

Dalhousie's Student Newspaper since 1868

# GAZETTE



**GETTING PRETTY WITH IT**

The Rhythm Method brings its ultra sound to The Marquee

**p8**

**BANGING POTS AND PANS FOR POVERTY** p4  
 HCAP protests Rodney MacDonald talk

**METRO CENTRE MELTDOWN** p20  
 Tigers edged out in AUS basketball championship

**FROM CLASSROOM TO CRACK ADDICTION** p7  
 The man behind February laptop robbery

Cover: Sue Maroun Photo: Josh Boyter



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## THE FINE PRINT

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.

Views expressed in the Prof Talk feature, Overheard at Dal, and opinions' section are solely those of the contributing writers, and do not necessarily represent the views of The Gazette or its staff. Views expressed in the Streeter feature are solely those of the person being quoted, and not The Gazette's writers or staff. All quotes attributed to James Munson in the Streeter feature are written, in good humour, by staff and do not necessarily represent the views of James Munson. This publication is intended for readers 18 years of age or older. The views of our writers are not the explicit views of Dalhousie University.

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



JOSHUA BOYTER

## COVER

For this week's cover we were supposed to get Jamie Lynn Spears or Ellen Page to model, however our frugal EIC (John Walter Packman) brought it to our attention that we have no budget to reward anybody but himself and the small animals he chooses to wine and dine on the backs of Dalhousie students. Josh Boyter, drunk on his own sense of power, interrupted what would have otherwise been a productive contributor meeting, to shoot Christie Conway's (former assistant arts editor) vision of a teen pregnancy gone mad. It took a lot of drugs to come up with the idea of a female giving birth to a twenty-something man-chick. We'd like to thank Doreen for cleaning up the afterbirth (juices) and cutting the umbilical cord. We'd also like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Angie Chapin on the newest addition to her family.

Questions or comments welcome:  
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# THE GAZETTE ELECTIONS

Come out March 14th at 4 p.m. Rm 303 of the SUB to vote for the editors next year.

## Any Dalhousie student can vote

Anyone who has published articles or photos in three different issues can apply for any of the section editor positions. Just drop off a cover letter, resume and clippings to The Gazette office by March 13 at 4 p.m.

Please prepare a speech that outlines your platform, bearing in mind this is not the Academy Awards, you are not Halle Berry and most importantly at The Gazette your hardwork will never be acknowledged.

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# What if you banged a gong and no one heard it?

**JAMES MUNSON**  
OPINIONS EDITOR

Few could have missed the noise when the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty (HCAP) protested Premier Rodney MacDonald's brief visit to the SUB on Mar. 4. But thanks to HCAP's antics and gregarious musical style, we all missed an opportunity to talk about poverty.

MacDonald was speaking to a group of young Tories from Dal and King's. HCAP members crowded around the door and erupted into a boisterous hootenanny. After a loud and forced exit from the SUB, the afternoon ended with five men in suits (including the premier) taking a back stairwell to Seymour Street and running away down the SUB's back alley with a bunch of beatniks trailing after them, yelling, "Fuck you, Rodney!" while playing folk instruments.

The scene was pathetic and childish as the premier ran full throttle to the cover of a grey sedan on that cloudy Tuesday afternoon. It seemed strange to me that an elected official - a man invested with the dignity and responsibility of representing our interests - was running away from a bunch of kids.

He isn't some criminal on *COPS* or an evil corporate head on *W-Five* or *The Fifth Estate*, so why is he behaving in such an embarrassing way? Shouldn't he at least be jamming with them on his fiddle by now?

The premier's visit descended into immature madness because HCAP failed to bring any serious attention to poverty in Halifax. Banging gongs and plucking a mandolin won't convince anyone that your message is important. In fact, it's so infantile that anybody who hasn't been indoctrinated by HCAP will feel like they have heard it all before.

Hooting and hollering is a feature of political theatre, not political action. Zealous protesting is getting to be an old act fast, making it difficult to draw new recruits to the cause. Last Tuesday, the only effect of the



Save it for the coffee house, Bolsheviks.

JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

protest was playing up differences, not starting dialogue.

While the HCAPers played the clowns, the young Tories played the role of overly-offended, uptight do-gooders. Their loyalty to their leader caused their disgust to rise to their lips as they commented on how they didn't know how anybody could dress and sing so poorly. A lot of offensive comments and personal insults crossed the third floor lobby that day.

Each side filled in the stereotypes of this drama accordingly, and the plot ran rather predictably: the radicals got carried out by security while the establishment scoffed from behind the guards. I caught myself looking around for the stage director holding this piece of theatre together. It all seemed so rehearsed.

This kind of setting-apart and self-obsessed posturing is juvenile and represents a kind of political adolescence. Sure it's fun to hate on someone you think is evil, but eventually you have to convince them that you actually have a point in opposing them. You need more than a gong to make that happen.

At one level, the clash said a lot about young people in politics. It doesn't seem to matter which side you're on: youth wings are always the vehement screamers and shriekers that sit diametrically opposed to the mandarins and intellectuals of political parties.

But on another level, those who started the fuss that day were getting what they asked for. The HCAP members seemed to relish the marginalization they've created for

themselves. Instead of protesting as a last resort, they seemed to be using it in the first act. They seem to think that the more oppressed they pretend to be, the more important they can think they are.

We may live in a broken democracy, one that perhaps doesn't face serious issues like poverty head-on. But we don't live in an oppressive society. That's just near-sighted to the point of self-indulgence.

It's also ineffective. What else did HCAP expect other than to be tossed out by Dal security? And what else did HCAP expect other than causing the premier to run sheepishly out the back door?

You can't spark change if you set the stage for predictable outcomes. That only enforces the status quo.

When the prejudices of the

people in power are confirmed by behaviour they've come to expect from dissenting groups, they won't feel the pressure of a growing crisis like unaffordable housing. Smug and comforted that they aren't doing anything wrong, they too end up enforcing the status quo.

HCAP should adopt methods that aim to make an impact rather than just make noise. As far as their antics that day are concerned, they either truly don't expect anyone to listen or they happen to communicate in some loud, gong-centered musical language. I doubt it's the latter.

HCAP also makes it difficult for other people with radical minds but common sense approaches to be taken seriously. Thanks to HCAP, the young Tories at Dal now have a reason to stereotype every lefty as a gong-banger. Even worse, the premier has a reason to avoid campus if anyone else wants to talk about poverty.

HCAP should take a clue from the sustainability movement. It's moved from marginalized to mainstream overnight by sharing its message in creative ways.

A gong isn't a creative way to get a message across. The efficacy of protest varies from era to era and issue to issue. But last week's musical parade came across as pedestrian.

While polarized politics may enforce vendettas and dictate your wardrobe, it just slows the process of good government. HCAP's protest just seemed like a bad play with too much mob mentality and not enough character depth.

HCAP needs to drop the helpless underdog act if it truly cares about getting something done about poverty. Turning a good message into a one-act play doesn't help people living on the street or in underfunded homeless shelters. When the plot is all so predictable, why would anyone - let alone a Conservative - even bother to buy the ticket to the show?

## Corrections 140-22

In "Fenwick on the market," in issue 140-20, *The Gazette* paraphrased Charles Crosby as saying the "outdated and shabby condition of the building" were factors in the decision to sell Fenwick. He only said the plans to sell the building were partly based on the future cost of keeping the building up to code.

We also mistakenly wrote that "Countdown," was The Superfantastics video that was nominated at the ECMAs. It was actually "Tonight Tonight." Sorry to everyone who spent time watching "Countdown" and wondering how it almost won video of the year.

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# Premier faces anti-poverty protest at Dal

LAURA PARLEE  
NEWS CONTRIBUTOR

When Rodney MacDonald stepped inside room 307 of Dalhousie's Student Union Building on Mar. 4 for a visit with the Dal-King's Conservatives society, he had some opposition waiting for him.

Members of the Halifax Coalition Against Poverty (HCAP), a local grassroots anti-poverty organization, showed up to criticize the premier's actions within the provincial government. But most of them were shut out of the discussion before it began at 5 p.m.

As more than 50 students flooded into the room, laughing and chatting about current political hot topics, society members checked Dal IDs at the door. Dal student and HCAP member Cole Webber said the premier's office provided the society with a list of names of people belonging to the anti-poverty group and were denying them entry.

According to Webber, another HCAP member was forcibly removed from the room when she contested the list and meanwhile he slipped in unnoticed.

No details of such a list have been confirmed, but Webber said HCAP is planning to file a provincial Freedom of Information Act request to learn why the students were shut out of their own building.

"Our plan was to have some of our people inside to ask hard questions to the premier," the second-year history student said, adding that HCAP had planned the protest three days in advance of MacDonald's question and answer session.

"Having grown up poor in rural Nova Scotia, I know the effect of poverty and social exclusion," said 21-year-old Webber a few days after the event.

"The premier of the province needs to be held to account."

MacDonald has been the premier and leader of the Progressive Conservative party of Nova Scotia since 2006. As the crowd of students — including a few HCAP members — waited to hear him speak, the presi-



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dalhousie security guards eject HCAP protestors from the SUB after they disrupted a talk by Rodney MacDonald.

dent of Dal-King's Conservatives, Tyler Dennis, said the society was lucky to host MacDonald at the university.

Chad Bowie, a first-year journalism student in the audience, is no stranger to the political scene. He's an active member of the Conservative society and earlier this year he attempted to run for mayor.

"I'm excited to see what the premier has to say. I think it's great that we have such a young premier — that really brings something different to the table, something more approachable," said Bowie.

Paige MacPherson, a first-year Dal student from Ontario, is not a member

of the Conservative society, but she was interested to watch how MacDonald would handle visiting a predominantly, in her view, left-wing campus.

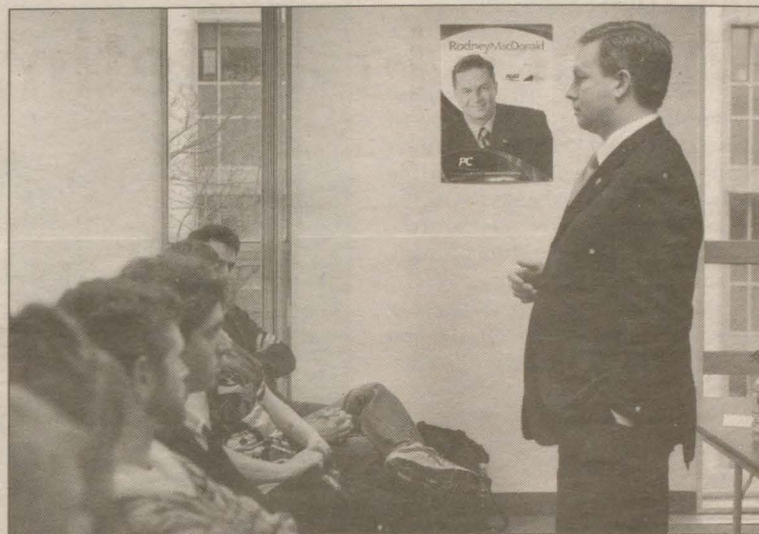
"I hope there's lots of left wing people here so they'll ask lots of interesting questions," she said.

Needless to say, MacPherson was not disappointed by the end of the evening.

MacDonald began by telling students how proud he was of university life in the province.

"Dalhousie has and always will be an institution we hold in high regard," he said.

Meanwhile, a theatre troupe of



roughly 10 people not affiliated with HCAP set up a demonstration on the sidewalk in front of the SUB. One of them held a photo of MacDonald over his face and blasted sarcastic political comments through a megaphone while pulling the strings of others acting as puppets all around him.

MacDonald explained the five main goals of the N.S. Progressive Conservatives, including competitive education, protecting the environment, shorter hospital wait times, better roads and infrastructure and community safety.

MacDonald finished his address by encouraging students to get involved in the political process.

"Can you make a difference? Absolutely. Does your vote count? Yes, it does," he said passionately.

Almost immediately after the premier opened the floor for questions, a crowd of HCAP students gathered outside the room and began singing a catchy but derogative tune that criticized MacDonald.

Their song, including the line "Rodney's sucking up to Ellen Page, doesn't give a damn about the minimum wage," echoed throughout the room before several HCAP students attending the event stood and shouted questions about welfare and minimum wage rates toward the premier, who did not respond.

Security and several Conservative society members struggled to remove the protestors.

Dennis said the protests were "distasteful" and "out of line."

Webber got kicked out of the session after asking MacDonald if the Conservatives plan to raise provincial welfare rates and accusing his government of being responsible for the recent death of a homeless man who froze near Sydney, Cape Breton.

Afterward, Webber said he felt like he'd helped to change things, even though MacDonald didn't answer his questions.

"I think using tactics like that has definitely had positive results (for other HCAP events)," he said.

"That's disappointing," MacDonald said with a frown. "I would have answered their questions."

"I want to see change," MacDonald continued. "If that means being criticized, so be it. As long as we're doing the right thing... sometimes, we deserve being criticized... no government is perfect."

MacDonald finished his speech and accepted a Dal-embroidered scarf for his visit. But after he quickly left the SUB through a back exit, the premier's car was bombarded by HCAP members, protesting against poverty and capitalism.

— with files from Katie May

## Uni-Briefs

### CANADIAN CAMPUS SHORTS

#### Abortion debate called off at York

Members of York University's Student Centre Board of Directors cancelled a debate on abortion a few hours before it was set to run, reported student newspaper *Excalibur*.

Student Centre Vice-Chair Kelly Holloway said the debate was scrapped because the Board didn't want to validate a debate threatening a woman's right to abortion.

"Having a debate over whether or not women should be able to choose what to do with their own bodies is tantamount to having a debate about whether or not a man should be able to beat his wife," said Holloway.

Margaret Fung, co-president of Students for Bioethical Awareness at York, a group that helped organize the event, said it's important for students to be aware of abortion issues.

"(Students are) really interested in this topic and inhibiting them from finding more information about this is really disappointing," said Fung.

#### Ryerson student risks expulsion by running Facebook group

A Ryerson student may face expulsion for administrating a Facebook study group, reported student

newspaper *The Eyeopener*.

Avenir's professor recommended first-year chemical engineering student Chris Avenir be expelled, charging him with academic misconduct and giving him an F in his chemistry course for operating the group "The Dungeon/Mastering Chemistry Solutions," after a campus administrator found it online.

"What we did wasn't any different than tutoring, than tri-mentoring, than having a library study group," said Avenir. "I'm being charged with something I didn't commit."

Before this incident, Ryerson's Non-Academic Student Code of Conduct was modified to include offences that happen on the internet as punishable.

University President Sheldon Levy said the new policy is a balanced compromise between students' rights and the university's goal of accountability.

#### Calgary students search for 'black gold'

Engineering students at the University of Calgary will be digging for oil and gas deposits, reported University of Toronto student newspaper *The Varsity*.

The university owns five square kilometres of land in an area near the American border called Spring Coulee. Professor Robert Stewart of

the geosciences department thinks the students will strike it lucky.

"There is a producing oil well nearby, so we too could have some black gold," said Stewart.

He said potential revenue from the project could go toward creating new scholarships and reducing tuition. Stewart also said the process will be beneficial to students.

"We are in the remarkable position of being able to do a lot of the exploration work ourselves, which is a wonderful way for everybody to learn," said Stewart. "The data we acquired is a treasure trove of information that students are analyzing in class."

Sources: *Excalibur*, *The Eyeopener*, *The Varsity*

### SOUTH OF THE BORDER

#### Student body president shot to death

Students at the University of North Carolina are mourning the death of their student body president after she was fatally shot on Mar. 5.

Police released ATM photos of a suspect trying to use Eve Carson's bank card after her body was found with several bullet holes on a street near the Chapel Hill campus.

Her roommates last saw the 22-year-old around 1:30 that morn-

ing, and local police told media they think it's a random crime. The photos are their first clue in the case.

Over 5,000 students attended a vigil for Carson last week, remembering her as a friendly, strong and dedicated student leader.

#### Stolen Virgin stripper art creates controversy

Some students and faculty at the University of Dallas in Texas are debating artistic freedom versus "sacrilege" after a piece of student artwork depicting the Virgin Mary as a stripper was stolen from the university last month.

The black and white print, created by an art student at Murray State University in Kentucky, was stolen on Feb. 14 after being displayed for six days as part of an exhibit at the Catholic university.

The Dallas Morning News reported that some alumni criticized school President Frank Lazarus for allowing the piece to be displayed at all. Some students think the theft was "justified" because the art was insulting to their religion.

"Regardless of what the artist's message was ... the means she used were illicit, at least for Catholics," alumnus Tom Lagarde told the newspaper.

Lazarus argued he would have infringed on "academic freedom" if he'd ordered the print to be re-

moved.

Campus police have not yet found the missing artwork or the thief.

### ACROSS THE POND

#### Cambridge simplifying application process for 'non-traditional' students

Cambridge University plans to overhaul its application process in response to criticism that its student body isn't diverse enough.

After an education-based charity organization released a January report that showed students attending publicly funded schools are discouraged from applying to Cambridge, the school decided to make its application process more "straightforward" by eliminating separate applications for each course.

Edinburgh's student newspaper *The Journal* reported a statement from Cambridge, which said that "the changes reflect Cambridge's determination that its application procedure should be as straightforward as possible for applicants, especially those from 'non-traditional' backgrounds."

Sources: *The Dallas Morning News*; *The Daily Tar Heel*; *The (Edinburgh) Journal*



# GAZETTE EDITORIAL

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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.

## A once in a lifetime election

Once a year, DSU politics appeal to a broader group of people than those who work, eat and sometimes sleep in the SUB. The election season pits seasoned veterans with up-and-coming rookies, and the battle is usually interesting enough to draw in students who usually shrug off campus politics like it doesn't even affect them.

Not everyone is going to rush to the ballot on Mar. 18, 19 and 20, though. Some students are as flippant about the DSU as they are about their parents paying their tuition. They can suit themselves. A life spent floating from job to job without consideration for the laws of the land and the ambitions of its leaders is as wasted as it is dull.

But for those who don't treat the responsibilities of democracy as casual happenstance, there is another election on campus this month in which you won't get a second chance to participate once you graduate. An election regarding the quality, vision and pro-

fessionalism of the media.

