." Which explains graduation—the stage was shorter than fifty feet. Running is dangerous too. Every single

outdoor run results in near-death experiences, because sometimes I forget to look both ways. Thank goodness for brakes.

I was also told that I "can't function on a day-to-day level without something happening." Like last year, when I stuffed my messenger bag so full that it snapped off in front of the Chemistry building. I had to carry it like an injured baby to the library, where I had to ask (with a straight face) for someone to staple it. It extends to other accessories too: I constantly lose earrings, unintentionally imitating Beyonce's one-hoop look in *Goldmember*. There are always runs in my fishnets and spots on my shirts. Looking "put together" is a never-ending quest, a distant dream.

Which brings me back to the knife-wielding fiasco. I was innocently cutting up an apple when the knife slipped (I swear, it had a mind of its own) and sliced into my left thumb. I could see bone, until blood started gushing uncontrollably. My neighbour, a nurse, rushed over, but sent me to the doctor's office. "Are you okay?" asked the nurse on duty, after I had waited 20 minutes. "I feel a bit weak," I replied, not knowing whether it was from loss of blood, or loss of apple-eating. Apparently, an apple a day only keeps the doctor away if the knife doesn't slip.

When all was said and done, the doctor told me my wound would heal faster with bandages instead of stitches, so I had a cast of gauze on my thumb all weekend, tied with a bow around my wrist. I am no longer in denial about being a klutz. Last summer, when I took ballet, I was met with laughter, and told that I was "graceful like a dump truck." That was a good call. I am no delicate, lady-like ballerina. As last week's bruises fade and my cut heals, I am scared to find out what's next.

# Streeter

QUENTIN CASEY Opinions Editor  
CATHERINE COOPER Copy Editor

## Celebrity Edition! (no one was on campus)

## What's the best thing about a lot of snow?



This snow tastes like my dog. **Ralph Wiggum, little turd**



With scientology I can levitate above the snow. Pesky humans! **John Travolta, bad actor**



For the love of god help me! I'm on food stamps. **Paul Shore, has been/never was**



I consider snow part of the Axis of Evil. We attack at dawn. **George W. Bush, moron**



I can dress Tinkerbell in a Gucci leopard skin parka with matching booties. **Paris Hilton, retard**



Melting the snow with my sheer dreaminess. **Cillian Murphy, Catherine's boyfriend.**



You can pee anywhere now because people will think it's a dog. **Loukas Crowther, graphic design wizard**



Making snow angels with my papa. **Chris LaRoche, porn enthusiast.**



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# TAs Deserve Faculty Support

QUENTIN CASEY *Opinions Editor*

With a university-wide strike of teaching assistants and part-time professors looming, the time may soon come for Dalhousie's full-time faculty to decide whether they will honour picket lines. If a strike vote is achieved by TAs and part-timers, and if negotiations between the two sides do not yield mutually acceptable results, then professors across campus will have to decide if they will hold classes and continue business as usual, or whether they will support their fellow educators.

There are two main reasons why the Dalhousie Faculty Association should support such a strike. Firstly, the workload that TAs and part-timers reduce for professors is significant, and both serve an integral part in the education process. Any professor who utilizes a TA or part-timer to teach classes, run tutorials, meet with students or help with marking should realize that their time and effort is not being reflected in their current level of pay and benefits.

Secondly, the faculty at Dalhousie are no strangers to using strikes as a means to increase leverage with the administration. With Dal faculty strikes occurring on a seemingly regular basis, it would be honourable for professors to step up and support another group of educators on campus as they struggle against the administration for similar concessions. The support of professors and the resulting stoppage of classes would help to emphasize the importance of TAs and part-time faculty on campus.

On a personal level, I feel owed recognition and support from faculty members because I endured the faculty strike of 2002, which cost students more than a month of school. As a TA now, I feel that professors owe it to the university community in general to prove that they feel that more than simply full-time faculty members are deserving of an increase in pay (and other notable benefits).

Hopefully negotiations between the union and the administration will achieve results that please both sides, thus making this whole issue irrelevant. If not, I would call on professors to show their solidarity as we TAs and part-timers attempt to bridge the gap of disparity between Dal and other universities in terms of pay, hours, working conditions and benefits.

As it stands now, there has been no definitive plan put forth by DFA president Ian Flint and the DFA executive in regards to an official position on this topic. One can only hope that professors such as Flint—who were presumably TAs and/or part-timers themselves at one point in their academic careers—will step up and do the right thing by backing those who also contribute to the learning environment at Dalhousie.

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## Beast vs. Beast

LI DONG *Staff Contributor*

FOX had the nerve to put a desperate millionaire on the air to find a bride, so it is not surprising that last weekend it found the nerve to air *Man vs. Beast 2*, in which humans went toe-to-toe with pathetic animals and their puny, non-cerebral-cortex-developed brains in such events as long jumping, tree climbing, relay racing and hanging on a bar. Lighthearted competition went right out the window, as the show was filled with intense commentary from a Vince McMahon wannabe. When he started saying things like, "Oh, it looks like the beast is playing mind games with his opponent," our living room was filled with uncontrollable laughter.

The American masturbatory obsession with conquest crossed the species barrier last weekend, and it was awesome. The show strived to prove that American athletes were bigger and badder than monkeys, and Goddammit, that's why they're going to win the war! It's good to know that if there are any long-jumping dogs out there in Iraq, America's best jumper can beat him by mere inches (after a month of preparation, of course). What would

possess an Olympian to enter this competition? If you win, big deal, you've just crushed a monkey. If you lose, ha-ha, big jocky Mc-jock-jock just lost to an orangutan! Maybe you'll have better luck challenging these beasts to a "contemplate your own mortality" showdown—that'll show them who's boss.

An added touch of class was the relay race, which pinned four midgets against a camel (wait, it gets better). The back story is that these midgets were up against an elephant in the first *Man vs. Beast* and lost in that competition and were thus, "out for revenge" against the camel. During the actual race, one particular camera angle made it look like the camel was chasing after the midget as if it were his dinner, wouldn't that have been ironic?

Cultural experts will analyze this show 100 years from now as the moment when everything went wrong. The public's primal thirst to watch people embarrass themselves has made the viewers no better than the beasts. I'll admit it, the show kept my attention, and I'll be damned if I didn't cheer for that monkey. But perhaps in the future, the Americans can limit their frontier-settling mentality to opponents who actually know they're in a contest, because, as my friend Reed Schneider said during the bar-hanging competition: "man, if that monkey lets go first, it's not going to be because he's tired, it's cause he's thinking, 'Ahhh, fuck this. I'm a monkey.'"

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# Fan Mail

## In Support of One-ers

Editor,

The article by Li Dong on people in the library sitting alone at a table implies that the main reason people do this is for "feeling important at the big table." Wrong. When I enter the library, I will first look at the larger tables for vacancy because of the fact that they are much more enjoyable to study at. I paid my \$6,000 a year, and I would like enough room to place all my books down that I need to study. Since the tables on the second floor have been replaced, I go to one of the other levels to find a place to sit with a little leg and elbow room. People who want to study in a group can do so in one of the rooms on the ground floor set aside for exactly that. They could also feel free to "share" my big table or go to one of the various lounges or eating areas across campus. The big problem is that some groups make so much noise, talking loudly about everything except what they're studying, that I feel compelled to sit at a table by myself just to prevent those groups of people sitting anywhere near me in the library. I would rather focus on studying as opposed to, from my friend's experience last week, listening to a girl bellowing out how wet her boyfriend is making her as they're making out in the middle of a study area. It would be more productive to examine the lack of enforcement of the whole non-talking-loudly rule and perhaps advocating for more space specifically designated for group work before writing an ill-informed piece portraying people who want to study in peace as selfish, "friendless" and "lonesome." - Rick Steenweg

## What's That You Say?

Editor,

In the "Information for Students" email of Feb. 17 we were told that 54 students received a grade of F last year for plagiarism. In the email dated Feb. 9, the number was given as 49. Having investigated these problems for the KSU, I can say that this type of ignorance on the issue of plagiarism is very common. It's understandable that no one knows exactly what's going on—the last time I checked in with the Senate Sub-Committee on Plagiarism I discovered they did not keep minutes at all. Plagiarism is a serious offence. Just how serious? Well, we're not quite sure. - Nicholas Cotton

## University Funding Questioned

Editor,

Last week, Opinions Editor Quentin Casey made a perceptive statement when commenting on student apathy towards the annual Day of Action. I am paraphrasing now, but Casey's point was that "many students are not passionate about tuition protests because many have their tuition paid by their parents."

This was an excellent point. By and large university students today come from affluent Canadian families. By affluent what I mean is that if you were to divide Canadians down the middle into affluent and impoverished, the students would mostly come from the first group. Folks from the second group, for whom education is now truly being excluded, were not at the

protest because they had to enter the low wage labour force a long time ago and are paying taxes. This creates a weird conflict. By demanding the Nova Scotia provincial government better fund university students as protesters did, students were asking poorer Nova Scotia taxpayers to further subsidise the wealthiest young people in society.

As a Nova Scotian who is going to school locally, this kind of irks me, especially when more and more Dalhousie students are coming from metropolitan and suburban Ontario (the wealthiest demographic in Canada) and are having their parents pay their tuition. I do not mean to slander Ontario students (I am dating a lovely one myself), but to leave a "have province" like Ontario to go to school in a "have not province" like Nova Scotia and then demand our haemorrhaging government further subsidise your education is tacky. Especially when for many local high school students going to university is impossible due to financial constraints and our underperforming public school system.

This is not to say Nova Scotia does not want out-of-province students, who inject money into the local economy. However, Nova Scotia has the most universities per capita of any province in Canada, therefore our limited tax revenues are forced to subsidise the bulky, inefficient school administrations of Dalhousie, King's, SMU, Acadia, St. F.X. and UCCB, not to mention colleges. I use the term inefficient here because local universities are not known for their thrift.

Just this week, a CIS (Canadian Interuniversity Sport) study found that Nova Scotian schools are near the top nationally when it comes to financial contributions to student athletes. St. F.X., for example, pays out a whopping \$1,583.42 per student athlete—the third highest in the country. Cape Breton, with \$1,195.51, was fifth; Acadia, at \$1,097.92 sixth and Saint Mary's, with \$851.34, came in tenth. Dalhousie was not far behind, with \$712.45 per athlete. I personally see a value in student athletics, however when the national average is \$412 per athlete, it seems super sleazy for local school administrations to blame government for high tuition while spending money at a greater rate than the rest of the country.

