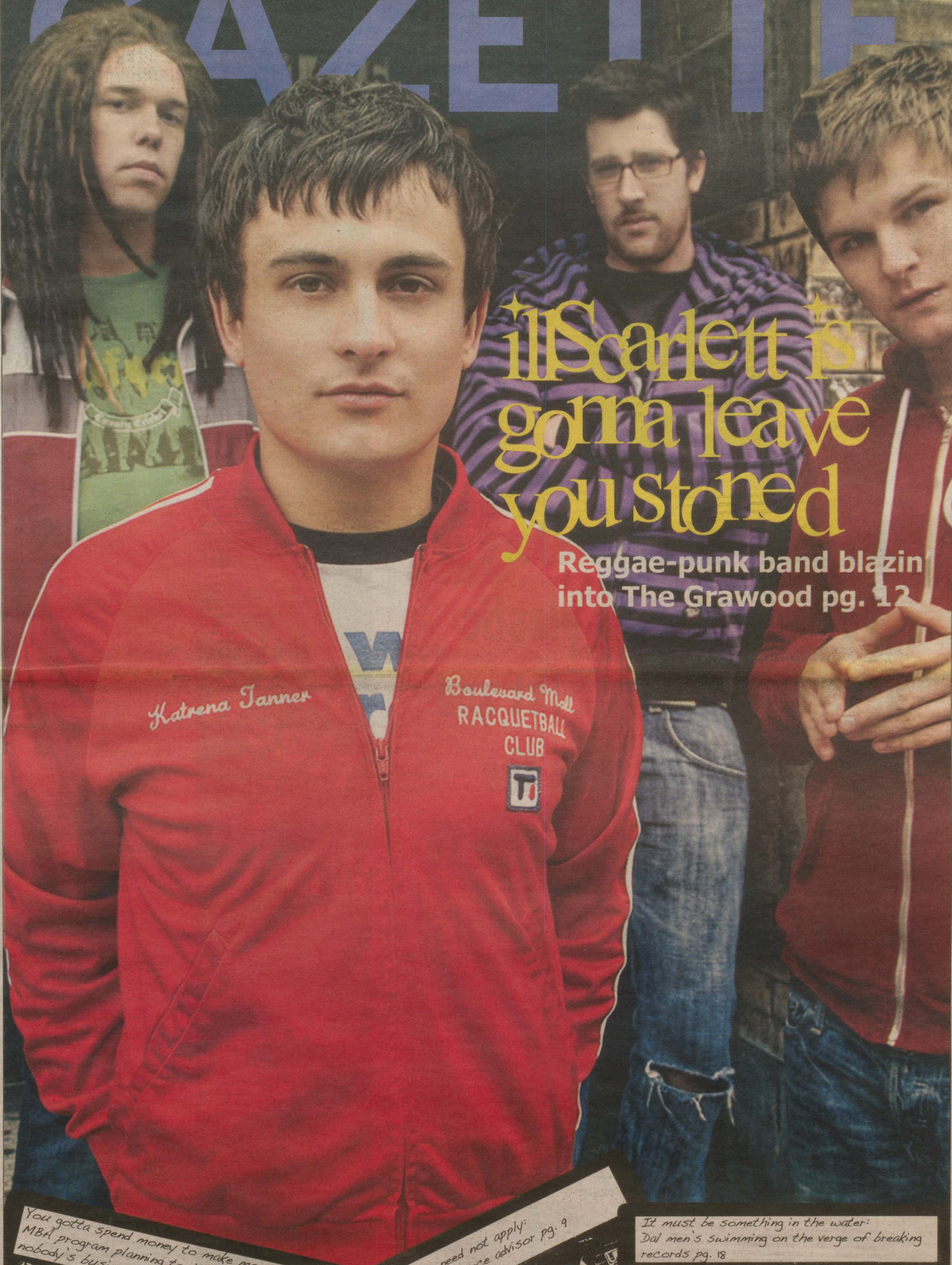


Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

GAZETTE

illScarlett is gonna leave you stoned

Reggae-punk band blazin' into The Grawood pg. 12



You gotta spend money to make money: MBA program planning to hike tuition like it's nobody's business pg. 4

Scientists need not apply: PM snubs science advisor pg. 9

It must be something in the water: Dal men's swimming on the verge of breaking records pg. 18



Cover: Who did this anyway?

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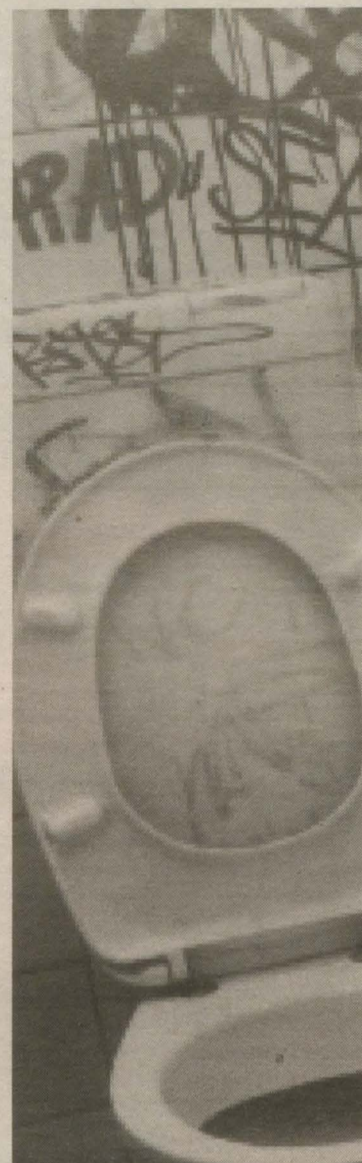
The Gazette is the official written record of Dalhousie University since 1868 and is open to participation from all students. It is published weekly during the academic year by the Dalhousie Gazette Publishing Society.

The Gazette is a student-run publication. Its primary purpose is to report fairly and objectively on issues of importance and interest to the students of Dalhousie University, to provide an open forum for the free expression and exchange of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general.

A "staff contributor" is a member of the paper defined as a person who has had three volunteer articles, or photographs of reasonable length, and/or substance published in three different issues within the current publishing year.

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Imagine a forum relevant to students

JOHN PACKMAN
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At least there was something to talk about when the Dalhousie Student Union held the Imagine '07 event last year. The administration's controversial student spaces plan would have drastically changed the look of the campus and over 200 students came out to talk about it.

It was obvious that quite a bit of work had gone into the student space plans, and they were viable. Many people on and off campus knew a decision to go forward on these plans was going to make a big difference at Dalhousie.

In short, people cared.

In the following student spaces referendum, over 4,200 students voted – the highest turnout for a campus-wide election in the last five years.

Last week's Imagine '08 event, on the other hand, didn't have any big project in mind. It opted to ask people to bring their own topics, and then talked about them. But only about 50 people came out, most of them DSU council members, DSU executives and full-time union staff.

It felt more like a party-planning committee for a high school than a university forum. It was pretty boring and everyone there seemed to know each other.

Those who bothered to show up broke into groups and talked about



DSU events: If you must go, don't go sober

CRAIG JENNEX/ THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

things like improving campus bars, what to do when Rick Mercer comes to campus, teaching quality and other topics.

I sat in the student apathy group, which had three to seven students sitting in it throughout the event. Not including me, at least half the people in the indifferent group were DSU council members.

DSU president Mike Tipping joined the discussion for a while and pointed out that the union is struggling to connect with students.

"I've been trying for two years and still haven't figured it out," he said.

But the people in my group were missing the point. We spent too much time wondering if an apathetic student body was to blame for the bad turnout,

and if a better frosh week would help.

The problem should be obvious: students aren't engaged because the student union isn't engaging.

It's as simple as that.

If the union wants students to care about it, it has to do something big, something eye-catching and most importantly, something relevant to students.

The onus isn't on the student to care about the DSU, but is on the DSU to show students it's worth the money.

The union should prove to students that if they do take the time out of their schedules to vote or put an idea forward, it's going to make a difference. Judging by the meager turnout at Imagine '08, it's clear this isn't happening.

Two weeks ago was the DSU's "Winter Carnival." It consisted of a Mooseheads game, free skating in the arena, snow cones and cotton candy in the SUB lobby and a \$25 masquerade ball.

What better way to get students interested in Dal politics than cotton candy?

For the \$127,000 Dal students are paying for their student union executives' salaries, the union should have more of an imagination of its own.

The union should take a page from the administration's book on getting the campus interested.

When the administration made its student spaces plans last year, it didn't wait for an earthquake or for students to stage a sit-in in the Hicks building before pushing for new buildings.

The administration came up with the idea itself and took the steps to make it happen.

If the student union wants to engage students, it has to do something to attract the attention of all students – not just those who spend half their day in the SUB.

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MBA program plans major makeover

RUTH MESTECHKIN
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Dalhousie's graduate business program could be set to undergo a complete overhaul in 2009. The School of Business is currently reviewing and refining a proposal that includes major academic changes and a possible tuition hike.

David Wheeler, dean of the Faculty of Management, says this proposal came about through the business school's review of the Master's of Business Administration (MBA) program one year ago.

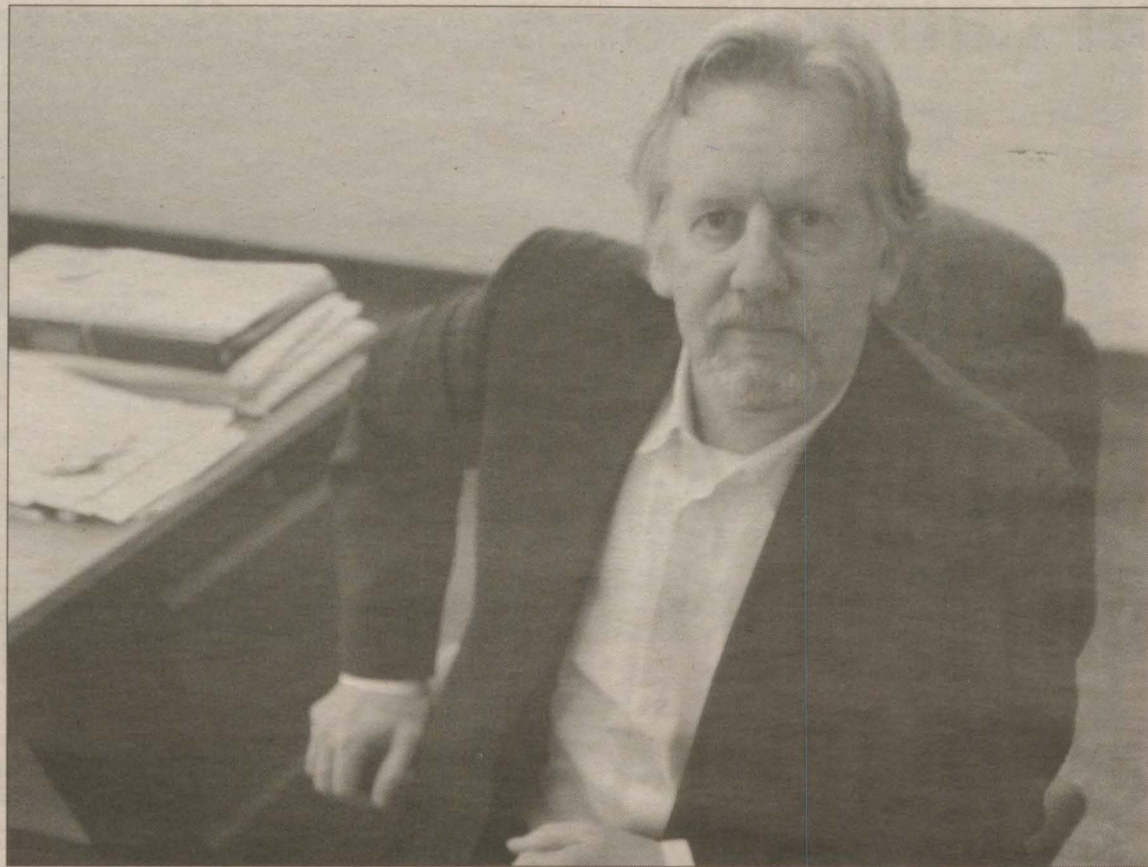
"They came to the conclusion that it would be almost impossible to keep the quality that we expect if we maintain the current design," says Wheeler. "With a program that's currently under-funded in comparison to its competitive programs, we, over time, would simply not be able to afford to pay the top professors and provide the bursaries for our students who haven't got the means to pay."

Wheeler says the current tuition, approximately \$6,500 a year for the two-year MBA program, is much lower than the cost of MBAs in the rest of the country.

York University's Schulich School of Business's MBA program costs roughly \$20,000 per year, while the University of Western Ontario's Richard Ivey School of Business's program asks for nearly triple that amount per year.

Wheeler says the projected fee for Dal's MBA is still undecided; the School of Business administration hasn't finalized the cost yet. But the new tuition will be more level with the rest of the country's MBA programs.

Dal's current proposal includes plans to potentially hire new professors, begin the term in July - two months earlier than the current program, and emphasize specialization in four defined academic areas: marketing, finance, international business and management.



Dean David Wheeler hopes Dal's new MBA plan will give students an edge over graduates from other schools.

"I think everyone realized that for Dalhousie to have a nationally renowned MBA program, we have to reinvest," says Wheeler. "We can't keep an MBA program going at its current quality unless we significantly change the fee structure."

Another major change to the program would be the proposed eight-month paid internship. Michael Bliemel, the assistant program director of Dal's MBA program, has worked closely in the design of the proposal.

"The real attractive thing about these internships is they give the students some connections to the employer, and a lot of them will just

be hired after they graduate because they'll already be fully trained for a position," says Bliemel. "The students can also expect to earn anywhere between \$25,000 to \$45,000 in eight months."

He says this new model would target students fresh out of undergraduate programs. Unlike the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, for example, Dal doesn't require its applicants to have any relevant work experience.

"Given that the location of Halifax is further away, if somebody's already got a job in Toronto, they're unlikely to resettle their whole fam-

ily," says Bliemel.

He says Dal graduates' young age and work experience will give them an edge over students graduating from other MBA programs. To prepare this younger crowd, the proposal outlines a two-week orientation prior to the beginning of classes, where students are briefed on skills like presenting, networking and etiquette.

The administration isn't keeping these plans completely under wraps. MBA Society President Sanjeev Pushkarna is also updated regularly on the process, and he's been giving the faculty his own input along with

other students' opinions.

When the MBA program was reviewed last February, faculty members asked roughly 10 students for their input on the current program. Although Pushkarna supports the plans, he says he wasn't happy with the sparse details provided to him.

"The MBA Society was given an opportunity, but it was up to us to get student opinion," says Pushkarna. "We were told they did this (consultation) with incoming students and they weren't really sure if the current students' opinions would be valid because they've already been in this program and they wouldn't really know what 'different' was."

"I appreciate that, but at the same time, who better to know the strengths and the weaknesses of the program than the current students?"

Pushkarna says current students need to know how the proposal will affect them and how it will change the program as a whole.

"We also want the program to remain strong and credible in Halifax and throughout the country, so when we leave we can feel proud to be alumni," he says.

Based on the framework of the proposal, Pushkarna says the plan is a step in the right direction. He says there are gaps in the current program, including a lack of focus in specific academic areas, such as marketing and management.

Pushkarna adds another shortcoming: the lack of financial support for student projects, such as case competitions and MBA games taking place across Canada.

"Unfortunately, Dalhousie students are forced to pay a lot of this out of their pockets," he says.

The next faculty and society update will be Feb. 8. The proposal is set to go through university processes for approvals over the next three to four months, and may be submitted to the senate and then to the province.