The Gazette is holding its annual election on Friday, Mar. 14 in room 303 at 4 p.m. All editorial positions, including editor-in-chief, will be on the ballot. Candidates will give a speech, be grilled by attendees and then have their platforms voted on by all Dal students present. Never again will your judgement of good writing, penetrating journalism and quality leisure reading be as relevant to the way the media actually works.

You're The Gazette's chief shareholders. If you have been unhappy with the way an editor has covered their section, like sports or arts, you get to have a say. If you think the opinions section didn't reflect true debate or speak about what was on students' minds, you have a chance to change that.

Compare this to the private media, and your once-in-a-lifetime chance to vote will seem pretty exceptional. You don't have to throw

your remote at the TV or burn a newspaper in disgust at patchy news coverage or a lack of professionalism. All you have to do is walk to the third floor of the SUB.

The bulk of media is based out of the ivory towers and on the financial bottom lines of its owners. Canada has one of the most integrated media industries in the world. Editorial decisions can sometimes be controlled by owners who never make it to the front page themselves. Worst of all, making the biggest profit can often be the only thing on the mind of large media corporations.

There is no such exclusivity at The Gazette. It's a forum that allows you get more involved than just through letters to the editor. Everything from the covers to the Sex Issue is a reflection of your voice as a Dal student. Don't miss this chance to participate in local media – take the time to come and tell us what you think The Gazette should be about.

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### 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: 140-22, The DSU is undermining student democracy

To the Beret Mafia,

You King's folk cannot honestly expect the DSU or Dal students for that matter to actually show you guys any sympathy, can you? You ludicrous popinjays prattle on about how you are 'King's, NOT Dal' to the point of self-defence, and do everything in your part to remove yourself from conventional student life in Halifax. Even your illustrations go out of their way to depict your perceived notion of being more down-to-earth and with-it than the rest of ordinary society.

Yet the moment Dal tries to give you the independence you people project yourselves as living and breathing, you freak out, presumptuously spearheading the kinds of revolutions much better leaders have inspired for much more relevant causes. Talk about a self-fulfilling prophecy.

It reminds me of the spoiled child crying for his parents' attention as a way of acting out. Or Quebec. Perhaps instead of shamelessly biting the hand that feeds you every opportunity you get, you should start recognizing that the fact remains this: King's could not legitimately operate without Dalhousie.

Unfortunately for you guys, Dal could cut King's off and lose not even a shred of credibility or financial security. So stop being so damn resentful all the time of the fact that Dal is a mainstream institution just because you choose not to be. I don't always like it either, but harshly categorizing all Dal students as materialistic philistines, when you clearly are the insecure ones, is as shallow as those self-righteous blowhards who

broadly assign blame to 'the media' and 'corporations' for all the world's problems.

You have to show respect to get it back. Don't they teach you anything in those smug lectures?

Sincerely,  
Chris Metler, DALHOUSIE student

### Not enough 'Just for fun articles'

The Gazette, that is the articles that are printed, are stuffy, pretentious, and, at times, obnoxious. That is not to say that I don't regard The Gazette as a fine attempt at a campus paper, or discredit the contributors' talent and skill.

I am saying, however, that it needs a wider section of 'just for fun' articles. In last week's paper (Mar. 6 to Mar. 12), there are a total of two articles that are 'just for fun': Sex with Hugh and the Streeter page (including, of course, Overheard at Dal).

There are two articles out of a 22-page newspaper that aren't political discussions, social commentary, sports or reviews. All of these subjects listed were given more time, in articles and length, than the 'just for fun.' I would argue that The Gazette seems pretentious because of this.

What's the harm in expanding? Give the sex columnist room to be racy, to engage in topics and discussions that are taboo. Deal with issues that are personal but make people laugh as they read it. Doing this doesn't cheapen the integrity of the paper – even The New York Times has comics.

Kate Perri

### Re: Sex Issue Letters

I can't help but notice that there are STILL letters being printed about

the Sex Issue, complaining about the indecency, the immorality, and oh, the inhumanity of it all!

Come on, people! The body is not something to be ashamed of. It's a masterpiece, and sex is the best existing way to show appreciation. What's wrong with showing a little skin in the student newspaper? It was tastefully done, there were no stray boobies, and yeah, there were more girls than guys – but let's face it: girls are nicer than guys to look at – at least when half-naked.

The biggest point is, with the exception of a very few exceptional students who are only 16 or 17 and maybe a few of the private school kids, pretty much everyone reading The Gazette is at least 18. Those that aren't of age have undoubtedly seen worse on Showcase at one or two in the morning.

It's just a body. You have one, I have one, and some people wanted to share theirs – and with good reason! It's time to get over it, people, and move on.

Ayla McKay  
Second-year biology and sociology

### Re: 140-22, Council Intervenes in Gazette Election

I was just reading your lead news story online and found it really interesting. I worked at The Gazette for four years – three as a Dal student and one as a King's student while I did the one-year journalism program.

They were the best years of my school life. I think the thing a lot of people fail to realize is the value the King's kids bring to the paper. We had some on staff each year I was there, me being one of them in my final year. The greatest benefit they

bring, I believe, is their knowledge.

Chances are if a King's student is at The Gazette, he or she is a journalism student. They bring a variety of coachable skills such as writing and editing that no Dal student could. I was an English major and, in my opinion, had exceptional editing skills when I started at The Gazette. But they were academic editing skills and those aren't the same as journalism editing skills.

By the time I got to journalism school, I already knew how to write a lead, how to edit and how to interview, all because of my time at The Gazette. And in each case, those skills were taught to me by a King's student. It's difficult to explain this to people who aren't connected to the paper. That's obvious from some of the DSU councillors' comments.

Interestingly, The Gazette was selected as society of the year during my final year. Obviously the DSU thought we were doing something right. But still, there are always a few clueless councillors sitting around that table.

"I'm not even really thinking about the money," Chris Kolmatycki told council. "I believe that Dalhousie students should be running Dalhousie's newspaper and it's sort of a better representation of Dalhousie to have Dalhousie students running it as a top priority."

"I believe that, rather than necessarily being the best paper it can be," he continued, "it should look out for the students that it represents first."

This is a contradictory argument. In order for The Gazette to look out for the students it represents (which, I believe, are BOTH Dal and King's students), it needs to be as good as it can be and that means having the best people possible.

"Scott Wetton, Sexton engineering representative agreed. He argued in favour of a priority system that would ensure Dal students get first dibs at Gazette jobs.

"I think it's important that Dalhousie students have a voice on the paper and basically that we're celebrating Dalhousie and not constantly talking about the bad things at Dalhousie," he said during the meeting. "And I think that if we had a Dalhousie voice on the paper, I think that kind of aligns us to, hopefully, propagating that through the paper, and maybe, hopefully, correcting some of our apathy problems."

Celebrating Dal is the job of the school's website and their PR team. I'm sure your staff, no different than in my day, celebrate a lot of things about Dal – sports teams, theatre department productions and students doing cool things.

But we also, as the official voice of the student body, had a responsibility to speak out when DSU elections became a mockery, when The Grawood ran a six-figure deficit, and when the administration tried to bully off-campus residents. It should also be noted that the matter of student apathy has a lot more to do with what the DSU is doing than what the paper is publishing.

There were years when we would have four to eight pages of DSU election coverage in an attempt to boost voter turnout. It has always been a struggle. Trying to put that at the paper's feet is a bullshit attempt by them to pass the buck.

I hope things work out for the paper. I look forward to reading each week online. Not a week goes by that I don't miss that third floor office with the shitty furniture.

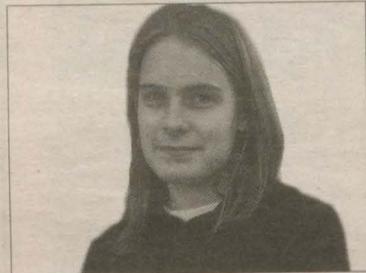
Michael Gorman

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday  
March 17 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB



# The Scientific Skeptic

## Grand Canyon creationism



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY  
SCIENCE COLUMNIST

Young Earth Creationists believe the Bible's literal interpretation of the earth's origins. In the early 90s, spurred by the many failed attempts to get their theories recognized as science by the courts, they decided they needed some scientific evidence to gain credibility.

To do so, they resurrected a centuries-old study of 'flood geology,' which claims that the many diverse geological formations on our planet were formed in the great flood of the Old Testament.

Perhaps the most ridiculous claim is that the great flood created the Grand Canyon, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. In 1997, Tom Vail, a part-time Grand Canyon rafting guide, founded Canyon Ministries, a group that offers "Christ-centered" tours of the Grand Canyon. They also published the book called, *Grand Canyon: A Different View*, a collection of essays by Young Earth Creationists that attempts to promote the view that the Grand Canyon was created by a flood. It is sold at the Grand Canyon National Park bookstore.

The book attracted outrage from many scientists. National Park service geologists insisted that it be taken off bookshelves.

The idea that a great flood created the Grand Canyon is ridiculous. There are examples of canyons created by floods: some scientists believe that canyons on Mars were created by underground explosions of sulphuric acid, and melting glaciers cut canyons in Antarctica several million years ago.

Closer to us in time and space, Moses Coulee in Washington state

was created around 10 thousand years ago when the melting of glacial ice unleashed a torrent of water across plains of basalt. None of these canyons look anything like the Grand Canyon.

What actually happened at the Grand Canyon was this: the movement of tectonic plates raised the rocks of the canyon high and flat, which allowed a kilometre-and-a-half deep canyon to be carved by the modest Colorado River. The time it took for the Colorado River to do this is still a matter of scientific debate, but in this

cut a perfect slice of geologic history through the layers of rock in the Grand Canyon.

The rocks on the walls of the Grand Canyon range from the limestone and sandstone close to the top to the 1,800 million-year-old igneous rock formations at the bottom. They boast rocks that make the biblical age of the earth, at 6,000 years, seem like a fraction of existence. The Grand Canyon is humbling not just in size but also in age.

I visited the Grand Canyon this reading week. While I was there I visit-



CATHERINE HOLLOWAY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Our intrepid science columnist on the edge of a frosty Grand Canyon.

month's issue of *Science* magazine, researchers from the University of New Mexico have put the date at 17 million years ago by studying cave formations at the bottom of the canyon.

With the biblical flood having occurred only a few thousand years ago, there is a considerable difference in time between the creationist and geologic estimates of the age of the Grand Canyon.

But the truly damning evidence against Young Earth Creationism is not the age of the canyon, but the age of the rocks forming the Grand Canyon. Like counting rings to figure out the age of a tree, the Colorado River

ed the bookstore and attended a couple of ranger lectures on Grand Canyon geology. Despite the popularity of flood geology explanations for the Grand Canyon among creationists, you won't find any supporters among the Canyon's staff. In their lectures, the National Park rangers insisted that a flood could not have created the Grand Canyon.

The creationist book can still be found in the bookstore. It was displayed in the 'inspiration' section, next to the native people's creation myths, and on the opposite side of the store from the 'geology' section - exactly where it should be.



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

HCAP members will hit you over the head with folk music.

## Voting with your right hook

CONNOR ROBINSON  
OPINIONS CONTRIBUTOR

During the Hollywood writers' strike, my girlfriend and I watched a lot of DVD box sets. My favourite was the HBO western, *Deadwood*, and not only because of its graphic violence, vulgar language and adult situations.

No, I really loved *Deadwood* because it centres around a frontier town and the show is about how we come together to build a community.

The third season of the show focuses on town elections and the idea of democracy. One of the candidates for sheriff is a young bartender named Harry Manning. In one episode, Harry is accosted by Steve, the angry town drunk and known horse sodomizer.

Steve rips into candidate Harry with his electoral demands. These run the gamut from his personal failings in business to his views on minorities. He then calls Harry gutless and stumbles off. At this point the saloon's proprietor turns to Harry and says:

"Instead of tending bar and running for office, why don't you just tend bar and let everyone in town punch you in the face?"

The line stuck with me because it seemed like an apt analysis of the state of politics today. It posed the question of why any sane person with other viable career options would ever run for office.

Why would anyone voluntarily become a lightning rod for every member of the lunatic fringe?

Sadly, the *Deadwood* metaphor leapt to life before Christmas when former Prime Minister Joe Clark was actually punched in the face while walking down a Montreal street.

Some goon yelled out, "Are you Joe Clark?" and when the former PM replied yes, the mouth-breather ran over and punched the 68-year-old Clark in the face, breaking his glasses and bloodying his nose.

Clark was prime minister for only nine months! What could have possibly upset this knuckle-dragger - Clark's failed 1979 proposal to raise excise taxes?

I would say it is simply the product of our tacit acceptance to abusing politicians. Want to compare Stephen Harper to Hitler for cutting the court challenges program? Fine. Want to throw a pie at Jean Chrétien because you feel strongly about food labelling? Go ahead. Want to punch an old man in the face? Well, that's what he gets for devoting decades to public service.

Unfortunately, this political thuggery was also on display Tuesday during a talk by Nova Scotia Premier Rodney MacDonald at the SUB. MacDonald spoke for about 20 minutes and had just started a question and answer session when some portly fellow near the front sprang to his feet, interrupting a question by DSU president Mike Tipping.

The agitated boy began ranting and raving while moving threateningly toward MacDonald. Thankfully, the gawky president of the Dal-King's young conservatives, all the while looking like he might pee his pants, stepped between the two and Dalhousie was saved the indignity of having one of its students assault the premier of the province.

Simultaneously, at least one other student in the room rose and started hurling abuse at MacDonald, while outside the door another group began banging pots and pans. Amidst all this commotion the issue they sought to raise evaded me.

So, what was the point of all that?

Only in the minds of the truly warped is that approach a better way to raise an issue than simply attending the forum and asking your question. Keep in mind they interrupted a question and answer session.

The real result of this scene was that fewer students got to ask questions, and it's probably less likely now that there will be events like this in the future.

Furthermore, this gang contributed to the increasing undesirability of working in public office. Indeed, we all suffer when bright and accomplished people leave the headaches of politics to others.

So congratulations to Tuesday's rowdies: you are the Dalhousie equivalent of Steve the angry drunk.

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# The man behind the knife

JENN CONTER  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

On Feb. 12, someone stole a Dalhousie student's laptop at knifepoint, just outside of Risley Hall.

The incident is still fresh in the minds of many students. It's hard for us to realize that the Dalhousie campus bubble we know and love has been recently punctured by crime.

I am in full agreement that any crime, be it marginal or extremely dangerous, should receive appropriate punishment. But we usually see criminals and their deeds from a distance. Either they're being chased down on television or being surrounded by police in a newspaper photo.

This makes it easier to quickly judge a person who commits a crime. We devalue their name, link them to members of society who are lower than ourselves, even chalk their behaviour up to bad parenting. But even if the definition of 'criminal' is someone who commits a crime, the label isn't always so simple.

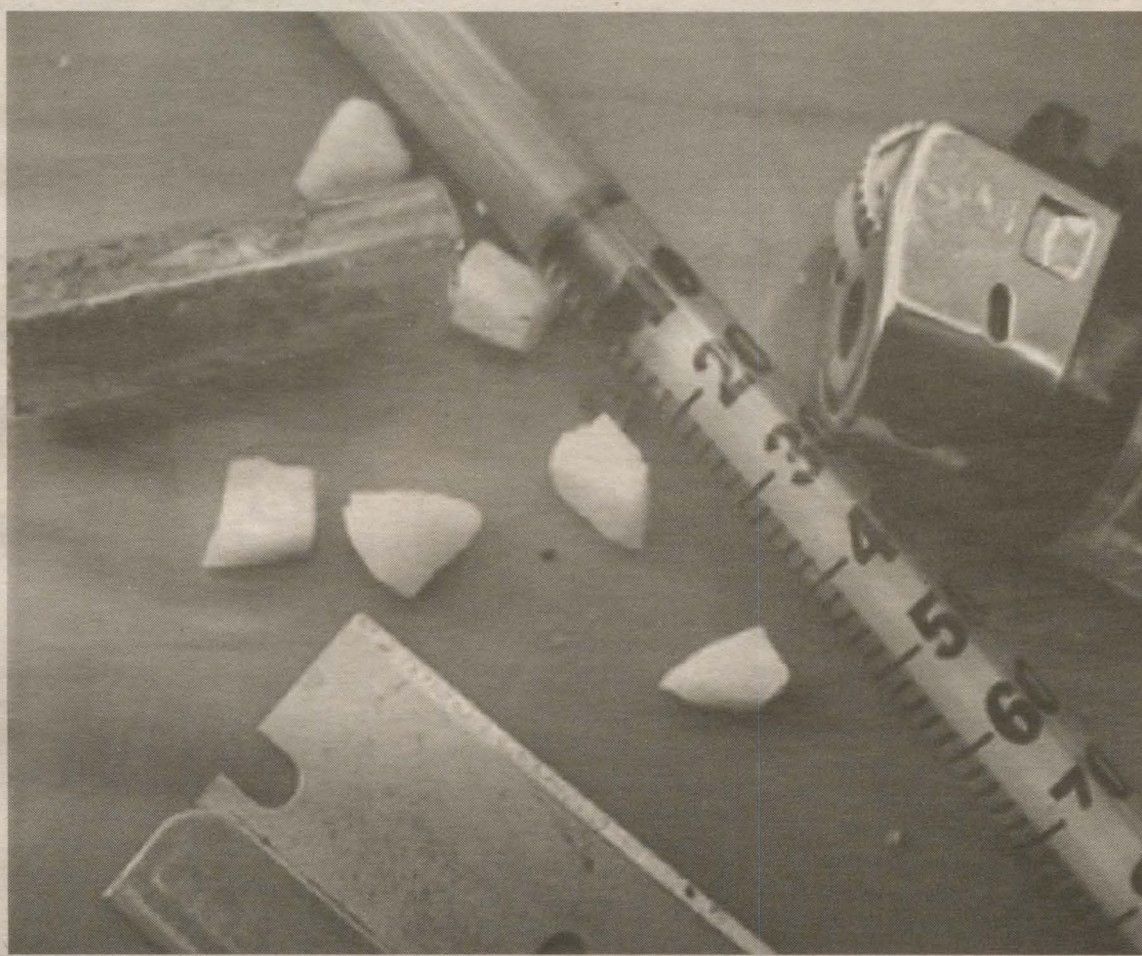
There is always a human being behind every crime. In the case of the laptop robbery, I became aware of the assailant's identity before the time of his arrest.