Too often in Canada people lack originality when it comes to finances. If there is a funding need, all people can think to do is belly up to the government trough with palms extended. However, my poor-as dirt provincial government will never fully satisfy the insatiable public appetite for cash. As students (those fortunate enough to have an education), let us try to think creatively for solutions to rising tuition. We could start by demanding more accountability from our school administrations, which, as athletic funding shows, are spending away while blaming government for high tuition.

Students could also show more self-interest in situations like the faculty strike of two years ago, because every extra dollar that groups like that get will be tacked on to your tuition next fall.

As for the influx of Ontario students, why not charge them a levy to hang out on the quirky East Coast. That money could then be directed towards the impoverished local youth who are currently serving them their hamburgers and fries.

- Connor Robinson

## Study Break Whiners

Editor,

I am writing in response to the article "Study Break Placement Not Liked by All." Get over yourselves. There are many other universities in this country that have breaks during the same time as ours and at other times, yet you don't hear everyone complaining. Lots of Dal students are not from Halifax and thus having a study break revolve around other Halifax universities should not be the priority of our university. Lots of students who are from outside of the city have had to suck it up for years and so should everyone else from this city. This happens to us all, every year. So get over the fact that it happened to you once. - Stephanie Hault

## DSU AGM Correction

To the Editor,

I wanted to correct a point in Preet Bhogal's article, "DSU AGM Goes off Without a Hitch...Or Point." In it, he states: "Taking up most time at the AGM was the issue of whether or not the DSU should join the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA), a new provincial lobby group comprised of university student associations that is to lobby the provincial government on post-secondary education issues such as funding." This did not occur. We are presently a member of CASA, which is a federal lobby group comprised of university student associations that is to lobby the federal government on post-secondary education issues such as funding. Rather, we debated whether or not to join a new provincial lobby group, the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA), the aim of which is to lobby the provincial government on issues pertaining to post-secondary education in Nova Scotia specifically. The Saint Mary's Student Association, The Acadia Student Union and the St. F.X. Student Union are also members of this new proposed group that was created this winter. - Kevin Wasko, President, DSU



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## An African Dance Exposé

NATALIE PENDERGAST Arts Editor

In the heat of Black History month, many are finding unique ways to explore this wonderful, exotic culture. Dance is one of the most invigorating and important aspects of African life, but as North Americans, the most exposure we get to African dance is from watching the estranged moves of Beyoncé Knowles and the fine-figured dancers in Sean Paul's videos. Although many stiff-lipped schmos may not appreciate their provocative and jiggling renditions, these dancers' moves are actually very close to the traditional African form of the art.

Unlike ballet, which is one of the most popular forms of dance in North America, African dance is all about unity and freedom. When dancing, the body frees itself of stresses and tenseness while communicating wordlessly with friends and family without using words. This dance enables people to become one with the earth, so there is the unity of the members of a community, as well as the unity between man and nature.

Susan Barratt wanted to bring this liberating experience to more people in Halifax. When she was five, Barratt started taking ballet lessons, but by the time she had entered university she was ready for something new. "I saw a poster about an African Dance class and I was curious," she said. After taking the class, her love affair with African dance was confirmed, "The teacher was wonderful and I totally just wanted to experiment." She later found out that the teacher who had inspired her so much actually began a school in Montréal called, *Afriqué en Mouvement*.

After taking many more classes, Barratt became a teacher herself and now conducts classes of modern, creative and contemporary dance, movement for actors, and anatomy movement.

According to Barratt, North Americans don't look at dance as anything more than either an art form or a way to exercise, but the history of dance is rooted in culture, celebration, and joy. "Sports are wonderful and are a great way to stay healthy, but they are missing that celebratory aspect that dancing has," she said. One of the most challenging things for North

Americans is loosening up, and Barratt said that to do African dance properly the subject must be relaxed. "It works better when you don't think too much," she said.

The way we look at dance, particularly the more conventional types such as ballet, is very strict and regulated, whereas in Africa there are no limits. Barratt said that instead of choosing only the best and putting their talent on display for others to applaud, "everyone dances for every occasion. It is not elitist."

It is perhaps this elitist aspect of the North American vision of dance that lends to the fear of dancing harboured by many people. Even the most uninhibited of us have at one point or another been shy to step out onto the dance floor at the Marquee. If this were Africa, however, we would be proud to be different—for what we call awkwardness, they would call self-expression.

Many of the moves incorporated by African dance pioneers were exaggerated expressions of work movements. One dance, *barawulo*, reflects many of the arm motions for cleaning materials. This dance is used to encourage young children to help with chores. Another dance that conveys meaning, *madiba*, is an event organised by different members of the community in order to help young women who have difficulty getting pregnant.

For the dancers to perform *madiba*, they have to request a certain extreme drum beat called *dimbatantango*. Drums are the most necessary instrument in African dance. "It's about responding to the primal beats and hearing the music inside of you come out," said Barratt.

Dancers of all ages, sizes and levels are welcome to dance to live drumming. As Barratt says, "get the rhythm in your body, learn some basic moves, and feel great." Drop-ins can go to the third floor of 1531 Grafton St., on Fridays from 6-9 pm, or for more information contact Susan Barratt at [bodypoetry@yahoo.com](mailto:bodypoetry@yahoo.com)

### Report Card

#### My Secret Crush

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

**Date:** February 14, 2004

**Venue:** The Idiot

**Reporter:** Alex Shoukas

**Photographer:** Jeff Breedito

**Stage Presence:** A

**Audience Reaction:** B+

**Sound:** A

**Effort:** A-

**Get-It-On-Ability:** A+

Now I must say, I arrived at the bar during happy hour, ah, what can I really say about these guys—they are so fucking good. If you haven't seen them yet, I suggest you do. They are so entertaining, you're pretty much guaranteed your money's worth when you see them play, from their unpredictable antics on stage to their insane choices in cover songs (from GWAR to Prince, like hello? are you insane?), they are definitely a force to be reckoned with on stage. My god, are their fans rowdy as shit too (not that that is a bad thing by any stretch of the imagination). All in all, an absolute class act on stage. Check them out for sure.

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**Pavement** • 'Kennel District'

**The Streets** • 'Don't Mug Yourself'

**The Smiths** • 'Big Mouth Strikes Again'

**Squarepusher** • 'Love Will Tear Us Apart'

**Sleater Kinney** • 'All Hands on the Bad One'

**Non-Prophets** • 'Spaceman'

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# Sororities in Halifax

TALIA FANNING Staff Contributor

In many parts of America, the most important question facing any first-year university student is, "what fraternity/sorority should I join?" This is essentially the same as asking "what kind of people will I be friends with?" or even "Who will be most helpful to me as I go through school and life?" At some schools, not belonging to a frat or sorority can exclude you from many of the activities that are really a part of campus life.

In Canada, these are not even concerns. In fact, many students at Dal do not even realize that these organizations exist. Here in Halifax there are four fraternities and three sororities.

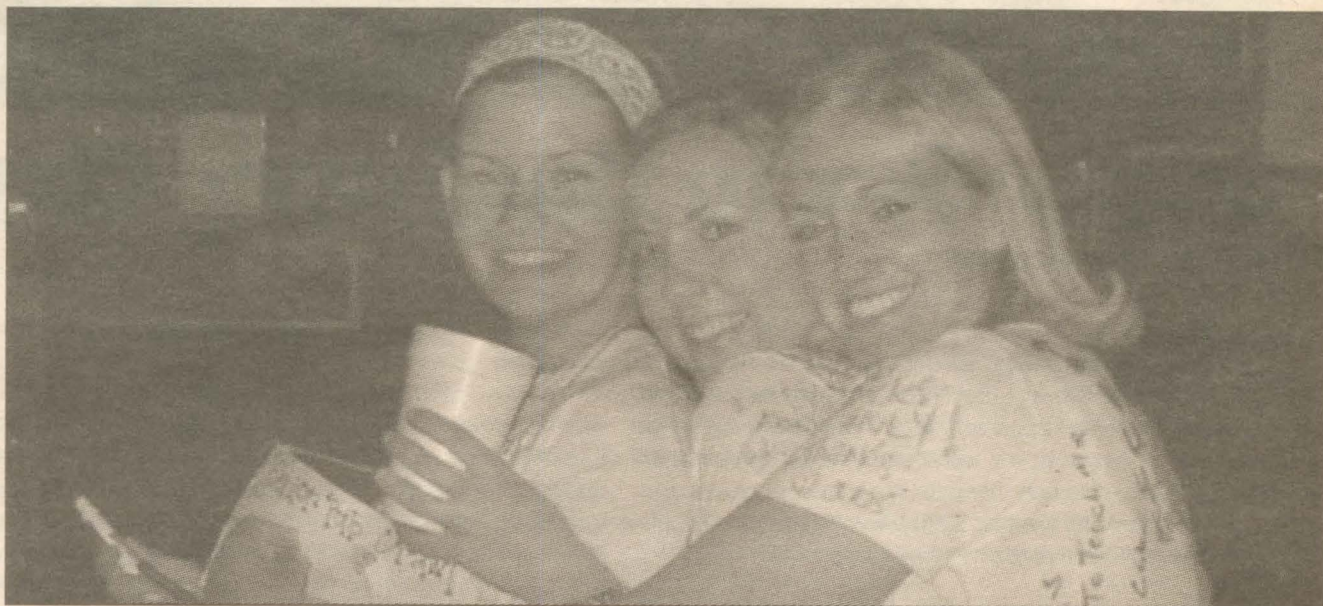
Jill McTiernan has been a sister in Iota Beta Chi since her second year at King's College. She says that at first she had only heard about sororities from movies and was sceptical about the snotty, boy chasing stereotypes. McTiernan says a friend convinced her to attend a "rush" event at the Apple Barrel.

"At first I was thinking, 'why would I want to join that?' But it wasn't like the movie [*The Sorority*] at all. It's an organization about sisterhood and about girls, not about boys."

McTiernan says that joining the sorority was like joining a group of new best friends. "The girls were so nice. There was no pressure to compete, just to get together and be friends."

Every term, the sororities and fraternities host a number of "rush" events. People who think they would like to join get to check it out. Members of the organizations are on hand, and the events are a chance to meet the people and learn about the groups.

To become a pledge, a girl would have to show her interest in the sisterhood by attending at least three of the rush events. McTiernan says she went to eight of the events, and that she



was excited about the whole idea.

The sisters at Iota Beta Chi organize three events every month: a social, a fundraising event—like gift wrapping for a cause—and a philanthropic event, like food drives. McTiernan says that the events are fun. She likes the feeling of knowing that she is helping a cause.