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Interest group wants less parking on campus site

SARAH TOWLE
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

Dalhousie University's new Life Sciences Research Institute (LSRI) may be the site of leading research for neurological diseases such as Alzheimer's, but a local land protection group says the building is taking away more of the city's potential green space.

Friends of the Halifax Common (FHC), a group dedicated to protecting Halifax's common land and creating more green space in the city, is not opposed to the research facility; the group is rallying against the construction of a large parking lot for the building.

Dal is building the LSRI on the corner of College and Summer Streets, which is part of the city's public, or 'common,' land. When construction is complete, the LSRI will include a brain repair centre where health professionals and trainees will work toward finding cures and treatments for conditions such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease and spinal cord injury.

Janet Shotwell, member of FHC, says in an urban city like Halifax, residents need all the green space they can get.

"I'd like to see it nicely landscaped with maybe some benches," says Shotwell. "You could walk through it. It would be a nice space for people to be. Not a parking space for 30 cars."

FHC expressed these concerns in a letter last June to Dal's president, Tom Traves, to which Traves did not respond, Shotwell says. On Jan. 16, members of FHC attended the Dalhousie Neighborhood Meeting to follow up on the issue.

"President Traves seems to give priority to parking lots," says Shotwell. "Individual automobiles aren't



Beverly Miller wants to see the LSRI site have more green space and less lot. JOSH BOYTER/ THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

the way of the future. City planning should put pedestrians first and then cyclists. Cars should come last."

The site for the research institute has always been part of Halifax common land. In 1912, the city sold the land to Dal for \$1 with the condition the university use it for educational purposes. In the 1920s, Dal sold the land for \$1 to Grace Maternity Hospital, the only independent maternity hospital in Canada.

In 1995, when Grace merged with the IWK Hospital for Children, the land became Dal property once again. The university has been using it as a fenced parking lot ever since.

Beverly Miller, co-chair of FHC, says she would like to see public walking paths on the LSRI site instead of just a large parking lot.

"This is a great opportunity for part of the site to reflect its origins as part of Halifax common land," says Miller.

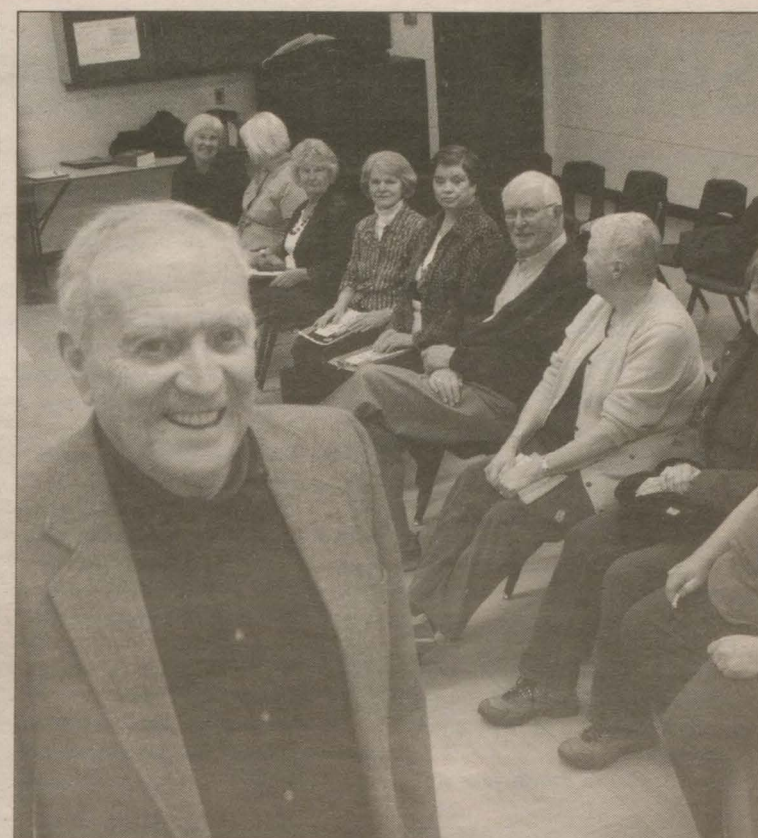
Despite the concern for more green space near the building, Dal has no intention of slowing down construction plans.

Charles Crosby, official spokesperson for the university, says the Halifax Regional Municipality approved the plans for the LSRI.

"As with all university buildings, we take into account green spaces, walkways, related issues," says Crosby. "The new building has been proposed for where it is specifically in order to preserve some of the existing green space. For example, two or three of the large trees on that corner will be preserved."

FHC will continue lobbying the university to get a green space included in the LSRI building plans and the group hopes to get Mayor Peter Kelly to support their cause.

"It's a little, tiny cause," says Shotwell. "But it's important for a walkable, livable city."



Curiosity drives Dr. Bob Anderson to continue learning, even after earning a medical degree. JOSH BOYTER/ THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dal retirees start school for seniors

MELISSA DI COSTANZO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

There's a new college in Halifax. Unlike the other mainstays, tuition is \$120 for winter, spring and fall courses. There are no exams, no tests and no assignments.

There is one tiny catch, though: students have to be at least 50 years old to attend.

The Seniors' College was started last fall by the Association of Dalhousie Retirees and Pensioners and now offers six courses: Shakespeare Plays, with readings of *As You Like It*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Hamlet* and *The Tempest*; The Pedigree of Ideas; Women in Politics; Addiction and Addictive Behaviour in Seniors; Islam, Peace and Terrorism; and Writing for Life.

Four of the six courses (Shakespeare Plays, The Pedigree of Ideas, Women in Politics and Addiction and Addictive Behaviour in Seniors) are taught at the Bloomfield Centre, while Islam, Peace and Terrorism is taught at the Keshen Goodman Public Library. The location for Writing for Life is to be announced.

Past president and current registrar for the Seniors' College, Blanche Potter, says she expected 20 or 30 people to show up for registration last year. Instead, she was swamped with applications.

"On the registration day we had over 100 people show up," the 75-year-old says. "We had to turn people away because classes were filled."

After *The Daily News* printed an ad about the college, word of mouth did the rest.

"I'm still getting phone calls saying, 'Can I get in?'" Potter says. "I would imagine we'll end up with close to 125 individual members."

Potter, who sat in on last fall's courses, says seniors are interested in these courses because they are being given the opportunity to learn.

"A lot of women from my generation that married young and had children ended their careers or their education, stayed home and looked after the family. Now the family are grown up... and they thought, 'This is my opportunity to learn some of the things I missed out on when I was raising my children,'" she says. "And the men, of course, are very interested... they really want to keep their mind(s) active."

Potter says the response from the senior students has been "tre-

mendous."

"It shows that just because you've become a senior doesn't mean you don't want to stop learning," she says. "As long as you keep your mind active, you have much better physical health and mental health."

Potter says she hopes senior programs like this one will become more popular, both provincially and nationally.

"There's a very keen interest in the program and the members," she says. "I'm sure that this will grow. My hope is that down the road... we will spread throughout the province."

Seniors' College student Dr. Bob Anderson, who's also chair of the school's curriculum committee, says the momentum is already building.

"The Seniors' College is sort of an inevitable development in the modern world. Adult education is the fastest growing segment of education in North America," the 77-year-old says. "(In) the U.S., there are college courses where the number of senior auditor students is approaching the number of full-time students."

Anderson, who obtained his medical degree at Dal, began auditing courses soon after he retired 10 years ago. He's since completed the University of King's College's Foundation Year Program and about 20 other courses in philosophy, English and political science at Dal.

He says he's taking courses at the Seniors' College because they are thought-provoking.

"It's a very interesting... mix of people and (we) are curious, interested and very satisfied with having an opportunity to learn about these things in a non-competitive environment," he says.

College President Susan Stuttard says the range of ages creates an interesting environment.

"It's quite a nice mixture because, when you think about it, that's multigenerational. But a terrific group of people," she says in a telephone interview.

Stuttard says retired professors from Dal also want in. Sid Sodhi and Harry Whittier are two of the retired Dalhousie profs teaching at the college.

"One of the things which is just a lovely surprise is that we have retired faculty contacting us to say how interested they are [in teaching courses]," Stuttard says. "But, to a large extent, it's a labour of love."

Have you ever gotten busy on the Dal campus?
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The University of Western Ontario



Survey says debt deters future studies

PHOEBE POWELL
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

A recently published survey of Maritime university students suggests students' increasing debt is dissuading some graduates from seeking further education.

On Jan. 29, the Maritime Provinces Higher Education Commission released a survey entitled "Intentions of Maritime University Students Following Graduation: A Survey of the Class of 2007." The survey, conducted in March 2007, considered 5,128 university students from the Maritimes who graduated with a Bachelor's degree in 2007.

The study examined the attitude of graduates toward further education, the impact of student debt and their satisfaction with the education they received.

Toban Leckie, a fourth-year stu-

dent at the University of King's College, understands the effect debt can have on a university student's education. He dropped his thesis-based Honours program earlier this year so he could manage to spend time working.

"By the end of last semester, I found myself in the position of working an average of 40 hours a week between three jobs, with a full course-load of five classes and a thesis to write on top of it," says Leckie. "I couldn't maintain that balancing act."

Leckie decided to drop his thesis instead of quitting one of his jobs, because he had to make monthly payments toward the debt he has amassed since starting university. He still wishes to pursue graduate studies, but is unable to do so straight out of his Bachelor's degree.

"It will take a year or two of working full-time to get myself set up financially for two years of grad

school," says Leckie. "And even then, I will probably find myself in debt again once I return to school."

Since 2003, student debt in the Maritimes has increased by 10 per cent. Students graduating in 2003 were shown to owe \$24,976, on average. By 2007, the average amount students owed increased to \$27,486.

The survey also found the higher the debt incurred, the less likely the students were to continue their studies. From 2003 to 2007, the percentage of students who had acquired a debt of over \$40,000 rose from 16 to 30 per cent.

The debt load does not decrease once a student enters graduate school. Carolyn Watters, dean of graduate studies at Dalhousie, is concerned the university is not doing enough to assist graduate students.

She says Dal doesn't offer enough scholarships, bursaries and other

forms of financial assistance in order to compete with other graduate programs in the country.

"There simply is not enough being offered to attract top students from across the country," says Watters. "Dalhousie has finally become acutely aware of the problem. There has been a shift in attitude and we finally understand the importance of offering more scholarships and bursaries."

Watters says the biggest detriment faced by Nova Scotia universities is the unavailability of provincial scholarships. The province is one of the few that doesn't offer government-funded scholarships, and this is a major factor limiting Nova Scotia universities' appeal over other Canadian schools.

"Provincial scholarships would make a big difference," says Watters. "Students who complete their undergraduate studies here would be more likely to stay in the province

for grad studies if these scholarships were made available."

She says the President's Award for PhD students is a step in the right direction. This scholarship, which was first offered in September 2007, covers tuition for a new PhD student for up to two years.

Watters is also skeptical as to whether enough on-campus jobs are being offered to graduate students. However, she says the university's teaching associate jobs are beneficial to both the faculty and the students holding the jobs.

"It is an unwritten policy that if we can, we will hire grad students to fill these positions. It is better for everyone involved," says Watters.

"Students especially are under less pressure this way, as the university staff understands the commitment required by their graduate programs."

Uni-Briefs

CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

Rumours run rampant after lockdown

Students at the University of British Columbia were left out of the loop when police surrounded and locked down one of the largest buildings on the Vancouver campus.

On Jan. 30 around 2 p.m., several B.C. RCMP detachments, including a canine unit, a crime investigation unit, an emergency response team and helicopters responded to "a threat" at the university's Biological Sciences Building, reported student newspaper *The Ubysey*.

Police locked the building down, leaving some students and teachers trapped for almost three hours, and provided sparse details about what was happening. Some students speculated there might be a bomb threat, a gunman or a hostage situation.

"There was no bomb or explosive device," said Kevin Kenna, staff sergeant of the UBC RCMP detachment. "No one was hurt, and no shots were fired. And I am able to say that the response was absolutely not a drill."

As of Feb. 2, the police were still not releasing specific information about the threat and some students and professors complained they weren't informed about the security procedures early enough. The school didn't use its new emergency texting system because it's still being tested, the student newspaper reported.

UofRegina sued over copyright allegations

The University of Regina is going to court over allegations the school stole content from an online advertising company.

California businessman Steve McNamara, of AdCracker.com, filed his case with the Federal Court of Canada on Jan. 14, reported *The Carillon* student newspaper. He claimed the university copied one of his "creative briefs" for advertisements and posted it on its website.

McNamara tried to settle the case out of court and then took it to a California court before deciding he might fare better in a Canadian jurisdiction.

"It puts my business in jeopardy... they [stole] it, then effectively

competed with me," said McNamara. "To me, it's a matter of ethics. I think a university... should have a higher standard of ethical behaviour when it comes to intellectual property."

CFS denies pro-life student groups

A provincial student lobby group is supporting student unions that decide to revoke funding and society status from anti-abortion student clubs.

The Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) Ontario put forth an "emergency" motion in January to back all student unions that decided to ban "anti-choice" groups who allegedly discriminate against other students based on religion, reported student newspaper *The Eyeopener*. CFS supported Lakehead University's decision to withhold funding from its pro-life student group.

The student union at Ryerson University, a member of CFS, argued against the over-arching proposal, saying it denied some pro-life students their right to freedom of speech, but their amendment

failed.

"I thought it was strange and vaguely offensive to say that anti-choice groups should be given money on the basis of free speech," said Sandy Hudson, the women's commissioner for CFS-Ontario.

Sources: *The Ubysey*; *The Carillon*; *The Eyeopener*

SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Blindness cure for fish could help humans

A biology professor at New York University is heading a group study that works to partially restore vision in blind cave fish.

Richard Borowsky said his study could lead to progress in humans.

"The cave fish system gives us an experimental model for learning about human eye development and diseases," Borowsky told *Washington Square News*.

Borowsky and his team conducted their research by crossbreeding different populations of fish, which resulted in nearly 40 per cent of crossbreeds that had their vision restored.

The National Science Founda-

tion and the National Institutes of Health provided grants for the research, which began three years ago.

UPenn institute to combat global diseases

The University of Pennsylvania's director of the Institute of Strategic Threat Analysis and Response (ISTAR), Harvey Rubin, is leading an international plan to battle infectious diseases.

Rubin told *The Daily Pennsylvanian* that infectious diseases are the cause of over 18 million deaths each year worldwide, which makes up one-third of all human deaths.

Although Rubin acknowledged these diseases are prevalent in the developing world, he said globalization is a huge problem as well.

"If there is a global warming, infectious diseases will be 100 times worse," he said.

Rubin is set to address the British Parliament's House of Lords about ISTAR's agenda.

Sources: *Washington Square News*; *The Daily Pennsylvanian*

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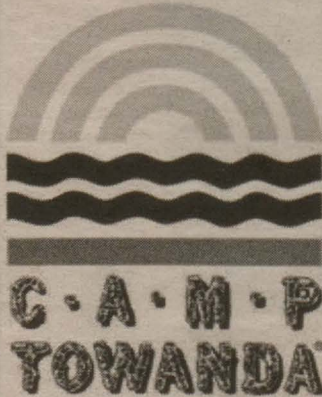
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Gazette

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

of ideas, and to stimulate meaningful debate on issues that affect or would otherwise be of interest to the student body and/or society in general. The views of the Editorial Board are not necessarily the views of Dalhousie University.

Non-lethal is a dangerous word

The old saying that guns don't kill people, people kill people has some truth to it. We should always consider the weapon-holder as much as the weapon itself. The way a person wielding a weapon perceives it determines how deadly that weapon is.

In order to reassess Taser use, we need to look at who carries them and how they treat the weapons. To police, Tasers are tools for compliance; to other people, Tasers are potentially deadly weapons. Each time a fresh Taser story appears in the news, people lose trust in the police.