The young man isn't only being held responsible for the robbery on campus. He has been in trouble for incidents as significant as grand theft auto and as shameful as stealing a purse from an elderly woman at a bus stop. In order to protect his privacy and the privacy of his family, I will refer to this person simply as Paul.

Unbeknownst to many, Paul is not a product of a bad upbringing or even a bad neighbourhood. He grew up in a middle-class home in Halifax with two parents who are both hard-working members of society. They are not divorced and they have never been in any sort of legal trouble. It is safe to say they are probably the nicest people one could have the fortune of meeting.

Paul joined the school stream, as we all did, and worked his way through a public school education. In fact, Paul was achieving honour roll-worthy marks until he found himself with a new group of friends. Like many adolescents, Paul felt the need to be 'cool' and found himself in a bad peer group.

Facing the insecurities we can all remember in the upper years of junior



WIKIPEDIA

Crack can take you from a straight-A student to dazed addict in mere months.

high and high school, Paul fell victim to peer pressure. I am aware that a lecture on peer pressure makes most of us think back to low-budget public service announcement videos from the 80s and early 90s. But Paul's desire to fit in is no laughing matter.

Paul began experimenting with drugs. It was seen as a sort of rite of passage for an experimenting kid of his age, and Paul joined the many of us who have snuck out of school early, skipped class or hot-boxed a car to get high.

Paul's experimentation did not stop there. Fuelled by the need to belong, Paul didn't just indulge in drugs. He and his group of friends committed small crimes, such as damaging cars and stealing car stereos.

At the time, Paul had the help of an excellent lawyer and was given a second chance. He got his act together and finished high school.

Because of his trouble in school he graduated a year behind his peers, but surprised everyone by achieving straight As and even collecting a little academic hardware during the graduation ceremony.

Elated by his own success, Paul enrolled in Dalhousie University. In addition to maintaining an above-average GPA, Paul got himself a girlfriend who was a good student and therefore a good influence on Paul. For a time, this story was set on course for a happy ending.

Unhappy with his classes, Paul switched majors and enrolled at SMU to follow another career path. Though on the surface Paul maintained control and confidence in both the direction of his life and his education, those who remained close to him would soon find out that it was all a façade.

Unable to cope with the mounting pressure of university and a re-

cent separation from his long-term girlfriend, Paul re-entered his old life and reverted back to drugs. Searching for the extra release to dull his most recent pains, Paul turned to crack cocaine.

Crack cocaine is one of the most powerful and addictive forms of cocaine. It causes a much more intense and euphoric high than other forms of this common recreational drug. Paul would increase his consumption to the highly addictive and dangerous drug as the days went on.

Still attempting to fool everyone close to him, Paul would smoke up and attempt to fully function in his classes. But his GPA began to slip as his addiction took over his life.

He purchased more and more of the drug as he became more immune. He continued to put increasing amounts into his body in order to achieve that elusive 'high.'

The drug grew too powerful for

him and Paul was found one morning by the police, passed out in his car. While he did have a high level of alcohol in his body, the police found no trace of cocaine on him and he was released to his parents.

Unaware of how bad his addiction had become, Paul's parents looked for treatment centres in the area. Paul was placed in rehab after rehab. But even when he achieved sobriety under the watchful eyes of the trained professionals in the rehab centre, upon leaving the safe haven of the facilities, he began to use again.

Having no job and no scholastic drive, Paul coddled his addiction and fed it day in and day out. Unfazed by the condition he was in and the increasing damage he was doing to his body, Paul began to sneak out of his parents' home in the middle of the night to buy crack.

If he could not afford it, he would steal from his parents. And when he was unable to find money close to him, Paul's drugged haze led him to steal personal items from his parents' home.

Disappearing for days at a time, Paul needed a more readily available source of income. So he turned to small crimes, such as snatching purses from women at bus stations, stealing items from friends, and, as we all heard, robbing a student of his laptop at knifepoint.

His life has become dominated by the need to finance an addiction that has transformed a once vibrant and intelligent young man into one with a paranoid mind and a serious addiction to a dangerous drug.

Aware that the police were fingering him for his crimes, Paul turned himself in to the authorities. Due to the many infractions Paul committed over the past few months to feed his addiction, he is facing jail time of up to four years.

The message here is simple: criminal behaviour is more than just the result of those who are criminals. Because of his involvement in drugs, Paul very quickly went from an above average student at a university you and I attend to a desperate shell of a man unable to control his addiction.

Heed the warning in Paul's story of what drugs can do to a young person with a bright future. They left an indelible mark on his future and an irreversible toll on his body.

## Stir the pot in this election

JAMES MUNSON  
OPINIONS EDITOR

The last gruelling stretch of the 2007/08 academic year has begun. As reading week is now a distant memory, our longing for mental renewal during the distant summer months intensifies with every final research paper squat-down at the Killam.

Your leisure time is probably tight as it is. If you're a politics junkie, you're probably spending whatever free time you have catching the latest primary or caucus win south of the border.

Or maybe your eyes and interests are fixed on Ottawa and the most famous election to never actually happen in Canadian history. And for anyone passionate about democracy and its always uncertain future, the recent Russian and Pakistani elections are fodder for any ranting and raving by hot-headed chatterboxes.

So you may ask yourself then if there is any place on your political plate to consider the little ol' DSU election.

It may be a little light on the generational change and open challenges to the establishment. Election-rigging and violent shit-disturbing are also strictly off the menu. If you ask for something like covert bribing to spice up this election season, your waiter will most likely say no (only Ottawa's municipal elections can afford that kind of stuff). There doesn't even seem to be a good old-fashioned scandal capable of ruining a campaign. Running for office in the DSU might appeal to the candidates, but it doesn't appeal to the senses of every Dal student.

Your choice in this election is clearer than the complimentary glass of water - in order to get your fill from this ballot, you've got to get up from the table, head into the kitchen, and start doing the cooking yourself.

While the candidates might have their rehearsed platforms, you have a chance to make the agenda your own. Don't be hesitant to stop candidates in the street and pester them with your views on campus life. Bring

the problems to them. Wouldn't that be a good way to focus your frustration and in turn, sharpen the ears of candidates to the needs of voters?

If you're completely satisfied with Dalhousie and can only spew out flowery appraisal, then your name is Tom Traves, or you're a student who's been numbed to the political value of your dollar by letting your parents pay for university and taking it as right and not a privilege.

But if *The Gazette's* e-mail inbox is any indication, the stage is set for students who want to put their part in the pot of opinion.

*The Gazette* has already done some unintentional taste-testing to establish whether Dal students are proud or completely apathetic about their political existence on campus. Last week, we went front-page with current society review decisions, and have heard a mouthful in response for our focused coverage. Some people thought it was self-absorbed, over-the-top and repetitive. Other's loved it for some sober insight into a debate always capable of sparking school ri-

valry and setting passions alight.

Despite the plurality of opinion, one thing was unequivocally clear: whether it's how each dime of their money is spent, or making sure their campus paper isn't run by people they deem as outsiders, Dal students are proud and passionate about their lives as students. It would great if the passion Dal students had regarding this issue could translate into policy ideas to take to candidates.

But this won't happen if students just take what's offered to them in terms of politics. Each student needs to stir the pot if they want to end up with something they'll enjoy.

When you think about politics, don't just think about podiums and talking points. Think about what you complain about while procrastinating. Think about what you notice on campus on your way to class. Think about ideas you've had about how to make your university years unforgettable.

Whatever fill you get from the DSU election, it will probably keep your mind off your empty cupboard until you're back home.

## WRITE

for  
The Gazette.  
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only four  
weeks left.



# No one is safe with The Rhythm Method

CHRISTIE CONWAY  
ASSISTANT ARTS EDITOR

Decked out in spandex and fringe, the three sharp-tongued women of the Halifax hip hop group The Rhythm Method aren't afraid to tell you how they really feel.

"This is who we are against a beat," says Angie Chapin, 21, a fourth-year student completing a degree in English with a minor in journalism at Dalhousie and King's College.

Fellow members are Kristen Finley, 21, a fourth-year psychology and contemporary studies major, and Sascha Garrey, 22, who will be completing an Honours economics degree with a minor in environmental sciences this year. Finley and Garrey are studying at both Dalhousie and King's College.

"It all started as a big joke" says Garrey of the group, which was born out of living room performances and a mutual appreciation for all things outrageous and fabulous.

"I love Queen Latifah," says Garrey. "That sassy bringer-of-the-long-nails kind of rapping. I've got *Dance Mix '94* on repeat."

"The Beastie Boys. I like how it's a little obnoxious," says Finley, on her own 90s favourites. Chapin's tastes go back a little further.

"The SugarHill Gang, 80s rap and *Wild Style*, the movie," she says. "But my influences started out being Sascha and Kristen."

All the women agree hip hop offers a wide outlet for bragging — a talent that helped propel the group from the very beginning.

"Oh I B-R-A-G," says Garrey, laughing. "Our first show was at (King's campus bar) The Wardroom with The Darcys. We got there because I was bragging about being in this rap group that like, didn't exist. We had gone over to Kristen's house one time and I was like, 'Garage band!'"

After being asked to open for The Darcys, Chapin felt hesitant.

"I really didn't want to. I was like, 'This is something we do in our living room. People don't want to hear this. This is dumb. I don't know if it will be good or not.' I was definitely really resistant. And then we did and the timing was just really right and we put on a good show."

The girls performed their song "Too Small" at The Wardroom around the same time as The Vagina Monologues and Radical Vulvas productions were happening in Halifax. The coordinators of the events caught wind of the group and offered The Rhythm Method a chance to perform in New Brunswick.

"People really swooped down on us as feminists," says Finley.

"There's something about when girls get up on stage, they're feminists," says Garrey. "It was never our intention to be a women's group addressing women's issues, being critical of any sort of system or anything like that."

"I think it's more unconscious if we do write things that can be interpreted politically or as feminism. I think that's just more of our personalities," says Chapin.

"We are very *carte blanche* with our lyrics," adds Finley. "I think 'Too Small' and 'I'm Pregnant' are somewhat educational for boys. But really we just put it out there."

With a laugh, Garrey says she thinks the band sounds like Meg Hickley, the sexual educator. There's some definite truth to the remark. With The Rhythm Method's rhymes running the gamut from gynecologist visits to Freudianism, their lyrics



JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

This Halifax girl group need not worry about a laboured delivery.

offer unique insight into the day-to-day workings of these female university students' minds.

"In English, the Chaucer to the Poe. I love that VJ Woolf stream-of-consciousness flow," is a favourite line of Chapin's.

There's always a good chance the audience will come away having learned a thing or two. Nothing is taboo when these three women take the stage.

"I feel like because it started as a joke and not for anybody, even now when we are doing it in front of people, it feels appropriate to rap about stuff like losing my virginity. It's the same stuff that we rapped about in our living room," Finley says.

"I like it best when we just rap about ourselves," says Chapin, citing her favourite of Garrey's rhymes: "I be chillin', I.B.S., I beat your girlfriend in the wet T-shirt contest."

"I like it 'cause all those things are true. She did win a wet T-shirt contest," Chapin says.

The Rhythm Method's latest song, "Crush on My Dad," is a good example of how the women push social norms to the outrageous. In this instance, combining their process and a love of Freud to create a song about a daughter's love for her father that moves beyond the expected or traditionally accepted.

"We were recording 'I'm Pregnant' and we were all talking about how much we loved our dads and how our dads were so handsome," says Garrey. "Then we all agreed that we had crushes on our dads because they were so awesome. And after we all admitted it we decided to write a song about it."

"There's some sort of thing with girls and their fathers," says Chapin. "This isn't something we've drawn out of thin air. People say stuff like that all the time."

While the ladies like to push the boundaries of politically correct commentary, they admit their rap stylings aren't always about being scandalous.

"We sometimes rap about how boring we are," says Finley laughing.

"I was writing my latest rap and realizing it was all Econ puns. I had to take a moment and realize that, yeah, my life is school. It was so embarrassing. But what do you rap about? You rap about your life," Garrey says.

Aside from their lyrics, the girls are known to have quite the onstage fashion style, often sporting acid-washed denim, bedazzled clothes, spandex, business suits and occasionally, Finley's midriff.

"My mother's wardrobe," says Garrey, of what she wears onstage.

"Yeah, just like Beyonce's mom made Destiny's Child's outfits, Sascha's mom makes our outfits," says Finley.

"Except she doesn't make them. She just wears them to work," says Garrey with a grin.

When the girls aren't studying or rapping, they can be found doing their other favourite things like "doodling with mechanical pencils," says Chapin.

"I like finding discarded pens after lectures," says Garrey.

"I like asking boys if they have a tampon," says Finley. "I think the way I am now has a lot to do with my repressed Christian upbringing"

While the girls joke about their Rhythm Method fame, they say the real draw of the group for all of them is spending time together.


"We hang out, we have a good time and people like it," says Chapin. "I don't eat, breathe and sleep The Rhythm Method, but when I do it I love it, and these girls are awesome."

"We've been talking about making a CD, touring Asia, doing the MGM Grand," says Garrey of their future. "I mean, now that Celine Dion's not playing anymore, they need someone to fill her spot."

For now, they're enjoying the ride.

"We're letting loose . . . through rap," says Kristen. "It's kind of romantic."

*The Rhythm Method will be playing at The Marquee Mar. 13 at 10 p.m. with The Darcys and Cool Dad.*



## Edward Diaz

B.Sc., Ph.D(iscovey)

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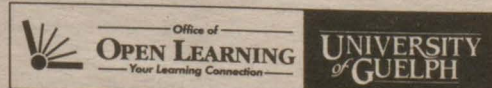
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# DAL VOTES '08





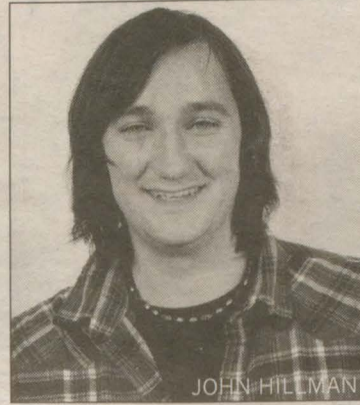
## DALHOUSIE VOTES '08



GREGORY DEBOGORSKI



TARA GAULT



JOHN HILLMAN



COURTNEY LARKIN

## President

**Responsibilities:** Acts as the chief executive officer of the DSU; acts as the official spokesperson for students; sits on the board of governors and senate; develops and formulates policy; reviews federal, provincial, municipal and university policies that affect the academic, financial and social interests of students and recommends appropriate action to council. The president also represents the interests and policies of the student union and its membership during policy formulation by external organizations of which the union is a member.

**Honorarium:** \$26,000

**GREGORY DEBOGORSKI**

**Age:** 26

**Major:** Second-year management  
**Hometown:** Edmonton, Alta.

**Past Experience:** Ran for Board of Governor's representative and lost 2006/07; Toastmaster's society member 2006/07; Vice president of Dal Junior Investment Society 2007; Catholic Christian Outreach member, 2006 to present; working with Black United Students Association developing business plans

**Strangest dream:** Doesn't remember  
**Favourite unusual food combo:** Fresh oysters and sambuca  
**Regrettable fashion decision:** "It's cool any way I bust it."  
**Hidden talent:** Can read people by their tone of voice

Gregory Debogorski promises to overhaul the student union's review process and hold the DSU completely accountable for its actions if he's elected president.

He says he would arrange an external auditing system and pay students to inspect each of the DSU's programs to promote accountability and curb apathy.

"It seems like every year they want to expand their programs... it seems like we have this great big huge bureaucratic DSU that keeps expanding and there's no real measure of outputs or outcomes in terms of what the DSU is doing," he says. "And the students don't care enough to bring this to light."

He would also forgo a "large portion" of his honorarium for the position, using the money instead to hire advisors.

"I'd like to make an example for not only the other executives, but for the DSU itself, in hiring the expertise that we have here on campus... people who can give me the straight 'yes' or 'no' on issues."

Debogorski's main focus in his presidential campaign is, as he puts it, putting students back into the student union rather than allowing them to feel left out of union activities.

"The DSU has this political clique, in the commissions, in council, at the front desk, all across the DSU, and I think that's part of the reason for the apathy," he says. "The executive review committee is a farce."

He says he would also be open to a drastic change of union structure, both internally and externally.

"The first year, we'd have to probably make some major sacrifices and some cutbacks in terms of what we do and where we spend our money," he says. "I think there's people getting paid in this building, for example, that don't deserve the pay that they're getting."

Unless student opinion reflects the opposite view, Debogorski says he would also like to pull the DSU's membership from its two external lobby groups, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations (CASA) and the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations (ANSSA).

"Both of those lobby groups do very little for students in general, in my opinion," he says.

**TARA GAULT**

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Fourth-year anthropology.  
**Hometown:** Etobicoke, Ont.

**Past Experience:** First-year rep Political Science Society 2004/05; vice president (education) 2007/08  
**Strangest dream:** "I had a dream we had a fully sustainable campus."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** Ice cream and Jell-o  
**Regrettable fashion decision:** Bright yellow sweat suit

**Hidden talent:** Tap dancing

If Tara Gault is elected president of the DSU this March, she says she plans to focus her platform on internal affairs rather than external lobbying. Her chief goal would be to establish a diversity space in the Student Union Building.

"It would be a place to hold meetings, where students can get involved," says Gault.

The current vice president (education) says there needs to be an open space for students to work for a more diverse campus on their own terms, instead of the DSU taking a top-down approach.

"You can't define diversity. I think it's self-defining," says Gault.

She adds that while societies that focus on diversity are going above and beyond this year, it's important to have a place to hold events and to get more people involved.

Gault says that aside from providing a place to hold meetings, the space could also serve as a lounge and a reading space.

"The (Dalhousie) Women's Centre is isolated and the Black Student Advising Centre is moving to Robie Street, which is great, but I want to provide a central space so they aren't marginalized," says Gault.

Gault says the DSU needs more long-term financial planning in order to avoid quick-fix solutions that aren't worth the money in the long run.