Iota Beta Chi changes its charities to suit the members' interests. Currently, they are working on projects for breast cancer research.

Amanda Bewsher is the current magistrate (like a president) of Iota Beta Chi. She is trying to work on the stereotypes people have of sororities. "We're not about sitting around, drinking in [our] underwear. Ninety per cent of [sororities] aren't like that."

Bewsher says that movies like *Animal House* are complete

fiction. "It's nothing like *Animal House*, partying all the time. It's just a way to meet people. You always have someone to go to things with. There's someone there for you, no matter what. Plus, it's great for networking. Like if you finish law school and one of your sisters is in a firm, maybe she'll be able to help you get a spot."

McTiernan and Bewsher are both making the most out of their time in university. Their schedules are jammed with activities. McTiernan keeps scholarship level grades, takes dance classes, writes and directs for the King's theatrical society on top of her sorority work.

As for Bewsher, she's always on the go too. "Full time sorority, full time at work and full time school," she shrugs. They are both always smiling and enjoying all of it.

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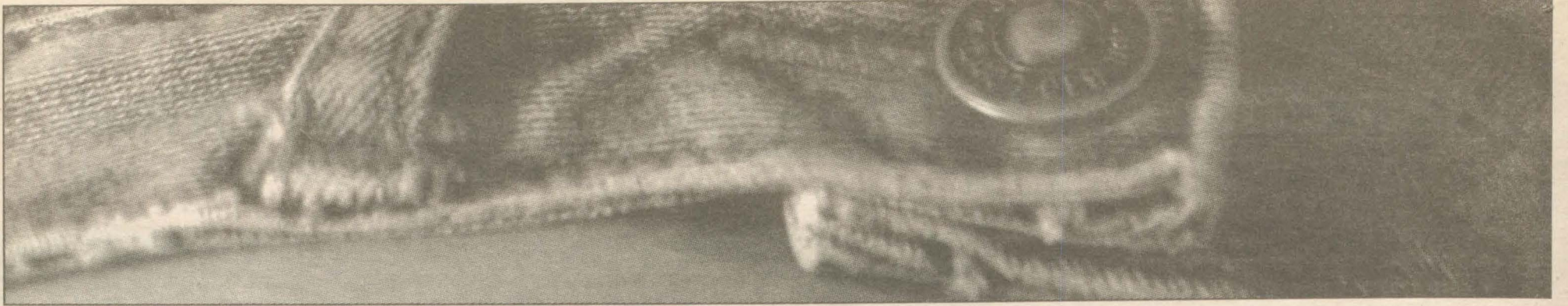
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# Super Sex in the Super City: Tuning Up

DAVE MORINÉ *Sexpert*

This past weekend I was downtown with a friend and we noticed two people pawing all over each other. I passed it off as Valentine's Day lust, but my friend corrected me. She knew the couple and apparently they've only been dating for one month. I smiled at my friend and she replied that their unbridled lust would only dissipate in a matter of weeks. But it doesn't have to be like that. With a few tweaks, any couple can renew that same passion in their relationship.

Gloria Brame is the author of a wonderful book entitled *Come Hither: A Commonsense Guide to Kinky Sex* published by Simon and Schuster Press. According to Brame "Small changes go a long way toward deepening pleasure, plus they enhance intimacy by showing your guy that you took the time to think about your sex life and how to make it better. You don't need to be dramatically different and make love while skydiving!"

Brame offers some interesting ideas on how we can revitalize our sex lives. In foreplay, Brame suggests: "Keep an ice bucket next to your bed, take a piece, and then run it along his lips, his neck and his nipples." This is a simple was of mixing some fire and ice, and can be very exciting and sensual. Ice can also be used to enhance oral sex, by simply allowing your partner to nibble on some ice before they go down. The sensation of

cold lips on warm flesh can awaken a whole new set of sexual responses.

Turning our attention to positions, Brame offers some ideas that differ from our regular notions of missionary, butterfly and doggie style positions. Her suggestions can really cause things to heat up, such as "Have him sit in a rocking chair, then sit on his lap, facing him, and let the motions of the chair get you going." Of course, when discussing positions it is important not to focus too much on the actual position itself. Changing positions can also develop intimacy. Brame states, "Not every position is conducive to kissing, but try to kiss in those that are, and kiss when you change positions. Kissing is such an intimate act, yet it can get lost in the shuffle when you're having sex."

There are many other ways to build passion during sex. One of the keys to creating robust passion is improvisation. This can easily be achieved by using things that are commonly found around the house. For example, a pillow that is covered in soft, sensual fabric can be used to help make the bedroom more comfortable and conducive to lovemaking. Satin gloves can be used to give your partner an erotic massage, along with oils, creams, and lotions. Sometimes a slow massage will help warm things up gradually and help to prolong the entire

experience. It also gives an ample opportunity for partners to discuss what turns them on, and what they would like to do.

Another simple way of rejuvenating lost spark is to make what I call a love bowl. Take an ordinary fishbowl, and if you don't have a fishbowl other type of container would do. Give your partner ten or twelve post-its and have them write down their sexual interests and fantasies. Meanwhile, you can also write down your interests. Place them in the fishbowl and give them a good rotation. Then you can each take turns drawing fantasies at random, and have even more fun acting them out. This can prove to be a valuable exercise because sometimes it is easier to express our intimate desires by writing them down instead of discussing them.

One final tip on making your love life more satisfying is to take a break. We all know the adage about absence making the heart grow fonder. That statement is very true, and has been verified in scientific reports on sexual response. With a bit of waiting, and maybe a bit of a tease thrown in for good measure, your partner will be more apt to work hard for your attention and please you in ways you've only dreamed of. So, get out of the doldrums and explore. You will only have yourself to thank afterwards.



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# Les Misérables: Sans Encadrement

NATALIE PENDERGAST Arts Editor

Although it is one of the few French novels whose title wasn't translated into English when it was first adapted to play form by the British, *Les Misérables* has become one of the most celebrated musicals in the world. Now, Dal student, Caroline Knox, and Kings students, Will Fyfe and Dave Herbert, plan to bring this classic play to our little world.

Even though the title has never been tampered with by editors or translators, the rest of the screen-play has been re-written so many times by different visionaries, that it rarely resembles perfectly the pure form in which it existed upon Victor Hugo's desk. Similarly, Knox, Fyfe, and Herbert have put their own spin on the musical. "It's not really *Les Mis*," explained Knox, "[Our version] plays upon some stuff that wasn't in the original musical." Since the play is based on a novel that has many different sections, themes, and intricate plot schemes, the directors had plenty of material to work with. Instead of trying to include every detail of the story, they decided to focus in on two of the important characters, les Thénardier. This choice of zeroing in on something specific allowed the trio to elaborate on the couple's role in the storyline.

Fyfe said that the original musical omitted some scenes that

he thinks are important to understanding the development of the husband and wife duo. For example, said Fyfe, "The battle of Waterloo scene was another occurrence when Thénardier ends up on top even though he is essentially evil." He, Knox, and Herbert plan to keep some of these revealing scenes in their script.

Despite their adding of scenes, the three directors have also eliminated much of the original script. "We've cut down a lot of it," said Fyfe, "We've cut a three-hour musical to under an hour." According to Herbert, all the main characters and many of the drunks and prostitutes are still in the play, only with fewer appearances and lines. Furthermore, Herbert explained that although the original play was a celebration of Christian greatness, they've taken the cruder, bourgeois jerks that win in the end, and elaborated more on this aspect. "We have a song, 'One Day More' that is the only song without prostitutes or fighting in it," said Knox, "It just tied everything together so we had to keep it in."

Another reason why they wanted to focus on certain themes in *Les Misérables* is that they wanted to experiment with a Bertolt Brecht style. Brecht developed "social cinema" and

"epic theatre"; genres that play with the role of the actor. His desire was to make audiences think about what they were viewing instead of simply relating automatically with the actors. For the audience to avoid becoming too entrenched in the play, Brecht decided it was up to the actors to help them out by using a technique he called Alienation Effects." When using this technique the actor tries to discard whatever means he has learned of persuading the audience to identify itself with the character he plays so the audience can in turn remain critical of what they are viewing.

Herbert said that this type of genre compliments the plotline they have chosen for their version of *Les Misérables*. "Socialist/realist theatre lends itself perfectly to musicals," he said, "*Les Mis* goes well with Bertolt Brecht."

In addition to all their philosophical rationale, Knox, Fyfe, and Herbert want to put on the play for the sheer joy of it. "All we really want to do is watch people on stage sing and dance." Said Knox, "If you ask anyone, everyone loves *Les Mis*."

The production of *Les Misérables* will take place at 8pm, March 18-20, in the Pit at Kings.

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# Addis Ababa - A Restaurant Review

LYNN CULLEN & HANNAH Staff Contributors

**Hannah:** Addis Ababa: the capital of Ethiopia. Also the name of a quaint family-owned and operated restaurant on Quinpool Road, across from Tuxedo Royale. Having never eaten Ethiopian food before, I was woefully ignorant of what to expect. I had heard that Ethiopian food largely consisted of various meats: pork, lamb, beef and chicken. Thankfully, it was not the meat market I had anticipated, and there was a great selection for both those who indulge in flesh and those who prefer an alternative. The menu is packed with delicious meals, all at a very affordable price, even for the financially struggling student.

**Lynn:** Effie, who moved from Ethiopia 15 years ago and opened the restaurant two months ago is oh so sweet and willing to answer any questions about her country—what's in the food, how to pronounce the name of the foods and anything else that you may be wondering. She even was so kind as to bring out books on Ethiopia when we began to ask her questions. She said that she learns new things everyday from trying to answer the questions that customers have about her country.

The various foods on the menu all have rather complex names, difficult for an Anglo Saxon to pronounce. A description follows each title that gives a brief outline of the meal, but still leaves you guessing, mouth watering in curiosity.

The meal is served to you on a huge platter, with the Ethiopian flag in the centre. A huge circular piece of flat, spongy bread

covers the entire span of the platter. In the middle of the platter, sits your ordered. For me, it was lentils. I ordered the lentils each of the three times I went there last week. Addis Ababba also offers many "combo" meals so that you can try various things across the board. I went for the combo twice (lentils included each time), and the lentils alone once. I just couldn't get enough of them.

**Hannah:** I ended up buying a chicken dish, which, though I could not name for you, was delicious...and cheap. I can tell you, however, that it was quite spicy and lovers of Indian cuisine could certainly find a comfortable place in the genre of Ethiopian food. To quell the fire that inevitably ensues in the mouths of their customers, each dish comes with spongy, flat bread that is reminiscent of crepes and pancakes—though sour instead of sweet. Also, the thick, sweet mango drink I had ordered counteracted the "raging mouth fire" I had.