An arrest in Dartmouth a year ago has brought Tasers back into the spotlight. On Feb. 19, 2007 a 17-year-old girl was touch-tasered twice in her Dartmouth home after her mother called the police and asked them to remove her daughter. According to Halifax Regional Police, she was fighting and pushing two of the three officers before she was tasered.

Last week, the provincial court acquitted the girl of two counts of assaulting police and one count of resisting arrest. Since the details of the incident have been made public and drawn condemnation from many public figures, the police have complained that their side of the story has not yet been heard.

The Taser usage grabbed the attention of the judge looking over the case, and ran in the story's headline in *The Chronicle Herald*. The use of a Taser created chaos in the girl's bedroom, where family members were getting upset at what was going on. The judge who eventually acquitted the girl says she found the Taser use "disturbing and disconcerting."

As an alternative to guns, Tasers seem like a gentler, kinder, non-lethal weapon to use in chaotic situations. But it's idyllic and overly optimistic to hail Tasers as a godsend that decreases gun-related deaths. Just because they're not as danger-

ous as guns doesn't mean they're not dangerous at all.

A new study released last week showed that Tasers used on pigs left all the animals with heart rhythm problems. All 11 pigs received two 40-second jolts of electricity with a pause for 10 to 15 seconds between each jolt. Two of the pigs died from cardiac arrest, one died three minutes after it was shocked.

Thinking of Tasers as non-lethal weapons might make police officers more prone to using the weapons. The police and the public need to know just how dangerous Tasers can be. And police should not use Tasers just because they have them, when other less-dangerous compliance techniques would be effective.

Tasers are relatively new to the Canadian police force: they've been used in Canada for 10 years. The recent incidences of Taser deaths inflicted by police have likely occurred because we are still learning the risks and limits of these weapons.

It has become apparent that police forces across the country have not sufficiently trained their officers to handle the weapons. After witnessing a year that saw three high-profile deaths involving Tasers – in Vancouver, Montreal and Halifax – people need to see action on this issue.

We need to make police wavier about using Tasers. The first report in a review of Taser use in Nova Scotia is scheduled to be released by the end of the month. We hope the review will include a clear acknowledgment that Tasers are not non-lethal, and will include a more aggressive approach to getting cops to recognize the 'gun' side as much as the 'stun' side of Tasers.

It's not healthy for any society to fear the tactics of its own police force. People need to be able to trust the police to carry Tasers as they trust them to carry guns. This has everything to do with reformulating the appropriate conditions for Taser use.

Beyond shame

The ability to understand cataclysmic and chaotic events on a smaller scale can offer us a human perspective on something that is otherwise too large to fathom. The war and instability in Iraq is one of those issues, leaving people dumbfounded rather than interested in looking closer.

This past week, the world got a grim view of what a country in tatters can do to the most vulnerable people in a society. Two female suicide bombers detonated themselves on Feb. 1 at a Baghdad pet market. Iraqi police say the blast killed 99 people, while American authorities put the number of dead at 27. According to witnesses and authorities who saw the faces of the two women after the blast, each bomber seems to have suffered from Down syndrome.

To incite human beings without complete cognitive faculties to kill themselves and others is an act reserved for the most base, gutless and inhuman of people. To use people with Down syndrome as murderous tools is absolutely without sense.

Nothing could have fuelled such actions other than a blind drive to

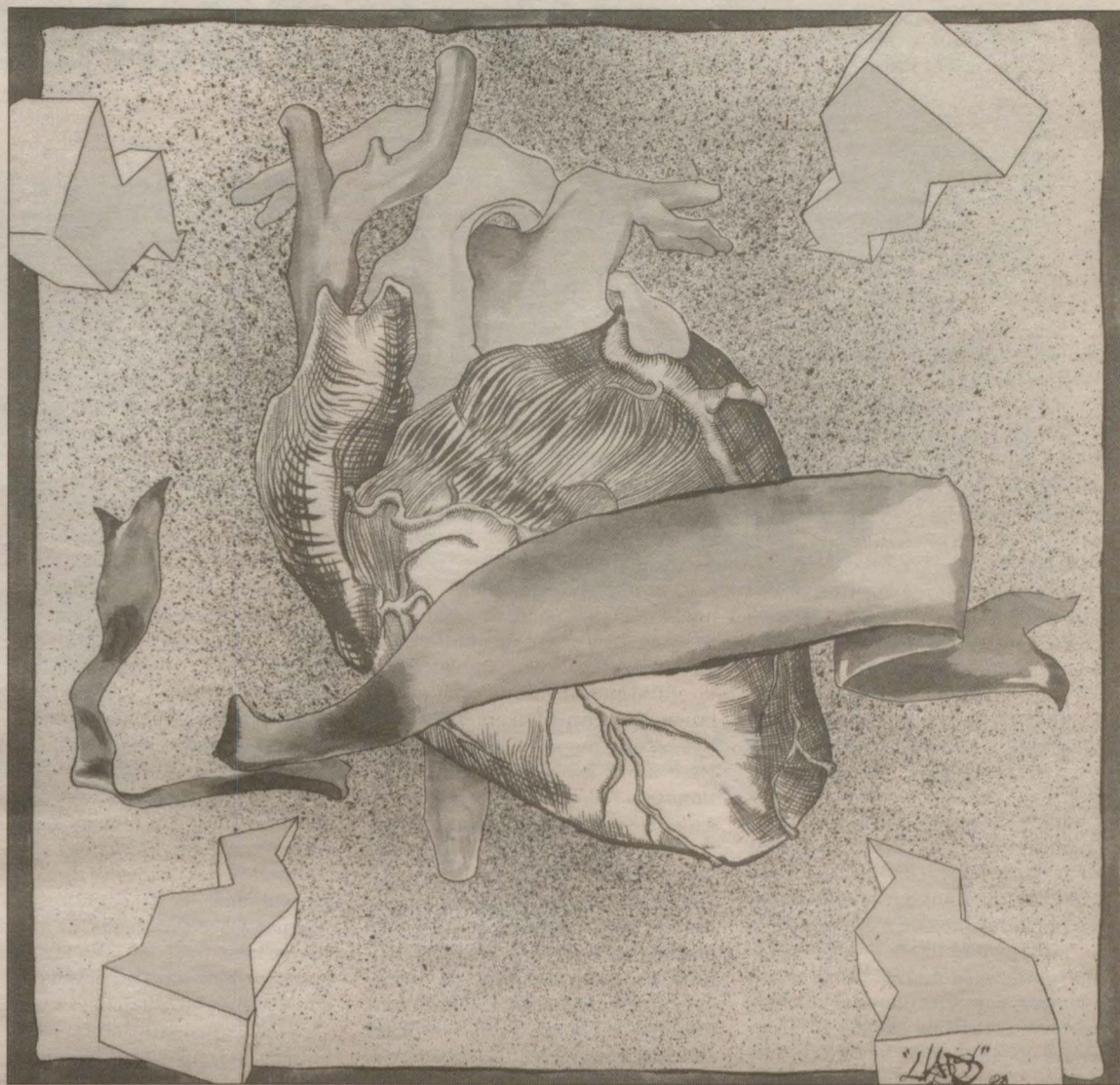
kill. The act also highlights what happens to the weak and defenceless in a country out of control. While Iraq's role as a geo-political pawn in military and economic strategy is being debated, those with illnesses and without shelter are being forgotten.

The Los Angeles Times quoted a 43-year-old teacher in Baghdad, Abu Gasan, who lamented the loss of state institutions for the mentally disabled since the 2003 invasion.

"The government should provide those who have special needs a shelter, but the terrorists should still take all the blame for this horrific attack," he said.

The paper also quoted 22-year-old student Ahmed Shihab who said, "No religion accepts this sort of abuse of disabled women. Only those who have nothing do with any religion accept this."

The death of these two women is tragic beyond comprehension. One can only hope that the knowledge and awareness of this event spreads so that people can know about the urgency for stability in countries without order, and the inhuman schemes of those who are behind it.



Tasers shouldn't be sending people, or hearts, into a panic.

JAMIE NADEL

Taking out 500 bucks to win 200 isn't really hitting the jackpot.

Is this how it goes? Play the machines, visit the ATM. Play some more. Visit some more. And so on. Okay, you might want to get up and walk away. Because playing a machine all night will empty your bank account sooner than it will fill your pocket. That's why it's a yellow flag thing to do.

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Letters@dalgazette.ca

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Letters

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

Articles

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

Re: Give smokers a chance to catch their breath, 140-16

Two weeks ago, *The Gazette's* editor-in-chief, John Packman, wrote an article claiming that the proposed laws seeking to ban smoking on public grounds are going too far. Packman writes, "When a councilor wants to ban smoking on city beaches and parks for reasons like litter prevention, health protection and forest fire safety, people need to put their foot down." I completely disagree on this.

"The idea that litter is so out of control that we have to outlaw smoking is unbelievable," adds Packman. But if anyone looks outside the DSU building, or anywhere on campus or in the city for that matter, thousands of butts are strewn on the pavement. Cigarette butt bins are usually empty except for a lone Tim Hortons cup.

Little white tubes of litter cover the causeways and paths at Point Pleasant. I am sure there are smokers who are courteous enough to properly dispose of their butts, but they appear to be so rare that they hardly warrant making exceptions when the proposal to ban public smoking is put forward.

"[These policies] don't recognize smokers as people who make

informed choices about their lives. They place the importance of litter prevention over people's right to choose," writes Packman.

This train of thought has some logic issues from my point of view. Litter, though distasteful, is a secondary issue here. A person has the right to choose to smoke, but I, and the millions of others out there, have a right to not have to suck up the fumes of these smokers. The right of non-smokers supersedes those of the smoker.

To argue in favour of smokers' rights over non-smokers' rights carries an argument fraught with error. Here are a few hypothetical situations that follow the same logical basis as the pro-smoker argument.

If I were to inject tar and nicotine into a person's food, there is the general consensus that this would be both asinine and harmful to someone's health. I don't see how this is different from someone smoking, for smokers are directly injecting these toxins into the air I breathe. And last time I checked, I need air to survive just as much as I need food and water.

I am sure the thought of having tar and chemicals in your food is distasteful to even the most ardent smoker, but somehow they think that isn't an issue if they fill the air

with the stuff.

A second hypothetical situation would be safety on the road. Someone making an "informed" decision to speed and not obey traffic controls follows the same logic you used to defend smoking. Yes it is harmful to other people's health and safety, but they have made an "informed" decision to drive like a moron and so I should accept their choice and keep quiet.

I could go on forever with stupid things people could do that are banned for good reasons.

Finally, I would like to add that I can't even count the number of times a smoker has refused to leave the bus shelter during the rain or snow or whatever inclement weather.

In some cases, they've threatened me with violence if I continue to ask them to leave the shelter or at least go downwind, argued with me about how they don't want to get wet or cold and that they have a right to smoke.

That is just ridiculous. There is no right to smoke if you are harming someone else. Someone else's choice does not make it O.K. to supersede my right to health.

-Justin LoRusso

Re: Give smokers a chance to catch their breath, 140-16

I have worked in cancer research for a good part of my life and seen firsthand the devastating effects smoking has not just on smokers, but on children and those adults who choose not to smoke.

I can quote the statistics – the incidence of lung cancer in adults who are forced to work with people who, as you put it "choose to smoke" and who "make informed choices about their lives." We shouldn't ignore the less well-known incidence of brain tumours in children who live with parents who make these choices.

Smokers need to make informed choices about their children's and

other people's lives. But this is getting away from the point you make.

With regard to smokers' rights – everyone has a right to clean air, and the rights of smokers stop where the rights of non-smokers begin.

It is fatuous to compare cigarette smoking with coffee drinking, alcohol consumption and nose picking. None of these behaviours interferes directly with the health of others. Cigarette smoke is different – it cannot be contained.

With regard to the proposal to ban smoking on city-owned beaches, parks, playgrounds and sports fields – this is not simply a health concern; it's about creating role models for the young people who use these facilities.

Re: Give Smokers a chance to catch their breath, 140-16

The author falsely suggests that the only effects of the ban are in regards to stepping on the supposed rights of smokers. As well, he suggests that the government thinks smokers don't understand the consequences of their actions. In fact, none of these are reasons for the ban.

It's also a false premise to suggest that a complete ban on public smoking is what the government is trying to achieve or that it is some inevitable consequence. The author does not even explain why banning smoking outright – while I do not even support this notion – is a bad idea. I would enjoy seeing such an argument.

The proposed law is not an attempt to force those who just don't

get that smoking can kill them to stop smoking, nor could it even achieve that affect. Being aware of the harm you do to yourself does not mean you should be able to do it anywhere you please.

The difference between smoking and your other conscious decisions is that coffee does not affect other people. Drinking is already banned in all public places and you can't affect the sobriety of other people by drinking within breathing distance of them.

Also, I don't know what you consider to be "out of control" littering, but there is little tolerance for littering and fines for doing it. It doesn't take a mountain of cigarettes for the resulting litter to get to the point of requiring action.

This ban is an attempt to protect children from second-hand smoke

An additional problem is that most (although not all) smokers litter. They drop their cigarette butts anywhere and everywhere. Take a look at the approaches to entrances to hospitals, offices and universities; they're disgusting. And many smokers expectorate freely in public places.

Sitting on a public beach in Nova Scotia these days is like sitting in a giant ashtray. Smoking is a sickening, unclean and selfish habit to those of us and our children who choose not to smoke and it poses a danger to all of us. Kudos to Linda Mosher, the council representative who proposed the new legislation, for taking up this initiative.

-Irene G. Wilkinson, Halifax

and potentially poor influences. Children should have a right to be in places that are clean of litter and smoke-free. I'm going to have to side with improving the productive activities of children over the convenience for smokers here.

Those statistics do not indicate that smoking is not just a social activity for some and thus cannot affect children. They can easily be attributed to widespread education about the effects of smoking, the increased cost of smoking and a crackdown on underage smoking.

And regarding "If this were to happen at Dal," Dalhousie is private property and they have already banned smoking.

-Kate Patterson, Computer science student

Re: Levy mix-up caused office debt, 140-16

I was very disappointed in the coverage of the DSU Sustainability Office in a recent issue of *The Gazette*.

The two main points I'd like to make absolutely clear are that the office was never in debt and in fact has incredibly good financial management and that the supposed concerns from SustainDal members about the office have been significantly exaggerated.

The office is not and never has been "in the red." The change in the calculation of student fees (which would only have resulted in a \$3,000 to \$4,000 shortfall and not \$7,000 as was reported) would have been completely covered by a transfer from the DSU surplus funds. In the end, it wasn't even necessary to do that, as the office restructuring actually allowed the management committee to hire three staff instead of one and still have money left over for programming and events.

The \$7,000 figure came from a very early estimate of the office's finances and student numbers. It was certainly within *The Gazette's* purview to report that this had been a past estimate, but the impression given by the coverage was that this \$7,000 was a looming problem, which it absolutely was not.

I'll note that the DSU is also providing rent-free office space for the sustainability initiative. We see its work as a service to the student community, and the DSU council and executive are committed to making sure the office is both effective and fiscally sound.

The truth is, the sustainability office has a greater degree of financial oversight and student representation than any other student levy. Its budget and operations are overseen by a management committee struck by council, the DSU board of operations and the DSU council, at which every student at Dalhousie has representation. I would contrast this with *The Gazette's* own student levy and the levies of other C-level societies, which are controlled by much smaller and less representative groups with far less oversight.

The exaggeration of student concerns is just as big a concern for me as is the dissembling about finances,

and extended even to the photograph accompanying the article.

"I was surprised when the photographer asked us not to smile for the photo," SustainDal executive member Mark Coffin, a major focus of the article, told me after its publication. "We were asked to convey an emotion we didn't actually feel."