"Long-term planning has to do with sustainability," says Gault. "I would rather do something that's a little bit more costly now this year, but I want it done well so we don't have makeshift projects."

Gault is also intent on keeping busy with the Halifax Student Alliance (HSA), mainly to push for a better deal for students when it comes to taking the bus.

"Metro transit is making a lot of money off (the U-Pass) and we've got to make sure they up their service for that," says Gault. "They need to increase their quality, especially when it comes to waiting times."

Gault also wants to put the HSA to work to bring down crime in the campus area.

"Students need to stand up for their collective right," says Gault.

She says she hopes to implement a plan to eliminate dark areas and have more surveillance on campus.

"These are huge issues that are going to come up during the October municipal election," adds Gault.

**JOHN HILLMAN**

**Age:** 22

**Major:** First-year graduate history  
**Hometown:** Lower Sackville, N.S.

**Past Experience:** *Gazette* staff contributor  
**Strangest dream:** "I was deathly afraid of the CBC symbol."  
**Favourite unusual food combo:** "Baby seals with a side of fried Piping Plover."

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "A stubby rattail when I was five."  
**Hidden talent:** James Bond Golden-Eye expert

John Hillman says he doesn't think apathy is a student problem. He says it's a student union problem, and that's why he's running for president.

"Win or lose, I want to drive home the point that it's not the student's responsibility to find something interesting in the DSU—it's the DSU's responsibility to capture their imaginations," says Hillman.

Hillman says it's easy for students who aren't already involved in the DSU to feel like outsiders, and he wants to use a less serious approach to get those students involved.

"My goal would be to demystify things a bit, to break down the bonds and make things as interactive as possible using CKDU and *The Gazette* to get the message out there," he says, adding that the DSU president should strive to open up debate among students.

If he's elected, he says he would make a point to oppose society policies that exclude some groups from holding executive positions within all Dal societies. Instead, Hillman wants to work closely with the King's Students' Union to develop solutions and maintain open communication between the two unions.

"If we want to really involve people here, we're going to need the best people we can... I'm quite against excluding people from DSU societies."

But he does support the DSU's leadership role within its lobby groups, the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations and the Alliance of Nova Scotia Student Associations.

"I have no plans to convert us over to CFS or anything like that. I'm quite happy with the focus on tuition issues rather than protesting wars," he says with a laugh. "For the most part I think the DSU has been on the right track. I think they have done a great job advocating for students," he adds. "Where the problem lies is (that) they've failed to connect."

He acknowledges that his lack of experience in the DSU may put him at a disadvantage during the campaign race, but he feels students will more easily relate to him and his message because of it.

"It's a little bit tongue-in-cheek, but part of the logic behind that is I think people respond better to that than if you just deliver the standard line."

**COURTNEY LARKIN**

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Fourth-year management  
**Hometown:** Dartmouth, N.S.

**Past Experience:** Dal Science Society (DSS), first-year representative 2004/05; DSS president 2004/05; Vice-chair of Orientation Week and Commissioner for the vice president (student life) 2006/07; Vice president (student life) 2007/08

**Strangest dream:** "When I was little, I had this dream that I would wake up and look out my bedroom window and this witch would be coming toward me."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** "Ketchup on toast, and my own nachos: Premium Plus crackers and melted cheese, dill pickles and Miracle Whip."

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "Neon outfits that my parents would dress me in, and biker shorts. And scrunchies galore. And the clips that everyone would have all over their hair."

**Hidden talent:** "I can touch my tongue to my nose and wiggle my ears."

Larkin says she wants to encourage student engagement within the Dal community. She says she hopes to do this by working more actively with board members to do presentations on what students want.

"Instead of just being an active listener... [the executives] are the voice for students," she says.

She says her involvement with Orientation Week, as both a leader and vice-chair, contributes to her interest and concern for the student body.

"To work with students on such a personal level, in their first days, and to lead 150 leaders and 1,300 students into [the Dal community], that's a huge skill to have," she says. "Being able to lead students in general, when they feel they have a goal when they want to get to, and also with the executive: to get them not just working in their little departments, but to actually work together, and to come together as a union to benefit for students."

Larkin says if elected, she will continue to foster communication between offices and students.

"I think everything really comes back to student engagement, and making students proud to be Dal students. And making them feel a part of the community," she says. "You wake up and you're going to class and you feel like you're part of it. And it's kind of like getting everyone to work together."

Larkin says her involvement with the executive this year has helped her understand the role of the president. She also says this position has allowed her to understand the necessities of the job.

"I know that just because it says 30 hours a week in the constitution... that means nothing. I'm always on call, my cell phone number is out there for the world and if somebody has [a problem] they are going to call at 2 a.m.," she says.





DANIEL BOYLE

## Vice President (Internal)

**Responsibilities:** Helps facilitate over 225 societies; oversees all student communications; the vice president (internal) chairs several committees including: student accessibility fund, residence relations, Sexton campus advisory, communications and awareness, grants and society review.

**Honorarium:** \$26,000

### DANIEL BOYLE

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Third-year political science and history

**Hometown:** Glasgow, Scotland

**Past Experience:** DSU Council science representative 2006/07; sat on Communications and Awareness committee 2006; frosh leader, 2006/07; Shinerama committee, 2006/07; academic committee, 2006/07; chair, executive review committee, 2006/07; chair, council handbook committee 2006/07

**Strangest dream:** "I don't really remember my dreams, I'm normally too tired at that point."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** Chicken hearts and liver

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "Wearing a kilt to Reflections, commando. That was a very interesting night."

**Hidden talent:** "I'd like to keep that a secret."

Boyle says he wants more Dal initiatives to be communicated clearly to students. He thinks progress has been made in this field, but he says he would like to see these ideas continue to develop.

"I think getting the word out [is important]," he says. "Tiger Troupe is a big initiative which hasn't been realized to its full potential. I think the leadership conference is also a big thing that can tell students how to become involved with various societies at the outset, at Orientation Week."

Boyle also says that students involved with societies need to understand their roles within their societies, especially because these roles change over time.

Boyle says he is accountable because he's aware of the changes and can easily adapt.

"I think what I've taken from the leadership conference as well is that a lot of students involved with the leadership society don't understand the nature of their roles. I think we can hold more workshops... we can expand this to other positions in society to explain to people how things work. It's intimidating to get involved with the DSU Council, but understanding the process, you're not going in blind."

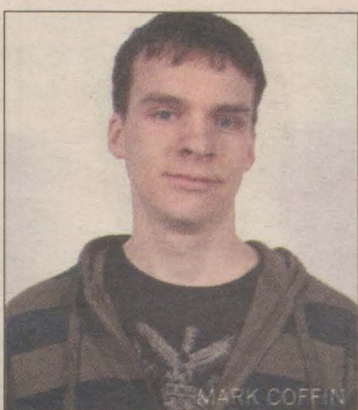
Boyle says apathy within the student community is caused by confusion and a lack of communication. He hopes to eliminate this confusion by opening up communication between students and administration.

"I know a number of the candidates are pushing apathy," he says. "I think there's been a lot of progress over the past few years, in terms of engaging students, and I'd like to see some of these ideas continue."

"I think the problem at Dal is that people aren't apathetic, they just don't realize the opportunities they have available to them."



VICTORIA JONES



MARK COFFIN

## Vice President (Education)

**Responsibilities:** Manages the DSU's Student Advocacy Service and course evaluations; develops and formulates policy on academic matters; represents the DSU on the senate and the senate academic priorities and budget committee, senate committee on academic administration and senate nominating committee; responsible for lobbying the government on education-related issues through the DSU's federal and provincial lobby organizations.

**Honorarium:** \$24,500

### MARK COFFIN

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Fourth-year environmental science

**Hometown:** Sydney, N.S.

**Past Experience:** SustainDal 2006/07, 2007/08; Dal Green Party president 2007/08

**Strangest dream:** End of the world Armageddon dream.

**Favourite unusual food combo:** Potato apple bake

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "I had a rattail in grade two."

**Hidden talent:** Guitar

Mark Coffin says he thinks the best way to get students excited about their union is to get them involved early. If elected, Coffin says he plans to take a more aggressive approach at breaking the ice between the DSU and first-year students.

"Last year, 'open-door policy' was a big buzz word," says Coffin. "I think next year we need to take it a step further. We need to have a meet-and-greet at the beginning of the year, something different than frosh week."

Coffin says this event would be different because it would make students aware of what the DSU really does, not just the partying aspect of Dal. New students need to be aware of the serious side of university politics and Coffin says students need to be involved from day one.

He also plans to work through Dal's new municipal lobbying group, the Halifax Student Alliance.

"I want to work toward better transportation, especially the night bus, to ensure that students can get home safe from downtown on the weekend and during the week," says Coffin. "And it will cut down on cab rides, which is good for sustainability."

Coffin is also planning an initiative to get new professors better adjusted to teaching in front of students. New professors who have done a lot of research but haven't had any formal training should get a bit of a crash course to ensure that the quality of teaching remains high at Dal, says Coffin.

"They're obviously smart individuals, but they don't have the necessary past involvement in teaching that older teachers have," says Coffin. "I think it would be nice if there was a better introductory program."

Coffin says he plans to keep up with external lobbying off-campus during a year that might see three elections in Canada: municipal, provincial and federal.

### VICTORIA JONES

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Fourth-year history and Canadian studies

**Hometown:** Edmonton, Alta.

**Past Experience:** Italian society member 2004/05; founded Canadian Studies Society 2005/06; Dal Liberal Club member 2005/06; Undergraduate Senator 2006/07 and 2007/08; Spread the Net society co-captain 2007/08; President of Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society 2007/08

**Strangest dream:** Cut bangs too short on her wedding day

**Favourite unusual food combo:** Ice cream, maple syrup and Reese's Pieces

**Regrettable fashion decision:** Stirrup pants

**Hidden talent:** Can put her leg up over her head

Victoria Jones says next year's vice president (internal) will have the task of implementing the DSU's new society policy and of creating a smooth transition for student societies affected by it. And she's prepared to use her experience heading societies to work out the policy kinks. If elected, Jones says she would compile a society leader information package to guide students through the ratification process, tell them how to apply for grants and how to use the union's resources to their advantage.

"There's been a lot of change to the position, so I think one of my goals is to just stabilize everything," she says. "A lot of societies can't navigate the red tape and I think one of the successes of Spread the Net was we knew how to navigate it. If every society had that knowledge, they would be even better than they are now."

She says she also wants to focus on maintaining the leadership program the DSU started this year by lobbying the administration to put more money into the training program and possibly hire "facilitators" to help run meetings.

"It's still in its sort of seedling stages, but I wouldn't mind growing that and pushing the university to become more supportive of it," she says. "The idea is supported, but we actually need money."

"The DSU can do things really quickly, but the university takes about 10 years."

The DSU's Sustainability Office is another key point of Jones's platform. She says she would take another look at the office's structure and make sure involved students have their voices heard about how the office is run.

A major aspect of the vice president (internal)'s job is to oversee all DSU communications, and if elected, Jones says she would remain approachable to students by holding her office hours in the SUB lobby once a week.

"If the DSU wants to function, it has to be open to everyone," she says.



KRISTA ALI

## Vice President (Student Life)

**Responsibilities:** Organizes student events on campus and coordinates DSU-sponsored activities such as orientation week, charity ball and student appreciation night. The vice president (student life) is also responsible for promoting varsity athletics on campus and sits on several committees, including the recruitment committee and the community affairs and events committee.

**Honorarium:** \$24,500

### KRISTA ALI

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Fourth-year English and international development studies

**Hometown:** Sackville, N.S.

**Past Experience:** Helped organize Shinerama's Epic Pull fundraiser, 2007; President of high school student council, high school dance committee, high school public relations committee; N.S. Secondary School Students' Association representative in high school

**Strangest dream:** "I was swimming with a killer whale and I was very scared of it at first and then we were cool with each other in the end."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** "I like to dip my cheeseburgers in sour cream."

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "When I was 10 I would wear mom-style jeans with the bubble and they were really tight around the bottom."

**Hidden talent:** "I can roll my tongue."

Landing a job at the Student Union Building information desk last May made Krista Ali realize how important it is for students to be involved in campus activities.

"I had no idea what went on in this building," says Ali. "I feel like there are a lot of students missing out not because they don't want to be involved, but because they have no idea how to be."

She says there should be more than just posters inside the building to alert students to events. Ali wants to visit classes to announce activities to students or e-mail professors asking to let their students know what's happening on campus. She says she would also create more committees and delegate more responsibilities to students so they can make decisions and be more involved.

"I've been watching from the outside and I've made the transition," she says. "Now I'm ready to be involved and I want to help other people make that transition."

With the upcoming elections, Ali hopes to see much more diversity among the future DSU members.

"I feel like everyone is a friend of a friend, and that's great to see everyone as friends," she says. "But I feel it's become very exclusive and it's become a group of people instead of a student union."

Ali also says she would make events more varied than they are now.

"Not everyone wants to come to a place where you drink and there's loud music," says Ali. "There also have to be events that apply to people who don't want to do that and I feel like they're being totally excluded."

She says the SUB has a great sense of community and is a great building for students to come and spend time in, but she thinks it needs to be more welcoming.

"It feels very exclusive," says Ali. "It would be more inviting if you didn't walk into this building and feel like everyone else knew everyone. Everyone should feel welcome in this building."



KRIS OSMOND

### KRIS OSMOND

**Age:** 21

**Major:** fourth-year psychology

**Hometown:** St. John's, Nfld.

**Past Experience:** Frosh leader 2005/06; Orientation Week committee member 2006/07; event coordinator, Orientation Week committee 2007/08.

**Strangest dream:** Joined comic book superheroes in Dal quad for a Criss Angel performance

**Favourite unusual food combo:** Popcorn and M&Ms

**Regrettable fashion decision:** Guitar T-shirt that played music at the press of a button

**Hidden talent:** Can roll tongue weirdly and dent walls by throwing pennies

If elected as vice president (student life), Kris Osmond says he would work to unify the student body by focusing on Carleton campus involvement. He wants to build on this year's successful efforts to engage Sexton campus by overseeing a communications committee for Carleton, which currently falls under the vice president (internal)'s responsibilities.

"It almost feels like there's three separate schools instead of just this one big community," he says. "By sitting on this committee in my position, I can better help communicate to the entire student body about everything that's going to be going on."

Osmond wants to take over Tiger Troupe, a team of volunteers who promote DSU events around campus, that is now overseen by the vice president (internal). If the budget permits, he says he would create paid Tiger Troupe positions to encourage student participation in the group and have a "smaller group working harder."

He says he doesn't believe Dal lacks school spirit, and he wants to bring it out by improving society events on campus. He says he would start up a second orientation for new students in the winter term, such as co-op and transfer students, as part of the annual winter carnival events.

He says he would also scrap the current "first come, first serve" Grawood society night policy and instead give larger student groups first priority for campus bar reservations while encouraging small societies to team up for joint events.

"We want to fill The Grawood, not just have it half-full, because like everyone says, The Grawood is losing money."

If elected, he plans to push for more money for T-Room renovations to make the bar more efficient and give students cheaper, speedier service.

Osmond says so far he's worked at almost every level of the DSU except for at the top, and he feels he can be an approachable student representative on the executive.

"You can't just sit in your office and run everything from there," he says. "This is just the next step for me really, and I'm not ready to accept anything less at this point."





ANDREW CHRISTOFI



KAYLYN FRASER



JONATHAN HUGHES



BLAIR MASON



ERIC SNOW

## Senate Representatives (Undergraduate)

**Responsibilities:** Represents and advocates for students in the university senate, plans a lobby strategy and prepares a report on senate activities for every DSU council meeting.

*Note: There are three undergraduate positions and one graduate position available.*

**Honorarium:** None

### ANDREW CHRISTOFI

**Age:** 20

**Major:** Third-year political science  
**Hometown:** Halifax, N.S.

**Past Experience:** Sodales Debating Society member-at-large 2007/08; ad-hoc society policy review committee member 2007/08.

**Strangest dream:** Kidnapped and dipped into molten lava by the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. "I could not watch the Ninja Turtles for a month afterward."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** Sushi and chocolate cake

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "I had the same black winter jacket from Grade 8 to first year of university."

**Hidden talent:** Can speak with several different accents

If elected as one of three undergraduate senate representatives, Andrew Christofi says he plans to better inform students about what their university senate does and will ensure their voices are heard when academic policy decisions are made.

He's had experience working with many different groups to write policy as part of the DSU's society policy review committee and says this will help him serve students effectively as a senator.

"I found myself right at home there (on the committee)," he says. "I thought, I can do this, I can write policy."

While he says he wants to work to educate students about plagiarism and the consequences of it, he would also like to redefine the school's definition of self-plagiarism.

"We have to keep in mind that it's not a straightforward dichotomy between my work and someone else's work. It's not black and white - there are many grey areas."

But he says he would strike a balance between representing the concerns of students and holding them accountable for their actions.

"It's also the duty of the senate to bring to justice those who do violate the plagiarism code because it's one of the most frustrating things when you learn of people who just cruise along copying other people's ideas when you're... working honestly and truthfully," he says.

"We really have to bring the point home that if you commit plagiarism, you will be punished."

### KAYLYN FRASER

**Age:** 20

**Major:** Third-year economics and French

**Hometown:** Ottawa, Ont.

**Past Experience:** Dal water polo association executive 2007/08; Model United Nations participant, 2006-2008; Registrar for Dal Chorale 2005-2007.

**Strangest dream:** "I was helping a friend smuggle another friend into Mexico."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** "I love yogurt and some Pad Thai and some Indian curry, on a plate, but not all mixed together."

**Regrettable fashion decision:** Neon socks

**Hidden talent:** Plays the flute, cello, violin, piano and sings.

If elected, Fraser says she wants to maintain active communication within the student environment and between faculty, administration and students.

She says accountability, responsibility and commitment between students, faculty and administration is necessary in order to have a successful, comfortable student setting.

"I'm for growth, so fostering an environment where growth can take place and making sure that growth can happen (is important). It can't just be concentrated to the student body - it has to expand to faculty and administration," she says. "Networking through all parts of the university, and really stressing growth and trying to foster an environment for this is important," she says.