**Lynn:** The whole meal is eaten with your hands. Cutlery is available to the germ-o-phobes that feel they cannot eat with their dirty paws, but it's part of the whole experience. Most find they can get into it with the appropriate music playing in the background, the traditional outfits that Effie and her staff wear and the décor that surrounds them. To be honest, I didn't even really notice the fact that cutlery was not available. Instead of a fork and knife, you can try using the large piece of bread to dip or wrap your order of lentils.

**Hannah:** Having put in our various orders, we noted that the

restaurant offered a 'coffee ceremony' that could be arranged for customers who called in before hand. We all noted the awesome potential for dates (our many, many dates) that this restaurant seemed to offer. The decorum and ambience were lacking (Ethiopian pop music is...well, it doesn't 'set the mood'. And the low-budget wicker wall-hangings would definitely let your date know you're not raking in the cash), but where this was lacking, the food and service certainly made up.

**Lynn:** Our dear Effie informed us that the coffee ceremony was something that happened about twice a day in Ethiopia. The coffee beans are brought out to the table in their natural, green state. They are then brought out a few minutes later, having been roasted brown, with a bit of a burnt smell wafting through the air. A cloth is set out on the floor by the table with popcorn, barley and incense burning that creates a rather cleansing vapor (seriously). The coffee is brought out in a marvelous little silver pot and poured into tiny little cups. Sugar and cream is available and the popcorn and barley are eaten along as a snack. According to Effie, this is just as it is done each day in Ethiopia. If only we westerners put aside that time each day to actually make a ceremony out of drinking coffee, oh how our stress levels would drop.

**Hannah:** While I am not a cultured coffee drinker, I have to admit that this was the best and most fresh coffee I had ever tasted. It's worth the trip for that alone.



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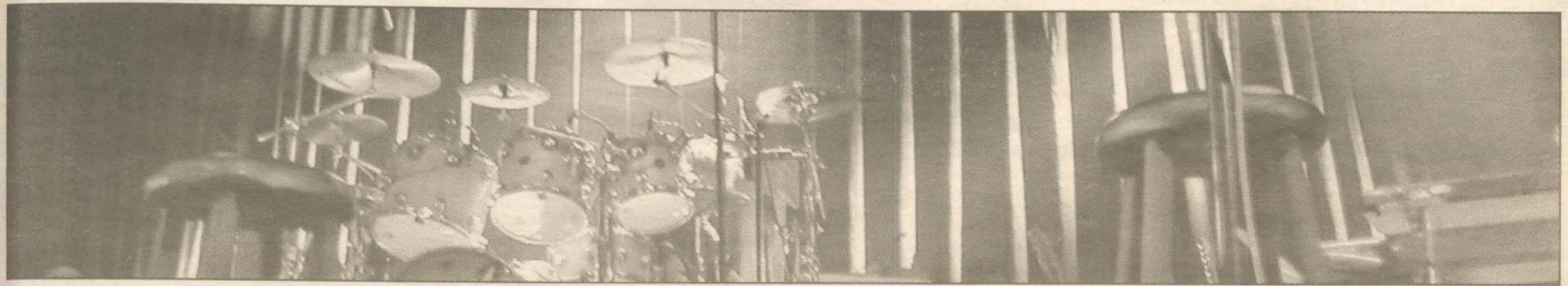
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# Industry Schmooze-fests: Entertaining?

LINDSAY DOBBIN Staff Contributor



In light of this past weekend's annual East Coast Music Awards held in St. John's, Newfoundland, local singer-songwriter Amy Campbell sat down with *The Gazette* previous to the event to discuss the music industry, particularly on the East Coast, and the realities associated with being an independent artist.

"I think music has always been divided between the people who want to be famous and the people who want to be good," says Campbell. "If your motivation [as an artist] is to sign to a label and become famous, then the ECMA's are a good training ground."

Campbell has participated in the ECMA's, but never found it offered her anything as an artist other than meeting fellow musicians who were just as disillusioned about the whole process. "People get really wrapped up in it being something that means so much when it's really a self-gratifying industry schmooze-fest," says Campbell. "It gives you a false sense of elevation and accomplishment."

After being involved with the ECMA's from the ages of 19 to 24, Campbell decided that the industry-based community didn't fit who she was as an artist and she began to forge her own path. Campbell soon met many like-minded artists and eventually, along with singer-songwriter Rose Cousins, formed BattleAxe Folk, an "artist-driven, artist-run, and artist-devoted" collective "striving to create opportunities for and promote the visibility of local singer-songwriters."

The BattleAxe Awards are not meant to be an alternative to the ECMA's, but rather a supportive community that cultivates artistry and talent. Campbell finds that this is something the ECMA's aren't focussing on. "As an artist, I'd like to see less energy put into appearance and more energy put into cultivating talent. However, that can be said about the music industry as a whole - music as entertainment is about appearance."

"[The ECMA's are] presented to the public as awards based on merit and public opinion, like the Junos. They're actually inter-industry awards voted on by a closed membership that are nominated from within a closed membership," Campbell says. "We're seeing these people held up as winners and it's important to look at the process behind the selection and ask how they became winners."

The general criteria required to be nominated for an ECMA is skewed towards a closed membership. The most telling of these criteria is that one must be a member of the East Coast

Music Association which requires an individual artist to pay \$45, a student to pay \$20, and a band to pay \$150 per year. The ECMA website ([www.ecma.ca](http://www.ecma.ca)) lists some "great reasons to become a member" above and beyond the chance of winning an award which include education through seminars and workshops and the ability to network with industry professionals from around the world.

According to Steve Horn, executive director of the East Coast Music Association, international notoriety is the ECMA's next big focus. "We've already achieved a national focus which include national broadcasts on Much Music and CBC Radio and Television," Horn says. "[This year] we're bringing in international media like Billboard and up to fifty music industry delegates from Europe, America, China, and Japan."

In addition to the already mentioned membership, other criteria include an artist needing to have released a full-length recording within a fifteen-month period, which this year was from July 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 to October 15 2003. Furthermore, the artist has have been Atlantic Canadian-born or must have lived in Atlantic Canada during that fifteen month period.

According to Horn, if an artist/band is eligible, they are responsible for selecting which category(s) of the ECMA's to submit their music to. Once the artist/band has completed this task, each category has a five-member jury, each from one of the five regions of Atlantic Canada (NB, PEI, NFL/Lab., Cape Breton, and mainland NS), whom select the nominees. "These jury members are a cross-section of musicians from [the categories] genre of music, music industry professionals, and past nominees/winners of that category," says Horn. Once the five nominees are selected by early December, responsibility is then turned over to the 1,200 member East Coast Music Association for vote-based selection of whom will win the award for each category.

When the ECMA's were aired on CBC last Sunday night, the showcasing of a variety of artists was fairly limited. For example, they failed to air the Alternative Artist category featuring such diverse artists as Buck 65 and Tyler Messick. Rather, the

winners were quickly recognized through text on the screen in between performances. Industry delegates get the chance to see a variety of artists through showcases over the course of the weekend; however, the general public is not fully exposed to it. This omission is likely due to time constraints on the air, so as the ECMA's grow hopefully they can look more in the direction of putting some emphasis on genres such as hip-hop rather than just focusing on the "major" categories.

Even though the ECMA weekend offers more than just the awards show (including seminars and showcases), at it's core it's about networking and business and it fails to offer much artistic support. This is a large problem with the ECMA's and the music industry as a whole - in its attempt to be accessible it becomes too centralized and standardized and, in turn, it poisons the industry's ability to cultivate artistry. Horn made a statement about the role of the ECMA's in East Coast music that attests this point: "As young artists develop artistically we can also offer them information on how they can develop their business skills."

"If I wanted to put my energy into marketing myself I would be presenting myself to major label and looking at Avril Lavigne as my role model," says Campbell, "if that's what you want to do, power to you."

Essentially, everything comes down to what one's goals and motivations are as a musician. If one wants to become famous, then participating in events such as the ECMA's is a good option. On the other hand, if you are similar to Campbell and wants to focus on your craft, consistency, and letting people find you, then the ECMA's won't suit.

See Amy Campbell play at the Grad House on Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10 pm.

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# Fraternities

ALISON Staff Contributor

For many the thought of fraternity life conjures up images of dilapidated houses stuffed with toga-wearin', paddle-totin' hooligans. With little evidence of these societies here at Dalhousie, it's easy to believe the stereotype because we do not get the chance to see what the Greek system is really about.

Fraternities offer more than movies like *Animal House* will have us believe. The Greek system brings people with similar interests together. It provides the brothers with the opportunity to develop strong inter-personal relationships and leadership skills that will give them an edge later on in life. Members are encouraged to give back to the community, and Fraternities organize many volunteer activities to facilitate this. Brothers are also required to be full-time students, treat the Fraternity with respect, and remain in good social, financial and academic standing (meaning they must pay their dues and be nice to their fellow Brothers).

For those of you who are not part of the Greek system, you should note that it is considered insulting to refer

to a Fraternity as a 'Frat'. I made this mistake while visiting the Phi Delta Theta Fraternity house on Seymour Street. One of the Brothers quickly corrected me, using the analogy that you don't call your country a... well, I guess you can imagine what.

Dalhousie will not formally recognize the Greek System on the grounds that organizations, which restrict members based on gender, are inherently discriminatory. However, many Brothers argue that a Fraternity is no more an elite society than a single-sex soccer team. In both, only men are allowed to try out, only the best are chosen, and those selected are required to pay dues. Fraternities also do a lot of philanthropy work-which is excellent promotion for the school-yet this work is not recognized. Some universities allow a "Greek Week" that follows Frosh Week and is geared toward recruiting new members. Dalhousie provides no such opportunity. As a result, there is little publicity about these societies, and students are forced to either seek out Fraternities on their own or rely on word of mouth.

Fraternities are divided into Chapters, and recruit new members twice a year. In Halifax, most Fraternities have 'Rush' periods in September and then again in January. At this time, men are given the opportunity to become acquainted with the Fraternity and at the end of this phase some receive a Bid, or invitation, to go to the next step. The next step is a "pledge period", during which Pledges learn more about the Fraternity. They are expected to know everything except the secret rituals before they can be initiated.