Although portrayed as a critic in the article, Mark is actually a fan of the sustainability office, calling it the "biggest accomplishment" of the sustainability movement on campus.

When I asked him about some of the criticisms expressed in the article, Mark said his quotes were truncated and did not convey his true thoughts about the office.

"I meant the bureaucracy should be eliminated, not the sustainability office itself," explained Mark, "but that's not how it looks in the article."

And what about the contention that SustainDal did not have a say in planning the office? "That's completely untrue," said Mark, "We were happy to have a huge role in creating the office and we hope to have a role, along with other societies, in its continued operations and management."

Finally, I'd like to say that the sustainability office has huge potential. Mark Johnston, Emily Rideout and Sarah Applebaum are a dedicated group of students who are working hard to fulfill a vital mission. (For regular updates on their work, visit dsuo.blogspot.com).

If we can't move towards sustainability on a university campus, which is supposed to be a centre of learning and knowledge, how can we expect change to happen on a larger scale?

It's unfortunate how easily some cherry-picked quotes, some staged cover art and some big red letters can make a success like the student sustainability office seem like a failure.

-Mike Tipping
DSU President

Editor's note:

Mike Tipping provided *The Gazette* with the \$7,000 figure and failed to mention before the story was published that the figure was based on an early estimate at the beginning of the year. *The Gazette* was not told that more current figures existed until after the issue's publication.



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An open letter to Minister of Human Resources Monte Solberg

Dear Minister Solberg:

I write this open letter to urge that you fix student aid in Canada.

Fifteen years of rising student fees have unfairly shifted the financial burden of higher education onto the shoulders of low- and middle-class families, at a time when our economy is securely growing and the federal government's fiscal capacity is overflowing. The recent commitment to increase core education transfers is drastically insufficient compared to the needs of Canada's students, colleges and universities.

The Canadian Council on Learning has reported that "access to, and benefits of, post-secondary education are not equally distributed among Canadians."

Meanwhile, Canada's patchwork of student assistance is complicated, inefficient and inadequate. It has been built piecemeal to distract from the massive funding cuts by the Liberals in the 1990s, and does little to help everyday families cope with soaring fees and other education costs.

Savings programs and tax credits appear many years before or after the time when students most need support, and they disproportionately benefit wealthier individuals instead of students and families in need.

More grant, less loan

The recent reports from your department regarding the Millennium Scholarship Foundation reveal additional flaws in the Liberals' piecemeal approach to student assistance. However, while the Foundation is a fundamentally flawed vehicle for delivering student aid, you would be profoundly misguided to conclude that more student loans are the solution.

Focusing on loans instead of grants would widen the gap between two classes of students in Canada: one class that can afford to pay up-front for student fees and other education costs, and a second class of students who are forced to borrow and therefore end up paying substantially more for their education through loan interest.

Instead, the Millennium Foundation must be replaced by a publicly

administered, federal system of up-front, non-repayable student grants. To ensure truly equitable access and adequately address Canada's student debt crisis, these grants must be available to all Canada Student Loan borrowers, on a sliding scale according to need, in all years of study until the achievement of their first degree or diploma.

This federal student grant system must work in collaboration with the provinces and territories to ensure that no existing funding is clawed back or re-directed. It must not exclude mature or financially independent students, and it must include targeted measures to ensure equitable access for students from rural, aboriginal, low-income and other backgrounds facing barriers to higher education.

Fix student loans

The student debt crisis caused by soaring student fees and the inadequacy of federal student grants has placed tremendous strain on Canada's student loan system, which has become broken and outdated.

The short-sighted privatization of

student loan administration and collection to private firms has given priority to the profit of collection agencies rather than helping student borrowers find ways to repay their loans without undue financial hardship.

Besides the wasteful siphoning of public funds to private profit, this move has created a complicated mess of confused communication and accountability that is evidenced by whole websites dedicated to student loan horror stories.

Many students even find it impossible to determine the total amount of their loans or receive current account updates. Returning student loans to the auspices of Human Resources and Social Development Canada would ensure a simpler, more efficient, and more student-friendly system.

There are a number of other concrete changes – major and minor – that must be implemented to make student loans more simple, flexible and responsive to the needs and circumstances of student borrowers. I have collected petitions from campuses and communities across

Canada in support of several such changes to accomplish this objective. These changes include reducing the interest rate on Canada Student Loans, creating a federal student ombudsperson and improving relief during repayment of student loans.

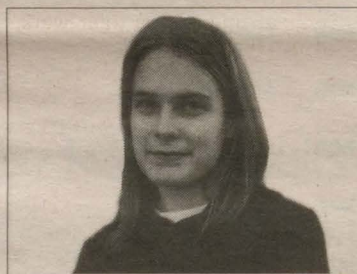
There should be strict, enforceable federal standards governing the conduct of government and private student loan collection agents. Last but not least, the student loan review should also amend the 'lifetime limit' on student loans such that they are not repayable until six months after the completion of full-time studies.

Minister, I strongly advise that if you truly want to fix the student aid system in the best interests of increasing equitable access, reducing the burden of student debt and creating a flexible and educated workforce for the long term, you must take concrete action to put students first.

Sincerely,
Denise Savoie, MP Victoria
NDP Post-Secondary Education Advocate

The Scientific Skeptic

Harper slashes Science Advisor Office



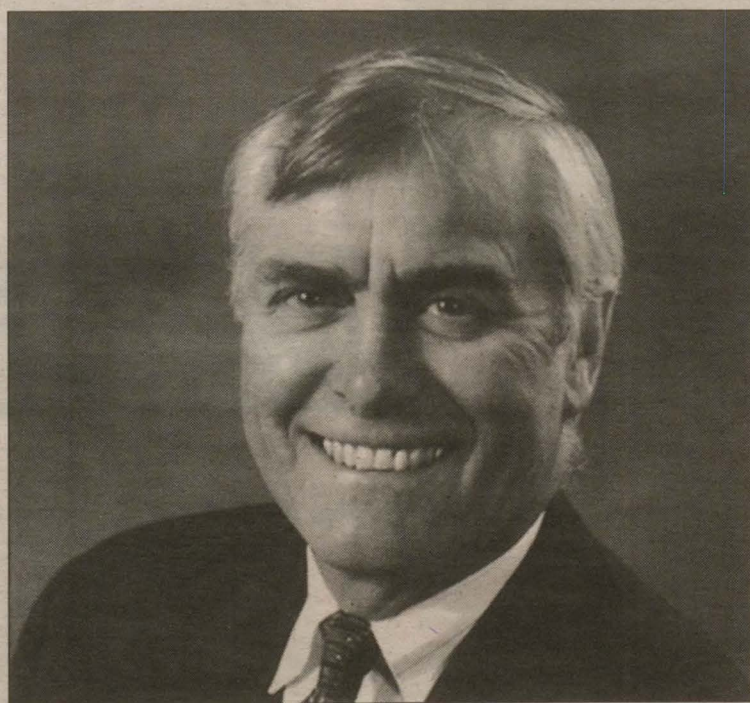
CATHERINE HOLLOWAY
SCIENCE COLUMNIST

We trust in science because it aims to be an objective method of finding truth. However, there is a perpetual debate over every single theory in science. No truth in science is absolute, but we believe in the theory that has the highest probability of being the truth.

The government needs a strong and objective science advisor at its highest levels. Lobby groups can always find a scientist to support their positions, but it doesn't always mean those positions are scientifically valid.

by human activity, but the president still insists that the issue is a matter of debate.

Out of all the members of Stephen Harper's cabinet, most are businessmen or lawyers. None of them have any background in science. Not the minister of health, nor of the environment, nor of natural resources. Politicians often hold economic, religious or ideological views for which they are willing to bend or reinterpret the scientific consensus.



SUPPLIED

Arthur Carty was appointed National Science Advisor to the Prime Minister in 2004.

It takes someone experienced in the world of scientific research to evaluate the credibility of politically important scientific arguments. Unfortunately, this person will no longer exist in the Canadian government after March.

Although it is important to have a national science advisor, the position is pretty much useless unless we have political leaders who respect science. Bush's science advisor, John H. Marburger, has publicly declared that global warming is real and is caused

Our government makes controversial decisions every day. It makes decisions on policies that affect our economy, environment and health, like global climate change and health research. Without a national science advisor to point out when our leaders' biases cloud the truth, we cannot trust the government to make decisions that are consistently scientifically valid and untainted by political wrangling.

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STREETER

What makes a prof sexy?



“A nice voice. Someone who’s confident and can relate to the students.”

John Sclodnick, fourth-year philosophy



“Physical attributes and if she doesn’t fail me.”

Jeffrey Rodgers, fourth-year political science



“When he doesn’t teach.”

Nilofer Mehta, first-year engineering



“How closely they resemble a pirate.”

Mike Lancaster, first-year arts and science



“His age, his haircut, his height, his teeth, the size of feet and hands, and his scent.”

Niteecha Gill-Downey, first-year social work



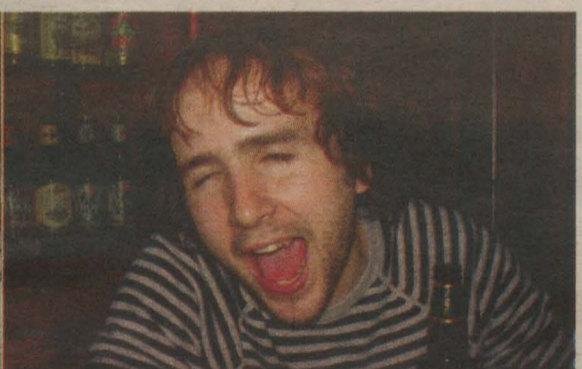
“Assignment extensions.”

Emma Cooper, third-year recreation management



“Intelligence and being able to able to say they’re not the expert on the subject.”

Mary-Frances Lynch, Master’s in environmental studies



“Nothing revs up my pistons like chalk smears on a prof’s chest.”

James Munson, third-year porn fluffing

TOP 10

...WAYS TO GET THROUGH MIDTERMS:

1. Just before the exam starts, beat your chest and scream your name. This is intensely motivating and doesn’t break any rules.
2. While you’re waiting outside the testing room, gently heckle and deride you fellow students. A grade curve can save your GPA.
3. Wink incessantly at your teacher, TA or proctor. Fearing harassment suits, they’ll let you get away with anything.
4. Sleep well and study hard. And then find a friend with a Ritalin prescription.
5. Join a law school clique and threaten every single one of your graders with implausible legal action.
6. Appear in stunningly inappropriate attire (think internet niche porn, then take the next step). Enjoy the deferred testing that is academic probation.
7. Discover the wonders of caffeine. Who’d have thought sleep was optional?
8. Buy as many ferrets as you can fit into your book bag. Sit in the back row and unleash a sure-fire test rescheduling.
9. If all else fails, bring ketchup packets to the test and demonstrate spontaneous ocular hemorrhages.
10. Mitigate stress through heavy use of drugs and alcohol.

HOT OR NOT

HOT: Being a gentleman	NOT: Being gentle, man
HOT: BSc	NOT: Teaching high school
HOT: Feminism	NOT: Hillary Clinton
HOT: Donkeys	NOT: Elephants
HOT: Super duper Tuesdays	NOT: Adjectives
HOT: Late night food	NOT: Early morning vomit
HOT: Mardi Gras	NOT: Lent
HOT: Vengeance	NOT: Comeuppance
HOT: Plans for reading week	NOT: Plans for reading, weak
HOT: Sylvester Stallone as John Rambo	NOT: Sylvester Stallone as Sylvester Stallone

DISCLAIMER

Views expressed in the Hot or Not feature, Overheard at Dal, and Streeter are solely those of the contributing writers or the individual pictured, and do not necessarily represent the views of *The Gazette* or its staff. The quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter are completely fabricated by the staff and are do not necessarily represent views held by James Munson himself, *The Gazette* and or its staff.

Have you ever gotten busy on campus?
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February 9, 2008 and see it in print.

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OVERHEARD AT DAL

Walking in the SUB

Guy: You know what sucks? Waking up and smelling semen on your pillow.

In sociology class:

Prof: When you're writing your paper, don't make the mistake of going "arrrrggg."

Girl: Bulimia? I didn't know that was a risk factor for writing papers.

In front of the Killam:

Girl1: Well at least you have an idea where you're going to be in a year.

Girl2: Yeah... somewhere drinking beer.

In a political science class:

Prof: So for those of you who are political junkies, you know that American politics is like crack cocaine... and the 2008 primaries are like having your own meth lab.

In residence:

Girl: Who am I playing footsies with?

Guy: Ummm... that's my crotch.

At the Dalplex in the changeroom:

Girl1: So my eyebrows are never going to be the same again?

Girl2: No, no they won't.

Girl1: That's sad on so many levels.

In class:

Geography prof: The United States is like a big erection. It keeps getting bigger, and then BAM! It will eventually go limp.

Two girls in the LSC :

Girl1: O.K., so you know how you have like Facebook friends, but they are not necessarily like your MSN friends?

Girl2: Yeah! Yeah I know.

Girl1: Well, he like, added me to MSN.

Outside the SUB:

Girl1: Your husband won't mind your little floppy grilled cheese.

Girl2: Not if I do my exercises!

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illScarlett lights up across Canada

ALY COY
ARTS EDITOR

It's a Wikipedian rumour that members of illScarlett throw joints and papers into the crowd at their shows.

"What - are you crazy?" asks Alex Norman, rhythm guitarist and lead singer of the band, over the phone. "We wouldn't throw away weed like that. If anything, people throw [weed] onto the stage."

Norman, along with John Doherty on bass and backup vocals, Will Marr on lead guitar and Swavek Piorkoski on drums, make up the punk/dub/reggae/rock band from Mississauga, Ont.

The band has kept busy lately touring across Canada. They've made stops in Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Montreal, among other cities, and are set to play The Greenwood on Feb. 13. Tickets are cheap at \$5, and don't expect them to be throwing free joints into the crowd. The four talented, chill weed enthusiasts are also playing at The Pavilion on Feb 15.

They released their latest album, *All Day With It*, in July 2007, and the FIFA U-20 World Cup Soccer tournament made their song "Who's Got It" the official song of the tournament. They've also been nominated for a 2008 Juno for New Group of the Year.

illScarlett are known for their support of marijuana legalization. Norman describes the band's music as "chill-out music for chill-out people." They played at the 2007 Weed March in Toronto and got paid in pot - "the real sticky stuff," says Norman.



Get high on life with illScarlett Feb. 15 at The Pavilion.

SUPPLIED / SONY BMG

Being so open about their marijuana stance did cause one minor problem in their past. Norman recalls when a performance they were supposed to be doing at a high school was cancelled.

"[The teachers] listened to our songs or whatever, and were like,

"No, we can't let these guys in here," Norman says. "But people give us joints after the set, so that could be a positive repercussion."

Even though the members of the band smoke after their shows, Norman says it's better to be a little sober while they're writing.

"For initial ideas it's good," Norman says. "But if you really want to focus on an idea and craft a song, sometimes it's better you're not that stoned."

There's a major reggae sound to their music, especially on "Mary Jane," a song from their 2006 EP that

took Norman 20 minutes to write while high. He says that song was an exception to his rule.

On the band's new album, Piorkoski helped Norman write the music for "Nothing Special." The song speaks of the pressures teenagers and young adults face as everyone tries to tell them what's best. Norman says his lyrics were inspired by a conversation he had with a customer who came into a skate shop he was working at and asked him about his plans for the future.

"I said, 'I don't go to school. I work here and I also play music.' And she said, 'Oh, well you're an idiot... If you don't go to school, you're going to be nothing much the rest of your life.'"

But Norman isn't worried about his customer's negative prophesy.