Fraser says her involvement with the Dal community and students allows her to understand student issues at the university. This, she says, will allow her to communicate the student side of issues.

"Essentially, always remembering what the student point of view is and keeping that in mind, because I find after doing model U.N., when there's bureaucracy, a lot of issues can become lost in the bureaucracy, and then it just becomes debates that make no sense," she says.

Fraser says she wants to maintain her involvement with the school community by taking students' opinions into account.

"I have opportunities to meet all sorts of people," she says. "Everyone's opinions are different, on all different issues, so I'm trying to act as a body that can listen and then communicate."

### JONATHAN HUGHES

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Fourth-year sociology

**Hometown:** Cole Harbour, N.S.

**Past Experience:** Sports representative for Dalhousie Arts and Social Sciences Society 2007/08

**Strangest dream:** Dreaming that school is cancelled

**Favourite unusual food combo:** Ranch dressing on home fries

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "In high school I had a bright green tracksuit."

**Hidden talent:** Gollum impression

Jonathan Hughes hopes his experience in athletics will give him an edge if elected senate rep in the DSU election. Hughes has spent the last year as sports rep for DASSS, and he says the skills he used during his past eight years as a hockey referee will be useful when it comes to giving students a voice on Dal's senate.

"I got a real knack for rules and regulations," says Hughes. "I know how something on the page can be applied differently in the real world. I think that would be useful for a position like senate rep."

If elected, Hughes plans on getting down to the nitty-gritty details when it comes to academic dishonesty. He says he believes the implementation of integrity officers this year was a good move for students, but he thinks the process is far from infallible.

"I want to ensure every case of student plagiarism is treated fairly. My biggest thing is to make sure all dishonesty and plagiarism and academic appeals go smoothly and that students have a voice," says Hughes.

He adds that he plans to go the extra mile to ensure students are considered innocent until proven guilty when cases of plagiarism are reviewed by integrity offices. He says he plans at looking at every case that comes to the senate.

"I want to make sure that there's no aspect that isn't covered," says Hughes. "Even if this means looking up computer records to make sure they didn't access J-STOR or other journals."

Hughes's other big priority is to amend the marking scheme, which currently has different letter grades corresponding to different number grades across faculties and among departments. Hughes says the current system is unfair.

### BLAIR MASON

**Age:** 19

**Major:** Second-year electrical engineering

**Hometown:** Bedford N.S.

**Past Experience:** DSU councillor, 2007/08 sat on grants committee 2007/08 sat on academic and external committee 2007; six years with Air Cadets; two years as aquatic supervisor; organized political awareness day in high school.

**Strangest dream:** "I was life-guarding at a pool with no water and the people were drowning in air."

**Weirdest food combination:** Grilled cheese and ketchup

**Regrettable fashion choice:** "I once wore all white."

**Hidden talent:** "I used to play the saxophone."

Blair Mason says he wants students to know that if he's elected undergraduate senate representative, he'll ensure the senate demonstrates transparent practices.

"If a student has trouble with navigating the senate, I want to be there to help them," says Mason. "Because it's a bureaucracy and you can easily get lost in that pretty quickly."

Mason also wants students to be comfortable with approaching the senate if they're unsure about plagiarism issues.

"If a professor does accuse them of academic dishonesty, I want them to be able to go there and have a strong case and make sure their rights are ensured," he says.

Mason plans on achieving these goals by sitting on the senate disciplinary committee and the academic appeals committee.

He also says he'll get student input and strengthen communication with students by stopping them on the street, putting up posters and sending out e-mails.

"You should never let your lines of communication break at any point," says Mason, who wants to make sure students know what their money is going toward and how it's being used.

Mason says he has an edge over the other candidates contending for the position because he has experience with the DSU and he knows how it operates.

"I've talked with the other senators," he says. "I have a better insight of what needs to be done, and what I can work on as projects if I am elected senator."

### ERIC SNOW

**Age:** 21

**Major:** Third-year political science

**Hometown:** Lower Sackville, N.S.

**Past experience:** Chair of events, Curriculum and teaching, Undergrad, Society Review, Society Policy, Recruitment, and Councillor handbook committee for Computer Science Society 2007/08; Senate Committee on Governance 2008.

**Strangest dream:** "I was being eaten by an alligator in a swamp and then I fell off a cliff."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** "Wendy's French fries dipped in a Frosty."

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "When I was six I had a Darkwing Duck outfit."

**Hidden talent:** "I'm better at poker than anyone expects until they play me."

If elected as a senator, Eric Snow says he hopes to work toward facilitating what has been a hot topic this year: campus sustainability.

"Right now you have the administration working on sustainability, you have the new DSU Sustainability Office and then you have the senate committee on the environment that's been around for a while," says Snow. "What we need to do is make sure that the efforts of these individual groups are working in unison, not having any overlap and making sure that they coordinate with one another as effectively as possible."

Snow says he wants to ensure the DSU Sustainability Office has proper governance and that members are accountable.

He also stresses the need for academic integrity, saying the process should be equitable across faculties and suggests looking at the way policies are lined up with student needs. He adds he would make sure the Senate Discipline Committee is working in students' best interests.

"We need to look at the way the academic integrity officers are fulfilling their jobs," he says.

Snow says he's got an edge over other candidates because he's the most experienced. This is his second time making a bid for undergraduate senate representative. He says because he's already looked at the requirements for the position, he understands how the senate functions and is structured. He's also prepared to speak to senior faculty members on committees.

"I'm not afraid to speak out and voice the concerns of students to them."

FOR MORE COVERAGE OF THE DSU ELECTIONS, VISIT  
[www.dalgazette.ca](http://www.dalgazette.ca)





YANNICK TREMBLAY

(Graduate)

## YANNICK TREMBLAY

Age: 28

Major: PhD in microbiology and immunology

Hometown: Montreal, Que.

**Past Experience:** Vice President of Communications (external), Dalhousie Association of Graduate Students (DAGS); Interim President of DAGS, 2007; Ad-hoc Society Policy Review Committee member 2007/08; DSU academic and external committee 2007/08; chair of graduate student committee for Canadian Alliance of Student Associations 2007/08; Faculty of Graduate Students Council and Faculty of Graduate Students Academic Appeal member; Graduate Student representative on executive committee for Canadian Society of Microbiologists

**Strangest dream:** "I was a Jedi knight fighting zombies."

**Favourite unusual food combo:** "Peanut butter and cheese."

**Regrettable fashion decision:** "A rat tail that was six inches long."

**Hidden talent:** "I don't have one."

Although he's running unopposed, Yannick Tremblay is striving to engage students as much as he can. He plans to do this by targeting a major issue: academic integrity.

"It's mostly taken care of at the faculty level instead of running through the senate," says Tremblay.

But he says he wants to give the senate more pull in matters of academic integrity by helping with the disciplinary committee. Tremblay also hopes to include students in academic issues directly by conducting information sessions to inform students of their rights.

Tremblay is also working toward reforming the structure of undergraduate courses, which are cross-listed with graduate ones. He also says many students from his department feel the graduate student courses are limited: either the classes are very broad in scope, or grad students who also earned their undergraduate degrees at Dal find there aren't enough classes offered to them.

"I want to bring that up and try to see if we can actually improve graduate teaching," says Tremblay. "It's not the best way to teach graduate students."

He wants to reform this by framing cross-listed courses around graduate-level courses. Tremblay proposes to create more classes at the graduate level and then cross-list these with undergraduate classes, so that undergrads would have to work upward instead of bringing the challenge down for the grad students.

Tremblay says he plans to sit on as many committees as he can to be involved in campus issues.

# Think before you vote

Some of the main issues facing the union for 2008/09

**New MOU:** Dalhousie is still negotiating with the province to sign a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), an agreement between Nova Scotia universities and the government that sets out tuition fee caps and hikes. The current agreement expires at the end of this school year, so next year's union should work toward strengthening its working relationship with the university administration to ensure Dal students are adequately represented when a new MOU is implemented, and even more effectively represented if it is not signed before next year.

**Grants/Student Loans:** This year, the DSU has taken a strong stance through the Canadian Alliance of Student Associations in favour of a renewed Millennium Scholarship fund for students. The union has also pushed for more student grant money and encouraged the province's review of its student aid program, which will save students roughly 2 per cent in interest on loan repayments. But a 2 per cent reduction neither impresses students nor relieves their financial stresses. Next year's DSU executive

will have to continue its lobbying role and work even harder to make dents in students' debt loads.

**Society transitions:** When the DSU's new society policy governing all student groups comes into effect next school year, the incoming executive will face the challenge of smoothing over constitutional conflicts. They will have to continue to work with student society leaders to ensure they all have the tools to get more fully involved on their campus. Good communication with the King's Students' Union is essential for new DSU executives if they want to build a strong Dal community for future students.

**Student Apathy:** Nearly all of the candidates in this year's election have already pointed out student apathy as a major problem within the Dalhousie Student Union and the university as a whole. They've promised to put themselves out there, listen to students, and figure out ways to get them involved in their student union. But apathy is an ongoing problem and next year's union will have to figure out practical ways to get feedback from students

who aren't already involved with the DSU. The incoming executive will face the task of boosting turnout and creating forums relevant to students at their public Imagine DSU event, particularly since only about 50 students showed up to the event last January.

**Portfolio Changes:** Recent changes in the DSU's constitution resulted in different job responsibilities for some of next year's DSU executive members, including a diversity committee task swap from the vice president (internal) to the vice president (student life). In addition to adjusting to their shifting individual roles in the union, the incoming DSU must take a more serious approach to representing diversity at Dal, including creating an accessibility committee. The vice president (internal) will no longer focus on the annual Shinerama charity fundraiser campaign thanks to a newly appointed Shinerama coordinator. Instead, the incoming vice president (internal) will take up a larger role within the DSU's Sustainability Office and must ensure the office runs effectively to promote environmentally friendly student projects and practices

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# DALHOUSIE VOTES '08





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# DSU hopefuls square off at all-candidate forum

**RUTH MESTECHKIN**  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Tara Gault, John Hillman, Courtney Larkin and Gregory Debogorski launched the Dalhousie Student Union All-Candidate Forum in the SUB on Tuesday, Mar. 11 with a discussion about balancing internal and external issues.

The first three presidential candidates all agreed that a solid focus on internal matters was key.

"If we don't have strong internal policy, it doesn't put us in a good position," said Hillman. "If apathy reigns, no one will consider us worth paying attention to."

Hillman said he'd dedicate the equivalent of the first month of his salary to establishing an event to promote student enthusiasm.

Gault said she would enhance communication between students and the student union and within the DSU.

"It's about bringing together a team and supporting the team you work with," said Gault, who added that she wants to empower all Dal students with her campaign.

A candidate's experience alone won't win Katie Rancier's vote. The second-year Dal student says she wants to see someone with a clear vision and strong ideas.

"What I'm looking for is to find candidates that have a platform and have goals for the DSU," she said.

Rancier said she sees these goals in Gault's platform.

"That's a safety," Rancier said. "I feel like I know where she's going."

Debogorski had the most radical platform of the four: he wants to revamp the executive and the constitution, as well as abolish committees. He also took a jab at DSU students who don't take a full course load.

"We have executives here in the union that aren't even real students," said Debogorski.

Larkin stepped up with a rebuttal, admitting she only took three courses last semester because she wanted to devote her time to giving back to the community.

"I put myself on the backburner and give you guys everything I have," she said.

Second-year student Martin Crawley wasn't taken with Debogorski's approach.

"Greg did nothing but tear down the DSU for what it stood for," said Crawley. "He had no constructive criticism whatsoever."

Crawley said he was impressed with how some candidates, like Larkin and Gault, wanted to get the DSU more involved with students.

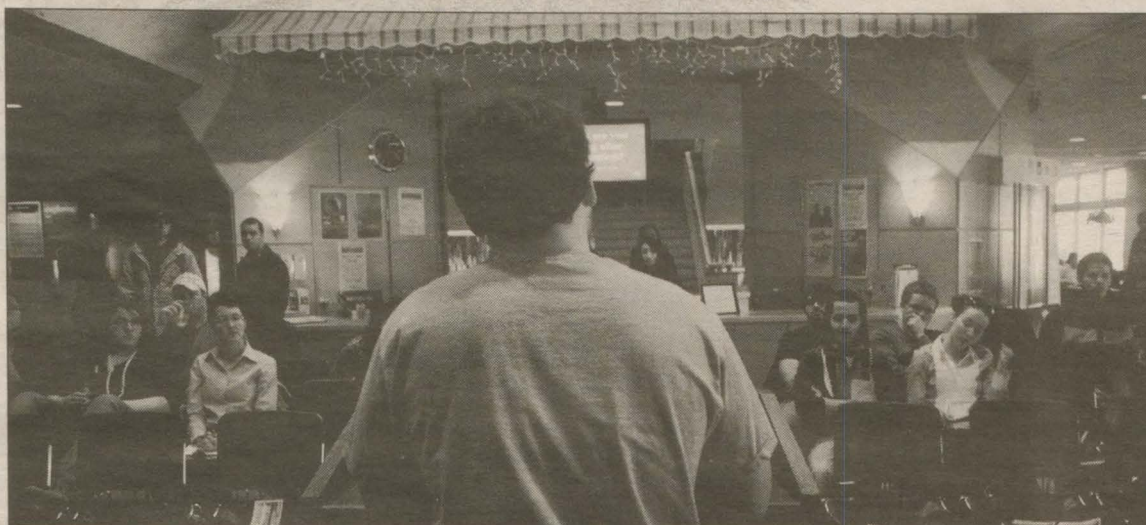
Victoria Jones and Daniel Boyle, both vying for VP (internal), both addressed the issue of KSU members' potential ban from voting on DSU societies' elections.

Jones said she didn't want to see KSU members banned from society membership altogether and that she would respect whatever the society policy review committee decides. However, she didn't mention what her specific stance was on the position.

Boyle also said he wished to create an effective society policy, but also didn't cite what this would entail.

Solo VP (education) candidate Mark Coffin discussed the mechanics of establishing an open-door policy. He said he would begin engaging students earlier in the school year and run an event similar to Imagine, saying this would make for a stronger DSU.

Both candidates for VP (student life), Krista Ali and Kris Osmond, had differing plans regarding a question posed about organizing a hypothetical event.



JOHN PACKMAN / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

At the start of the all-candidate forum, there were about a dozen seated spectators.

Ali said if she were given \$2,000 to host an event, it would be pencilled in for after Orientation Week.

"(To have an event) halfway through the semester, people are busy with school work," Ali said.

Osmond opted for an event scheduled in the middle of the se-

mester because Orientation Week already tackles the purpose of familiarizing students with DSU members.

Rancier said she sided with Ali for this union post.

"Krista, I feel, has a good grasp on the job and her enthusiasm is

very reassuring," said Rancier.

The candidates for undergraduate senate representative, Andrew Christofi, Kaylyn Fraser, Jonathan Hughes, Blair Mason and Eric Snow, all focussed on plagiarism in their platforms.

"It's very important that students

have a strong representative," said Hughes. "Plagiarism is not a black and white issue."

The uncontested candidate for graduate senate representative, Yannick Tremblay, said what he considered the most pressing issue was raking in more funding for research-intensive graduate-level courses at Dal.

One issue for several of the candidates was the overwhelmingly low turnout at the forum.

At the start of the forum, there were about a dozen seated spectators. And the forum, slated to run for two hours, only lasted for an hour and 15 minutes.

"The turnout today is proof that we don't have a union," said Debogorski. "We have a farce."

Hillman, in his closing statements to a remaining five seated students and a handful standing in the back of the room, reiterated his concern for the student apathy trend.

"I could have said anything I wanted to and nobody would have heard me," said Hillman.

The DSU elections will take place Mar. 18 to 20.

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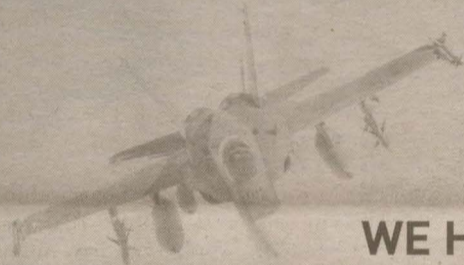
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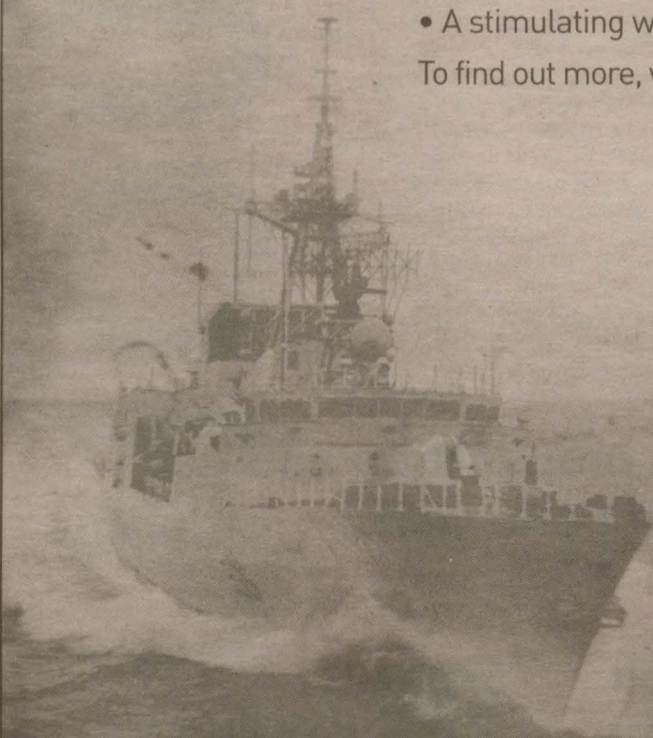
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# Wily Coyote

J. MARY BURNET  
COPY EDITOR

Ivan E. Coyote tells stories around the kitchen table. At her gran's house, she'll sit around with her 36 first cousins, talking until 3 a.m.

She brought her friend Sharon once, and after they left, Sharon told Coyote that she wasn't even the best storyteller in her family.

"I know," Coyote said. "I'm just the one that wrote them down."

Coyote stood in front of her audience of about 100 in a small room on the third floor of the Dalhousie Arts Centre on Mar. 6. She barely glanced at her book as she performed her first story of the evening.