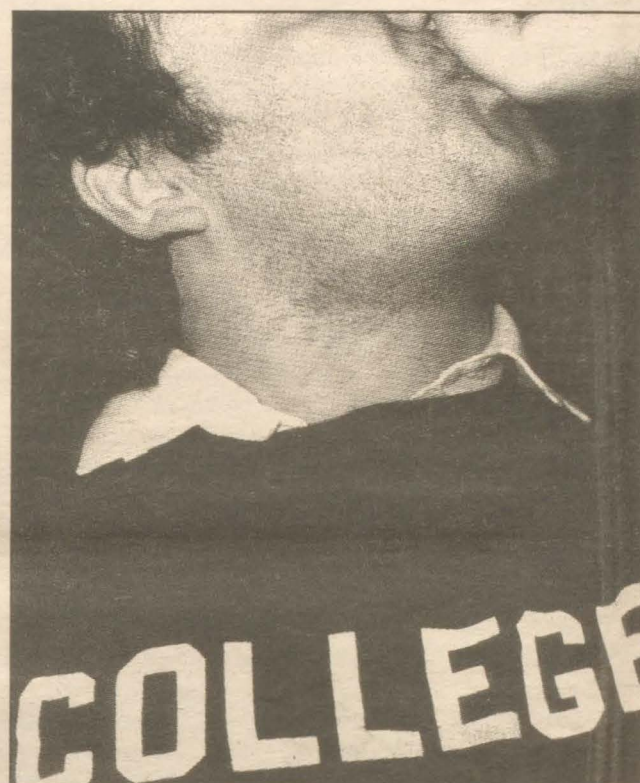
Each chapter tries to recruit members that will uphold the values of their Fraternity. Because the Brothers are so closely related, the actions of each member reflect upon the rest of the group. As a result, those that behave in a manner that is "unbecoming to a brother" will have to answer to their Chapter and possibly to the Alumni as well. Despite the party image, Fraternities are clearly serious stuff. If you are thinking of "going Greek," cast aside the images of booze, naked ladies and cheesy Fraternity paraphernalia, and accept that there is more to Fraternity life than just a party.

## HOT ♥

- ☞ Cassolette
- ☞ Franz Ferdinand
- ☞ Ordering Sushi
- ☞ Artificial Intelligence
- ☞ Halo
- ☞ Cillian Murphy
- ☞ Spring Break
- ☞ Jonathan Stewart
- ☞ Dutch Ovens
- ☞ Saying "Tardy"

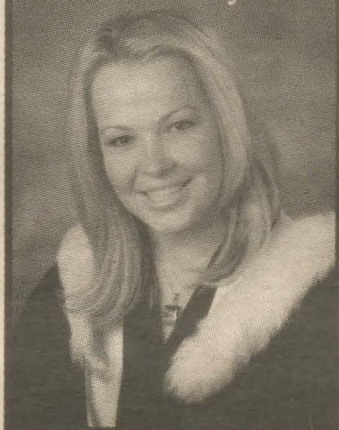
## NOT ✖

- ☞ Patchouli
- ☞ Finger Eleven
- ☞ Pīzza Yet Again
- ☞ Faking "Smart"
- ☞ GameCube
- ☞ Adrian Brody
- ☞ Reading Week
- ☞ Public Slams
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- ☞ Being Late



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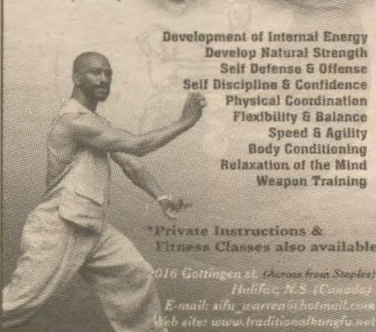
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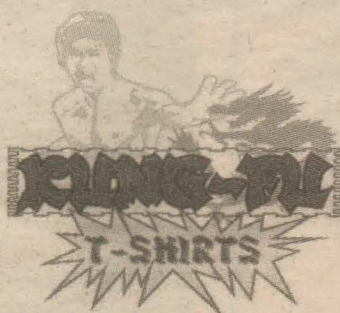
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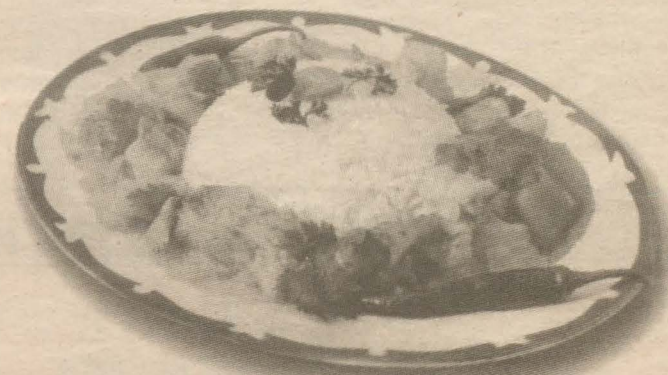
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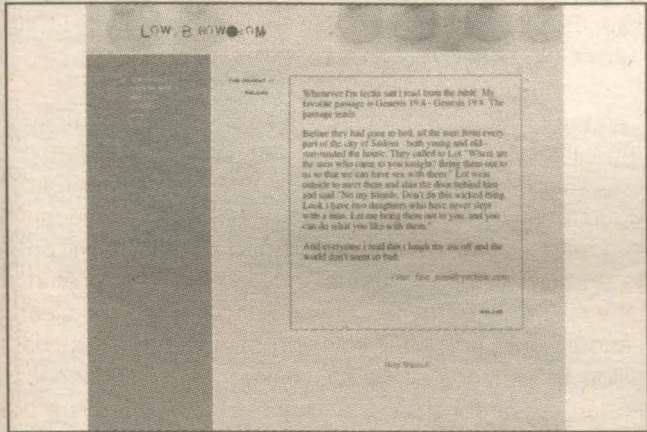
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# Confessions of a Serial Procrastinator

LOUKAS CROWTHER Designer/Layouter

So everyone has their passions in life, sports, music, booze, etc. According to my mother and a good cross-section of people around me, procrastination is mine. I mean, look at the shoddy construction of this paper. Sit me in front of a computer and I can waste an entire day, here's how:

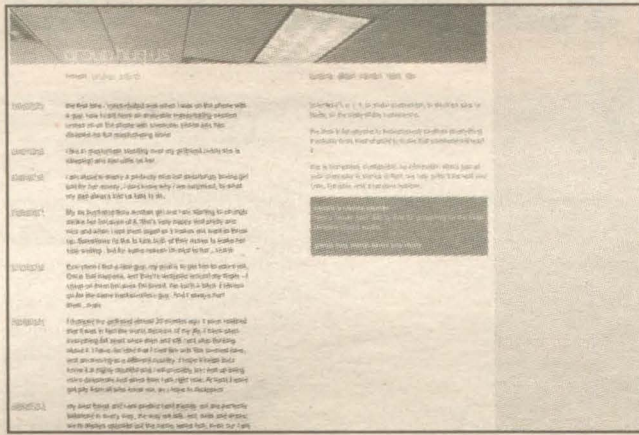


## LowBrow.com

Ok, so this website has gotten it's fair share of mentions in this paper, but really, it is the mother of all time wasters. Browse through user submitted moments of the "lowest" moment of their lives. If you can figure out my old email address you can find my own personal tales of public self-defecation, waking up in various bodily fluids and the trials and tribulations of semi-public sexual encounters. Be sure to skip over any posts by sorry\_e\_e since he is long-winded and boring.

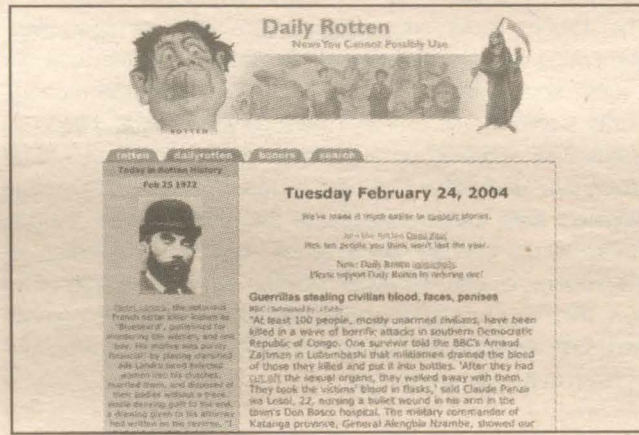
Example:

I know it's obvious, but someone has to say it...  
I don't say "I'm never drinking again!"  
I say "I'm not going to drink again, until I finish puking." And, usually, I stick to that.  
LowbrowReader@hotmail.com



## GroupHug.us

Something of the little brother/sister to LowBrow, GroupHug is a 100% anonymous confession site. Where as LowBrow users tend to attach their email address to their moments of sexual depravity. GroupHug doesn't require that, therefore I find the moments here to be that much more twisted and personal.



## Daily.Rotten.Com

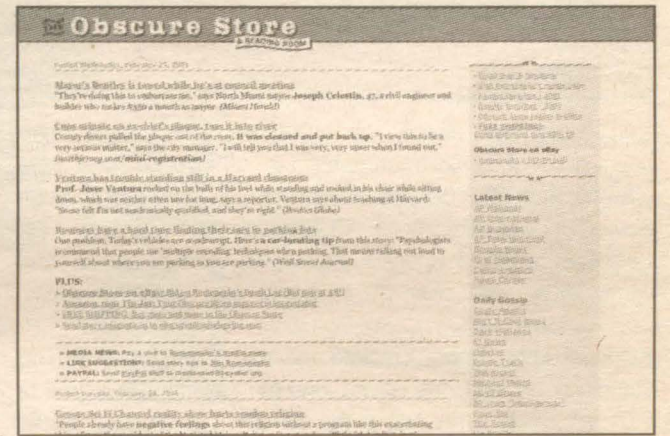
aka, the greatest website in the universe. News from around the world all hovering on the macabre and

disturbing. Where else can you find headlines like:

**Guerrillas stealing civilian blood, faces, penises (BBC)**

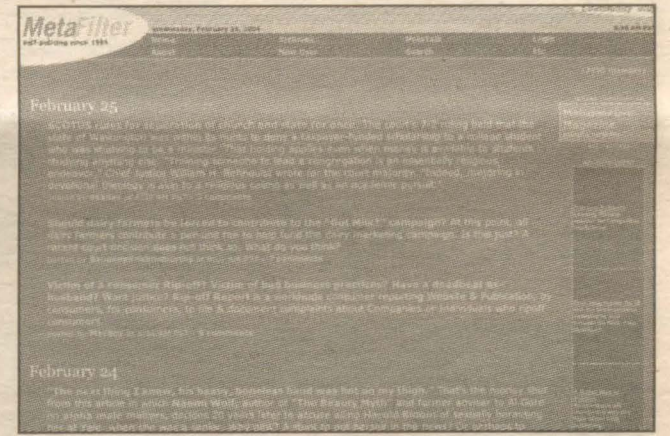
**Kidfucking preacher warns people not to hate him (Anderson Independent)**

**Amateur porn actress retired for obscenity (WLWT-TV 5 Cincinnati)**



## ObscureStore.com

More news stories collected from all over the world but of a more quirky nature vs. the disgusting nature of the Daily Rotten site. You'd be surprised how often local Halifax stories end up here. The links on the side also lead to a wonderland of time wasters, The Smoking Gun, Kottke, Bifurcated Rivets, the list goes on.