"At the end of the day, if it all just falls apart and we wind up being nothing special, then maybe that was our purpose," he says. "Do it for the adventure and nothing else."

Their hit song from *All Day With It*, "Life Of A Soldier," is personal and political. Norman says it also has to do with their life on tour.

"Sometimes you feel kind of like a soldier," he says about touring. "You gotta go on these long drives, gotta push through the hard times."

"This is what I chose to do, so don't feel bad if we fall flat on our face."

He says he believes that even if illScarlett isn't the greatest band in the world, they could inspire a kid at one of their concerts to start a band and that kid's band could "be the next Beatles."

"It's cool to be the fire sometimes," Norman says. "But it's pretty cool to be the spark."

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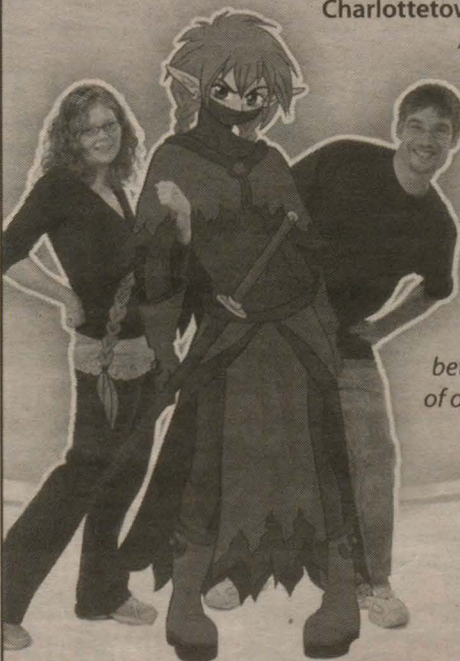
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DEIRDRE AYRE, Studio Head, Other Ocean Interactive of Charlottetown, PEI, says,

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It's not the end of the world as we know it

MARTINA JAKUBCHIK-PALOHEIMO
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Contrary to the title of the event, the end of the world was fortunately nowhere in sight this past Thursday at The Marquee. Remember Music and Flow Entertainment threw an 'end of the world' party featuring Brother Bri, DJ Caulford and Nigel Lutes.

The DJs played a variety of music in hopes of providing the attendees with the opportunity to dance the night away and if lucky, rock the kasbah. It was a vibrant gathering of students of all ages, styles and hair colours.

The party introduced a new and innovative experience to partygoers by offering more than just a drink deal and a party scene. The Marquee was decked out to the nines. Whether it was the hors d'oeuvres offered at the beginning of the evening or the free flowing champagne, the night seemed classier than most student parties.

Michael Laniak, a fourth-year commerce student at Dalhousie, started Remember Music during his second-year co-op program. The business mainly focuses around developing, booking and promoting artists in Halifax and Toronto. Flow Entertainment is the other partner in this production and was started by Scott Blostein, also during his second-year co-op in the commerce program at Dal.

One of the most innovative aspects of the evening was the movies



CORY WOODS / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Students partied like there was no tomorrow at The Marquee last Thursday

projected as the backdrop playing behind the DJs. The first movie was Godfrey Reggio's independent film *Koyaanisqatsi*, meaning "life out of balance." It depicts the war between environment and its landscapes versus industrialized society.

The second movie was Ron Fricke's *Baraka*. Much like the first movie, *Baraka* compares mass urban culture to forgotten and unknown regions of the world. These two movies

don't have words and they don't need them; they are best conveyed to their audience as visual essays.

The two movies went quite well with the 'end of the world' theme. Although the subject matter was a serious one, the mood was not.

Flow Entertainment and Remember Music plan to throw parties twice a month, so keep an eye out for bigger and better events in the future — while we still have one.

Signal Hill rocks The Grawood

DAN MAXWELL
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

One look at Jason Meadus and you can't help but smile. A broken bass string dangles as Meadus, bass player for Newfoundland natives Signal Hill, shifts up on the strings and doesn't stop givin' er hard. For the boys from the Rock, it's everyday business rocking venues like The Grawood like they did Wednesday Jan. 30.

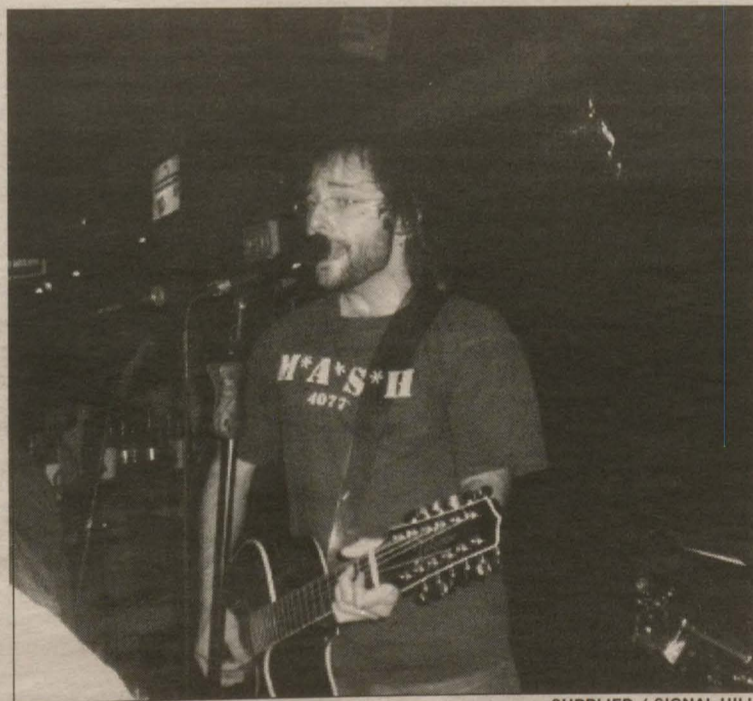
Even though the band is on the road for 200 of the shows they play each year, they still manage to get their asses home for their weekly Sunday evening show at The Lower Deck (where the first drink is free for students, by the way).

After an intro at The Grawood that would have made Sir Bono weep, the band hit all the right notes as they played, "Where the Streets Have No Name" by U2.

Despite their growing success touring in central Canada, the group remains modest — aside from Jordie Weale, lead acoustic guitarist from Charlottetown, P.E.I. who's embarking on a career in pick-up hockey.

"Don't actually put that in there" he responds quickly with a shy look, as he tunes and checks his guitar. Hockey will have to be put on hold for a while, because Signal Hill is on the road just a little too often for practice time.

The quartet shows their true



SUPPLIED / SIGNAL HILL

Familiar faces Signal Hill keep on delivering

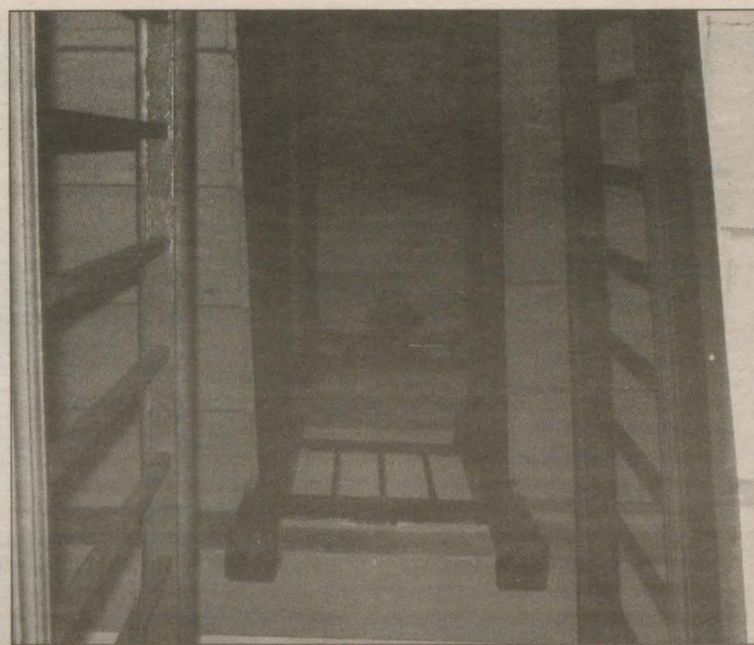
roots when they are furthest from home. Their tours have included regular stops in Southern Ontario.

"We play the real eastern songs when we are over there. They love it. When we are [on the East Coast], we don't do that. The folks around here have heard it just a little too much — they want something different."

Regardless of whether they play

originals or covers, there is a purity to Signal Hill's music that is unmatched, uncompromised and smooth like liquid velvet tickling the eardrums.

"People want to hear real music, they want to hear real voices without the voice correctors. We use an acoustic guitar, like other bands, but ours isn't just for effect."



RACHEL SUNTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Maybe the Frosh Week ghost tours have more to them than scaring little FYPers.

Ghost sighting at King's?

RACHEL SUNTER
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

On Wednesdays, Denise Gow enjoys sleeping in until her late morning class. Last Wednesday, Jan. 16, Gow says she saw a ghost.

A second-year journalism and international development student, Gow has a levelheaded air about her. She has an easy laugh, but steady blue eyes. She speaks in a fine, articulate voice.

She says the ghost appeared in her residence room atop Cochran Bay on the University of King's College campus.

The King's campus is known for its ghost stories. Each fall, first-year students are traditionally lead on a campus ghost tour during Frosh Week.

Some kids are spooked by it. Some are drunk. Many think it's a big joke.

But Gow, who's aware she might sound crazy, is confident in what she saw.

"Throughout the day I was really uneasy in my room," she says. "And I know that sounds cheesy. But I kept hearing someone's voice."

She says it felt like, "when someone whispers in your ear, that right-next-to-you-feeling."

Gow checked to see if the voice was coming from outside her room. She unplugged her TV, radio and computer, trying to shut off the sound.

"But they were all off and I was still hearing [the voice]," she says.

A regular school day followed, with undisturbed classes and meals. But upon returning to her room that evening, things got stranger.

"I kept hearing [the voice], a couple times every 10 minutes or so," she says. "I was getting really upset and I thought, 'Okay, I'm going to bed.'"

Gow turned off the lights around 11 p.m., but couldn't fall asleep.

"I could have sworn I kept seeing something," she says.

There was enough light in the room to make out shapes, and Gow says she sensed something was there.

"Do you ever have that feeling where your eyes are closed, and you have a friend in the room, and you know they're by your dresser, but you can kind of feel them as they go around the room? It was kind of like that."

She says she sensed the presence move around her room: first by the dresser, then over by the fridge. Gow stayed in bed. She figured getting someone to come wouldn't fix the problem. Eventually she fell asleep, but woke up an hour later, at 3 a.m.

Gow got a glass of water from

her mini-fridge across the room and then sat on her bed.

"And that's when I saw her," she says.

Gow says the ghost of a teenage girl appeared beside the bed, three feet away from her.

"She had long, wavy brown hair and was wearing a long-sleeved nightgown," recounts Gow. "She was maybe five feet tall. She was hovering above the ground, leaning at an angle."

She says the ghost appeared to be solid, but slightly transparent. Gow says you could see through the ghost's stomach to its back, but it was "solid... and definitely 3-D."

She says the ghost of the girl hung beside the bed, staring at nothing for 10 seconds before disappearing — long enough for Gow to get a good, long look.

"I could have reached out to grab her," she says. "It's not like I was half-asleep or anything — I was wide awake."

Gow posted her ghostly encounter on a blog for paranormal experiences at www.paranormalsoup.com. She also consulted her friend, Jonathon Borden, who works at the King's library. The library's archives record events at King's, including deaths.

"I've done a little bit of research into some of the people who have died on the campus," says Gow. "The closest one I could find is about the maid who hung herself in the roost."

The roost is the picturesque little tower atop Gow's residence, which is in the Arts and Administration Building.

"We're pretty much on the same floor," says Gow. "There's a wall in between."

Gow also said the ghost appeared to be tilted at an angle.

"When you hang yourself, you fall kind of on an angle," she says.

According to responses to Gow's online post, ghosts have been said to return to familiar places, repeating their living actions.

Maybe the maid used to clean Gow's room. She might have even slept there. Upper level rooms used to be designated servants' quarters.

After telling her ghost story, Gow laughs. She says she's been a little nervous to tell people.

The fire alarm sounds and Gow jumps. She says this is a common prank in the King's dorms.

"But I jump every time, no matter how many times that goes off," she says with another laugh.

Yet with utter nonchalance, Gow says she's not afraid of a repeat of Wednesday night.

"I didn't feel like she was going to hurt me," she says. "Maybe I'll say hi."

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday,
February 12 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

The last of the method actors

CHRIS METLER
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Method acting is a long forgotten art. The technique demands actors replicate the real-life emotional conditions under which their characters operate in an effort to create accurate performances.

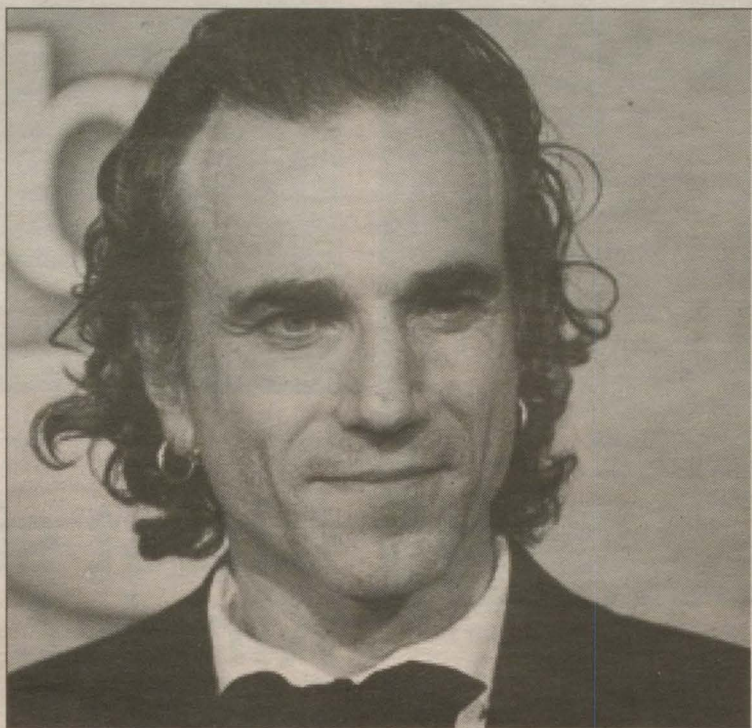
The last to stand amongst the Brandos, the De Niros and the Pacinos, is Daniel Day-Lewis. Performance after long-awaited performance, Day-Lewis is strongly making a case for himself as a true method icon of the same calibre as his famous colleagues.

For his Oscar-winning performance in Jim Sheridan's *My Left Foot* (1989) as Christy Brown, the Irish author who suffered from cerebral palsy, Day-Lewis spent up to a year in a wheelchair, breaking two ribs in the process from assuming a hunched-over position for so long.

Next came Michael Mann's *The Last of the Mohicans* (1992), where to authentically capture an aboriginal tribesman, Day-Lewis exiled himself and lived off the same forest and land where his character had, learning how to skin animals, hunt, fish and camp.

Following that was his turn as a prisoner in Jim Sheridan's *In the Name of the Father* (1993). For this performance, Day-Lewis spent long periods of time alone in a prison cell, lost a quarter of his body weight and insisted the crew verbally torment him and splash him with ice-cold water. A second Oscar nomination followed.

And in his most recent big performance, a memorable one as Bill 'The Butcher' in Martin Scorsese's *Gangs of New York* (2002), Day-Lewis



Daniel Day-Lewis: a legacy on screen.

IMBD.COM

studied with an actual butcher. He was diagnosed with pneumonia, but notoriously refused to accept any treatment, feeling it was not keeping with the period. A third Oscar nomination followed.