Her light blue shirt matched a striped tie – tied, as she told the crowd during one of her stories, in a perfect Windsor Knot. She learned the skill from a "gigantic man in Flames gear" one night in a Calgary bar, who taught her the subtleties of men's dress wear.

Coyote was raised Catholic in the Yukon, but she writes in her autobiography on her website that, "I... now worship many gods, and believe in the religion of love, art and the holy story."

She might mean the holy story of the Bible, but she's likely talking about storytelling – an art she was raised on up north.

She was in Halifax for only two days. She did a reading at Mount Saint Vincent University in front of another 100-some people before her reading at Dal, and the next day she taught a creative writing workshop at Dalhousie University, held a discussion at the LGBT Youth Project on Brunswick Street, and read at Venus Envy to a full house with local musician and spoken word artist Tanya Davis.

It was a lot to pack into two days. Coyote only had an hour between the writers' workshop and the Youth Project reading, and an hour between that and Venus Envy. She only charged admission for her last performance, so her fans had many chances to listen to and learn from her for free.

She made a point of looking at her audience as she spoke. She said she likes to memorize her work so she can interact with the people watching and listening to her.

"A live audience is the best editor ever," Coyote said.

"It was incredible," said Jordan Roberts, a fourth-year Dal student who attended the event. "At first I was kind of like, 'O.K., I'm going to a reading,' so I thought it was going to be... a traditional kind of reading where the author sits or stands in front, has the book, and obviously does it in an expressive way, but it's more like being read a story; whereas this was almost like a performance. It was almost like a monologue."

Coyote rested on individual pairs of eyes for a few moments while she wove her tales, narrating and impersonating voices, acting out gestures and glances and eyebrow-raises. In one story, she took on the voice of her father.

"Always let your engine warm up for a little while before you drive it anywhere. Let it cool down before you turn it off. You can double the life of—you listenin'?" she shouted, pointing with stern paternal authority at a girl in the front row.

"YOU CAN DOUBLE THE LIFE OF YOUR MOTOR IF YOU LEARN HOW TO TREAT IT RIGHT."

"Don't go grocery shopping on an empty stomach!" Coyote hollered at another girl, the way her father did to her. "What are you, an idiot?!"

The audience was loud with laughter. Coyote is just as much a performer as she is a writer, but she said she's never had any theatre ex-



Award-winning author Ivan E. Coyote, sharing her stories at a reading in B.C.

SUPPLIED

perience, except what she's taught herself and learned from telling stories.

"I sat right in the front," said Roberts, "so she would make eye contact with me, and if there was something really funny and I was laughing really hard, she would look at me and kind of goad me on... you kind of forgot that she was reading a story or that she was telling you a piece of work that had already been written and edited and rewritten and edited and published... it just seemed so organic and natural and just really funny. She just had this air about her of humour and confidence, which is something I really respond to."

Coyote seemed completely at ease in front of the eager crowd. Her shirt was pressed and her collar stiff, but her dark jeans were creased from the bend of her knee, worn in places, and held up by a large belt buckle, one of her collection.

She wore her short hair combed neatly back and had a thick silver ring on the pinky finger of her right hand. She looked sharp – an observation made to her before, she said in another story, by an Evangelical Christian man she sat next to on a plane.

The man advised her to marry her live-in girlfriend, because without the sanctity of marriage, he informed her, they were living in sin. With a wry smile, Coyote said the man didn't realize just how much sin they were living in.

"I pondered for a minute," she said, drawing the humour out of the awkward situation. "You know, tellin' this guy that I wasn't as young, or as nice, or even as male, eh, as he appeared to think I was. I realized... how much unfun it might immediately become for both of us were he to somehow figure out that he was brushin' thighs with a full-blown sodomite!"

Some of Coyote's stories address gender identity and queerness. She binds her chest flat and has written

a short story about how she likes to pack a bulge in her pants. For a time she went by male pronouns, and read from one of her stories that she considered taking testosterone, but ultimately decided that she was alright being "somewhere in the middle."

"A big part of my fanbase is little old ladies," Coyote said. "Do you know how many little old ladies I've introduced trans issues to?"

She said there was a young transsexual guy who gave one of her books to his Polish grandmother, and that his grandmother liked it so much she brought it to her knitting group. After that, Coyote said the pack of grandmothers came to every gig she did in Vancouver.

She was performing a lot in cabarets, and by coming to see her speak, the women got to see drag queens and naked performance artists with plungers stuck to their asses.

They would sit in the front row, Coyote says, knitting the entire time. Afterward, they would come up to Coyote and tell her she'd really opened their eyes.

She's taught older women in her writing classes, too. Her oldest student was 94, a woman named Blanche MacDonald with two hearing aids.

Both MacDonald's daughter and granddaughter were in the workshop with her. Coyote said she appreciated having three generations of a family in one class, learning to tell their own stories and listening to each other's.

Most of Coyote's own stories are based on her family and friends, which she said can be difficult. Because her family members are often subject matter, she said they get worried when a new book of hers comes out.

"It's not like, 'She did another one! Oh, I'm so proud,'" she said, and imitated her family members frantically flipping through the book, scanning the pages for references to themselves.

She's had a couple of issues raised about her writing about friends and family. She once mentioned her Uncle Ed in a story published in 1998, recounting how he was charged with indecent exposure after he was caught jerking off in his truck in downtown Whitehorse, and got what she said was the nastiest letter she's ever received. The letter was from her grandmother, her uncle's mother, who Coyote says was, "seriously pissed off at me."

"I try this excuse: 'Well, it's art.'" But it didn't fly. She said when she thought back on it, she realized that mentioning her uncle was only good for a cheap laugh and she had hurt someone she really liked.

"I learned the hard way." So she made up some questions to ask herself when she writes: Are you doing this for the right reasons? To get at a greater truth? To mock someone? To get revenge?

"Use your powers for good," she told her audience, like a wise literary superhero.

In another story, Coyote mentioned that her friend Chris was planning on having an abortion, but was too late into her pregnancy. Coyote said her mother advised her to take that detail out, in case Chris's little son read it when he was older and was hurt to discover he was unwanted.

But when Coyote asked the boy's mother what she thought of the story, Chris had no problem with the mention of the possible abortion. It was a detail about the sex she and Coyote had that she was more concerned about.

The line goes: "...she slipped her tongue into my ear and her right hand into my Levi's and whispered, 'I've wanted to do this since we left Kitsilano.'" Coyote said it's one of her favourite lines in the book, but Chris told her it was Coyote who came on to her.

The story about Chris and her sons appears in Coyote's collection

of short stories, *Close to Spider Man* (2000). A note is printed at the beginning of the book that reads, "This is a work of fiction. Any resemblance of characters to persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental." – even though the resemblance really isn't a coincidence at all.

"The only thing in that book that was a work of fiction," a family member once told her, "was the line that says it was a work of fiction!"

"Basically, what I learned about writing fiction," Coyote said, "is that you can actually, ironically, when you say you're making it all up is when you can really tell the truth."

Ultimately, she said she tries to be careful with what she writes about the people she loves.

"They're my family," Coyote said. "So I wanna keep 'em around."

Her latest work and first novel is a work of fiction, which she said her family was happy about. But even though *Bow Grip's* not true, parts of it are based on people she knows and stories she's heard.

The main character, Joey, a kind-hearted mechanic in his 40s, is based on her father. The basic plot, of a man who trades his piece of shit car in exchange for a hand-crafted cello, is based on a true story she was told by a coworker when she was working as an electrician about 15 years ago.

*Bow Grip* was published in 2006. Coyote had been teaching a writing course in Vancouver in 2004 and encouraged her students to sign up for National Novel Writing Month, or NaNoWriMo. Several of them did, so she decided she would too, trying to set a good example.

The goal of NaNoWriMo is to write a 50,000 word novel within the month of November. That means 1,666.67 words each day. Although she was a short story writer up until that point, Coyote met her daily minimum word count. By the end of the month, she had exceeded the 50,000 word requirement and had *Bow Grip* to show for it.

*Bow Grip* won the 2007 ReLit Award for Best Novel, was shortlisted for the 2007 Ferro-Grumley Award for Women's Fiction, and was named an American Library Association Stonewall Honor Book.

The novel is Coyote's fifth publication. Her first was *Boys Like Her* in 1998, a book version of the performances of a troupe of travelling queer kids she was a part of called Taste This.

Coyote was 29 and going by mostly male pronouns when the book came out 10 years ago. She has a collection of columns she wrote for Xtra West set to be released this year, which will be her sixth.

"I'm aiming for seven by the time I turn 40," she said.

Coyote finished reading her last story, a touching account of a phone conversation she had with her mother about gender identity and sex changes – requested by a smiling girl in the front row.

She uttered a brief "Thanks," and the audience burst into applause, clapping so long that Coyote grinned wide, checking her watch a few seconds later as the applause continued.

"(I was) just honoured that such an amazing writer... someone who is extraordinarily renowned, especially in Canada, would just kind of go to a room in the Arts Centre, and just share her stories in such an intimate and small venue and be so open," Roberts said.

The appreciation seems to be mutual. Coyote said a writer friend told her to always thank her audience.

"Without an audience," he told Coyote, "storytellers are just some guys talkin' to ourselves."





# California

The price is wrong, bitch

NICK KHATTAR  
STAFF CONTRIBUTOR

It is a place that has existed to me only on TV, in magazines and in dreams – California. But not anymore.

For 10 days in January, five of which I should have been in class, a friend and I went on a kamikaze tour around California. I've concluded it is a vastly beautiful and equally bizarre place.

In those 10 days we covered roughly 2,500 kilometres (don't ask me what it is in miles; 10 days of dealing with that confounding system did nothing to help me comprehend it). I could fill this entire column with tales of debauchery, run-ins with the law and near-death experiences, but *The Gazette* can only afford so much ink, so I've decided instead to bring you the most bizarre of it.

Our adventure began in Los Angeles, the City of Angels, where dreams are made and exploited. On our last day in L.A. before going up the country (Canned Heat lyric reference here) we wanted to do something memorable, something very Los Angeles. Something Hollywood. So naturally, we got tickets to *The Price Is Right*.

Every child of the mid- to late-80s has warm memories of afternoons spent watching Bob Barker reward enthusiastic contestants for their consumer-based knowledge, or disappoint them in a game of Plinko. I always wanted to be that smiling contestant, flaunting my superior shopping wisdom.

We arrived at CBS Studios, necks sore from craning them outside the car window during the drive down Sunset Boulevard. After a slight detour through the ritziest 'farmers' market' I have ever seen (equipped with a Versace boutique), we picked up our tickets and were directed to the waiting area.

My friend, being a *Price Is Right* vet (he was in the audience for Bob Barker's last episode), gave us a bit of an idea of what we could expect. What I saw as I turned the corner into the 'waiting area' (more like a holding pen for society's forgotten souls), was nowhere near what I had been prepared for. Upwards of 400 people, 300 of which were sporting some variation of a fanny pack, were sitting, standing, pacing or otherwise trying to contain themselves. I have only really seen videos of scenes like this on TV and it was in the holy journey to Mecca.

Most of these people had been there since 7 a.m. It was 3 p.m. when we got there.

Words can't describe the effect that being in this scene has on a person. I would compare it to the worst symptoms of Lyme Disease. It's as if the dredges of society have all gathered in this one place to partake in some holy event. Twice a day, four times a week, the trailer parks in southern California become ghost towns.

People flock from all over to come experience this thing. In fact, I was talking to a couple that had come all the way from Labrador to be a part of the madness! I mean my god, what is wrong with these people? I would later end up meeting a guy who had been to 19 tapings. It's absolute insanity.

I tried to find out where the lady who kept talking to invisible 'Ernie' was from, but alas, she and 'Ernie' were engaged in a heated debate about how much a dream vacation to Montreal would cost. The strange thing was, one of the showcase prizes turned out to be a trip to Montreal.

After waiting in line for three of the



You might not want to be the next contestant.

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longest, most mind numbing hours of my life, we were finally moving.

Before you get into the studio, the producer interviews everyone in order to pick who gets to be a contestant. Essentially, you have 30 seconds to make an impression. So I threw on my *Price Is Right* T-shirt, puffed up my hair and spun a tale of how I was a retired mechanical bull rider, now operating an alpaca farm, and was there in honour of my late bull riding mentor, whose only wish was to one day compete on *The Price Is Right*.

I think I saw a lady shed a tear.

Name tags brightly adorning our chests, we were finally going into the studio. I closed my eyes. Having already had my mind completely blown by the circus of half-evolved TV zombies I had witnessed outside, I was prepared for just about anything.

What I was not prepared for was the full-out disco dance party that was going on inside. What a ridiculous spectacle it was. Literally all 300 people were dancing to *Sounds of the 70s*.

It was absolutely bananas. They had a disco ball going while Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive" screamed out of the speakers. The couple from Labrador was dancing hand in hand on the stage while a break dance circled formed. It was so surreal. I kept blinking my eyes and shaking my head, certain I would wake up in a hospital any moment from an overdose.

I searched for officials who should certainly be putting a halt to this madness, but alas, the CBS crew was part of it. It was the closest thing you could come to a serious acid trip while being sober as a stoplight. Although I kept scrutinizing my friends, urging them to admit they had slipped drugs into my morning taquito, they assured me that what I was seeing was actually happening.

Eventually things calmed down and Drew Carey, the show's new host, took the stage to applause similar, I'm sure, to what Bob Hope used to be greeted by when he visited American soldiers overseas. A giant man got up, took off his shirt and, I shit you not, displayed an "I love Drew Carey" tattoo across his stomach. It turned out this horrid specimen was studying to be a minister in a church. May God have mercy on his soul.

The contestants were called up and games were played. These new games were elementary and boring, not like the challenging games I remembered, like "Price Puzzle" or "Gamble Your Goods." Instead it was "Pick the Right Key" and the "Moving-Price-o-Meter." It was like the games were made to accommodate a blind chimp. Then I looked around me, and it all made sense.

Drew Carey's previous TV ventures have not done him justice. He is staggeringly funny without even trying.

He has managed to make the simple act of existing hilarious. In his chitchat between commercial breaks, he expressed not only subtle humour, based around the satires of life, but also conveyed stunning intelligence I've never seen before in Hollywood. He would make quirky references to the exploitation of Third World countries, while burning the audience on their idiocy for not knowing what European football and the World Cup is.

And holy hamburgers! The questions that man had to endure are enough to spawn a vein of hatred the size of the San Andreas Fault Line for the American public. Someone asked him what he likes better: KFC or McDonald's.

"I prefer to eat chicken that grows itself," Carey replied. "And beef that is 100 per cent not made by the 100 Per Cent Beef company."

The only people who got the joke were the small percentage of people there strictly as a novelty, as opposed to the vast majority who were there for the religious experience.

What should have taken an hour to film actually took three hours, due to a mechanical problem.

While they fixed the problem again and again, I got my shirt signed by Drew and also got to know Rich Fields, the announcer, pretty well. Turns out he has a broadcasting degree and was inspired to announce for the show by Johnny Olson, the original *Price Is Right* announcer. I also found out he's an avid poet and debater.

The last competitors were called and the Showcase Showdown was about to be decided. I hadn't been chosen as a contestant. Instead, the minister-in-training with the tattoo on his stomach was standing up there, competing for the trip to Montreal. I guess he had Jesus on his side.

In the end, Dezy from Alabama beat Stomach Tattoo and won the pot of gold with his bid of \$1.

It was six hours since we had first arrived at CBS Studios, but it felt like much longer. It was kind of like I had been in detention, but instead of writing lines, I had to listen to the school yard bully and his family shout at each other over how much a box of baking soda costs. It was going to take a lot of malt liquor and Lucky Strikes to cleanse my soul.

When we got out of the building, I felt lightheaded and my knees were weak. I could barely hold my cellphone – my hands were swollen and sore from the endless amount of forced applause.

Out of all the ridiculous things I have ever done in my life (which is a lot), this was by far the most bizarre. I felt infinitely dumber for having experienced it, but I learned something. I didn't get to fulfill my dream of playing Plinko, but I did learn that some dreams just aren't worth chasing.

## MUSIC REVIEWS

### Throw me some moonbeams

ALY COY  
ARTS EDITOR

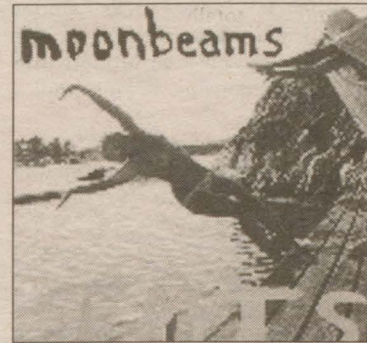
Throw Me The Statue's *Moonbeams* is the soundtrack to a sunny summer's day.

You're driving down the highway in late June, going on a road trip to a place you haven't decided yet. You're with your four best friends and your motto is a lyric from the first track on *Moonbeams*, "Young Sensualists." "We would smoke and drink and laugh and sing of foreign things." The vocals cut in with laid back simple rhymes, plinks of violin and light drums.

You make it to a deserted cottage on a beautiful, silent lake. You come out of the fresh water and are wearing a cozy sweater and shorts, having a beer and smoking a joint on the dock. Your friends are starting up the barbeque and the third track, "A Mutinous Dream," is blasting from the sound system.

By the end of the song you're kinda stoned and kinda buzzed, playing the Game Boy you just found beside the fireplace. "A Mutinous Dream," starts with a hard repetition of guitar. The drums pick up on the beat and it ends with twirling synth sounds.