## MetaFilter.com

A community weblog that used to be about quirky websites from the internet but now it has a bit more of a political slant. Either way, there are still some great links posted and the discussions that revolve around each post are quite entertaining at times.

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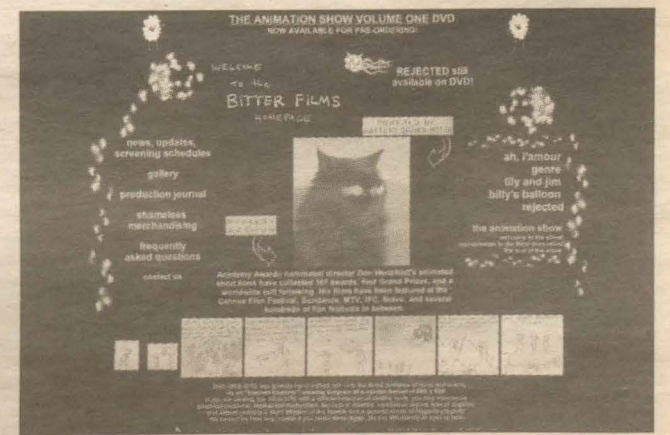
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Anywho, I managed to filled this blank page with inanity, which was my goal. Feel free to email me your suggestions for time-wasting on the net: lc@root-studios.com.



# Runners Run Rampant on Men's B-Ball: Valentine's Day

LINDSAY LALTOO Staff Contributor

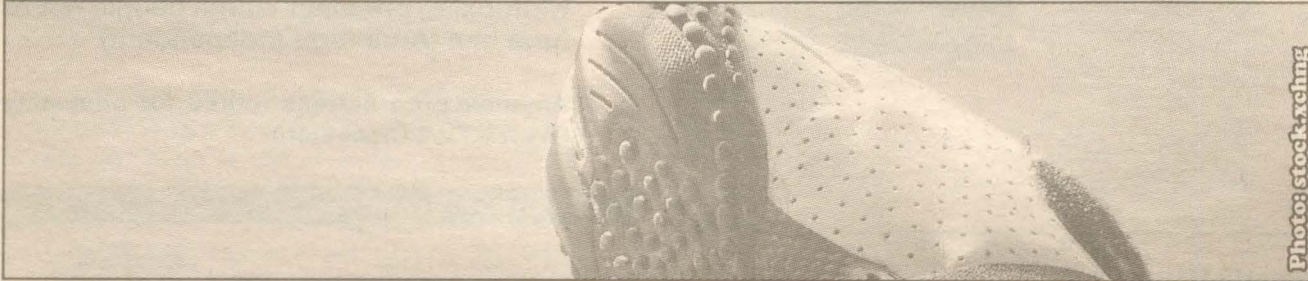


Photo: stock-x-chang

Throughout the history of Valentine's Day, there have been many countless competitions of lovesick dreamers chasing after the objects of their affections. At the Nova Scotia Indoor Provincial Championships February 14, Dalhousie athletes chased after great performances, and came away with over 20 personal and seasonal bests.

A trio of Lady Tigers cracked the top 12 in the 60m CIS standings, as Adrienne Power lead the assault with a time of 7.61 sec, making her first in the country. Lauren Grant came up with a huge personal best as she grabbed the 12th spot, followed by Leanne Huck, who ranked 13th.

The men proved to be top contenders as well, as three Dalhousie athletes made the men's 60m final. Jeremy Koeing made good his claim to Fastest Man in the AUS, finishing first in a time of 7.08 sec, followed by teammates Aaron Samuel and Eddie Bowleg, who were second and fourth, respectively.

In a showdown that had Adrienne Power and Legion National gold medalist Jenna Martin go head to head, Power ran away

from her competition in the 300m to clock the fastest time ever run in Nova Scotia (38.5 sec). On the men's side, Josh Davidson captured first place, followed by Sandy White (third), Chris Goulet (fourth) and Eddie Bowleg (sixth). The dynamic duo of Davidson and Goulet combined once more in the 600m to finish first and second respectively, separated by 0.2 seconds.

The 1500m races saw runners from different specialties competing against one another, as 3000m athletes took on 1000m specialists. In the men's 1500m, distance runners Curtis Archibald and Stanley Chaisson were first and second respectively, followed by the middle distance athletes Mihira Lakshman and Nick McBride in fourth and fifth. On the women's side, Leanna MacLean, the fourth ranked 1000m runner in the country, became the third ranked woman in the 1500m, as she ran away with the victory in a time of 4:32.7 min. One of the country's best 3000m runners, Janice Ashworth, was second, with a time of 4:41.4 min, ranking her seventh in the Cis standings

The 60m hurdles saw Alicia Dobranowski emerge the winner, with team mate Jen Payne finishing third. Payne later recorded a victory in the high jump, with Dobranowski third. In a 1-2-3 punch, Lindsay Jones recorded a shot put of 11.34m to win the event, followed by teammates Jen Payne and Naomi Tress in second and third, respectively.

# Disastrous Losing Streak

ADAM SOMERS Sports Editor

Since the last issue of The Gazette, the men's basketball team has not won one game. In the five games they have played, some have been close—for instance, the 79-75 OT loss to Acadia on Wednesday Feb. 18. Some, however, have been not very close—for example their 84-63 loss against UCCB on Feb. 21.

This past week went downhill for the Dal men. After a tight loss to the Axemen on Wednesday in which Nick Donald had 32 points, the Tigers were defeated 84-63 by Cape Breton after they traveled north. This loss was unfortunate, as it killed any hope of the Tigers gaining momentum after a close loss. The next night would be only slightly better as the Tigers were downed 87-70 by the X-Men. Monte Francis had 17 points in the losing cause.

This current six-game losing streak bumps the Tigers to the bottom of the Baldwin Division and puts them in dire straits if they want to get a playoff spot. With only two games left to go, the Tigers not only have to win both games, they also need Memorial to lose their remaining games.

This is easier said than done when one considers the Tigers' next two opponents. If the Tigers can win the first game, they will face off against Acadia, who they took to the wire recently and may be able to defeat. However, the first game is played against St. F.X.—a national power in basketball that have won 15 games this season while losing only three and are ranked third nationally. It will take the game of a lifetime to beat the X-men. Not that I am counting our Tigers out, but they will need to be way up this Friday Feb. 21 at 7 p.m. when they play the X-men at the Dalplex. Come on out and cheer the Tigers on as they attempt to make the playoffs.

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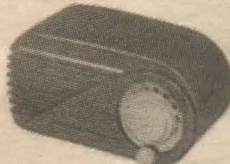
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# Men's Hockey Team Hot in Playoffs

ADAM SOMERS Sports Editor



The Men's hockey team suffered through a rough slump in January, but brought it all together when it counted. The men won the final two games of the regular season—4-2 over Acadia and 3-2 over SMU in overtime. This gave the boys a boost as they headed into the first round of the playoffs.

Facing off against the UPEI Panthers, the Tigers were looking to go deep into the playoffs just like last season. The Panthers had other plans, and they narrowly defeated Dal 6-5 in the first game out on the island. The next two games were to be played at Dal, and the Tigers were hoping to make the best of their home ice advantage.

Saturday, Feb 21, found the Tigers in another bitter battle with the Anne of Green Gables. In a game that went down to the wire, the Tigers were able to tie the best of three series at one a piece with a 2-1 win.

This left the final game on Sunday at Memorial Arena. It was clear from the beginning that this was bound to be another tight game. J.F. Perras, who has been solid for the Tigers all year long, was doing splits, handstands and any other gymnastic

move he could think of to stop the puck. He was getting lots of help from his defensive partners to, as they were laying their bodies on the line for this game. The Panthers got a one goal lead six minutes into the game. Not to be outdone, Jonah LeRoux scored later in the period to tie it up.

The second period would go even better for the Tigers, as they grabbed the lead when Brent Theobald bounced a goal in off one of UPEI's defencemen. In the third period, Ross McCain provided the Tigers with a two-goal cushion, which would prove to come in handy. With under a minute left to go, the Panthers reduced the gap to one as their goalie sat on the bench. Then, after a penalty on Patrick Vincent, the Panthers found themselves with two extra skaters for the final 30 seconds. However, the island folk could not put it in the net, and Dal won the series.

The Tigers now face UNB in the semifinals, and St. Thomas faces the X-men in the other semi. The Varsity Reds will be a tough match for the Tigers, but if the Tigers can keep up their level of play, they can't be stopped.

## Volleyball Awards Announced

The AUS volleyball awards were announced this past week, and, as expected, Dalhousie was heavily represented. On the women's side, middle Jillian Goulet and outside hitter Jennifer Ward were named AUS first team all-stars, while setter Leslie Marriott was named to the second team.

The men won many of the major awards, because who else in the AUS was going to get them? Libero Jeff Weiler was named co-MVP, as well as libero of the year. Outside hitter Adam Hotchkiss took home Rookie of the year honours, and coach Dan Ota was named coach of the year for the fifth year in a row.

The men claimed four of six spots on the first team all-stars. Weiler was honoured, as well as setter Tony Finch, middle blocker Tim Wiley and outside hitter Kanitha Boranprasit. Outside hitter Jeff Rand received recognition on the second team all-stars.