Now, five years later, audiences can again see Day-Lewis, this time in P.T. Anderson's *There Will Be Blood* (2007). As expected, Day-Lewis has applied his honoured approach, channeling director and actor John Huston and surrounding himself by artifacts of the period. His powerful representation recently netted him his fourth Oscar nomination, and will

likely result in his second Oscar win.

Defined by this method, Daniel Day-Lewis is perhaps our finest working actor today.

Audiences still want to know just who Day-Lewis is. Here is an actor who walked away from Hollywood for half a decade to move to Florence, Italy and pursue an old passion of woodworking, studying as a shoe cobbler's apprentice in his spare time.

But fans may only be able to know the intensely private and personal actor through his dedication to the characters he plays.

How To: Take a freight train head on

DANIEL REED
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Battle of the millennium. Man versus train. Face to grill. Flesh and bones meet metal and turbines.

In this 'How To,' we will examine if man's perseverance and 'conquer all' attitude can take him the distance against the meanest freight train on the planet.

He's a tough one, this man. Used to get a belt to the mouth from his father - metal buckle and all. No matter how hard he cried he got back up and pounded everyone's face in. Repeatedly passed over in the playground. No coordination. His rage mounted after getting tripped in front of the school. He has two tasks on his agenda: kick ass and take names.

He's humanity's last hope, squirting lemons in his eye and eating boar by the boatload. He's tucked away in the secret training facility preparing for the fight of his lifetime. He wakes up in the morning and swims through a radioactive bog full of microscopic organisms that get into his

brain and chew the cerebellum.

After doing a few laps, he brings out the pool noodle for some well-deserved leisure time.

Next, he is catapulted onto a tightrope above the clouds, where he is forced to run from one end to the other while evading a flock of blood-thirsty vultures swooping mere inches above his head.

And lo, on the other side of town: the ultimate warrior. Groomed by his engineer and raised by his conductor. Kept to a strict diet of coal and coal only. You could call him a picky eater. A machine. A master at his work. Can get from point A to B better than a preschooler can connect the dots.

The suits meet. Billed as the fight to end all fights. The winner will live eternally in the hearts and minds of the populace forever. The loser will be in no shape to care. No money at stake - just pride. Over 1 billion buys on Pay Per View. Breakfast cereals will adopt the winner as their mascot.

"If you go out, you must remember one thing," says the man's

trainer. "Remember that you stuck to your motives and fought a fucking locomotive!"

An ear-shattering whistle goes off in the yard. The gate opens. Steam rises to the clouds. The cylinder heats up and the handrail lets out a dark bellow, ready to chug along the warpath. The trees shake and the birds head south. A baby cries.

People cheer and the band plays. The Queen is in attendance. World-wide breaking news. A man sits at a bar in Azerbaijan glued to the television.

Cameras flash. The announcer swallows his tongue. The show has begun.

The train gathers its speed and squares up. The man sticks his fist out and leaps higher than he has ever leapt before. He screams at the top of his lungs. His eyes light up. Everything stops. He stares into the eyes of the iron horse. It feels nothing.

This is the end. No time for last words.

Splat!
You sick animals.



BRITTANY SMITH / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Bergen, Norway has fickle weather but friendly faces.

Norwegian Diary: Nordic by nature

BRITTANY SMITH
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Whoever called St. John's, Nfld. the 'rainy city' has obviously never been to Bergen, Norway. Situated on the west coast and lodged between De syv fjell (the seven mountains), the city of Bergen gets its fair share of rain.

The city almost broke the world record for consecutive days of rain with 85, and a day rarely goes by in the winter months when, within the hour, the sky doesn't shift between blue and grey and unleash snow, hail, rain and then gleaming sunshine. Indeed, the weather here is fickle.

The winter months are also dark. With the sun usually setting at around 4 p.m. in January, people enjoy merely six hours of daylight, compared to the summer when this number jumps to 20. So, lots of rain and little light warrants the question: why go to Bergen, especially in the winter?

For starters, it isn't Halifax. Sure there's rain, but the temperature rarely drops below zero in Bergen, so it's always warm. Sure it's dark, but it's not gloomy. Instead, it's rather fitting. The gnarled trees, the spired wooden churches and the violations of symmetry in the architecture give Bergen a hint of Gothic that one might expect from any Norwegian city.

The people seem happy, apparently unaffected by the climate. Smiles are handed out like junk mail (everybody gets 'em, even if you don't want 'em) and the overall atmosphere of the city is first-class chill.

And when the sun does come out, Bergen is the most beautiful city in the world. Who wouldn't be happy

living here?

Famously known as 'the capital of the fjords,' Bergen offers the best access to the most breathtaking landforms. The glacier-carved inlets running from the coast and well into the interior are marked by fantasy green-blue water and the ruggedly poised rock that rises above it.

The mountains that enclose the city aren't so bad to have around, either. They are perfect for hiking, camping, boarding or watching the three-hour sunsets that take place in the summer. I'm always wondering when the director's going to call "Cut!" and pull the almost fake-looking mountain set down.

It's not just the boundless nature the city offers that can attract you to Bergen. The manmade features are equally inviting. Rather than Starbucks and Wal-Mart, comfy little cafés and boutiques litter the cobblestone streets.

Next to the fish market, old wooden warehouses turned into harbourfront shops line the water, dating back over 500 years. Virtually every building has a history, and you get to walk through it.

Even the clubs are embedded in the past. One of the first nightclubs I went to was an old war bunker/bomb shelter carved into the side of a mountain. You walk a candlelit path over 20 feet underground to get to the venue, which is now a favourite spot for live bands and DJs.

Friendly people, stunning landscape, beautifully archaic cityscape, chill vibe and cool nightlife - all of these aspects render the rainy weather insignificant. Or maybe bad weather is just an illusion. There's a saying here in Bergen that can also ring true for all you Haligonians back home: there's no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothes.

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February 9, 2008 and see it in print.

SEX WITH HUGH

Travelling on the Sex Express



HUGH WALLACE
SEX COLUMNIST

In our modern world, the use of the airplane has opened up the gates to new possibilities for long distance tourism. This, coupled with the increasing openness of sex and prostitution, has fostered the flourishing of sex tourism in countries like Mexico, Thailand, Brazil and Cuba.

Sex tourism is defined by the United Nations' World Tourism Organization as "trips organized from within the tourism sector, or from outside this sector but using its structures and networks, with the primary purpose of effecting a commercial sexual relationship by the tourist with residents at the destination."

The designation of certain countries as hot spots for such tourism is based on many different criteria, such as legal prostitution, indifferent or ineffective law enforcement toward sex crimes, and the availability of child prostitution.

Issues regarding the international sex trade have become more

widely publicized, thanks to large media coverage. In the Jan. 17 edition of *The Toronto Star*, an article entitled, "The sex tourism dilemma: Most onlookers do nothing" by Leslie Garrett addresses the frequency of these acts by foreigners abroad. Not only does Garrett acknowledge that it is most often children who are affected by sex tourism, but also that tourists who do not take part in the trade are often apathetic about the presence of it.

The article primarily discusses the use of children in the sex tourism trade and includes many estimates as to how many children are being trafficked annually. UNICEF estimates that as many as 2 million children are being trafficked each year.

With the trade proliferating, largely due to the internet, what can you do to oppose it?

Garrett quotes specialists on the subject, such as Geryl Dreyfous, producer of the documentary "The Day My God Died," which tells the stories of girls sold into prostitution. Dreyfous suggests that tourists should report any suspicious conduct to local authorities or the national embassy of their country.

An increase in education about sex tourism and the legal issues associated with it is extremely important in fighting against its propagation. The U.S. government has laws against its citizens travelling to take part in a commercial sex trade and also laws prohibiting sex with minors (under 16) abroad. Such laws

also exist within the Canadian Criminal Code stating Canadians can be prosecuted "for offences committed in foreign countries related to child sex tourism."

What we need to understand about sex tourism is that many of the children and people involved in it are doing so mostly out of destitution. It is not a practical way to make a living. It is dangerous. Most of the children involved in the sex trade were forced, bought or otherwise coerced into it.

The mass media in Canada and other 'Westernized' countries are already oversexualizing children and young adults through various ad campaigns, particularly in the fashion world. The Western world has at least contributed to the problems of child sexualization and prostitution, if not driven them entirely to their fruition.

It's pertinent for us and other Canadians to recognize our part in this travesty. In terms of the number of Canadians who take part in sex tourism, it is unclear how involved Canadians actually are. I'm sure that it is probably a much higher number than any of us can even imagine.

But if you find yourself in a foreign country where sex tourism is abundant, do something more than just sit and stare. Report any suspicious activity that you see concerning sex tourism and children in the sex trade.

Send questions, comments and concerns to sex@dalgazette.ca

YouTube Review:

You could always hang out with your Aunt Janice

ARLEEN HAMMOND
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Along with February comes the dreary blues known as Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD. It's that feeling you have every morning when you wake up, look outside and dread walking to class because of how gray, wet and gloomy it is out. All you want to do is sit on the couch, sift through *The Movie Network* or your roommate's DVDs and order in some Dairy Deli.

Well, this is where YouTube comes in handy. One video in particular will cheer you up during another dismal day, because sometimes laughing at someone else's expense is just plain fun.

The video is called "Aunt Janice is no longer allowed to take care of Billy." If you have not seen this video yet, you need to.

The video comes from the mildly popular *Australia's Funniest Home Video Show*. It has the same premise as the Bob Saget version we enjoy on those 'there's nothing on TV' kind of days.

The recording is from a video camera attached to an amusement park ride. It seems Aunt Janice has convinced her plump nephew to come on the ride with her. Everyone is strapped in and ready to go when suddenly, Billy can't take the ride any longer.

He begins to slip out of the re-



YOUTUBE

straints and fear takes hold of him. The unfortunate part is that it appears Aunt Janice couldn't care less. She's having a grand ol' time on the ride and laughs hysterically as Billy begs and pleads for help.

Make a special note of Janice's concern at the beginning of the video, instructing young Billy to keep his head back and his feet on the ground, but as soon as Billy is in real danger, she releases a frantic and somewhat deranged fit of laughter.

Watching Aunt Janice take such pleasure in a one-minute ride with poor Billy will at least put a grin on your face, even if you do feel a little bit bad for him.

Never Had I Ever:

Gone dog sledding

ANGELINA CHAPIN
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

When I was first asked to go dog sledding with my friend, I was really excited. I pictured sitting in a sled pulled by huskies and generally feeling like the White Witch from Narnia.

Then my friend informed me on the ride to Ladysmith, Que. that we'd definitely be thrown from the sled, according to our guide.

"What? But I never agreed to—"

"I'm really nervous, too," he said. Great. Very reassuring.

By this point my expectations for the afternoon had changed to include me, bundled in a snowsuit, being thrown from a sled Humpty Dumpty-style. But at this point I still pictured myself sitting down.

As we pulled up to the farm, we were greeted by our guide, who we came to affectionately call 'Ed the Sled,' and his 12-year-old son, Merlin. Their house was made up of two rooms: one with a wood stove, the other with a bed under which newborn huskies were nursing. The only sign of city life was an Apple computer.

Inside, Ed made teams of dogs for us. Sensing my nervousness, he put me with four girl huskies, smaller than the boys. I felt relieved that my lead dog's name was Twinkle.

Next step was to get the dogs from the yard. Ed and Merlin have 22 huskies on their farm and as we walked

up to the gate, they all erupted into a chorus of howls that echoed over the snowy fields.

The dogs were so excited and strong that to carry one out of the yard, I had to lift it by the collar so it could only use its hind legs. At this point, I started talking to the dogs, in an attempt to establish a relationship with them, but mostly to calm myself down.

Once all the dogs were brought out, we attached them to the sleds and were given some parting words from Merlin, who we found out was going to be our primary guide.

"Did my dad tell you never let go?"

"What? No."

"Yeah. That's the number one rule. If you fall off, just let yourself be dragged until you can pull yourself back on the sled."

I felt my Narnia-esque illusions of dog sledding shatter. I'd seen the sled, which I would be standing behind rather than sitting on; I'd felt the power of the dogs; and Ed's vague instructions of, "You'll figure it all out once you get going," kept resonating in my head.

The only thing I was sure of was to yell "Ike" when I wanted them to go, which I wasn't sure I wanted to do. But there was no turning back.

"IIIIIIIIIIKE!" I yelled, and my girls took off flying. I referred to them as "my girls" out loud in an attempt to create solidarity between us, but

mostly to decrease the chances of getting a snow job if I fell off.

Once we got going (and I figured out how to use the break) a magical thing happened: my nervousness was replaced by sheer bliss. I was whipping through an open field of snow being pulled by four husky dogs on a beautiful winter afternoon. I immediately began to relax and enjoy the novelty of the situation.

I appreciated the fact that Ed and Merlin were making us rough it, rather than seating us on a sled pulled by one dog with a cup of hot cocoa in our hands. I became master of the sleigh, taking on harsh tones with my girls when they didn't follow instructions and showering them with praise when they did.

This didn't stop them from bounding down hills at inhumane speeds, causing me to wipe out twice. But I never did let go, avoiding the aforementioned snow job.

I had no idea how long we were gone for, but I do know that I came out of those woods a changed woman. I felt a connection with the dogs that I'd never felt before, and a sense of accomplishment in conquering my fear.

I looked at Ed and Merlin with a new understanding of how they'd chosen to live their lives. And as Merlin went to fetch the hot chocolate and we sat among our dogs, I thought maybe this was something I could get used to.

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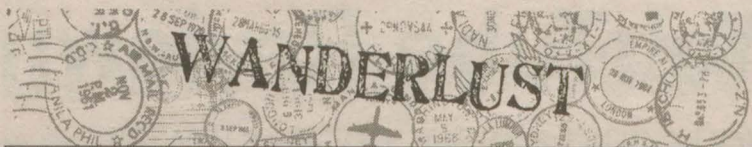
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WANDERLUST



JAMES MUNSON / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Beale Street is the Mecca for blues.

Memphis:

Where the music and struggle don't stop

JAMES MUNSON
OPINIONS EDITOR

It's 10:30 p.m. in the Greyhound station. The caged smoking area in the back is crowded, as people wait for the next ride going to Nashville, New Orleans or Houston. Sitting on the bench is an older black man in a brown suit and a bright pink shirt. He's got sunglasses on and he's playing some R&B song on a keyboard. Whether he's coming, going or staying in Memphis, his singing keeps all the smokers moving.

Beale Street is overwhelming if you try to walk through it at night. It's about 10 blocks of blues bars, street music and clubs. It's cordoned off by police barriers and you get IDed when you enter. You can carry around a beer to any venue you please.

It's the street that made B.B. King famous. The road is lined with musical notes engraved in the sidewalk honouring the best of American music: Johnny Cash beside The Blues Brothers, Sam & Dave alongside Three 6 Mafia. Only in Memphis do all these musical legends seem at home with each other.

It's a loud, neon-lit circus that didn't end until about 5 a.m. on the Friday night I visited. It was a Labour Day weekend and the city was packed with tourists. A southern rock band played in the park and neon guitars blazed in every window. Luckily, in the city that houses the Graceland Mansion, I didn't have to meet any Elvis impersonators.

The next day, a musical festival displayed the other sides of Memphis's sound. There was a group of seven men dressed in white shirts called The Spirit of Memphis – a gospel singing troupe with a guitar, bass and drums. When they sang the Lord's Prayer to the setting sun, half of the crowd had their arms up in praise.

A military band played old swing tunes, and around the corner I found a fellow who looked like Dave Van Ronk playing quiet songs about hobos jumping boxcars. When I left and stepped back into the night, I found that the streets had been flooded by

sparkling, shining cars as the hip hop crowd headed into the clubs.