After some hot dogs and tofu burgers, everyone is playing charades and a friend is doing some se-

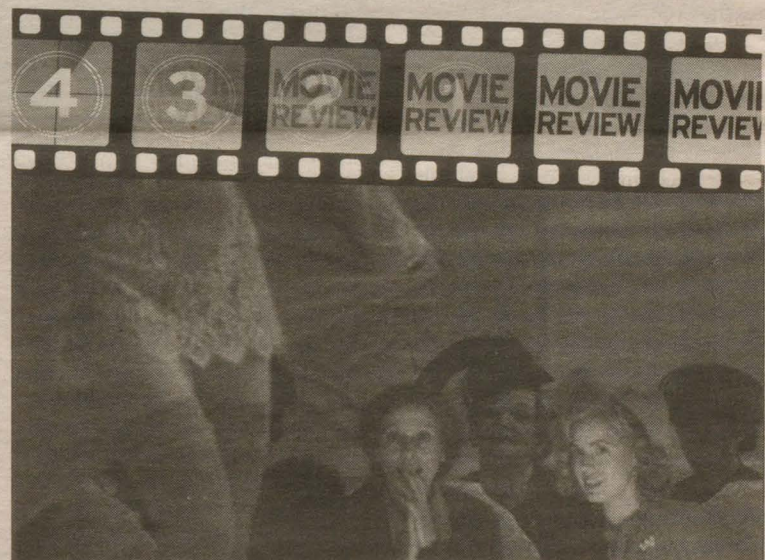


rious air guitar. Someone brings you outside and says, "This Is How We Kiss," and kisses you on the lips. You both laugh and you push them, get another beer from the cooler and go back inside. The song plays with fast, hard guitar and drums, and light, fun lyrics, all in under two minutes.

"Moonbeams" is lying in a hammock with someone you've dated for a month. It's a clear night with light trumpets and slow guitar that rocks you back and forth. Throw Me The Statue are quietly telling you family secrets in your ear.

"Impressions of struggle were all I gave," they say. All you can do is nod supportively and listen, falling in love with their serious demeanor and flip-flop tan.

You get lost in the moonbeams, for a little while.



### Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day

GRAYDON BUTLER  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

Set in the verge of the Second World War in upper-class London, the film opens on Miss Guinevere Pettigrew (Frances McDormand), a down-on-her-luck governess in the midst of being wrongfully dismissed from her gig attending to a wealthy socialite.

After spending a night homeless and rummaging through garbage cans for food, Pettigrew garners no pity from the employment office, on account of an insinuated drinking problem. Deciding to take matters into her own hands, Pettigrew steals the business card of a Ms. Delysia Lafosse (Amy Adams), an apparent client of the agency and struggling young actress.

Pettigrew is appointed as Lafosse's 'social secretary,' whose chief duty seems to be untangling the multi-stranded love life of her beautiful employer. As Pettigrew covers for her employer's various romantic dalliances, the two women form an unlikely bond over shopping, makeovers and their respective love interests.

Ultimately, the film poses the tried and true test of true love versus money and the old inner-beauty-overcoming-outer-beauty scenario. There is no unforeseen plot twist at the end either, as both female leads sail majestically into the sunset (figuratively, of course).

The film is a romantic comedy which, unlike some movies of the genre, starts out humorously enough – until the plot starts to get in the way. Much of the early comedy stems from banter laced with sexual innuendo, the situational comedy of Pettigrew, and her comically tragic luck.

The biggest laugh of the movie came not from the film, but happened when the power went out in the theatre, inciting a shadow puppet boxing match from the sophisticated moviegoers in the nosebleeds.

Adams, as a shallow socialite, initially grates on the nerves (though not nearly to the same degree as her diabetes-inducing Oscar performance of "Happy Working Song"). Yet her inane banter eventually gives way to a genuine performance.

The apex of the romantic goo has to be Lafosse's duet with her true love, a poor piano player with whom she shares a romantic connection. Admittedly, Adams is a very talented singer.

McDormand delivers a fine performance as Pettigrew, a frumpy, over-the-hill maid whose life takes a turn for the better. McDormand has so much expression in her face and exudes a sense of likeability that it's doubtful she could give a bad performance, even in a bad movie. Her maternal instincts, quick wit, and understated grace contrast quite well with Adams' character, who is a stranger to subtlety.



# No set, no sweat

SIMON BLOOM  
ARTS CONTRIBUTOR

I'll be totally honest: when I heard rumors that the Dalhousie Stage Society's production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* by Ann-Marie MacDonald was doing their light hang two hours before the show was meant to go up, I wasn't expecting much.

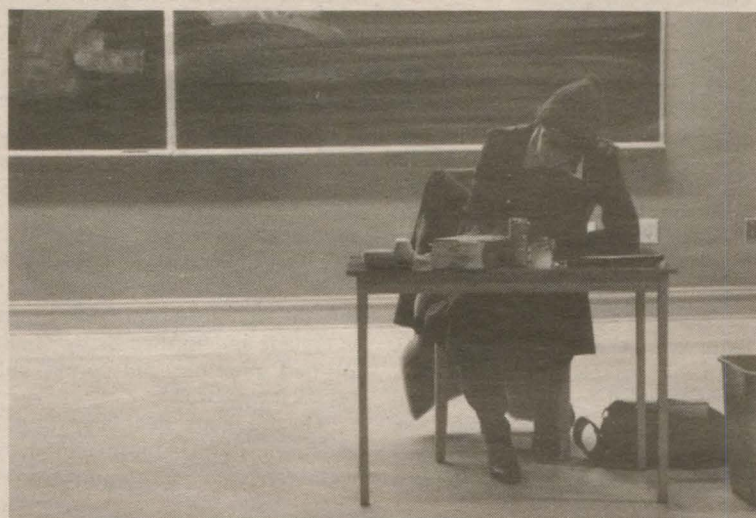
I was pleasantly surprised.

Enter character Constance Ledbelly, an assistant professor of literature at Canada's very own Queen's University. Constantly being undermined by her incompetent colleague Dr. Night, she helplessly flounders through both her career and love life until she is transported à la *Alice in Wonderland* into the world of Shakespearean tragedy.

There, she meets a cast of Shakespeare's best heroes and villains, including *Othello's* Desdemona and the star-crossed – and in this telling of the story, cross-dressing – lovers, Romeo and Juliet. As she hilariously unravels the carefully woven plots of Shakespeare's best tragedies, she struggles to find her own identity and ultimately, a way back home. Along the way, Constance is taught valuable lessons about taking charge and what it means to become the author of her own life.

The driving force behind this production was its stellar ensemble cast. Colleen MacIsaac's Constance delicately tiptoed the fine line between pitiable and annoying, bringing resonance and life to what could easily have been a frustratingly boring and two-dimensional character.

Robert Murphy (as both Iago and Romeo) showed excellent comic timing and showered the audience with incomparably hilarious facial expressions and gestures. A scene



DAN BRAY / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Dan Bray's minimalist production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* gets laughs.

involving Murphy dressing up in drag and getting his 'bosom' popped by an errant sword evoked thunderous laughter from the audience.

Desdemona, played by the lovely and talented Rachel Sunter, was definitely the highlight of the performance. It was like watching a scary Amazonian woman rage across the stage. I loved it.

My main complaint with the acting was that not enough time was spent developing the auxiliary characters. The Chorus (played by Claire St. Francois) was relegated to a spotlight arbitrarily placed on the side of the stage, which made her monologues feel stilted and disconnected from the action. Andrew Davies as the Ghost/Messenger/Nurse had some moments of sincere comedy, but his presence on stage was sometimes awkward and confusing.

The program didn't credit anyone with the lighting design, and I'm not surprised. The lighting felt like an afterthought: the blackouts were too

long, considering the minimal set, and St. Francois seemed to have difficulty finding her light onstage.

The choice to have one or two small pieces of furniture and basically nothing else onstage was a bold one on director Dan Bray's part. It was difficult for the actors to find levels to play with on a blank stage, and I found my attention sometimes waning as a result. That being said, having no set would have been much more disastrous with lesser actors.

The costume design was well thought out, from Othello's black garb to Constance's frumpy grey suit and red *Where's Waldo* hat. With a cast of seven actors playing 16 parts, difficult triple and quadruple costume changes were made quickly and effectively. Props go to Tim Malcolm, the stage combat coordinator, as the swordplay was almost seamless.

Overall, I sincerely enjoyed this production. MacDonald's script gives a director so much to play with, and Bray definitely met the challenge.

# A day at the cabaret

ALY COY  
ARTS EDITOR

*A Day in the Life*, written by Dalhousie student Emily Blogg for the Playwright's Cabaret, is about a writer who has fallen into dementia. Three years have gone by, but the main character, Mrs. Jones, only thinks three months have passed.

Mrs. Jones, played by Kyla Galloway, is a character suitably named for her anonymity, for she barely remembers herself. Through Alzheimer's disease she has lost her gift of writing and doesn't even recognize her son Zen, played by J.M. Prevost.

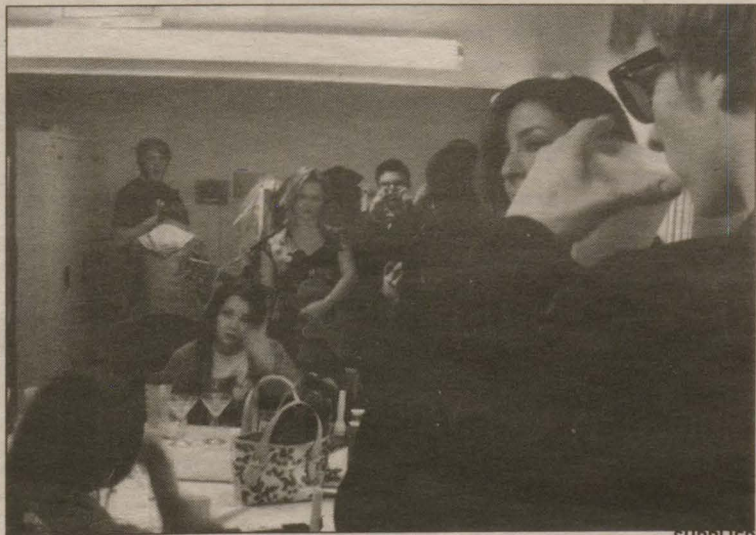
The set was minimal, with a bookshelf on one side and a desk on the other, covered with many sheets of scribbled paper, or "piles and piles of wasted trees," as Mrs. Jones put it.

"Kyla was so good," says Dalhousie student Annie Pattillo. "Even when the focus wasn't on her, she was still acting."

The intensity that Galloway portrayed as Mrs. Jones was astounding. The entire time her character is tormented by her inability to get her words out, which Galloway displayed by never quite forming a coherent thought and showing frustration with furrowed eyebrows and incessant whispering.

"I wish my hand would illustrate what my mind was thinking," is a line Mrs. Jones finally manages to get out. It seemed to sum up the character's anguish. It is any writer's nightmare to be in her position.

The musicians, Gregor Kennedy and Jay Organek, gave the play heart-felt emotion with their beautiful, eerie guitar playing. The audience didn't take



SUPPLIED

Emily Blogg delivers *A Day in the Life* at the Playwright's Cabaret.

them as seriously as they should have though. The scattered laughter from the musical interlude did help break the tension built up by Mrs. Jones.

There was another break from the play in the form of a 'weather update' of Mrs. Jones's condition. The mind state of a person with Alzheimer's disease can be similar to a forecast, since regardless of expectations, they both can be unpredictable. This update, delivered by Sarah Meloche, worked as comedic relief.

Prevost played the gentle character of Mrs. Jones's son Zen's with patience and care. He seemed genuinely elated when, for a few minutes, his mother remembered him as more than the boy who delivers her groceries. When his mother fell back into her confusion, it was apparent he had known that disappointment before.

Kathryn Segal did a nice job of directing, using the audience space as well as the stage for her characters to roam. This allowed the audience feel part of the performance, secretly watching Mrs. Jones get closer and closer to losing her mind.

Mrs. Jones's realization that it had actually been years instead of months since she had become ill was built up nicely. The tension was there for long enough for it to be believable that Jones actually didn't know how much time had passed.

*A Day in the Life* was beautifully written and well directed. The live music distinguished this play from the rest of those in the Playwright's Cabaret. Galloway brought the audience into the mad world she created, leaving puzzle pieces from her past for them to decode her encrypted mind.



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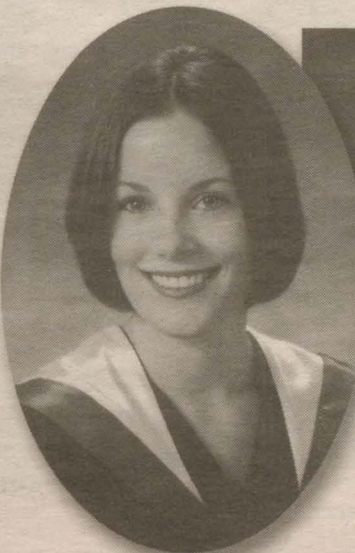
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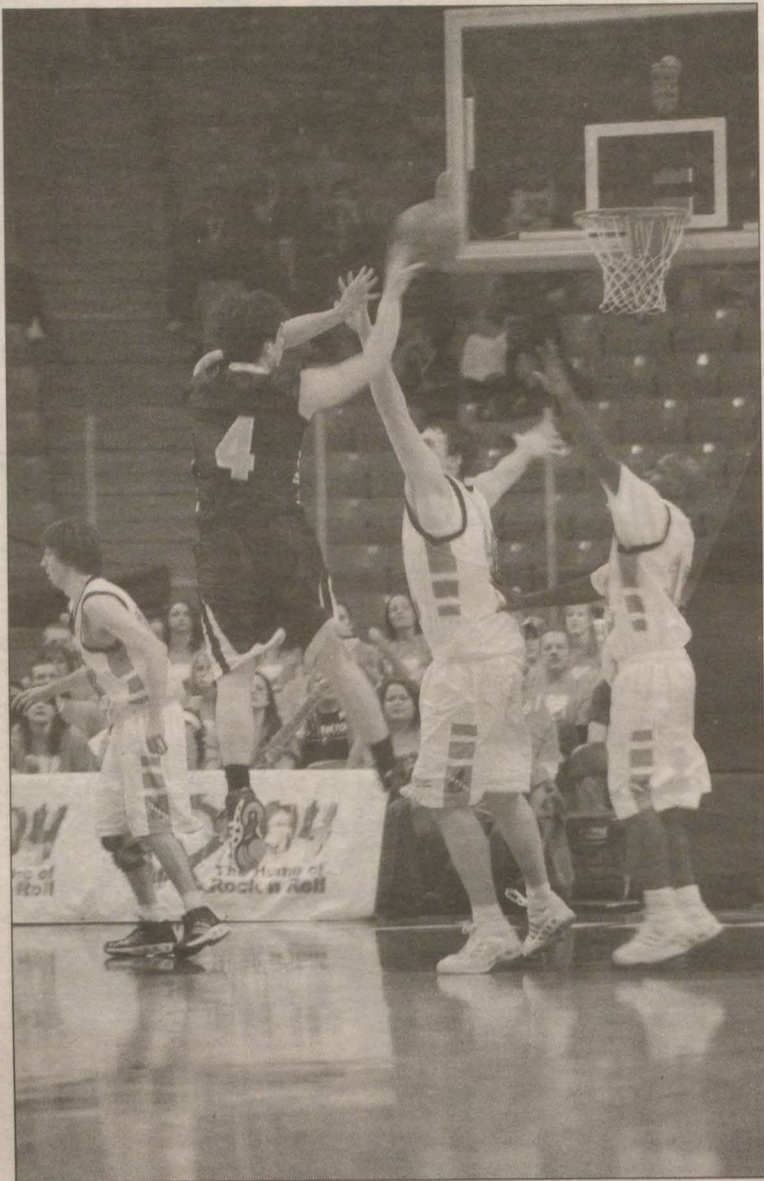
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JOSH BOYTER / DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

Simon Farine shoots against the Capers' defense.

## Tigers don't follow through on the upset

**JULIE SOBOWALE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tigers were only one quarter away from defeating one of the toughest men's basketball teams in Canada, but the University of Acadia Axemen held on for the win, 83-75.

The stage was set for the Tigers to stun the country at the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championships, held Mar. 7 to 9 at the Halifax Metro Centre. They were playing the Axemen, a team ranked second in Canada and the defending AUS champions, in the AUS semi-finals. Before they went on to the semi-finals, the Tigers had to break a nine-year playoff drought.

Six teams competed in the AUS championship in the following ranks: the top-seeded Axemen, the St. Francis Xavier University X-Men, the Saint Mary's University Huskies, the Cape Breton Capers, the Tigers and the University of Prince Edward Island Panthers. The Tigers had a mixed season this year with a 10-10 record, but won their last three games in the regular season to qualify for the playoffs. They played against the Capers in the AUS quarter-finals on Mar. 7.

With strong play on both ends of the court, the Tigers defeated the Capers, 82-72. It was the first playoff win for the Tigers since 1999, when the Tigers defeated the Capers in the AUS quarter-finals. This is also the first playoff win with the Tigers for head coach John Campbell, who joined the Tigers program six years ago.

"For these guys, this is their first time in the playoffs," says Campbell. "For this team, we made the goal of getting to the playoffs and being ready to play. I was really pleased that we were able to come out after two weeks of preparation and thought we did a good job in implementing our game plan. I thought they played with a lot of confidence and poise to end the game."

The Tigers led throughout their quarter-final match-up. Andrew Sullivan was the Tigers' leading scorer

with 24 points and six assists. The Capers' offence struggled with 21 turnovers and was only 3 for 20 in three-point shooting.

The Tigers played aggressively on Mar. 8 against the Axemen. After a tight first half, the Tigers led the Axemen by four points. The Tigers' offence continued to dominate with sharp shooting in the third quarter.

"I thought we had a great first half. I thought we played really hard against a team that is very talented, very deep and well coached," says Campbell. "I was really proud by the way we came out."

By the start of the fourth quarter, the Tigers were leading by nine points, 67-58, and looked on their way to playing in their first AUS final since 1996. Then the Axemen tightened up their defence and the Tigers scored only eight points in the fourth quarter.

"We really struggled to get good, consistent shots," says Campbell. "[The Axemen's] defence put on a lot of ball pressure and we took a lot of off-balance shots. Because they are so big and physical, we had a lot of trouble generating second-chance shots. We were struggling to score while they were scoring relatively easily."

The Axemen quickly took over the lead. They outscored the Tigers 25-8 in the quarter as momentum shifted. Axeman Leonel Saintil scored 20 points in the game and is this year's AUS Most Valuable Player. Achuil Lual led the Axemen's defence as the AUS defensive Player of the Year.

"I thought there were moments in the second half where offensively, we really struggled getting any kind of rhythm," says Campbell. "At the same time, we had a lot of trouble defending Leonel. He's such a physical player and so tough on the glass. I don't want to rationalize the defeat but I think our players battled right through."