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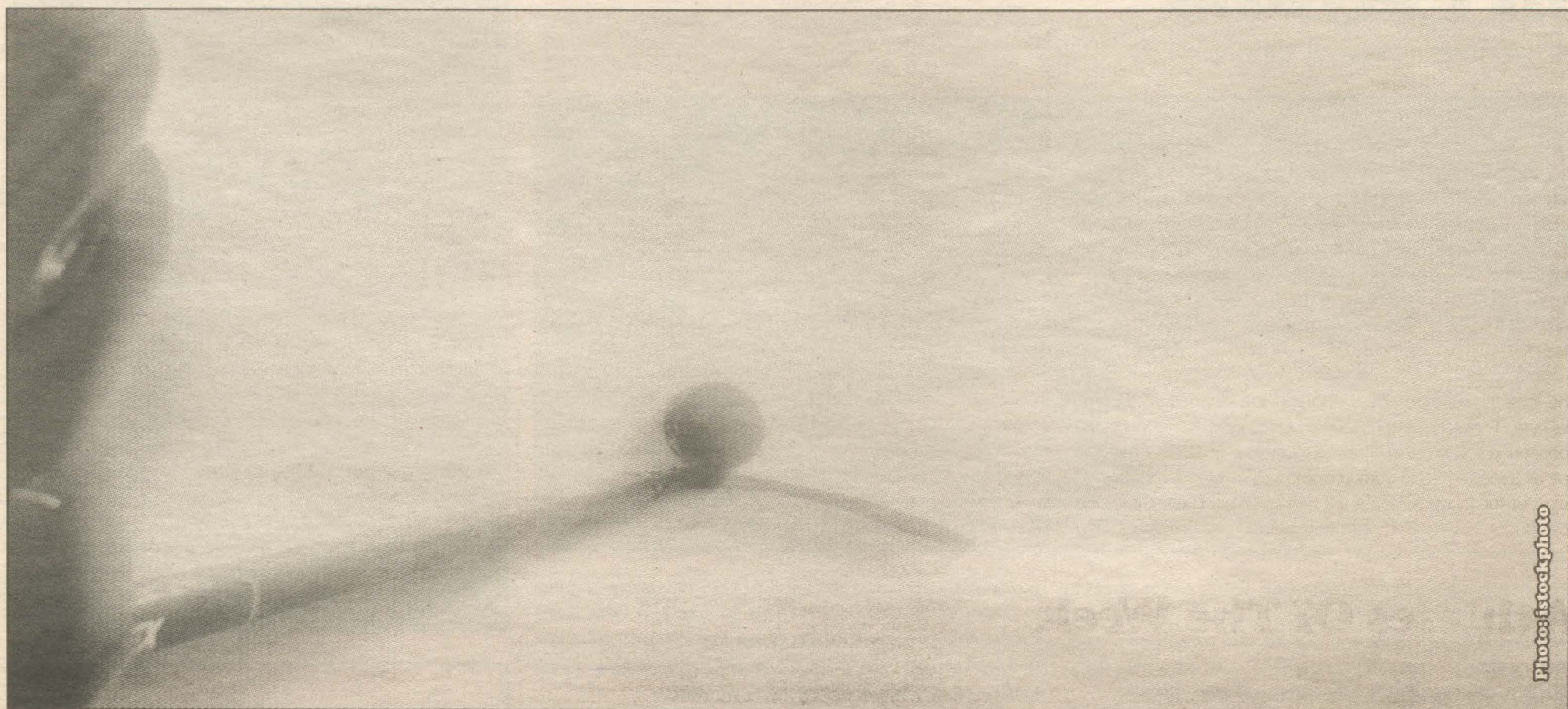
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# Hockey Tough Guy

JOEY RYBA Staff Contributor



Photos: istockphoto

One of the most physical defencemen in the AUHC is Dalhousie's Brad Pierce. Piercey (as he is known by his teammates and friends) is a Brampton, Ont. native who started playing hockey when he was just three years old.

Growing up in Brampton, Pierce played many other sports, including soccer and rugby. "I really love rugby. I wish I had the time to get back into it," he says. Pierce gives credit to his parents for being good role-models and for supporting him.

"My parents have good character," he says, "so I definitely try to be like them."

Philosophically speaking, Pierce swears by a quote given to him by a wise man from Bridgewater, N.S.: "Obstacles are those frightening things you see when you take your eyes off the goal."

Pierce, number five, joins the Tigers after spending four seasons in the OHL with the North Bay Centennials. At six-foot-two, 220 pounds, he describes himself as a physical, stay-at-home defenceman and really likes the level of play in the AUHC.

"I like the physical play and I concentrate on defence," says Pierce. "The AUHC is a good league and definitely better than major junior. The guys here are bigger, faster, stronger and more mature."

A second-year management student, Pierce decided to come to university because he thought that education would be an asset. "University education is a good thing to have in life. It's tough to make a living on hockey alone," he said.

The balance of hockey and school is tough, as there are usually two games and five practices a week, plus time in the gym. "Hockey takes three or four hours out of each day. The balance

between hockey and school is not too tough if you have good time-management skills like Billy Browne or Mark Lynk. Then, there are guys like me, who don't have good time-management skills," said Pierce.

As mentioned before, the AUHC provides some great competition. Pierce's favourite teams to play against are St. F.X. and SMU. He thinks the best player in the league is Mel Schori, and his highlight so far has been playing on the same team as Pat Vincent.

Outside of the rink, Pierce is a somewhat of a joker and likes a good laugh: "Pierce is a donkey who is striving to be a Clydesdale," says Scott Wright, a Dal defenceman who plays "bridge" with Pierce at Shady Acres.

Pierce's favourite NHL team is the Toronto Maple Leafs, and Bryan McCabe is his favourite player. Pierce also enjoys a night out on the town and makes sure he wears his g-string. At home, he likes to lounge around in boxer-briefs and listen to his favourite band, The Tragically Hip. In addition to music, he enjoys a little bit of TV, and his favourite TV show is Bleu Nuit.

As far as the future is concerned, Pierce would like to make hockey his career. "After university, I want to play pro hockey. When my playing days are done, I'd like to coach or run a hockey camp," he said. "Hey, maybe you [Joe Ryba] and I can be broadcasters for TSN or Hockey Night in Canada!"

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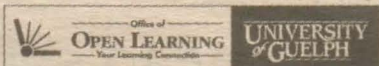
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# Surfers and Rock Stars

On "Big Wednesday" March 3, local surfers and bands will be coming together at the Planet Pool to raise awareness of coral reef destruction here in Atlantic Canada, as well as, around the world. This event is presented by an environmental surf group called EcoSurf and is sponsored by the local surf shops around Halifax.

The concert starts at 10 pm and is deemed "Big Wednesday" after the 1978 cult surf film about big wave surfing and will be featuring bands, DJs and Hip Hop artists. This includes the likes of Sinclair, an Alberta based rock band from Newfoundland, which is kicking off their East Coast Tour here in Halifax. The Mufferaw Joes, a university band from The Mount, will also be playing along with local hip hop artist Prolific and cover band Threes A Cord. Big Wednesday will also be featuring jazz band Mass Distraction and local DJs.

The local surf shops are supporting the concert. With A-1, DaCane, Frozen Ocean, Happy Dudes and Kannon Beach sponsoring the event and giving away free gear. "It is great to see all aspects of the surfing community come together and help out for this environmental cause," says Brent Seamone co-founder of EcoSurf and local surfboard designer and



shaper.

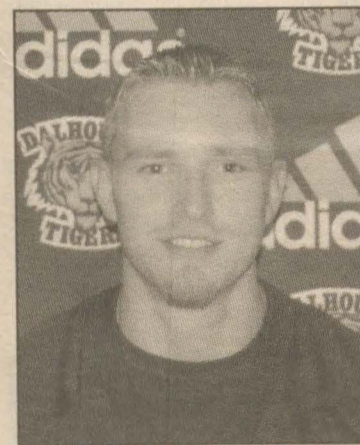
EcoSurf is a non-profit organization, co-founded by Dalhousie student and surfer Rob Buttitor. The goal of this surf organization is to bring attention to the deteriorating state of the world's coral reefs. Here in Atlantic Canada the cold water corals are the basis of the fishery, and habitat to countless marine species. However, they are being devastated by Trawler fishing and the thousands of tons of chemical weapons that were dumped off Nova Scotia after World War II. For more information check out [www.ecosurf.org](http://www.ecosurf.org).

## Athletes Of The Week



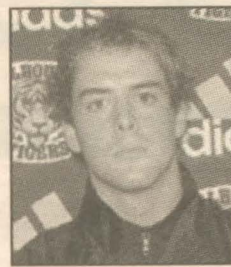
### Adrienne Power, Track & Field

Adrienne Power of the women's track and field team has been named Dalhousie's Female Athlete of the Week for the week ending February 15, 2004. Adrienne clocked the best university times in the country in both of her events on the weekend. In the 60m, Power ran 7.61 seconds to claim victory well ahead of her previous nation leading 7.68 run. Shortly afterward, she moved upstairs to the Dalplex oval to compete in the 300m. Adrienne already had the number one university ranking in this event also, but that didn't stop her bettering the mark with the fastest 300m ever run on Atlantic Canadian soil. Her time of 38.5 seconds puts her 1.5 seconds ahead of her nearest competitor. This fourth-year commerce student from Halifax, N.S. earned a gold medal in the 300m and a bronze in the 60m at last year's CIS Championship.



### Chris Stanley, Hockey

Chris Stanley of the men's hockey team has been named Dalhousie's Male Athlete of the Week for the week ending February 15, 2004. Chris, a fourth-year management student from Parry Sound, Ont. finished off the AUHC regular season in first place in the scoring race with 48 points. In the Tigers 4-2 win over the Acadia Axemen on Wednesday, Stanley netted two goals and an assist and chipped in two assists in Saturday night's 3-2 overtime win over Saint Mary's. Earlier this month, Chris was named Dalhousie University's nominee for the conference's James Bayer Scholarship Award, presented to the top student-athlete in the AUS. A steady performer and leader for the Tigers, Chris was last season's conference MVP and a first team All-Canadian.



## 10 Questions with Stephen Banks

QUESTIONS BY THERESA ANNE SALAH

- 1) On a scale from 1 to 10, how boring is your hometown? Why?  
Halifax! Just because your hometown sucks doesn't mean you have to pick on H-town.
- 2) What are you taking at Dal?  
Commerce.
- 3) Who's your favorite athlete and/or sports team?  
Dal women's swim team, because they know that it ain't no fun if the homies can't have none
- 4) What's the last thing you do before a game?  
Remind myself that I've been saving up my "juice."
- 5) What's the worst thing you've ever done to a player on the other team?  
Peed in their water bottle.
- 6) Who's the hottest person in the world? (girlfriends don't count)  
Natalie Dupis
- 7) What's your pet peeve?  
Girls with boyfriends.
- 8) What do you think of the sports editor?  
I think he should be replaced by Michael Gorman (ed. no disagreement here).
- 9) If you could invent one useless holiday, what and when would it be?  
Shirts off day. January 13th (my birthday).
- 10) What's the sexiest animal in the world?  
The rabbit, cause they're all about the tuck hammer.