A little southeast of the downtown core is Sun Records where Johnny Cash, Elvis Presley, Carl Perkins and Roy Orbison all recorded their music. Still Sun Records that helped bridge the gap between black and white music in the U.S. by recording country infused with rhythm and blues.

Music is only one way Memphis tells the story of how African-Americans asserted themselves in a region where their dignity was systematically taken away from them. Everywhere there are plaques commemorating things like the first black radio announcer, the first black-owned radio station and the first bank to open accounts for blacks.

Areas of the city still suffer from poverty, and race relations are still tense. Looking around Memphis, you can still see many people are still struggling for a better life.

One of those people was Martin Luther King, Jr., who came to Memphis in the spring of 1968 to help African-American garbage collectors who were protesting bad working conditions and abusive supervisors.

He stayed at the Lorraine Motel, which is now the National Civil Rights Museum. Inside, you can walk the history of the civil rights movement in America. It begins with the early crusaders who rallied against the slave trade to the lives of great people like Harriet Tubman, right up until MLK's heyday. You can even walk inside a replica of the bus Rosa Parks was arrested in.

At the end of the museum's rush through history, you end up in the room where King stayed on Apr. 4, 1968. Just outside the window on the veranda stands a wreath where MLK was fatally shot while talking with a friend.

I spent my last night in Memphis sleeping on the banks of the Mississippi. I watched the sunrise come over the riverboats sitting immobile in the river and watched the city go from pink to daylight blue.

Music – like some of history's harshest struggles – just doesn't stop.

Bite the bullet

J. MARY BURNET
COPY EDITOR

Shakeel Rehemtulla started spraypainting at 15. After an encounter with the law and a subsequently angry father, he stuck to safer places and started exploring another medium, but with the same message.

"I think that's what really got me into art in the first place was this form of kind of anarchy," he says. "Of being able to put my art up in the streets and see that, and that made me feel really good, so that encouraged me to make more art."

The art he's making today in Halifax isn't sprayed onto brick walls, but you can see it in the streets. Carey Jernigan, who collaborates with Rehemtulla, calls it "legal street art."

Jernigan and Rehemtulla run Woodenbullets, an independent screen printing business they started a year ago in Toronto. They've been selling their shirts and hoodies and bags, stamped with Rehemtulla's art, at the Halifax Farmers' Market since October. T-shirts are \$25 and hoodies are \$45. Bags run from \$35 to \$45.

You can spot the limited edition prints on the heads and chests and backs of kids around the city. The designs are recognizable in their strangeness: rabbit amputees, business-casual birds, a deer in a tangle of organs, a walrus moustache, a fingertip pinched between scissor blades.

"I find that's a form of graffiti for me," says Rehemtulla. "I feel when I see somebody wearing my t-shirt, I'm like, wow. I feel the same kind of exhilaration I feel when I walk by a wall or a little piece I've put around that I forgot about."

Jernigan and Rehemtulla, both 25, moved to Halifax together from Toronto in September to enroll in the foundation year program at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design.

NSCAD student Daniel Taylor says he sees a lot of Woodenbullets designs around campus.

"It's actually catching on pretty good," he says. "Everyone at school wears them."

"They're clever – a mix of kind of organic and industrial."

The couple has been together since they were 18 years old in Kitchener-Waterloo. They started their first business three years ago and called it After, because it was based around Jernigan's bags, which become useful pieces of art after she makes them out of used clothing.

The name Woodenbullets comes from a story Jernigan's granddad told them in April of last year. He was very sick, so the couple spent two weeks



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Carey Jernigan and Shakeel Rehemtulla bring "legal street art" to The Farmers' Market.

with him in a hospital in Washington, D.C. Jernigan says he loves to tell stories, and told them about the Second World War.

He never saw action, but he was sent along with the other new recruits to guard a power station in the woods, equipped with unusual ammunition.

"I guess they were given wooden bullets," says Jernigan. "Apparently they're really bad at shooting things. They don't accomplish a kill, basically...and we kind of liked the idea of that. We have a pretty strong anti-war streak."

They got serious about Woodenbullets two years later as a way to get Rehemtulla's art out in a big way. They moved to Toronto, where Rehemtulla studied art at Centennial College, and they set up a booth downtown in Kensington Market once a month.

Now they've scored a prime spot at the Halifax Farmers' Market – the little alcove between the goat's cheese and the disembodied Cabbage Patch Kid heads that model toques.

"If you do something a little unique and are willing to just show up at 5:30 in the morning, then we've found it was kind of with open arms," Jernigan says.

5:30 in the morning is pretty

early if you've been up until 3 a.m. the night before, and seems worse still if you just don't sleep at all. Your eyes feel dry and your body gets that cold, numb feeling. But somehow, Rehemtulla and Jernigan do it every Saturday, and love it.

On Friday nights, Rehemtulla thinks back on his week and creates a design that reflects how he felt. When he finishes designing, usually around 1 a.m., and Jernigan has stitched up some bags from old shirts and pants, they start to print. They do it together, and will usually stay up through the night.

Rehemtulla says he's never really needed sleep – maybe two hours each night. Plus, Jernigan says, there's a nice girl at the market who makes good coffee.

"It is a really creative, fun night," says Jernigan. "We enjoy staying up Friday night, working on this stuff."

Jernigan sees how valuable it is to be able to get your art out into a city.

"Once you actually put something out there, suddenly there's all this feedback, and you can get into some really interesting conversations," she says.

"You've just got to bite the bullet sometimes and put yourself out there."

The future of the CD

ALYSON THOMSON
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Another music store bites the dust after declaring bankruptcy, raising questions about the uncertain future of CDs.

The 72 Music World locations across the country closed their doors in early January, leaving 648 employees out of work. Music World, the last Canadian-owned music store chain, is the latest casualty in the ongoing war against online music downloading.

Retailers are finding it difficult to compete with the price and convenience of downloading.

"Every music store is going to take a stab," says Carl Frenett, assistant manager of CD Plus in the Halifax Shopping Centre. "Whether it be HMV, Music World, or CD Plus, if you are illegally downloading music, it is hurting record sales to the point

where the industry is questioning the very idea of the record."

CD sales in Canada have been on a downhill stumble toward extinction since the introduction of free music downloading applications. In 2007, overall album sales in the country fell 6.9 per cent, from 47.7 million in 2006 to 44.4 million in 2007, according to Nielsen SoundScan, an information system that tracks music and music video sales.

Frenett believes the eventual extinction of CDs is inevitable.

"I'm just waiting for the day," he says, standing behind the front desk of an empty store. "People are not realizing that what they are doing, illegally, is effecting the entire music scene."

CD Plus, along with other big name music stores such as HMV, have been compensating for lost sales by introducing other merchandise.

"We're more of an entertainment store now," says Frenett, pointing to an array of DVDs, t-shirts and posters.

Dan Macintosh says he goes to CD Plus almost every week.

"It is all about the package for me," says Macintosh, holding a copy of Rage Against the Machine's second album, *Evil Empire*. "There is something about physically owning a CD that is so much better than pointing, clicking and playing."

Macintosh, 19, has been collecting CDs since he was old enough to receive an allowance. His music library consists of about 500 CDs, but he still has what he calls his "dirty little secret."

"Even though I am a CD collector, I still have a music downloading application," admits Macintosh. "Shamefully, my online music library consists of about 3,000 songs."

Paint the town chic



KATIE NATION
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

Face it: there's no better time to stand out than during a night on the town. Whether you're looking to pick up or just shake it up, bars and clubs are the best places to dress like you mean to turn heads. But despite the energy put into a good going-out outfit, it's not easy to stand out in such a sea of attention seekers. If you want the attention you deserve on the dance floor, it's time to take today's trends and switch them up to make them your own.

Right now for ladies, the bar look du jour has everything to do with subdued flash. Dresses made entirely of sequins are not only acceptable, but everywhere, as are mini dresses in satiny materials covered in loud, bright, blocky prints.

Frigid weather hasn't slowed the season from being all about the leg. Flats had their moment recently, but are being tucked away until spring to make way for towering heels. Bare legs might be questionable, but black tights, unlike leggings, elongate your pins to Gisele Bündchen proportions. Pair a short dress with opaque black tights and black heels in the same shade and people will start wondering if you've grown a foot since they last saw you.

The leggy look is fun, but it's everywhere. To mix it up, wear a patterned scarf with a patterned mini dress to throw people off. If you like the whole sparkly thing but don't want to look like every second girl at the club, try wearing a strappy dress backwards with a sequined tube top poking out from underneath to cover your naughty bits. It's fun, it's unexpected and it's just as hot as your fellow bar hoppers, but with personality to boot.

When it comes to jewellery, there's tons of space to take the route less traveled. Cover yourself in brooches à la Chanel pre-Fall 2008, or weigh your hands down with enormous eye-catching rings. And speaking of accessories, never underestimate the power of some good headgear. This goes for guys and girls: if you can find a chapeau or headscarf that won't slide off as you shake it on the dance floor, work it! In a sea of coiffed bare heads, you'll stand out like Lindsay Lohan on the expressway.

For the guys, take a cue from Justin Timberlake and reconsider the necktie. Loosely hanging around the collar of an untucked and unbuttoned dress shirt makes this classy staple anything but stuffy. If you really want to diverge from the masses, try leaving the tired old dress shirt at home and invest in an eye-catching t-shirt (and when I say eye-catching, I don't mean some quippy sexual joke shirt you picked up at the mall, but rather something with interesting colours and a cool design).

A night on the town should be nothing short of exciting, and when your outfit matches your mood it can bring the night to a whole new level of entertainment. One little bit of advice before you get your party on: always experiment with fashion before you start drinking. Seriously.

Dead of Winter photo essay

KARYN HAAG | STAFF CONTRIBUTOR



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Looking to extend the dynasty

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

There are few teams in Atlantic Canada as stable and consistent as the Dalhousie Tigers men's swimming team. They will go into the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships, held from Feb. 8 to 10 at the University of New Brunswick, as the heavy favourites.

If the Tigers win their 10th consecutive AUS title, they will hold the record for the most consecutive championship titles in men's swimming.

The big prize for the Tigers lies in the Canadian University Sport (CIS) championships, which are only a few weeks away. In this competition - the last before nationals - the Tigers are poised to repeat their third-place performance against the national powerhouses, the University of British Columbia Thunderbirds and the University of Calgary Dinos.

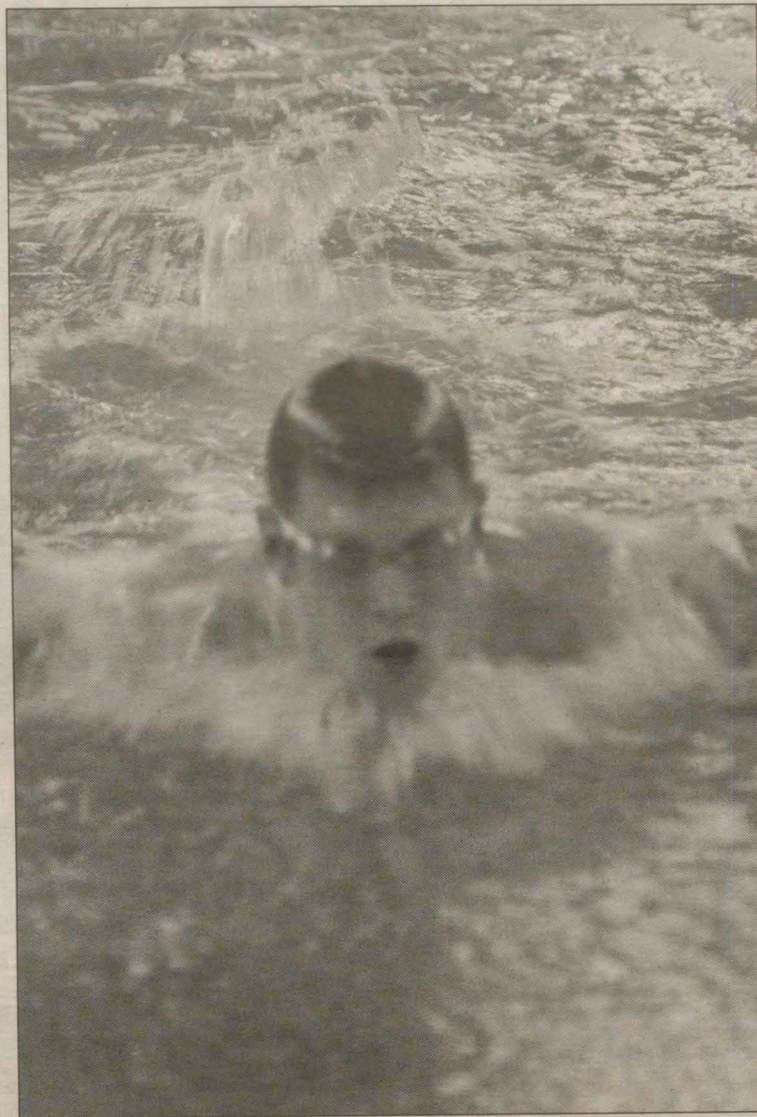
Currently, the Tigers are ranked sixth in Canada - the only AUS team in the CIS top 10 rankings. Ten of the Tigers men have qualified for the CIS championships.

"The AUS championship is our final chance to put together the team we want for the CIS championship," says David Fry, the Tigers' head coach. "We're getting closer to where we want to be at this point in the season."

The right blend of rookie and veteran swimmers have put the Tigers in a good position. Last year's relay dream team is nearly intact. Last year Doug Young, Bryce Tung and Brannyn Hale won bronze medals in the 400m freestyle, the 400m medley and the 800m freestyle along with their teammate, Matthew Terauds, who graduated last year.

"We bonded pretty well over the entire season," says Young, a fifth-year sprinter. "We're pretty much on par with where we were last year. I feel really good going into the championships."

After starting out the season strong, Young is currently ranked fourth in Canada in the 50m breaststroke and eighth in the 100m breast-



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

The Dal men most likely will win their 10th consecutive AUS title this weekend.

stroke. This will be the last year that all three men will swim together, as Young is completing his fifth season as a student athlete. He will leave the pool behind for a possible career with the RCMP.

"It's kind of scary walking away from something that I've done for the last 10 to 11 years," says Young. "Hopefully I can have the same experience as last year."

The men are looking to repeat last year's record-breaking moment.

The Tigers are the only team in AUS history to win a team medal in men's swimming at the CIS championships. With all their past success plus their dominance in the AUS championships, the swimmers aren't too worried about the future.

"We've got a lot of fast rookies who have filled in the gap," says Young. "We've got some up and coming swimmers who are doing well. We're doing just fine."

Same team, same chance to win

JULIE SOBOWALE
SPORTS EDITOR

When you have a defending championship team that has retained over 90 per cent of its swimmers, you know it's a good sign that another title isn't too far off.

The Dalhousie Tigers women's swim team will compete in the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships on Feb. 8 to 10 at the University of New Brunswick. With 18 of their returning athletes, the Tigers are almost guaranteed to win their seventh consecutive AUS title.

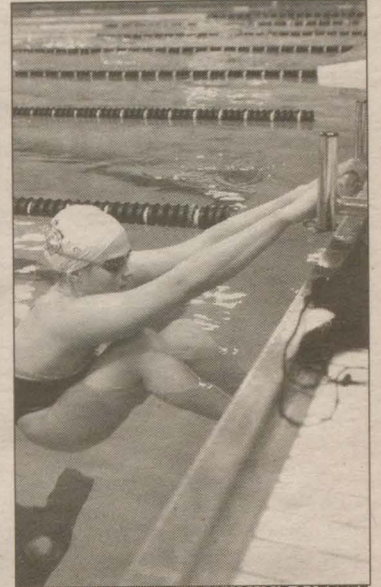
Team co-captain Lauren Dorrington will lead the way, competing in multiple events. Last year she was ranked in the top five in the 50m freestyle, 100m freestyle, 50m breaststroke, 100m breaststroke and the 200m medley.