The Huskies defeated the Axemen in the AUS finals and will represent the AUS at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championship.

## Women crack the top ten in nationals

**JULIE SOBOWALE**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Tigers closed out their season at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) Track and Field Championship, held Mar. 6 to 8 at McGill University. The women finished ninth and the men finished 15th overall. The University of Guelph Gryphons won both the men and women's championship titles.

The only Tigers to reach the podium were the women's 4x800m relay team. Kja Isaacson, Caroline McInnes, Joelle Marshall and Celia Peters won the bronze medal in the event with a time of 9:04.95 minutes. The Tigers also performed well in the 4x400m

relay, in which the women finished fifth with a time of 3:51.81 minutes. Alicia Dobranowski, Celia Peters and Leanne Huck were part of the gold-medal winning team at the Atlantic University Sport (AUS) championship held from Feb. 23 to 24.

"Definitely the highlight of the meet was the 4x800m race," says Dan Hennigar, the Tigers' head coach. "We had a few people with some strong performances. Huck went into the women's 600m ranked 12th in Canada and finished sixth overall. We had some ups and downs, but overall it went well."

On the men's side, Peter Corrigan finished fifth in the men's 1500m with a time of 3:55.09 minutes. Corri-

gan, along with his teammates John Corbit, Ueli Albert and Dan Corman, placed sixth overall in the 4x800m relay with a time of 7:41.90 minutes.

Illness prevented the Tigers from performing up to their potential. Most of the team have been sick with fevers and colds.

"We've been plagued with illness this year, so I know some athletes will be disappointed by their performances," says Hennigar. "They had the potential. We didn't have any problems in terms of skills. We were ready mentally to compete but unfortunately we had people who were ill. They performed as well as they could."

## Athletes of the week

**FEMALE ATHLETE**

**CELIA PETERS**  
TRACK AND FIELD



At the CIS Championship held at McGill, Celia Peters captured a bronze as the anchor of the 4x800m relay team (fastest Dalhousie split). She also narrowly missed a medal in the 600m, coming in fourth, and she finished fifth in the 4x400m relay (fastest Dalhousie split). Peters is in her second year of eligibility and is enrolled in Dalhousie's international development studies program. She is originally from New Glasgow, N.S.



**MALE ATHLETE**

**SIMON FARINE**  
BASKETBALL



Simon Farine's performance at the AUS Men's Basketball Championship helped the Tigers capture their first playoff win since 1999. Fifth seed Dalhousie upset fourth seed CBU on Friday night, defeating the Capers 82-72. Farine was named Player of the Game with 19 points, 10 assists and 9 rebounds. He also shot 93 per cent from the foul line. In the semi-finals on Saturday, the Tigers faced Acadia. Farine played all 40 minutes and led all scorers with 24 points. Despite leading much of the game, the Tigers could not hang on and the Axemen took the lead and the win in the fourth quarter. The final score was 83-75. Farine is a transfer student from Toronto, Ont. who is currently competing in his second year of eligibility. He is enrolled in Dalhousie's commerce program.



Other nominees: Peter Corrigan (track & field)

I WAS CO-PRESIDENT OF MY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL. - a KSR film

FAVORITE MOVIE: Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind. I'm from Hay River, NWT pop. 3600 (Hub of the North). I'm just me. No more. No less.

DIRECTORS I LIKE: MICHEL GONDRY, CHRISTOPHER NOLAN

TO DO: Get back to Jon re: Totem filming - get a drummer lined up. - type up first draft of "E-Nat" - books - library

ESSAY!!! My friends call me Chief. (for some reason)

I hate infomercials where they try to make it look like using a can opener is IMPOSSIBLE.

I always saw the glass as half empty. Now I'm having second thoughts.

walk -> pan (close up) I could only drive (close up) So far. I walked the rest of the way.

I volunteer at the First Nations Student Association creating a program to welcome First Nations students to Vancouver.

Worked on 2 documentaries commissioned by the Smithsonian, Washington DC

I love hockey.

I use my artistic abilities to connect with my heritage.

Helped grade 8ers and 9ers with their Safer Environment Program.

Proud to be Métis. (Métis symbol) the joining of 2 cultures and the existence of a people forever.

The best way to learn about making movies is to make them. The second is to watch them.

My mother is Chipewyan. At school I get to study who these people were. And what blood runs through me.

It's the little things that make life worthwhile. That's what my film Simple Pleasures is all about. (won 1st place, International Youth Film Festival, Austria)

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**KELVIN REDVERS**  
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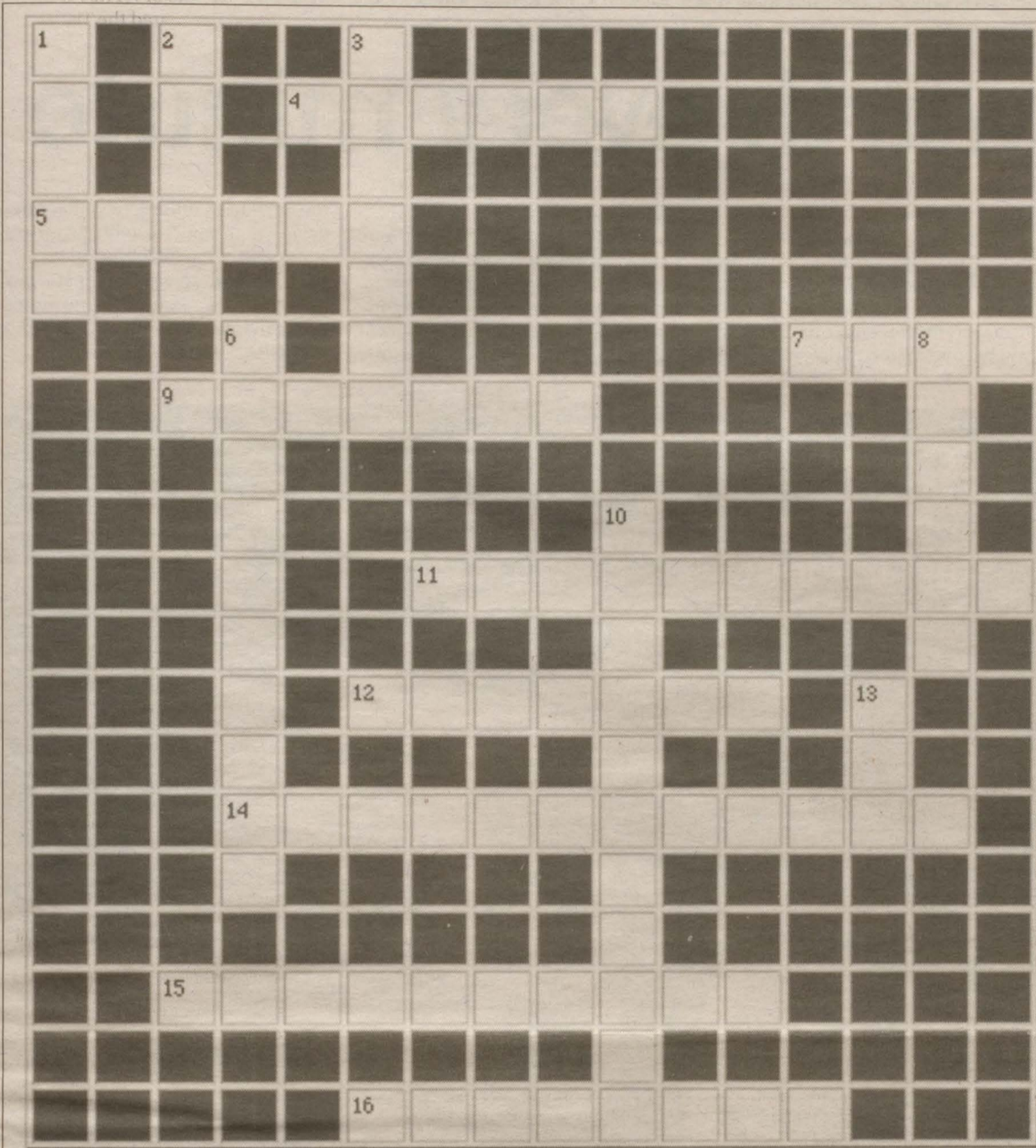
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Across

- 4. Buy wood products made of \_\_\_\_\_, it's highly renewable and not harsh on the environment
- 5. If you limit your shower to four minutes you save 25,000 \_\_\_\_\_ of water a year on average
- 7. Clear the \_\_\_\_\_ filter so your dryer will work more efficiently
- 9. Instead of hazardous cleaning products use baking soda, salt and \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Buy \_\_\_\_\_ coffee filters
- 12. Natural fertilizer for plants and gardens
- 14. The \_\_\_\_\_ accounts for 20 percent of electric bill
- 15. Install a low-flow \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. Who killed the \_\_\_\_\_ car?

Down

- 1. Seal and \_\_\_\_\_ around windows and doors
- 2. About \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the water you use in your home gets flushed down the toilet
- 3. Sunlight entering a room equals \_\_\_\_\_ solar heating
- 6. Instead of using plastic forks and spoons
- 8. Switch to rechargeable \_\_\_\_\_ Metal Hydride batteries
- 10. Compact \_\_\_\_\_ Lightbulbs
- 13. The faucet lets of five gallons of water flow every \_\_\_\_\_ minutes.

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### PISCES (February 20 - March 20)

The stars have channeled your very being, and your spirit said that you have to cheer up a friend who needs it. You were born in the town of friendship, which obliges you to be kind. Your cigar may have made it through customs, but your heart is still abroad. Charge your battery because you are about to cross unsheltered waters and may need to make a call.



### ARIES (March 21 - April 20)

Your moves are moving to the top of the charts this week. You're Canada's next top student and you didn't even enter the contest. *Canadian Idol* is coming to town, but your gag piece is not ready. If you think having a hook for a hand will make you look good, you must be living in Never Never Land. It's a good thing St. Patrick is willing to teach you how to fly instead.



### TAURUS (April 21 - May 21)

You are G'd up from the feet up. You bake your own, and for that you make what's known. Yes, the net is in the air only if the wireless is working. You say you're good at finding stuff, but lately you can't tell the difference between your ass and a hole in the ground. You're one in a million in a world filled with more than 6 billion. Make your act shine.



### GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)

Your cosmic rays will be attracting gaseous stars this week. With the sun eclipsing past your moon, you won't need that extra coffee you've been craving. St. Patrick was not born in Ireland and your lack of boozing is saying the same about you. Up your ante - it's almost game time. The ant farm is fun to look at, but it's not going to pay the bills.



### CANCER (June 22 - July 23)

You think you're getting the black lung, eh Pop? It seems the knowledge you're receiving from your Bachelor's degree is starting to mess with your head. Casper the Friendly Ghost is friendly for a reason: he wants to become a real boy and you're the only person who can help him.



### LEO (July 24 - August 23)

Frankenstein's monster has bolts in his neck to keep him together. You have no such lynchpin, so make sure your friends have glue and that it's super. You have been given the ability to travel through time. Life's not too short; you're just too fast. You think you can fly through walls, but there's a catch: you have to drink that beer you found in the corner.



### VIRGO (August 24 - September 23)

You've been going loopy for the past while. It's like you're on a wooden rollercoaster that hasn't been serviced in years. Your frank and beans are starting to stink up not only your kitchen, but your intestines as well. The boogerman is after you. He's pissed because you keep flicking your boogers in places other than your Kleenex.



### LIBRA (September 24 - October 23)

Dance like a chicken of the night. You are free from whatever was holding you back. Shackles are no longer a factor for you. The British were threatening to take you to the gallows, so kindly remind them this is the 21st century and that colonialism is dead. You are not a witch and lucky for you, the voodoo doll you've been using is doing more good than bad. Stretch Armstrong is a more positive pastime.



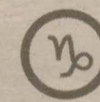
### SCORPIO (October 24 - November 22)

You say you hate The Colonel because you're completely convinced he's putting an addictive chemical in your chicken that makes you crave it bi-nightly. You have been reading far too many tabloids. Man having baby is not a fact, and the world is not plotting against you.



### SAGITTARIUS (November 23 - December 21)

The cut of your jib is looking quite trim. Do not forget your past or where you came from. You're letting your ego get ahead of you. Do not forget about those who truly care. Whether you were born Irish or just born to drink, the Irish want you on their team. Don't worry - they can't keep you. You are a free agent, a citizen of the world. If you make a name for yourself, they will throw you a parade.



### CAPRICORN (December 22 - January 20)

You're walking around looking like an orange on a toothpick. Your giant cranium is helping you get good grades, but it's blocking the TV. This is your favourite time of year, not only because of St. Patty, but because spring is bouncing back. Positive thoughts are on the way. You thought you were on your own, but there will be someone coming to help you.



### AQUARIUS (January 21 - February 19)

Green brings out your eyes, and really makes your beer look good. It'll look especially good when you have one eye partially closed and are dripping in what used to be delicious beer. You are the gold member that everyone wants on their team. Giraffes stretch their necks to eat food, but you do it just to chug.

Martina Jakubchik-Paloheimo

Crossword Answers:

- 1. Caulk
- 2. Two
- 3. Fluorescent
- 4. Bamboo
- 5. Lint
- 6. Sift
- 7. Lint
- 8. Nickel
- 9. Unbleached
- 10. Compact
- 11. Showerhead
- 12. Compost
- 13. Electric
- 14. Refrigerator
- 15. Showerhead
- 16. Electric

Come to the next Gazette contributor meeting on Monday, March 17 @ 5:30 p.m. in room 312 of the SUB





# THE SEXTANT

DALHOUSIE'S OFFICIAL ENGINEERING NEWSPAPER

## Engineering: worth every minute

MELANIE HOLMES  
SEXTANT EDITOR

For those of you struggling through thermo right now (sorry, I have a soft spot in my heart for Chem-ies in thermo...) and every-

one else suffering through midterms, I would just like to say that it is worth every minute.

Hard to believe now, I know, but Iron Ring on Saturday proved to be just as awesome as we had all hoped and the perfect (almost) finish to a

long five years.

There's not really much to say, mostly because nothing can in fact be said on the subject, but for those of you that came out to The T-Room to celebrate afterwards, and those of you becoming Iron Men and Women,

I hope you all had a great time.

I also hope that you were there to hear a brief speech about The Sextant, and the dire need for a team next year. To not only keep the paper going, but to continue the recent matrimony between Iron Ring and

the Sextant (a joining of which I believe we all appreciated), give us a shout and get involved.

On that note, here are just a few photos from Saturday and once again thanks for coming out – and CONGRATULATIONS.



This is what you get for \$160 at the T-Room

 **NEWS**

**THURSDAY:**

Model U.N. Night

**FRIDAY:**

Trivia

Nikon Coolpix camera lost at the T-Room on Saturday after Iron

Ring. Reward if found. Please email sextant@dal.ca with any details.

Very important photos! Please at least return the memory card!

Questions, Comments and to Contribute [sextant@dal.ca](mailto:sextant@dal.ca)



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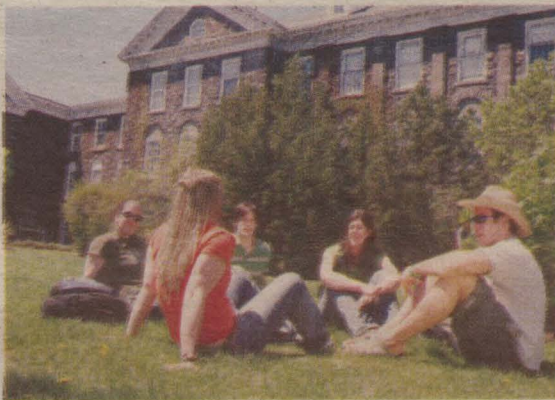
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# STREETER

If you could change one thing about Dalhousie, what would you change?



“No classes in the LSC for non-science students.”

Tamara Adler, fourth-year philosophy



“A smoking awning for the rain and snow.”

Sarah Higgins, fourth-year political science



“Put it on top of a mountain.”

Geoff Brisbin, fourth-year political science



“The lack of girls in skimpy clothing.”

Noah Maislin, second-year business



“Mopeds for students.”

Jamie MacNichol, first-year commerce



“More healthy food choices.”

Kate Smyth, third-year sociology



“Even if we don't have a football team, we need a homecoming.”

Blake Dumelier, fourth-year commerce



“Bring back torturing puppies.”

James Munson, first-year abnormal psychology

# TOP 10

## Rules for a one-night stand

1. Don't call out any names, especially if you've been drinking. You'll just get it wrong.
2. Telling the person that they're hot is great. Telling them that they're just what you've always been looking for is plain creepy.
3. Laughter is appropriate at times. Crying is not.
4. Post-coitus terms of endearment (e.g. honey, sweetie, tiger, etc.) must be quickly retired. Their shelf life DOES NOT extend to the morning.
5. Visible hickeys are mean. They are also an excellent practical joke.
6. If your roommates are in long-term relationships, you may be as loud as you please. If they are single, you should be as silent as a grave. The only exception is if they mock your poor sex life, in which case ban-shee-like screaming is encouraged.
7. Bragging to friends is questionable but permitted. However, outright denial from the other party is equally legitimate.
8. Cuddling is optional, but refusal is a dick move.
9. If the light of day brings sobering realizations about what a mistake you've just made, one bonus round is permitted before leaving the bed and facing the consequences of your actions.
10. Satisfaction is important, but trying to get a review is an art: Good opener: "You know what I really like?" Bad opener: "You know what your problem is?"

## HOT OR NOT

<b>HOT:</b> Having a webcam in your bedroom	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Having a webcam in your bathroom	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Daylight savings time	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Losing an hour of your life	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Vomiting in your sleep	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Sleeping in your vomit	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Being a computer science major	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Being a virgin	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Blogging	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Journalism	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Having your pets spayed or neutered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> At-home surgery	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Scapegoats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Taking responsibility	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Dinner and a movie	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Pogo sticks and snuff films	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Staying in shape	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Looking like a circle	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>HOT:</b> Hot or nots	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>NOT:</b> Top tens	<input type="checkbox"/>

### 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 not necessarily represent views held by James Munson himself, *The Gazette* and or its staff.

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