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The

E O L A S A G U S O B A I R

# SEXTANT

Dalhousie's Official Engineering Student Newspaper

## Fatties

By: Agent Karen Smith

I've had enough of people insulting my intelligence. Big is not beautiful unless we're talking wallets.

Rosie O'Donnell is trying to kill you, Richard Simmons is trying to save you.

What is now being called the "fat epidemic" is responsible for life expectancy dropping for the first time in 100 years. All the while, fatties are being told they're healthy by those with the intelligence of a scrotum polyp.

No guy has ever been congratulated for porking a fattie unless it was for sport. But you're saying, "Karen, it's not their fault, it's \_\_\_\_\_'s fault." That's because you're an idiot. I don't look like Heidi Klum because I'm just too lazy to spend another two hours a day in the gym. You can't blame The Simpsons for writing quality material I want to sit down and watch.

Obesity has been blamed for 300,000 deaths a year in the states, while anorexia is blamed for about 150 ([www.suite101.com/article.cfm/4223/32277](http://www.suite101.com/article.cfm/4223/32277)). This tells me you're pretty safe to tell your kids to do some exercise. Liars who tells a fat kid he/she isn't fat is trying make the kids settle for mediocrity (like those milk ads). Telling the kid they shouldn't try for improvement is like telling them you want them dead. A little dramatic, but you get the idea.

Some kiddie sports now have the official not even keeping score. Although their intentions are good, this completely destroys the children's competitive spirit. Think of it this way, would you study at all if everyone got the same grade? These kids aren't going to be running very hard if they realize every game is more rigged than a wrestling match.



And quit saying it's what's on the inside that counts. If you truly believed that, you would never comb your hair or compliment someone's looks. I judge people by their looks all the time, and I've gotten pretty good at it.

I would have said Tony Little is trying to help people too, but he's just too annoying.

## Winning Weekend in Montreal

By: Holly Gambin

The 2004 Canadian Society of Industrial Engineers Annual National Conference was held at Concordia University in Montreal, January 29-31. Sexton Campus was well represented with a delegation of 35 students from the Department of Industrial Engineering. The conference consisted of seminars, plant tours, competitions and social events. It was an excellent opportunity to network and display skills.

Peter VanBerkel honored the department by winning the national technical paper competition with his paper titled "Predicting the Results of Resource Changes: a Computer Simulation in a Health Care Environment." He will be continuing on to compete at the Institute of Industrial Engineers International Conference in Huston Texas in May.

On Behalf of all of the delegates, I would like to congratulate Peter on his well-deserved success and thank all of our sponsors for their support. Events like these help to improve the reputation of the Faculty of Engineering, and Dalhousie as a whole. This year's conference was successful, and we hope that this success will lead to additional support from the main campus.

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The

E O L A S A G U S O B A I R

# SEXTANT

Dalhousie's Official Engineering Student Newspaper

## AEC Results

Well, like usual, we kicked ass at this year's annual Atlantic Engineering Competition. Here are the top finishers in their respective categories. All of the people or groups that placed first or second get to go to the national competition later this month, and ends up with some extra cash in their pockets to spend on whatever random pleasure toys they have a craving for at the time...Ed, we know about the clay mug problem, you can't hide it from us, we see all.

So congratulations go out to the following over achievers:

Place	Editorial Communications	
1	Shawn Kehoe	Individual
2	Edward Townsend	Individual
<b>Explanatory Communications</b>		
1	Shawn Kehoe	Individual
2	Evan Wile	Individual
3	Edward Townsend	Individual
<b>Entrepreneurial Design</b>		
1	Evan Wile, Pete Simpson, Sean Pentz, Ben Theuerkauf	Team
<b>Corporate Design</b>		
1	Amy Malloy, Al Skebo, Tristan Laan	Team
2	Edward Townsend, Jordan Richardson	Team
<b>Senior Team Impromptu Design</b>		
2	Evan Wile, Ben Theuerkauf, Edward Townsend, Pete Simpson	Team
<b>Debate</b>		
1	Shawn Kehoe, Dennis Braun	Team
2	Christian West, Chris Blight	Team

## T-Room Listings



Mar 4 Magnus Haze

Mar 5 Trivia

### Winter Carnival

Mar 10 Trivia

Mar 11 Toga Party w/ Mark

Howell's Band (don't know name)

Mar 12 Techball

Mar 18 76am

Mar 19 Trivia

Mar 25 Mass Distraction

Mar 26 Athletic Banquet

Apr 1 The Metrics

Apr 2 Trivia

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The

# SEXTANT

E O L A S A G U S O B A I R

Who  
wants a  
moustache  
ride?

Dalhousie's Official Engineering Student Newspaper

## I Like Snow

By: Tophér Fedora, Editor in Chief



I like snow eh?...nope. I am not a fan of the white stuff. I don't ski. I don't snowboard. I don't even write my name in it on my way home from the bar. I think it's fair to say I hate the stuff. A twist comes into the picture though, when you talk about snow storms. I love them—especially ones that shut an entire city down. Like with Juan, there's just something awesome about seeing what Mother Nature can do when she gets all riled up.

When the recent snow storm hit, unlike most people, I went out in it. There was no way I was missing wing night at the Stache because of a few flurries. No sir, I'm a growing young lad, I need me wings and beer. The place was packed, and everyone was having a blast...well, except for the servers of course, who I tipped pretty well for being there—thanks guys and gals.

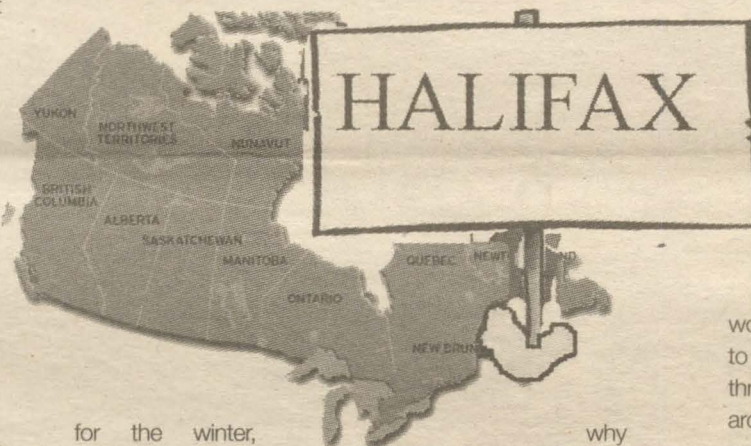
On the way home, my buddies and I had a rousing drunken game of Throw Your Friends in a Snowbank, followed by an intoxicated round of Who Got Thrown in the Yellow Snow. Oh, the fun we had.

I went back there the next day. My car, still snowed in, and almost nowhere open, leaving me no other choice really but to drink. Then the two days of hangover brunches followed, bringing my total to four days in a row at the Stache. This whole snow storm was working out great for me and for them.

Now, I was very sensible during the storm and during the aftermath of cleanups. I stayed inside mostly, only venturing out when I was heading to and from the Stache. I shoveled my driveway and parking lot and the sidewalk in front of my house

with my roommates. I even obeyed the curfew.

There were some people that were not as sensible, and some that were downright stupid during and after the storm though. The first thing I want to point out is that the police were going around in unmarked white SUV's. They looked new, and it begged the question," if the police were buying new vehicles



for the winter, why would they buy all white ones?" Isn't it kind of dangerous to be driving around, and possibly at high speeds, in a white car, in the middle of the biggest snow storm in Halifax's history?

The second thing I was shocked to see during one of my brunches was a mother and her two kids out on their bicycles! I've seen other people doing this over the past couple of months, and I think it's the stupidest thing ever. You're not

only endangering yourself, but everyone else around you if you're stupid enough to fall. This lady was out the day after the cleanup started though. She had one kid on his own bike and another on hers jammed in between her and the visor she had put on the front (the poor kid looked like it was trying to gnaw through the Plexiglas). I saw them slip a couple of times. There was no way they were actually going anywhere, because the only thing open was the Stache, and despite her apparent disregard for the safety of her children, I don't think the mother was taking them to drink.

The third and last issue I wanted to address was more a matter of compassion than stupidity, although I'm sure most of the culprits had about as much common sense as a tree stump. There were a small number of elderly people walking around after the storm, and being elderly, crippled, or senile, they were having trouble making it through the snow. So many people would just trudge by while an old lady tried her hardest not to break a hip getting through one of the narrow paths cut through the snowbanks. I even saw a few people standing around at one point just watching an old lady shuffle her way across a street corner. Put yourself in their shoes folks, every time you see something like that, and you'll realize that two seconds out of your busy schedule could be worth an entire pelvic replacement to someone.

Other than that, everything went pretty smoothly. Thanks to the crews that worked so hard to get things cleaned up, and to the staff at the Moustache for their great service—and, of course, to my friend who pointed out that I was the one that fell in the yellow snow.

## A Little Research Goes a Long Way

By: Tophér Fedora, Editor in Chief

So, I'm sure everyone has heard of the whole Conan O'Brien "controversy" by now. The guy that was nice enough to go out of his way to move his entire show up to Toronto for all of last week, and try to improve Toronto's damaged public image with Americans, is now the center of a battle between the Canadian government and the production company that puts on the show, in order to retract the C\$1 million subsidy the government paid to have the show broadcast from the T.O. for a week.

The government claims the show acted in a vile and racist manner and was appalled by the show's lack of understanding of touchy Canadian issues. CHUM Television, the television company that broadcast the show here in Canada, even went on to say, "we offer our apology and assurance that it is never our intention to air programming that offends any of our viewers." Isn't this the same company that airs The Best of Fashion Television? Is there anything more offensive, and will Jeanne Beker ever get old?

In particular, the skit in which Triumph the Insult Comic Dog made fun of people from Quebec, and, in his usual manner,

offended everyone possible. It was after this episode aired that the government was all up in arms over what a waste of money the show had been. Politicians were all over the place saying the country should get the money back for the filth that they had seen.

I am not going to argue about the "controversy," and I know a thing or 20 about controversies. My beef is with the fact that the government went out looking for ways to promote Toronto, and they chose to have Conan there, and then became upset after he did what he always does...be funny. I really think that before the government forked over the greenbacks to have such an entertainer come here, they should have done a little research into him/her and decided if it was the image they wanted to portray. If they wanted to avoid offending anyone, they should have brought Mr. Rogers back from the grave on the one year anniversary of his death and had him do a show in Toronto. That couldn't possibly offend anyone, right? No, wait, I would definitely be offended by that...oh yeah, for sure...damn, that is disturbing. See, you can't please everybody.



**Props go out to the Girl's Basketball Team for having the best winning record in 8 years, and for being so damn sexy!**