This year she's poised to win the AUS title in the women's 100m breaststroke as the top-ranked swimmer in Canada in the event. Dorrington is currently ranked ninth in the 50m breaststroke and 12th in Canada in the 100m freestyle - the highest ranking of any AUS swimmer in both events.

Other Tigers swimmers are also cracking into the elite levels of swimming. Magda Gawlik is ranked 15th in Canada in the 400m medley. Kirsten Vandenberg, who recently transferred from the University of Western Ontario, leads Canadian swimmers in the 1500m freestyle and sits in the top five in the 800m freestyle.

So far the Tigers haven't come up against tough competition and have consistently stood on top of the leader board in AUS team rankings. The lack of any formidable opponent may work for or against the Tigers when they head to the national competition.

"Unfortunately, the other teams in our league haven't been strong as in previous years," says David Fry, the Tigers' head coach. "They have good individual players that perform at their best, but they haven't been strong in the team format. It's



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

So far the women are undefeated in the AUS.

not a good picture of where we're headed."

Perhaps the Tigers' performance can be explained by their new practice regimen. Second-year arts student Theresa Benison believes the new routine has given her performance a boost.

"We have a new weight program that makes us work much harder than before," says Benison. "I think our team is the fittest we've ever been. I know for me that I feel much better in the water than before."

The Tigers hope to improve on their 13th-place finish at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships. Their individual performances in out-of-conference competitions have put the Tigers in sixth overall in the CIS rankings.

"It's mostly mental preparation when it comes to CIS," says Benison. "Last year I was really nervous, but I'm more comfortable now that I'm used to competing with other athletes across the country. We're going to use the AUS championships to prepare us for the CIS championships, and I think we'll do better this year."

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, February 12 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB

Athletes of the week

FEMALE ATHLETE

JAYNE KNOWLES
HOCKEY



Jayne Knowles picked up a hat trick in a 9-0 win over Mt. Allison University on Saturday. She had eight shots on net and two of her three goals were deflections. Knowles also played an important role in the Tigers' penalty kill. She is enrolled in the arts program and is competing in her second year of eligibility. Knowles is originally from Newport, N.S.

Other nominees: Kate McNeil (basketball), Sophia Chow (track & field), Heather Owens (volleyball)



MALE ATHLETE

RUSSELL CHRISTIE
TRACK & FIELD



At the Dalhousie-hosted Super Saturday Track Meet, Russell Christie won the 3000m event by over one minute. He ran alone from the start and lapped the entire field. Christie finished seven seconds ahead of his previous best time and qualified for the CIS Championship in March. He is a pharmacy student from Petrolia, Ont. who is currently competing in his third year of eligibility.

Other nominees: Drew Stratton (basketball), Adam Hotchkiss (volleyball)



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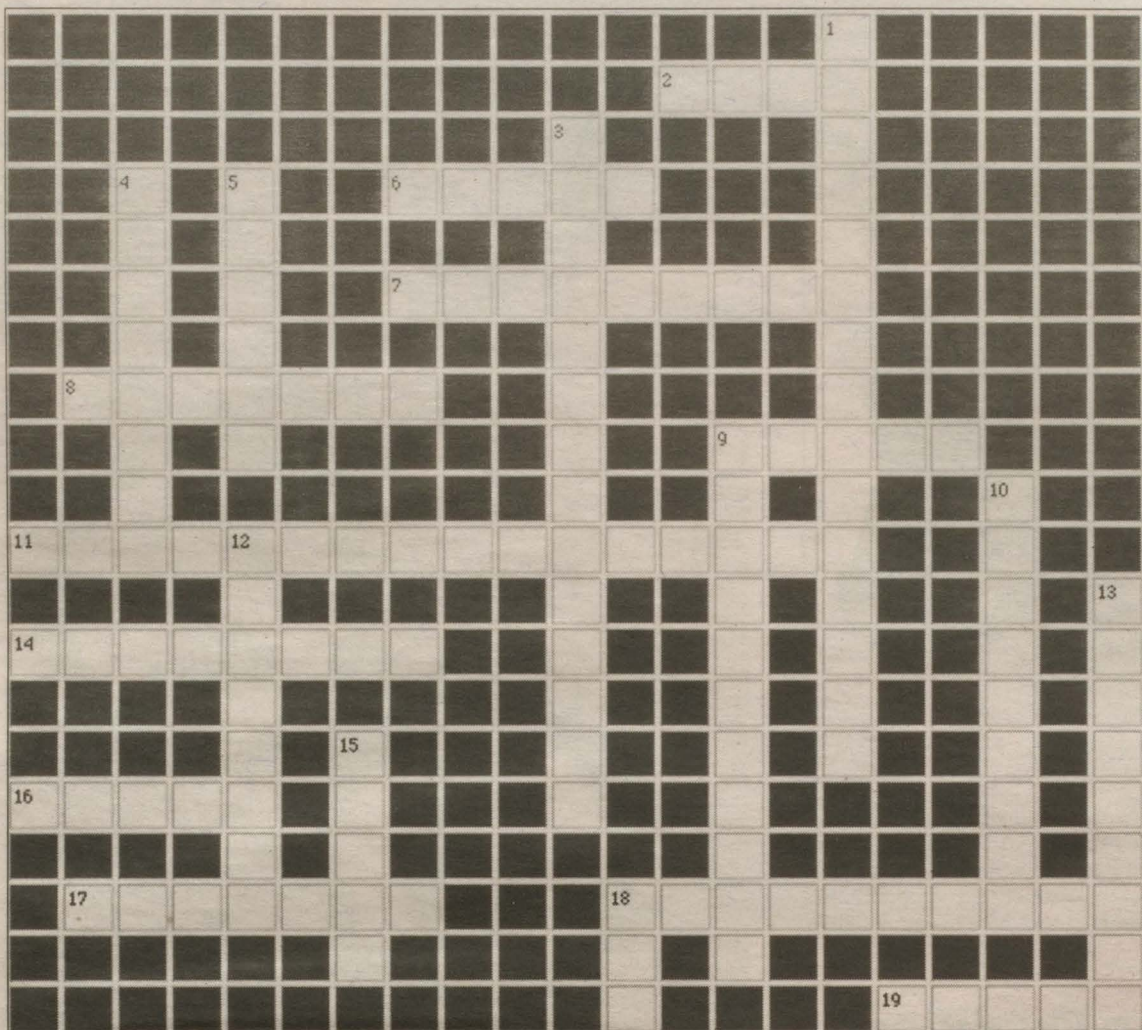
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Oh my god, that Britney's shameless | Alice Bradstreet



- Across**
- The name of the restaurant Britney opened in NYC
 - Article of clothing Britney was photographed coming out of a gas station washroom without
 - The name of Britney's now pregnant sister
 - The name of Britney and Kevin's reality TV show
 - "Eat it, Lick it, _____ it, Fuck it"
 - Member of the Mickey Mouse Club who Britney dated for several years?
 - "Now I'm _____ than yesterday, now it's nothing but a mile away"
 - Number of times Britney has been married
 - Accent Britney has recently been using when talking to the paparazzi
 - Movie Britney starred in with Taryn Manning
 - Single Britney won a Grammy for
- Down**
- Britney's first single
 - The name of Britney's now famous ex-husband
 - Shoe company Britney used to promote
 - Reptile Britney performed "I'm a Slave 4 U" with
 - The name of Britney's first son
 - State where Britney grew up
 - "I'm not that _____"
 - TV station Kevin Federline was on when he received a text message announcing divorce from Britney
 - Soft drink Britney endorsed
 - "She's so lucky, she's a star, but she _____ cries in her lonely heart!"

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SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

You have just been transferred. You are just too good and make everyone look bad around you. You are living in a house of wax that is about to melt. Show them good seeds know how to survive anywhere. If you have ever watched a scary movie, you know that splitting up is the wrong move to make. Teamwork is the strongest tactic - no man is a piece of cheese. You are a little croissant; check out who wants to be the French stick.



SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

Apple turnovers are your weakness but sundaes are your favourite. A blanket is keeping you warm as you soar higher than ever before. The sun looks good from all the way up there and is giving you a big wink underneath the sunglasses it's wearing. All your bags have been packed and you are ready for excitement.



CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

You've been waiting on the world to change, but that's not enough. You got to do a little something something. Tree huggers love for a reason. You want to go somewhere hot, where the work is not. You have been dreaming about an island. The palms are providing shade just for you. With love in the air it is sure to find you. You are what dreams are made of; be prepared for a big surprise.



AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

This week you're bouncing off the walls and on the streets. You are the person people look to for safety, so make sure you have a big net waiting. Your nail biting is spinning out of control. What did your cuticles ever do to you? Don't worry - you've lost that anxious feeling and now it is gone, gone, whoa-ah-oh-oh.



PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

Your life is sunshine, lollipops and unicorns everywhere. Your work, home and play life will all align this week and fold into the perfect piece of origami that looks like a beautiful swan. Bad skin is gonna clear up, put on a happy face. Blow-dry your hair and it will give you the Rico Suave you have been looking for.



ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

There are no more monsters underneath your bed, so you'll finally be able to sleep with the nightlight off. Someone made a comic book of your life, but it's not funny to you. Demand respect but don't embarrass yourself. It's necessary to laugh most of the time. Students are your friends. Exfoliate and you will remove what you don't want. Shine your shoes, guv'na.



TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

Your Irish roots are going to shine brighter than the moon this week. Any injustice that occurred in the past will be resolved like a stick of butter in a heated pot. You've got good karma sutra coming your way, so be happy and get limber.



GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

It's crunch time, and not just on the Froot Loops sitting in your cereal bowl. It hurt when your friends said you had a pea head, so show them you can be any vegetable you want to be. You are even tastier when steamed. Love has been whispering sweet nothings in your ear. Are you listening? If so, make sure your seatbelt is fastened and your hair is styled. A tree trunk has fallen. Did you hear it?



CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

The mud bath you have been soaking in is about to get dirty. Filth will do wonderful things for you this week because it will teach you a fine lesson in loosening up. Just make sure to have a napkin tucked into the collar of your shirt. Nobody likes mustard stains where they shouldn't be. Unless of course it's for the greater good.



LEO (July 24 - August 23)

You just backed into a fountain that has been spitting out fairy tales. Your parents should have taught you not to run with scissors. It's understandable you have to go places, but that gives you no right to make people feel awkward. There's no need to hide that blue towel on your head that's making you look like Marge Simpson.



VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

Eat less meat and more beans. The people of the Killam are waiting for a revolution and they want a leader. Show them the safe way down the track. Be sure to put up the yellow caution sign or someone might slip and break their hip. Yeah this is Canada, but do you have time to wait in line?



LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Your hair flipping is spinning out of control. What do you think is hiding in those luscious locks of yours? The local habitat you have been dwelling in is getting a bit messy. You are thirsty but not sure for what. You don't need the stars to tell you that you are parched for more of that purple drink you have been sipping on.



Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

- Crossword Answers:**
- DOWN**
- Baby One More Time
 - Nyla
 - Kevin Federline
 - Shechems
 - Pylon
 - Sean Preston
 - Louisa
 - Much Music
 - Pepsi
 - Cry
 - Crosswords
 - British
 - Twice
 - Stronger
 - Justin Timberlake
 - Snort
 - Chaotic
 - Jamie Lynn
 - shoes
 - Nyla
 - ACROSS



THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

Tigers in Tights

MATTHEW ANTOLIN

This past weekend 8 students took to the road, traveling to Sherbrooke, Quebec for the 34th annual Great Northern Concrete Toboggan Race.

This year brought out 23 teams from across Canada, all competing for the title of "World's Fastest Concrete Toboggan."

Each team at the competition takes on a theme for their costumes and the name of their sled, such themes included Dalhousie's Robin Hood: Men in tights, Carleton's 300, Alberta's Camp Cariboggan, and Calgary's Rocky Bal-Boggan just to name a few.

The competition's climax is of course race day, the day all the teams have been working towards for the past year.

On race day each team has 3 chances to challenge the hill with 2 straight runs and one curved run to reach their maximum speed, while trying to have the shortest possible braking distance. Not all the teams made it down the hill in one piece, but Dalhousie did.



Unfortunately we didn't place in the top 3 or take home the title, but fun was had by all. The toboggan team would like to thank all of their sponsors for their generous support.

Thanks to all of the students that helped to make this another successful year, and we look forward to next year's competition and hopefully coming home with bragging rights.

Atlantic Engineering Competition Qualifiers

MARTIN CRAWLEY
DUES VP COMMUNICATIONS

Last Thursday the Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society held the qualifiers for the Junior Design Competition for the Atlantic Engineering Competition. The Junior design competition is geared towards first and second year Engineering students. They are given a problem and are told to design a solution given what they have learned thus far in their program.

The theme for this year's qualifying competition at Dal was flight. In other words, it was a paper airplane competition. Teams were graded on their presentation, and how their paper airplanes tackled distance flown, accuracy and weight carrying abilities. Many different airplane designs were constructed, from some that were nifty little jets, to some that were just....let's say creative.

There were three teams that



placed from first to third. In third place was "The Vagitareans", second place was "Aviators Anonymous" and in first place was "Dartmouth Surprise" in which their Frisbee-inspired design trumped everyone in the distance and weight carrying divisions. "Dartmouth Surprise" will be head-

ing to Moncton to represent Dalhousie this weekend to compete in the Atlantic Engineering Competition.

Dalhousie Undergraduate Engineering Society wishes Bryan Adams, Chris Carter, Mike Marchand and John Skonord the very best in the competition.

Manchester
Metroshuttle

Making the city work together

"I hope the advertisers didn't also design the drivetrain."
Geoff Hibbard, Space Filler Extraordinaire

Mirror, Mirror, On the Wall:

Who Are the Sexiest Students of All?

SARAH AMYOTTE,
VICE-PRESIDENT DALHOUSIE ARTS
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES SOCIETY

Don't let the title fool you; Sexton Campus was improperly named. There isn't anything sexy about it.

The lower campus students would like you to believe that they had a hand putting 'sex' into Sexton. Again - misleading. We, the scholars of the upper campus, commonly referred to as the 'studs of Studley' if you will, are confident in our title as the sexiest students at Dal.

It's understandable, though, when you think about it. Who are we to expect the Engineers to know

much about sex?

There isn't much chance for it down on the lower campus. How does one romanticize the first law of thermodynamics? I can see it now, "Hey hot stuff, you're really causing a change in my internal energy."

My heart goes out to those five girls in the engineering program.

Here on Studley, how can you resist your classmate when he asks you to practice your French orals? How can any students get work done with the fifth floor stacks of the Killam library just calling your name?

The buildings here on Studley are filled with dark and hidden corners to sneak away to for some pri-

vate study. And in reality, the bottom line is we just have more girls!

So... the question: is does studying fluid mechanics (ENGI 2300) help the mechanics of your fluids? Or does studying the sociology of the body (SOSA 3150) help you become more social with your body?

Find out on February 15th, 2008, down at the T-Room when the Arts and Social Sciences faculty join the Engineering students for "Sexy Trivia". Come out at 8:30pm and compete in three rounds of the sexiest trivia, hosted by VAJ, to find out who the sexiest students at Dalhousie really are!

And to the EUS boy - if you need a tutor session, you know where to find me.

ENG NEWS

Feb 8: TECH BALL

Feb 14: Dating Society Night @ T-Room

Feb 15: Sexy Trivia @ T-Room

WANTED: Volunteers to help with Egg-Drop Competition at local high schools during National Engineering Week. Please contact swetton@dal.ca if you are interested.

Questions, Comments and to Contribute sextant@dal.ca



Visit Sexton Campus's Online Resource dalsexton.ca